



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

JULY 2026 – No. 1007

General Club Business:	secretary@srcc.uk	Honorary Secretary:
Membership/Treasurer:	membership@srcc.uk	Pat McGuinness G4FDN
Newsletter articles/distribution:	newsletter@srcc.uk	9 Farmdale Road
Club Equipment Loan:	equipment@srcc.uk	Carshalton Beeches
Club Website:	https://www.srcc.uk	SM5 3NG
		020 8643 0491

MONTHLY MEETINGS NORMALLY ON 1ST AND 3RD MONDAYS 7.30 FOR 7.45pm
Meetings at St. Paul's United Reformed Church, Croham Park Avenue,
Croydon CR2 7HF

1st MEETING Monday 6th July 2026: Fix-it with John G8MNY & Social Chat
2nd MEETING Monday 20th July 2026: "The Evolution Of Stars" by Gary Newport

Acting Chairman	G4FDN Pat McGuinness 020 8643 0491
Secretary	G4FDN Pat McGuinness 020 8643 0491
Committee member	G6JXA Kim Brown 07498 580216
Committee member	M0RSK Krishnan 07717 718984 Rangaswamy
Committee member	M6SLQ Dale McMurray 07812 131643
Committee member	Phil Mead 07498 580216
Webmaster (non-Committee member)	G4FYF Steve Jones 01424 259377
Treasurer (non-Committee member)	G4FFY Ray Howells 01732 357474
Newsletter Editor (non-Committee member)	G3WRR Quin Collier 020 8653 6948

EDITOR'S TWOPENNY WORTH

Not a lot to report from Mission Control Norwood this month – indeed apart from HF NFD, your scribe has not been on the air at all.... The first quarter of the month was largely tied up with stuff related to HF NFD (preparations, the event itself and post-event recovery). Gluttons for punishment may wish to read more detail below. Apart from that, a little bit of support has been provided to David G0PAR and others for the (now imminent) VHF NFD. My long-term plan to sort out all the outstanding club owned kit and kit that has been donated to the club by members and others in order to determine their future (e.g. sale or donation to members and others, and regretfully scrapping in some instances) is continuing but is rather slow...

But nil desperandum: on the plus side there have not been any reports of ill health among members – long may that continue!

73, Quin G3WRR

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

As previously notified, the normal A meeting / B meeting running order in May were reversed to accommodate the availability of external speakers.

1st June meeting *Fix-it evening with John G8MNY*. In addition to the usual activity involving test gear and general chatting, useful discussion took place regarding arrangements for VHF NFD in July.

15th June meeting *"The Agincourt Archer" by Simon Waterfield*. I must admit to not being quite sure in advance what to expect from this presentation despite the publicity information in last month's Newsletter. In the event, it was outstanding – both entertaining and instructive. Many of us will know of the Battle of Agincourt ("we few, we happy few" etc) and its role in the Hundred Years War – but Simon Waterfield really "humanised" it by appearing dressed as an archer who had taken part in the battle and events before and after it.

He presented himself as a villager who had, in modern terms, been conscripted into the army (which in passing gave a good indication of the English social structure of the time). This was followed by details of his military training and some of the weapons used at the time (with demonstrations of several of them and how they were used). This was followed by details of how the various country-wide elements of the army travelled to collection points from which they could be transported across the channel. This made clear (to your scribe at least) how much more coherent the organisation of the country was in the 14th century than I had previously understood. He then proceeded to tell us based on his "personal experience" how events had taken place in France leading up to the Battle of Agincourt, the battle itself and its aftermath. This was presented thoroughly (including how the weapons were wielded) without over-sensationalisation or too much "blood and guts". He then concluded by describing the army's return to Blightly (and yes, I know that term didn't appear until just before WW1,,,) and his subsequent life including the impact (social and otherwise) that his military service had had on it.

For myself, as one with a strong interest in history, this was a first-class show, and I picked up the feeling that similar enthusiasm was felt by many others present.....and it was good to see some non radio-oriented family members present!

Personal view.... I understand that Mr. Waterfield does other historical presentations and would suggest to the Committee that they might seriously consider further visits provided that is within the limits of the SRCC piggy bank....!



