



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

MAY 2025 – No. 993

General Club Business: secretary@srcc.uk
Membership/Treasurer: membership@srcc.uk
Newsletter articles/distribution: newsletter@srcc.uk
Club Equipment Loan: equipment@srcc.uk
Club Website: <https://www.srcc.uk>

Honorary Secretary & Editor:
Quin Collier G3WRR
19 Grangecliffe Gardens,
LONDON,
SE25 6SY
Tel: 020 8653 6948

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**

A MEETING Monday 12th May: Surplus Equipment Sale
B MEETING Monday 19th May: Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat with John G8MNY

Chairman & Publicity	G4LZE Colin Lugard	07533 174388
Vice Chairman	G7RUX Jason Gardner	07515 357630
Hon. Secretary & Newsletter Editor	G3WRR Quin Collier	020 8653 6948
Treasurer, Membership & Liaison	G4FFY Ray Howells	07921 567651
Events	G6JXA Kim Brown	07812 735507
Webmaster	G4FYF Steve Jones	01424 584143
Publicity	G3MCX John Kennedy	020 8688 3322
Trophy Manager	G7RUX Jason Gardner	07515 357630

EDITOR'S OPENER

Dear Members & Friends, welcome to the May 2025 SRCC Newsletter.

Well, the AGM is over for another year, and thanks to the membership for the good attendance (around a third of the membership were present) at what is an important event in setting SRCC's course for 2025/6. More detail is given below under the *Previous Meetings* heading, but this is the right place to welcome Colin G4WEO who was elected to the Committee. We welcome him and hope he will find it an interesting & rewarding experience!

Most of us are aware nowadays of the risk of scams via the internet. I experienced one a year or so ago and would have been poorer by £120 if my daughter, who is made of sterner stuff than I am, had not intervened. Being now on my guard, I had another attempt a few days ago – but one with an amateur radio slant. Therefore, an outline is included here in case a similar thing is tried on you! Out of the blue, I received an email claiming to be from an amateur in Newton Abbot whom I had not been in touch with for a year or two – I haven't include his callsign here. The email simply read "Hi, Sorry to bother you, can we catch up on email for a few minutes? Derrick". My almost reflexive response was to respond saying "sure" – but on consideration it looked very fishy, and it seems almost certain that Derrick's email address had been compromised.

I didn't respond of course but contacted Torbay ARS suggesting they speak to Derrick in case he (quite an elderly gent) is unaware. The things that looked suspicious were:

- no header other than "HI"
- very little real information content (a) to avoid the sender risking compromising him/herself, (b) a scammer wouldn't know anything about me anyway, and (c) possibly, to promote interest on my part
- I was not referred to by name which one would expect from someone who knew me
- the request for contact by email – to avoid issues of voice recognition
- sign-off with just the sender's name when one would expect any amateur to include a callsign (even though Derek's email address includes his callsign).

Obviously, every attempted scam is different but the above may suggest some things to look out for in potentially iffy messages – so to quote from Hill Street Blues (remember that from the early 80s?) "Hey, let's be careful out there!"

So, on to more positive stuff....

73, Quin G3WRR

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

April 2025 A meeting (7th). Annual General Meeting. The first part covered procedural matters including Officers' reports and elections of Club officers. No voting for posts was necessary as the number of nominees for the Committee did not exceed the number called for in the SRCC rules. Similarly, there was only a single nominee for each of the Committee posts and again no voting was required. In summary the 2025/6 Committee is as follows (in alphabetical order, so no favouritism here... 😊)

G3MCX

G3WRR (Secretary)

G4FFY (Treasurer)

G4FYF

G4LZE (Chair)

G4WEO

G6JXA

G7RUX (Vice-Chair).

A key part of the subsequent discussion was the SRCC programme for 2025/6. This topic had been discussed at the March A meeting and the key points raised were included in the April Newsletter (although one item has been queried by G4FDN, and a change will be made shortly to reflect that). The discussion at the AGM largely revisited the points for the April A meeting: further detail is not included here but will be included in the AGM notes. The Committee will be discussing the actions necessary to deal with the issues raised.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Important - Please note that the dates for SRCC meetings in May are all over the place due to the proliferation of Bank Holidays.... correct dates are as follows:

May A meeting - second Monday 12/5/25

May B meeting - third Monday 19/5/25

Normal scheduling will be resumed in June!

April 2025 B meeting (28th) This will be the usual B meeting Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat session.

May 2025 A meeting (12th) Surplus Equipment Sale (SES) – bring along all that equipment that you no longer use and get paid for it (as well as making a contribution to SRCC funds) - and also perhaps take the opportunity to acquire a new set of stuff to take its place. Gareth G4XAT will be doing his celebrated auctioneer act and members of the Committee will be handling the financials.

May 2025 B meeting (19th) This will be the usual B meeting Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat session.

June 2025 A meeting (2nd) VHF NFD preparation. This assumes that SRCC / NESCG will be participating this year, which is not yet definite. If not, an alternative treat will be arranged...

June 2025 B meeting (16th) This will be the usual B meeting Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat session.

