



# SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

## SEPTEMBER 2023 – No 973

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MONTHLY MEETINGS NORMALLY ON 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> MONDAYS 7.30 FOR 7.45pm

**Meetings at St Paul's URC, Croham Park Avenue, Croydon CR2 7HF**

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**1<sup>st</sup> MEETING Monday 4 Sept: Live "Tonight at 8" - Minos Contest Logger by G3ZPB**

**2<sup>nd</sup> MEETING Monday 18 Sept: Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat with John G8MNY**

### SRCC COMMITTEE 2023/24

Chairman & Publicity	G3MCX John Kennedy	020 8688 3322
Vice Chairman	G4LZE Colin Lugard	07533 174388
Hon. Secretary & Newsletter Editor	G3WRR Quin Collier	020 8653 6948
Treasurer, Membership & Liaison	G4FFY Ray Howells	01732 357474
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Webmaster	G4FYF Steve Jones	01424 584143
Trophy Manager	G7RUX Jason Gardner	07515 357630
VHF NFD Co-ordinator (Co-opted)	G3ZPB Peter Burton	01737 551413

### EDITOR'S OPENER

Dear Members & Friends,

Welcome to the September issue of the SRCC Newsletter! We're well over half-way through 2023 by now – where does the time go?! After a very intense July, things here at Mission Control Norwood proved to be a bit easier in August. The major event was my annual ten days break with my son Guy and elder granddaughter Moo in Exmouth.



Pictures of other peoples' holidays are rarely of great interest - and indeed are often downright tedious – but you are not to be spared the ordeal! However, as an act of kindness the number has been kept down to two, and they are small ... The one on the left is the view from our caravan and the one on the right is Moo and Guy at Totnes Rare Breeds Farm talking to a baby goat. It is left as an exercise for the viewer to decide which is which.... (The goat was unimpressed by the whole experience).

On our return it has been a case of catching up with a backlog including tidying things up (although the residue from VHF NFD is still piled up, unsorted, in the shack) and gardening – for which I sometimes feel that paraquat and Agent Orange might be a better solution than shears and visits to Factory Lane....

I have been in e-mail contact with one of our out-of-area members Ted G3EUE who is now over 100 years old. He had a fall a month or two ago and, in the absence of entries to the club league table (to which he had previously been a regular contributor) concern over his health was building up. The good news is that everything at his end is (in his words) “largely OK”. He says that he is much better in himself and has recovered from the fall – but has not got himself back onto the air yet. One of his sons lives locally and keeps an eye on him and his wife Daphne, and they are expecting a visit in a month or two from another two sons who live in Australia. I’m sure we all wish the whole Jones family well.

And so, on with the Newsletter....

**73, Quin G3WRR**

## PREVIOUS MEETINGS

August A meeting (7<sup>th</sup>) This was an On Air Evening at the new venue with antenna and equipment provided by John G8MNY. Several contacts were made. And, on the principle of getting two for the price of one, a brief discussion on the current Ofcom Consultation on amateur radio took place.

August B meeting (21<sup>st</sup>) This followed the usual B meeting format of Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat, with test equipment provided by John G8MNY. The attendance, at fourteen, was considered quite good for the holiday period.

## FUTURE MEETINGS

September A meeting (4<sup>th</sup>) This will be a real time showing of the RSGB “Tonight At Eight” webinar series. The topic will be “Minos Contest Logging Software” and will be of special interest to SRCC members as the presenter will be our own Peter G3ZPB!

October A meeting (2<sup>nd</sup>) Surplus Equipment Sale. Members are encouraged to bring gear along for sale: a number of items from the estates of G3ENG, G4DDY and G8IYS will also be available.

Future B meetings Unless notified otherwise these will be held on the third Monday of the month and will be the usual Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat session. September’s B meeting will be on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **GX3WIM - WIMBLEDON AND DISTRICT ARS SUMMER CAMP 2023**

**by G8MNY**

A lot of my kit needed a good check over before carefully packing my 26-year-old Van which needed a last-minute garage repair due to brake failure, with the 1.3 tons of kit for the 9-day event. I got there at 08:10 on the Sat as usual but this time we were in a mowed meadow not a cow field. Lee M7THX, Andrew G4ADM, and Chris G0KPU had already been busy Friday. So, I got on with Lee's help with sizing up the exact parking spot needed, by laying out the 80m dipole and mast rotator cable, then levelled up the van in position. Put up the side tent just in case and it was needed for the odd shower. The 2 carpets were laid, put in my new car battery for the PA and placed the operating table in position.