**SIMON WATERFIELD IN HIS
“AGINCOURT ARCHER” GEAR**



**ARCHITAA 2E0KXA DEMONSTRATING THE
MILITARY HARDWARE**

FUTURE MEETINGS

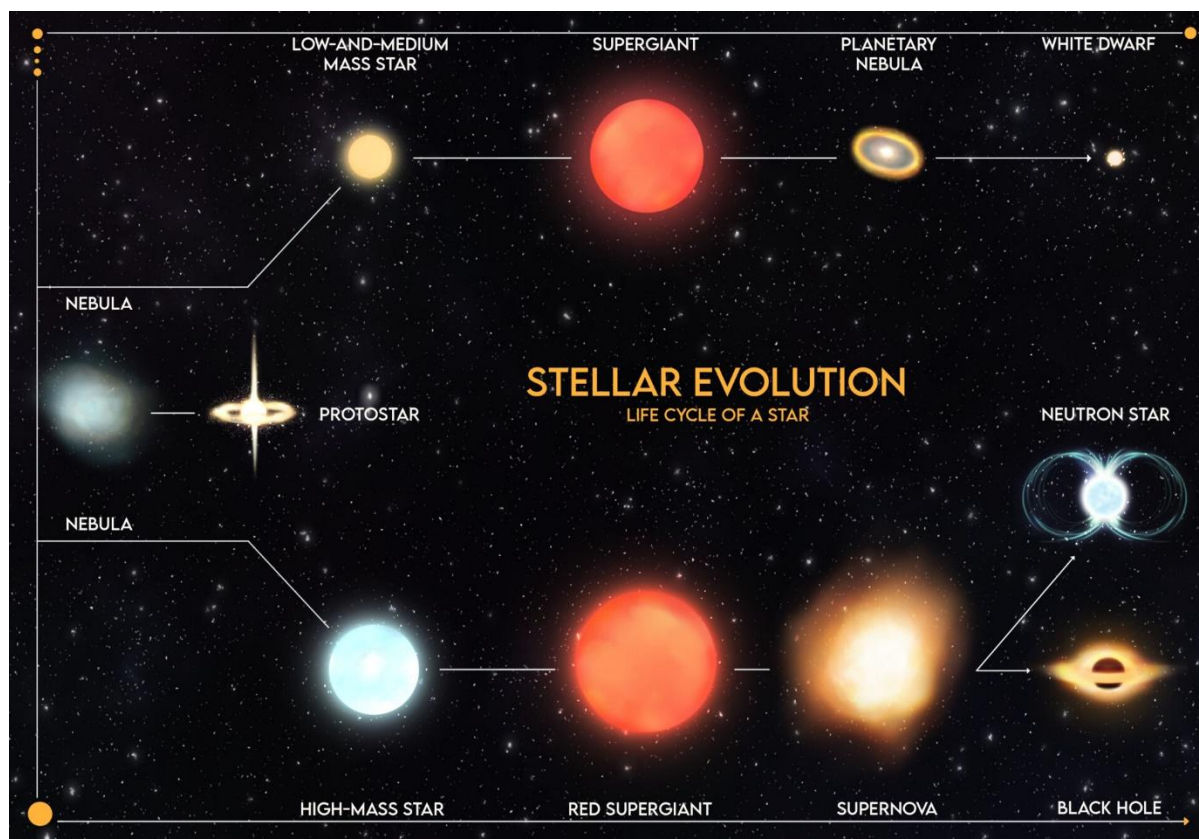
First, a reminder that in July the normal A meeting / B meeting format will again be reversed to suit speaker availability...normal service will be resumed in August!

4/5th July *VHF National Field Day* (Further details below)

6th July meeting *Fix-it evening with John G8MNY* As this meeting is the day after the VHF NFD weekend, it may be a good opportunity to exchange experiences, and to consider any lessons learnt from the future!

20th July meeting *Special SRCC Meeting 20th July 2026: The Evolution of Stars*

by physicist Gary Newport As radio amateurs we are well away of how the sun influences the ionosphere and hence radio propagation, but probably we have a very incomplete or simple understanding of how stars are born, live and die. This special presentation by physicist Gary Newport will enlighten us on all aspects of stellar evolution. This topic was the subject of Gary's PhD thesis.



Are you confused by the term's nebula, proto star, supernova, neutron star, and black hole? All will be explained in this presentation. It is not often we can get presenters of Gary's calibre so this will be a presentation not to miss!