73, Quin G3WRR

COMMONWEALTH CONTEST (CC) 2025 BY QUIN G3WRR

Regular readers may be aware that one of my annual Jolly Jaunts is to the Isle of Wight in March for the Commonwealth Contest. (We are no longer supposed to refer to it by its original (1931/33) name of BERU - British Empire Radio Union Contest - and who am I to argue with the RSGB?! The plan was to use the traditional cliff-top site near Brighstone on the South-West facing edge of the island with the usual rig (Elecraft K3) and N1MM+ logging program but with a bit of work on the antennas.

For the last few years, I have used a 14AVQ 40m-10m trap vertical for this contest with fairly good results. However, trap verticals appear to be designed to provide a good SWR on the bands they are designed for, with perhaps less focus on efficiency and gain. This is fair enough as any antenna design is a case of horses for courses. But on 40m the 14AVQ's length (18ft approximately) is about an eighth of a wavelength (and on 80m - for which it isn't designed anyway - about a sixteenth of a wavelength). Bearing in mind the useful rule of thumb that a vertical less than a quarter of wavelength long probably isn't going to work too well, it seemed that some experimentation would be worthwhile.

Last year as an experiment in addition to the 14AVQ I had tried using a 30ft vertical on 80m & 40m, but its performance was disappointing and a decent SWR was not achievable. This year fiddling with the positioning of the mast and putting a dog leg in the driven element allowed just short of a quarter wave on 40m to be achieved: also, this year a set of quarter wave radials was added at the base. This seemed to provide a considerable improvement.

So off to Portsmouth for the ferry to Fishbourne at an unearthly hour on the Friday morning and, after crossing the Solent, onward to the site. Turning on my mobile on arrival (being from the generation for whom 100% mobile availability is not regarded as life critical) there was a slightly edgy voice message from my son asking if I had really meant to leave a “bit of antenna” by the dustbin at home. The answer of course was no. So, after saying “oh dear, golly gosh, how silly of me, never mind” (or something like that) it was time to unload the car.

This was challenging because the field was very wet, and Charlotte, the lady who runs the site, advised me to carry all the gear from the car park down to the chalet by hand. This was finally achieved, and it was time to see what could be done with the available bits of antenna. The 14AVQ (when all the parts are present) consists of five sections slotted together and fixed by Jubilee clips: the absentee was the fourth one up which included the 20m trap. As the fifth (top) section couldn't be added without the fourth being present, this meant it was limited to the bottom three sections. But nil desperandum - what was left worked as expected on 10m & 15m. So, all that was left was the need to persuade the 30ft vertical (based on a DX Commander collapsible fibre mast) to perform on 20m, 40m & 80m. Fortunately the auto-ATU behaved itself and a perfectly useable SWR was obtained on those three bands. The photograph shows the antenna setup (actually this picture was from 2024, but the only difference was that the 14AVQ - on the right - was about eight feet shorter this year!



After setting up the gear and a meal at The Three Bishops in the village it was time for bed. Despite having a good quality sleeping-bag, it was seriously cold, and I ended up sleeping fully clothed plus an extra pair of socks and a woolly hat.

Up early (bright & early would be an overstatement...) on the Saturday morning for breakfast: catering was rudimentary with just two Bovril sandwiches and a Pot Noodle (but lots of tea) consumed during the whole of Saturday. The contest kicked off at 1000 UTC. The first 90 minutes or so were slow as always with mainly European stations (because at that time the sun is to the East) on 15m & 10m but also 7Q (Malawi), 5Z (Kenya) and VK3 (South Australia). From about 1140 15m opened to the West and from then until around 1830 most of the traffic was on 20, 15 & 10m to mostly VE (Canada – all call areas except 8) and the Caribbean but with some interesting ones including 6Y (Jamaica), 8P (Barbados), VP2M (Montserrat), ZD7 (St. Helena) and ZL (New Zealand). Around 1830 I went for a short doze (which turned out to be quite a long one). By the time I was back properly (around 2115),

the HF bands had slowed down but 40m had opened and was going well: there were also a few contacts were made on 80m too. At about 2330 the K3 started playing up (perhaps it was just tired...) and enough was enough so it was time for bed. I had intended to call it a day at that with 116 contacts in the book and pack up in the morning. But by around 0600 the cold woke me up and I decided to carry on for a bit. It turned out to be quite a long “bit” which lasted until 0915 having made a further 25 contacts, which included VP8 (Falkland Islands, quite rare nowadays) on 20m plus VK & ZL on 80m – which I think were my first ever contacts with those two DXCCs on 80m.

Packing up at the end is always tedious as the fun is over by then and you're tired (those who were at VHF NFD last year will remember the experience, but at least it wasn't raining on the IoW). But it was all finally done and back by the 1515 ferry to Blighty and home by around 1930. Unpacking was deferred until Monday...

My overall result was 140 scoring contacts in 16 DXCCs resulting in 11th position out of 80 entrants in the Low Power Single Operator Unassisted section. Alun G4WGE also took part in this contest from his father's site close to the River Severn in Gloucestershire. He made 216 scoring contacts giving him 27th position out of 85 in the High Power Single Operator Assisted section.