Once the first level of ham kit:

- 6m FT690R Rig, BHI LS and pre-driver PA (I did not wire up the 400W 6m valve PA this time)
- the 12V HF PA and PSUs
- IC735 and small ATU
- autcaller
- BHI LS
- RX Suck out trap in case of second on site TX,

was wired up, then the shelf went in with a bendy Lamp, LS, ATU, and Rotator controller and the cooking tables stack was put in place with its minimum shack footprint.

We then assembled the aerial poles for the 40ft 2 pole mast, put it up with no aerals for the first test lift. We then spent the next 2 hrs putting on the 3 aerals

- an up-rated Mosley TA33 HF Tribander
- a 6el 6m beam, with UR67
- a VHF Triband V2000 colinear with WF103 coax.

Then the aerals were all RF tested on the ground with MFJ analyser.

Steve M0PEL turned up early a.m. so the 42ft mast went up easily with my 30ft gin pole OK. Then the mast was lifted onto the rotator and direction calibrated. Then the tree sky hooks for the 3 wire aerals - a 40m dipole, 80m dipole and inverted L (nearly a 160m 1/2 wave) - were sorted out and attached to the 2 mast halyards and pulled up with a Union Jack flag.

While all this was going on visitors Jo M0SOZ and Garry M5YRG operated the call on 2m and 18m with their own set up, a steerable 20m delta loop and colinear @20ft.

At 19:30 I started preparing a well-deserved evening dinner after the exhausting day. Then some HF working (e.g. a VK) and VHF FM 3 band shack set up with Kenwood TM731E rig in the centre of my Van and TS700 and 12V 200W PA. Then at last I set up my bed too.

Steve and Chris G0KPU set up the 2m beam for Tuesday's evening contest. On Monday we put up my 54ft (@ 40ft as too windy) telescoping mast empty OK and then with 8el and SWR tested before erecting but had some 'stringy' issues as usual when a pull up cord broke. Replacing that, we did not spot a locking catch had been damaged and the mast would now not rotate on the rotator. So, Steve got wet manually rotating it during the SSB contest.

At the rear of the Van was my 2.5W 2m packet system running into van's passenger side 1/4 wave, but I was unable to send my daily packet bulletins as the kit was failing. Also, in the back of the van was my 4m Ascom rig connected to an end fed 1/2 wave @ 27ft beside the van.

All the Sunday nets went well as we had the usual very low site's HF noise floor so pre-amp could be used on 80m and 40m to give only S1-2 levels!

I took 3 petrol generators, a small 500W 4 stroke Honda, a 1kW 4 stroke and my old 2.3kW 4 stroke. But Andrew's new Diesel worked fine again, moved with 4 people lifting and run on farmer's pink fuel.

Lee, Andrew, Steve, Damien 2E0EUI, camped all week, Len M7LEN for 2 days, Eric G0KRT visited 2 days. and Graham G4WNT spent an evening.

As usual the site's HF noise floor was very low, and a pre-amp could be used on 80m and 40m to give only S1-2 levels! Only one day the WX was warm enough for a solar shower.

We all left the site by 17:10 BST Sunday, no farmer's tow needed this year, after an exhausting and long van pack in the dry, and at home had a well needed bath!

Main station operating was done by G8MNY, M0PEL, 2E0EUI, G0KRT, G4WNT, G0KPU, G0PAR, and M7THX often till after midnight and one night till 03:30hrs!

With our QRO and special event club call, long pile ups are normal, most nights were good for stateside on 20m up to 4a.m. until no one could stay awake.

In all there were 9 members (were members or camped before) and 16 visitors several of whom tried /P operating with their own kit, but this was risky with several watts on RX aerials!

From the logs...

160m with 30W/400W had 5 contacts with Dx MM

80m with 400W saw 29 with Dx to 9A DL HB

40m saw 116 Dx D EA F GI GM GW OE OK ON PA SP

20m saw 338 Dx 4L 5B 6Y 9A 9H A CE CT D EA ER EZ GD HB I K LZ N OE OH PA R SM SP SV TA TF W UA UD V VE VK VO VU YB YO Z3

18m saw 1 Dx 1A

15m no QSOs

10m saw 3 Dx CX ZP

6m with 50W we had 2 contacts no sporadic E heard!