3rd August *'On the Air evening'* led by John G8MNY (To be confirmed)

17th August *Fixit evening* led by John G8MNY

7th September *'An introduction to Sprint and its use for the design of boards for a HF transceiver'*

21st September *Fixit evening* led by John G8MNY

5th October *Surplus Equipment Sale*

19th October *Fixit evening* led by John G8MNY

2nd November *possibly a talk on vintage radio repair* (To be confirmed)

16th November *Fixit evening* led by John G8MNY

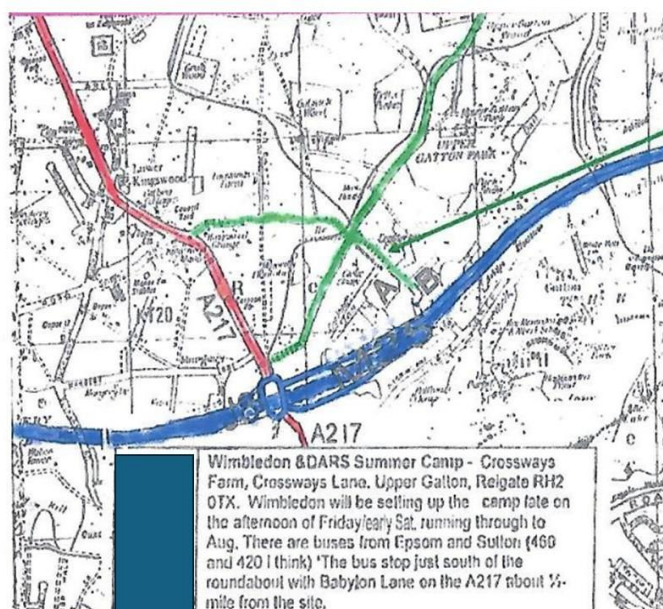
7th December *Club Construction Evening*

SRCC – VHF NFD 2026 – 4TH & 5TH JULY

SRCC will again be taking part in the VHF National Field Day (NFD) on Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th July. Setting up of a Single Transmitter (MS) Station for 2m, 70cm and 23cm bands will start about 15:00 clock time on Friday 3rd July at Crossways Farm, Crossways Lane, Upper Gatton, Reigate RH2 0TX (National Grid Ref. NGR TQ265632) about 2km North of Reigate. This is the site that has for a number of years hosted the Wimbledon Club Camp (normally held in the last week of July / first week of August) and is likely to be used in that role again this year.

The exact field to be used is not yet known: however more accurate location will be provided on the SRCC WhatsApp group, probably on Friday 3rd. So, if you have not yet applied to join the WhatsApp, please do so using the QR code at the bottom of this item.

The following map, based on an earlier Wimbledon Club Camp, gives a general idea of the area.



A further, Ordnance Survey style, map is available at the following URL (you may need to be patient as it will take a few seconds to download):

<https://explore.osmaps.com/my-routes?lat=51.26167&lon=-0.19981&zoom=14.4517&overlays=os-obstacles-layer&style=Standard&type=2d&routeType=created&sortSelect=dateCreated>

The starting point is the A217. If travelling south from the Croydon area, follow the A217 south(ish) towards the M25 passing through Lower Kingswood. After the recreation ground on the right, turn left at the roundabout into Babylon Lane. Follow this across a wiggly crossroads into Crossways Lane and the farm is nearby on the left – however as stated above the precise field is not yet known. Alternatively if coming via the M25 turn North(ish) at Junction 8. Take the first turning on the right into Blackhorse Lane. Turn right at the wiggly junction into Crossways Lane and as above the farm is on your left.

Assistance in setting up and taking down of the station will be appreciated. There will be the opportunity to see station operation with the possibility to operate the station.

SRCC
WhatsApp group



QR code offering access to SRCC WhatsApp group

73, David G0PAR (with input from Quin G3WRR)

HF NFD 2026

An item in the June Newsletter mentioned that a couple of SRCC members (plus friends) would be taking part in HF (CW) NFD in early June. This duly took place and this item gives some details. But before doing so, an interesting coincidence ...last month's item mentioned that SRCC had, in years past, been one of the leading HF NFD participants. While looking for something else (ain't that always the way?!) I came across an extract from a 1972 Radcom (still "*Radio Communication*" in those days) which reported the results of that year's HF NFD....and SRCC were the winners of their section! Inevitably, that version has now done a runner but now it is known to exist, further investigation will take place with a view to posting it in a future Newsletter issue.