ARCHIVE SRCC PICTURES

The following pictures from the SRCC archive are included for your interest and reminiscence:



SRCC MEAL – Park Place, MITCHAM, April 2008: l to r – Graham G3RJW, Dawn (XYL G3RJW), Carol (XYL G8IYS), Carole (XYL G7PWV), Peter G7PWV, Ray G4FFY, Peter G3ZPB, Wendy (XYL of G3ZPB), John G8IYS, Jayne (XYL G4XAT)



l to r: G7PWV, G8IYS, G3ZPB – PROBABLY VHF NFD 2000s

HERE AND THERE

A single item this time...We are all familiar with the common mathematical symbols such as +, -, x, ÷ and =. But did you know when they came into common use and by whom? (whether you care or not is, of course, quite another matter...look away now if you are not interested...):

- + 1540 by Robert Recorde
- 1540 by Robert Recorde
- = 1557 by Robert Recorde
- x 1631 by William Oughtred
- ÷ 1659 by William Oughtred

This information comes from *Science – A History 1543 – 2001* by John Gribbin. If you are at all interested in the subject, this book makes fascinating reading including as it is full information on the lives of the discoverers as well as obscure technical detail. (You probably didn't know, for example, that Galileo suffered severely from arthritis in later life: there are also a few instances of more titillating information but none are included here for fear of upsetting the delicate nature of the SRCC membership... 😊) Despite being 647 pages long it has the advantage that you can pick it up, read a few pages, and put it down again at will....great stuff! **73, Quin G3WRR**

SRCC LEAGUE TABLE – MARCH 2025 RESULTS

There were five entries for March 2025, one up on February and all from the “usual suspects”. The monthly listing is as follows:

ENTRANT	WORKED DXCC / SQUARE	WORKED SRCC MEMBER	WORKED IN CONTEST	POINTS THIS MONTH
G4FFY	53		48	164
M0CGF	64			128
G4FYF	33	1		68
G3WRR	16		16	48
M0LEP	1	1		4

The following notes are provided by the entrants...

G4FFY: Activity in March on VHF included operating in the 2m and 70cm UKACs, 70cm AFS, 2m and 70cm FT8 contests, and the 144-432MHz March Contest. On HF operated in the 80m Club Calls SSB Contest, the March FT4 HF Contest, plus general HF FT8 operation. DXCC's worked stayed at 165 during March.

M0CGF: My March entry was cut short due to extensive garden work! Finally got round to getting it levelled and drainage plus more importantly all my coax and control cables nicely routed underground to the antenna site from the shack. So can operate without having to dangle wires through an open window! Plus managed to bury a fair few radials under the new turf. I now need to take the verticals down and adjust them as the radials have taken effect and tightened up the bandwidth. Managed to get a 2inch extension bracket and added a 6ft scaffold pole to the 6m beam so that's up at around 8m now. Hoping to give it a run out on the 6m UKAC this week.

I noticed from this location its quite quiet to the north, east and south, but beaming back through the houses which is west the noise comes up. Just hope it doesn't affect the USA direction, as my last place was the opposite to this, rubbish the the north, east, OK south and excellent out west.

G4FYF: Pathetic effort for most of March then fun with CQ [WWW WPX](#) contest over the last weekend added a bit of respectability. A simple, worldwide contest with loads of activity on all contest friendly bands. My highlights were Cayman Islands and Uruguay on 10m.

G3WRR: As usual all the contacts were contest based....in this case the Commonwealth Contest. Won't say much here as I'm aiming to do a separate item on it in this issue. The bad news is that there aren't that many active Commonwealth countries left to work – but the good news is that some of the ones that do come on are quite exotic!

M0LEP: I'm a mite jet-lagged, having fled UK shores by air on the morning the clocks changed (which, of course, meant leaving for the airport an hour earlier) and then spent the best part of 17 hours travelling 15kkms to Perth WA for a family holiday with my sister. It remains to be seen whether I'll manage any radio time whilst here, but I have plans. With a bit of luck April's league table entry will contain contacts involving VK/M0LEP/P. Meanwhile, here is my somewhat minimalist entry for March. I did get on the air a bit, but only on 80 metres, and only in order to talk to folks in the home DXCC, and all but one of those contacts were not SRCC members. ;)

The cumulative annual results (not very cumulative yet as we're only three months in...) are as follows:

ENTRANT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
M0CGF	146	223	128									369	497
G4FFY	138	165	164									303	467
G4FYF	40	22	68									62	130
M0LEP	6	30	4									36	40
G3WRR	30		68									30	98

The Solar Flux Index (SFI) shown on the excellent Solar Ham website has now been on a downward trend for the seventh consecutive month and has dipped below the forecast level for the first time although the HF bands are still holding up quite well.

73, Quin G3WRR SRCC Leaguemeister

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 g.g.collier@btinternet.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.....

See you next time.

73, Quin G3WRR
SRCC Secretary and Newsletter Editor