4m with 25W end fed dipole @ 8m saw 5 QSOs.

2m Chris worked 20 in the SSB contest as G0KPU and GX3WIM had 3 with 200W to 8el @ 40ft, 44 QSOs in FM with 40W FM to colinear @14m.

70cm no QSO's.

Logs and Videos are available: see QRZ (<https://www.qrz.com/>) and <https://www.qrz.com/db/GX3WIM>

**73 de John G8MNY**



## A SLOW BOAT TO CHINA! by JOHN G3MCX

Following John G3MCX's presentation at the July A meeting about his life as an intercept operator in Hong Kong during his National Service in the 1950s. he has sent me the attached document which acted as a basis for his talk.

*"With a pause on the way. I started my National Service on 14th. November 1955 as normal with a week at Cardington followed by square bashing at West Kirby. Anyone on this entry will remember the R & I test with three days under canvas on the sand dunes at Altcar. There was ice on the inside of the tent at 15.30 and fog so thick that the light of a candle could not be seen at arm's length. The MO blocked any further visits for several weeks. We were asked to list five trades that we would like to enter. We later found out that if Wireless Operator was anywhere on the list, we would be posted to No. 3 Radio School, Royal Air Force, Compton Bassett. While there I had my first introduction to an RAF Amateur Radio Station, G3HXZ. This call was held by the RAF Club with a Compton Bassett address well into the 1960's after the RAF station had closed down. I noticed in the 2014 QRZ that G3HXZ is now the area call of Greater Manchester RAFARS # 5026.*

*My next move was to volunteer to become an Intercept Operator and I was posted to RAF Wythall for further training. While doing my N/S I had decided to travel as far as possible so chose the two week longer Far East course. After passing out and a visit to Innsworth to be kitted out we sailed for Hong Kong from Liverpool on HMT Devonshire on 4th. December 1956. The Suez Canal was blocked! We sailed round the cape with five stops on the way, Dakar, Cape Town, (Christmas Eve), Port Louis, Colombo and Singapore. Each stop was less than 24 hours and we arrived in Hong Kong seven weeks later on 23rd January 1957.*

*I re-read Frank Johnstone G3IDC's Empire DX Tour in the Spring 2014 QRV. I also read Memories of VS6DG by Selwyn Auty G3JRY # 3424 and Don MacLennan G3KGM # 4663's letter in the last edition. It did spark a few more memories of VS6 and I don't think my one pen'orth will do any harm.*

*I did have an interesting chat with Don and picked him up on one thing - not all 367 Unit Ops must be in their 80's - I am only 78. (I wrote this in 2015 but I am now 81) I am not sure if a former Op's meeting up would happen. As Don says we are all getting older and scattered all over the place. The only possibility might be to tie it in with the AGM.*

*While I was in VS6 the Club Station was VS6DV but at least four other calls were using the same station I think the others were DN, DO, DP and DX. Very few people have heard of VS6DV being used at Little Sai Wan but it did exist, and I do have a QSL card for it. I was told that a B2 TX was being used and it was running 25 watts (sounds unlikely) the main RX was an AR88 with a R1475 as back up, both probably 'borrowed' from the 'job'. The antenna used was a lop-sided V Beam that sloped down towards the sea from the shack which was on top of a building. It certainly got out very well, the AR88s we were using were marked R1967 or R1968.*