Meanwhile, back to NFD 2026... We had decided to use the new Flying Ducks CG call G6ANT/P. After loading the car at Mission Control Norwood I picked up Alun G4WGE and all his gear from Tolworth (heaven be praised for Volvo estates...) and we made the usual tedious trek via the M25 and M1 to John G4CZB's QTH near Northampton. After a cup of tea and a chat, we set off for the site near Ravensthorpe about seven miles away. With help from Jason G7LII and Marc G5TEA (formerly G0AZS) we were able to erect the two 45ft sectional masts and get the antenna (a 256ft doublet fed with open wire feeder) up. Strictly the antenna is not a true doublet: it is more accurately described as half doublet and half inverted V as the field isn't quite big enough to get a full doublet in and the last 40ft at each end have to be angled down to fit into the field! One of our usual skilled setter-uppers, Geoff G3TQF, was not able to attend this year – but for the best of possible reasons, as his own group (Rugby ATS) were taking part as G4APD/P. Since the event, a rather interesting fact about our mastage has come to light. This had been kindly gifted to us by Dave G3TBK (near Grantham) when his own group decided they were too old to continue doing NFD. It had originally come from his employers (GEC) and during its working life had been to Australia and back! Perhaps it's time to contact the HF Contest Committee and ask if there is a trophy for the most travelled mastage?

Anyhow we kept at it until quite late as the weather was good and the Met Office was threatening that it would be seriously bad on Saturday. By close of play we had got all the mastage, tentage

and power in place and we retired, rather smugly, for our regular pre-NFD evening meal in the Premier Inn across the road from John CZB's house.

Reluctant full marks to the Met Office - Saturday dawned quite wet and got wetter as the day progressed. The equipment was connected and powered up – and as often happens, gear that had worked without a whimper when set up in the living room at home failed to play ball on site. But this was sorted out – with the exception of the Winkey keyer which the laptop periodically decided it couldn't see. This was finally traced to a USB connector fault and cured by replacement of the peccant Winkey by a spare (thanks Alun) – but log analysis showed this probably cost us about three quarters of an hour of operating time.

Our first time operator Marc G5TEA fitted in very quickly after we had sorted out a functionality conflict between my choice of function key driven messages and Marc's preference to use the N1MM+ ESM (Enter Sends Message) function (which I don't use)...a typical software compatibility problem! He did very well and has now been conscripted on to the team for 2027. It's interesting that for CW FD at least the optimum number of operators seems to be three or four – less than three and it's very tiring, more than four and you start losing commitment with a sort of "oh dear, why can't someone else operate?" mentality.

The rain caused a few problems..... all of a sudden the keyer started going bonkers and this was traced to rain water getting in between the paddle dot / dash contacts and the earth connection. Easily fixed - and it led us to realise that rain was also getting into the laptop's keyboard....but fortunately dried out in time.

So we flogged on, changing operators to give a reasonable balance of operating periods, different bands and busy / slow periods. Thanks are due to John G4CZB who did nearly all the catering. . The weather on Sunday was much better. Overall, conditions were not too good reflecting the downturn in sunspot cycle 25 - but there was also some very sporadic sporadic E to be had on 10 (and sometimes 15) m.

Takedown took 1.5 – 2 hours which is about normal – but at least it was dry! So we set off and reached home without any embarrassing incidents: and so to bed at about 10pm leaving emptying the car until Monday – or in fact Tuesday as it turned out..... Overall we made 925 scoring contacts – about normal. As the scoring is based on multipliers, we have no real idea of how well we have done. Over the years our friendly rivals at G4ALE/P in Cornwall (Mike G3VYI and Dave G7RAU) have always been a few dozen QSOs ahead of us (which we have blamed on the skip distance to Europe (mainly DL) being more favourable for them but who really knows?!), This year their lead based on QSO numbers was a bit shorter. Results awaited with interest....

Mike and Dave had the weather much, much worse than us. The wind on The Lizard (always strong) actually tore their ATU tent to pieces and they nearly decided to give up completely: but British Pluck prevailed and they carried on, operating from inside Mike's camper van – with all the ATUs sitting on top of the cooker (see picture below...)!