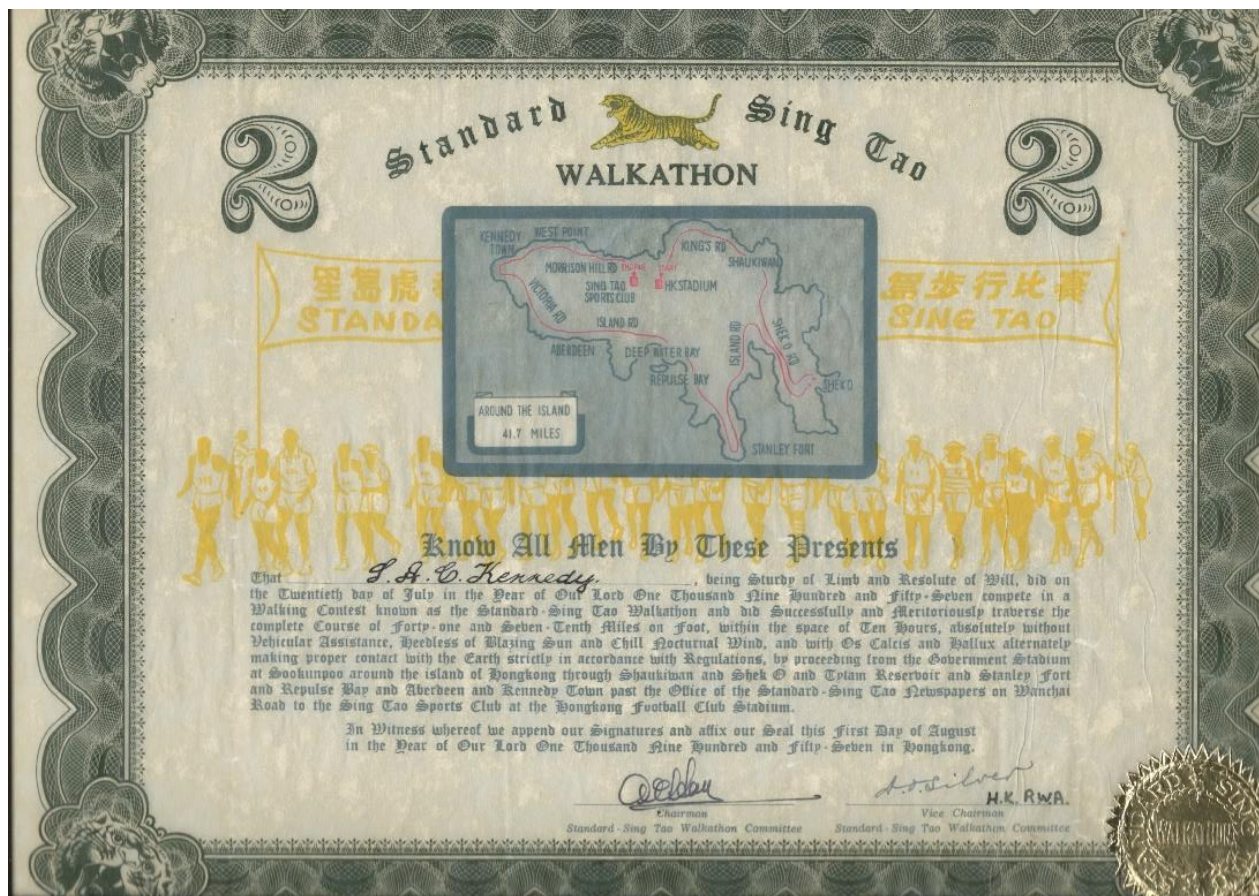
*Because of my cruise around the Cape, I was not in Hong Kong very long and was asked to stay another year to do a particular job. My Dad blocked this idea simply by saying "If you want to go into the family business, you come home and do some work". I went home and made sausages, to this day I still wonder if I made the right decision. I applied for my licence on 5th. November 1957 when I got home. It took just three days by RAF Hastings and ex-BOAC Hermes, with two overnight stops, Changi and Karachi plus 45 hours flying time.*

*VS6DN in Hong Kong used an abbreviation of his first name and gave it as Art. He is better known*

as Jakey Gould G3JKY # 4007, he knew much more about the VS6DV set up than I did as he was a Wireless Fitter, a good operator and was there longer. See Jakey's article in the last QRV, Spring 2015. When Jakey came home, he introduced me to a local club, the SRCC in April 1958 - I was Hon.Sec. there for six and a half years! (Jakey has since become an SK and although still on the Committee I am no longer Secretary).