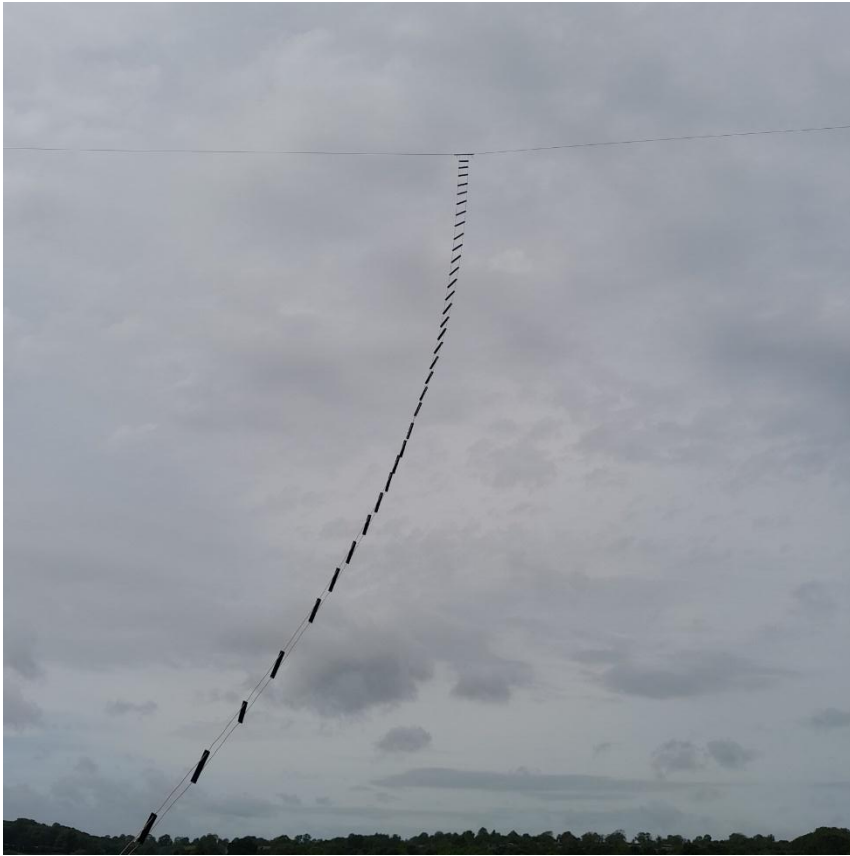
A few pictures follow to show the overall flavour of the weekend...



**ALUN G4WGE OPERATING
G6ANT/P**



**LOOKING UP ONE OF THE MASTS
(notice threatening clouds...)**



“STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN” (a.k.a. open wire feeder): with acknowledgement to Led Zeppelin c. 1971...



ALL MOD. CONS. – INCLUDING ELECTRIC TOILET....



**A STOICAL MIKE G3VYI IN
CAMPERVAN BASED G4ALE/P
STATION IN WINDY
CORNWALL (note 6 ATUs on
top of cooker...)**

73, Quin G3WRR

SRCC NETS

The following is a list of structured nets on which members of SRCC meet regularly. They are sometimes joined by members of other local clubs, who are always made most welcome. The net is not usually led by a nominated controller, but stations normally transmit cyclically in the chronological order in which they sign in. If any member wishes further occasions and frequencies to be added to the table, please let me know at g3wrr99@gmail.com.

BAND/FREQUENCY/MODE	DAY OF WEEK	START TIME (clock)
160m / 1905 kHz / LSB	Sunday	9.30 am
80m / 3710 kHz (+/- QRM) LSB	Monday	9.00 am
10m / 28.078 MHz / JS8	Wednesday	10.00 am
6m / 51.55 MHz / FM	Tuesday	8.00 pm
4m / 70.30 MHz / FM	Thursday	8.00 pm
2m / 144.6125 MHz / Digital Voice	Friday	7.30 pm
2m / 145.35 MHz / FM	Friday	8.00 pm

* The Friday night Digital Voice net usually starts with D-star.
In addition to the regular Club Nets, several members monitor the local repeater channels, particularly GB3XP (145.6875MHz 82.5Hz CTCSS FM).

THAT'S ALL FOLKS.....

Inputs of material from members always welcome! The more input from the membership is received, the less of mine you have to read.....

73, Quin G3WRR
SRCC acting Newsletter Editor