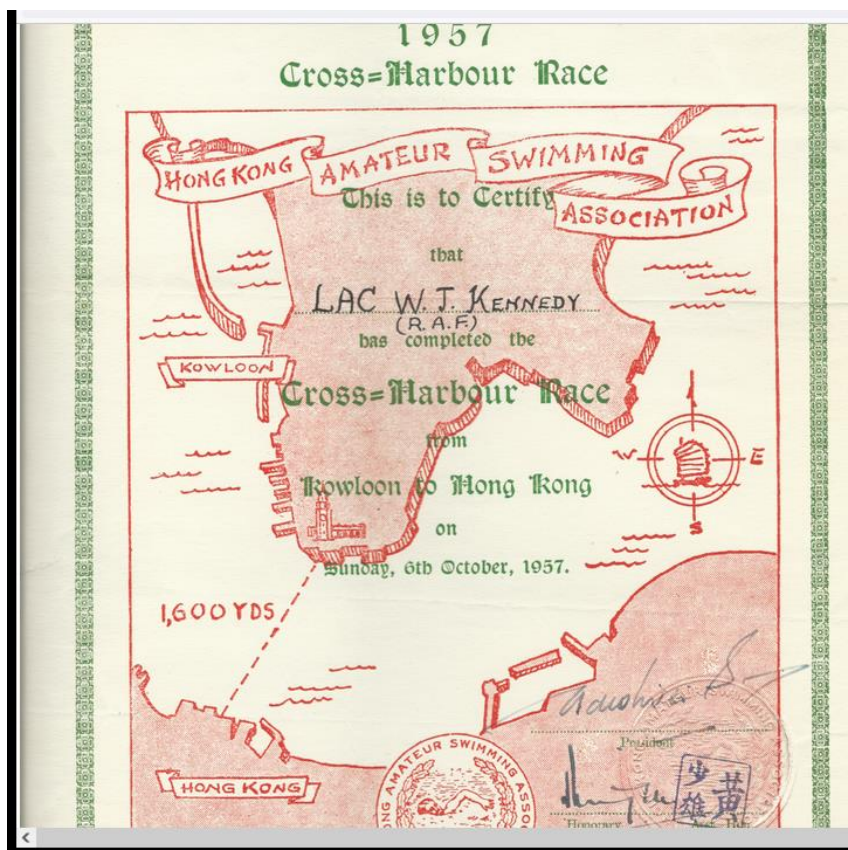
Jakey mentioned something in his first paragraph, I have never heard of Little Sek Kong. I imagine it was one of the three D/F stations in the New Territories on the mainland which we used. The other item of interest was G3HXY which surfaced again last year. I had a phone call from Anne, a YL in France. She said her father, John Hobbs had died two years ago, and she thought he was G3HXY. There was a whole room of radio equipment that needed to go by the following Wednesday! Anne said she thought her father would have liked it to go to a local radio club. It had already been turned down by other clubs. Two of us went over and collected four full carloads and the club did very well out of it. I checked G3HXY and found it was held by John Hobbs on behalf of the South London College Radio Society - this was formally the Norwood Technical College. I also discovered that John Hobbs G3JQN was a member of the SRCC when I joined in 1958 and that he left in 1971! **John Kennedy, G3MCX #722**

John has also sent me a number of related items. One of them – “Life in Special Signals” by Maurice de la Bertauche – is interesting but lengthy and, provided permission to publish it is available, it will be included in a later issue.



Above is the certificate, complete with map, that John was awarded for completing the “Walkathon” referred to in the presentation and the text above.

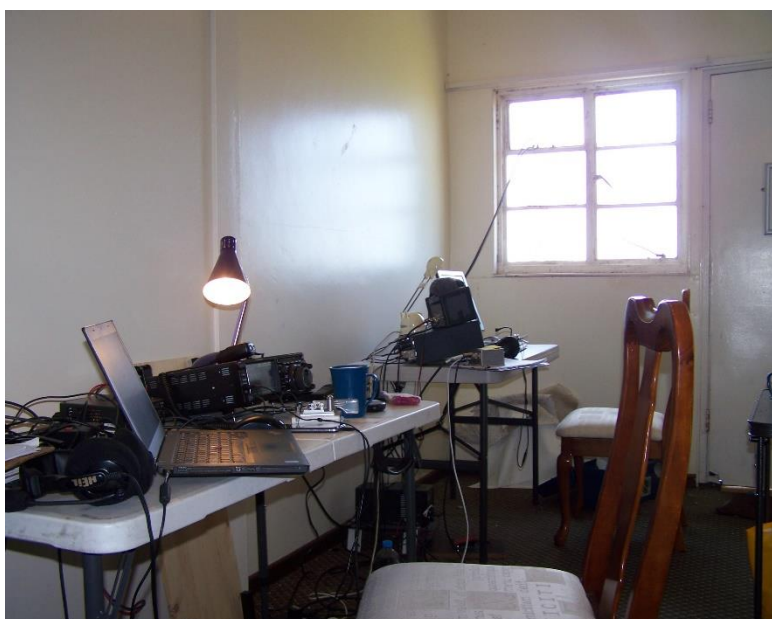




And on the left (unfortunately slightly truncated) is the certificate he won for the swimming race also described. These clearly demonstrate the importance which the Forces attached to fitness & sport in those days!

## IOTA CONTEST 2023 (PART 1) by QUIN G3WRR

This was originally intended to be a full write-up of a trip by the “usual suspects” (G3VYI, G3WRR and G4WGE) of our annual trip to the Isle of Wight to take part in the RSGB IOTA (Islands On The Air) Contest but time has got in the way. The full article will appear next month, but as a taster for that here are a few pictures!



**OPERATING POSITIONS IN CHALET**



**MAIN 12m MAST (SUPPORTING 80/40m  
FAN DIPOLE and 20/15/10m FAN  
DIPOLES)**



**HUSTLER 6BTV VERTICAL RIGHT ON  
CLIFFTOP**





**RECENT CLIFF FALL -  
RIGHT WHERE THE  
VERTICAL USED TO GO**



**73, Quin G3WRR**

## **SRCC LEAGUE TABLE – JULY 2023**

Entries for July were up by one at six with the return of Ian M0CGF who missed last month due to work commitments. The July monthly listing is shown below:

<b>ENTRANT</b>	<b>WORKED DXCC / SQUARE</b>	<b>WORKED SRCC MEMBER</b>	<b>WORKED IN CONTEST</b>	<b>POINTS THIS MONTH</b>
G4FFY	36	1	15	309
G3WRR	28		28	84
G4FYF	36	2		76
G3ZPB	20	1	17	59
M0CGF	20			40
M0LEP	4	2		12

In the absence of a detailed analysis of entries the following snippets, mainly from the entrants themselves, give a feel for the month ....

Ray G4FFY, whose score this month was over three and a half times that of the next entrant, comments "So July 2023 was also a reasonably "high" activity month including the end of the sporadic "E" season on 6m Magic band!! Once again some of my entries are from the Motorhome using my 9m end-fed vertical (on a fibre glass extending pole) with a 9:1 UnUn and the Icom IC-7100. Missed the HF FT4 contest in July as went to the first meeting of the SRCC at St Paul's URC. As at end-July 2023 I have now worked 157 DXCC's adding in July: 4W6RU Timor-Leste (20m FT8) and UK8UA Uzbekistan (40m FT8).

Quin G3WRR comments: *"All the scoring contacts this month were made in VHF NFD on 6m & 4m. Thanks to the RSGB for organising a good (long duration, wide geographic spread) opening on 6m!"*

Steve G4FYF comments: *"Nothing special again, loads of Europe. Iceland, a not often heard country here, was good. Mostly 40, 20, 10 meters with a brief dabble on 2m. Some VK/ZL stations on 40 early-ish mornings heard but no contact yet. Will keep trying."*

*"What I struggle with these days is the seemingly huge variety of different country/entity call prefixes (or prefi!). Seems gone are the days when I could identify the country from the prefix or if unusual, refer to my handy call prefix printout. Now, have to have qrz.com on hand to see where my RF might be going to!"*

Ian M0CGF comments: *"Looks like July was a token effort! Maybe August with the Guernsey QSO's will be a little better"*

Rick M0LEP comments: *"Somehow didn't get to the radio much last month, as my score shows: still, K, LA and TF make an odd assortment of DXCCs. All three were SOTA chases, as usual"*

The cumulative annual table is shown below. Although there is no change in position from June, Ray's lead over Peter continues to grow!

ENTRANT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
G4FFY	155	213	95	109	427	394	309						1702
G3ZPB	43	150	131	94	126	134	59						737
M0CGF	70	84	109	110	162		40						575
G4FYF	24	38	100	48	30	48	76						364
M0LEP	71	40	46	26	44	40	12						279
G3WRR	63	21		21	32	102	84						323
G7RUX				74									74
G4LZE	46	12											58
G3EUE	10	10											20

The 2023 summer sporadic E session appears to be at, or at least approaching, its end. However, sunspot cycle continues to be on the up. This is reflected by the fact that two seriously rate bits of Pacific DX were reported; 4W6 (Timor-Leste – formerly East Timor) and T32 (Tuvalu), by Ray and Steve respectively.

## 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 [q.g.collier@btinternet.com](mailto:q.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.....

Nothing more to add for this month. Thanks for members' inputs – but more is always welcome... remember that the more the membership submits the less of my stuff you have to read!

**73, Quin G3WRR**