

# Newsletter

## Chesham & District Amateur Radio Society

[www.g3mdg.org.uk](http://www.g3mdg.org.uk)

November 2020

We meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month at the Ashley Green Village Hall, Ashley Green, HP5 3PP

### Welcome

My thanks to Jeremy for his "Why is Bulgaria special?" article, very interesting, it's strange how beer manages to creep into the conversation!!

Thanks also to James on his article regarding the upgrading of his home base station, I might even consider an Awk cobweb myself after reading this.

I thought I'd give the JS8Call 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month 24-hour QSO Party a try, there were a few unexpected results, but not with JS8Call.

Yet more exam passes this month, Anthony with the Intermediate (he kept this one very close to his chest!) and Roger with the Foundation. Dave is currently studying for his Foundation License, Guy is busy studying his Advanced Licence so it's all 'go-go-go' on the learning front.

Whilst I still think my TS590SG is a great rig, I've learned about one of its 'foibles'.

It looks as if our next 2 club meetings (11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of November) will now be Zoom meetings, we have a 4-week national lock-down period starting the 5<sup>th</sup> of November, which will be decided by a vote in the House of Commons on that day, and as reported in the newspapers on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November the lock-down 'might' go beyond December the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Bryan M0IHY

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### Contact details

Chairman - Jeremy Browne (G3XZG) Secretary - Angie Page (M6WTL)  
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All the above are members of the committee and can be contacted on [cdars\\_committee@googlegroups.com](mailto:cdars_committee@googlegroups.com)

# Chairman's Ramble

Afternoon all, though with the clocks going back this morning, I'm not totally sure what time of day it is. I have at least remembered to keep my log (paper) in GMT and have just worked K5FP in Marble Falls, Texas, he said that conditions on 14 MHz were "lousy" but they seemed ok to me. I guess it's just a matter of perspective as he was running 1500 watts with a 4 element over 20 meters up. Plenty of room in south Texas.

It is good to hear some DX coming back on to CW and a sign I suppose that we may get some good conditions over the winter.

The construction evening at Ashley Green seems to have been well received and we are looking for our next project. All suggestions welcome, and one possibility is a kit for an ATU. The social distancing did not seem to cause a problem and the evening also gave us the chance to measure up with the idea of putting a storage cupboard against one of the walls in the large space in which tables and chairs are kept. We are waiting for the go-ahead from the hall committee, but have so far had what sounds like a positive response.

With the onset of winter, we have the start of the affiliated societies series of contests. So far the results on 70 MHz have been encouraging and a good entry on 50 MHz is likely. The next one is on topband on the evening of 14th November. This includes CW as well as SSB, so with my aerial struggling on that band, I will probably stick to the key. Honourable mention too for Malcolm who came second in the SSB/CW section of the first 80 meters Irish Counties contest of the winter. Yes, there were more than two entries. I lagged well behind.

The areas designated as tier two are growing, the nearest to us being Slough, but, fingers crossed, we will be able to continue to meet. One casualty of Covid so far is the annual quiz with Aylesbury club for the G6NB trophy, which would usually be in November, but which they have asked us to put off into the new year.

Finally, we have another new licensee, Roger, M7RMF. Congratulations and welcome to the club.

Once again thanks to you all who continue to support our activities in so many ways.

73, Jeremy.

## The Editors Musings

Christmas came early for me with the purchase of a Yaesu FT847, 160m-70cm with no gaps. It's been modified, although as Dave (G8FMC) said "*there are about 4 stages of modification*", so I need to check to what extent it's modified, what I do know is it now outputs 75W on 4m. Even though the FT847 is 'old hat' as regards technology, it's a good rig and I've purchased it for the VHF/UHF and (possible) satellite side of things.

My thanks go out to James for his article on the Awk Cobweb, I ordered one as I now have 4m capability and was told to expect delivery between the 30<sup>th</sup> of October and the 15<sup>th</sup> of November, to my surprise it arrived on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October! I'll report on both the Yaesu and Awk Cobweb in next months newsletter.

I've reported on an eye-opener regarding the TS590SG, see page 14 for details.

Projects for club nights, why does everybody have to build the same thing, it becomes awkward trying to find something to satisfy everybody. Why not turn it on its head and purchase what you will find useful and build it at the club, this might pique other peoples interest with them purchasing that item to build next time round, a little bit of variety.

Bryan M0IHY

Whilst the NRC are still closed to the public, they've been busy...

Recently, TX Factor along with RSGB staff and volunteers used the NRC to film several sequences covering (what were previously) the Foundation exam practical assessments, showing newly licensed amateurs how to perform those tasks which, since remote invigilation has been introduced, they are now missing out-on. (Pic attached taken during the filming) During the coronavirus lockdown, there has been a substantial uptake in new licences, and the RSGB wanted to produce a series of videos to help new licensees get on the air successfully.

You can watch the video sequences on the RSGB website at: <http://www.rsgb.org/foundation-practicals>

My thanks go to:

Martyn Baker, G0GMB  
National Radio Centre Coordinator  
Radio Society of Great Britain

for this article.

**Filming at the NRC, Bletchley Park**



## Why is Bulgaria special?

Jeremy (G3XZG)

I recently spoke to a friend who had helped with the operation of two special callsigns this year, GB1945PE and GB1945PJ, (tactfully, standing for Peace Europe and Peace Japan), which had operated during May and August, and told me that they had probably attracted up to 50,000 contacts.

Rather than the type of QSO that we have when operating G0BWM, giving some details of the station, the reason for the call and so on, these QSO's are simple exchanges of callsign and report, on CW always 5.9.9, whatever the actual strength of signal.

I seem to have noticed an increasing number of special calls on the bands in recent times, so was prompted by this to make a note of those I heard in September.

These are just calls heard randomly when I have been on the air, almost all on 14 MHz CW and I promise I have not gone looking for them.

As they all just gave the standard report, the reason for many of them remains a mystery. I could, I suppose have taken the time to look them up, but frankly couldn't be bothered.

A full list appears at the end of this, but some of the reasons, presumably celebratory, are obvious.

DK70DARC for instance clearly celebrates the 70th anniversary of the German RSGB equivalent, 4U75A, the 75th anniversary of the founding of the UN, and RA75RA, probably has something to do with the end of the second world war.

Others are less obvious.

What happened in Lithuania in 1286 to prompt the call LY784A, or in Bulgaria in 1425 to cause the issue of the callsign LZ595PI?

Yet others, while clearly celebrating a milestone, leave me wondering why that particular year is important, an example of this is SP95IARU, whilst SLZE, such as DA2025C leave me completely baffled.

Finally, some countries seem to issue more than others. I have rarely heard a special call from the States, though that may have more to do with conditions than anything else, whereas Bulgaria seems to produce them regularly and at random.

My favourite last month was LZ70IPA, as presumably 1950 was a particularly good brewing year.

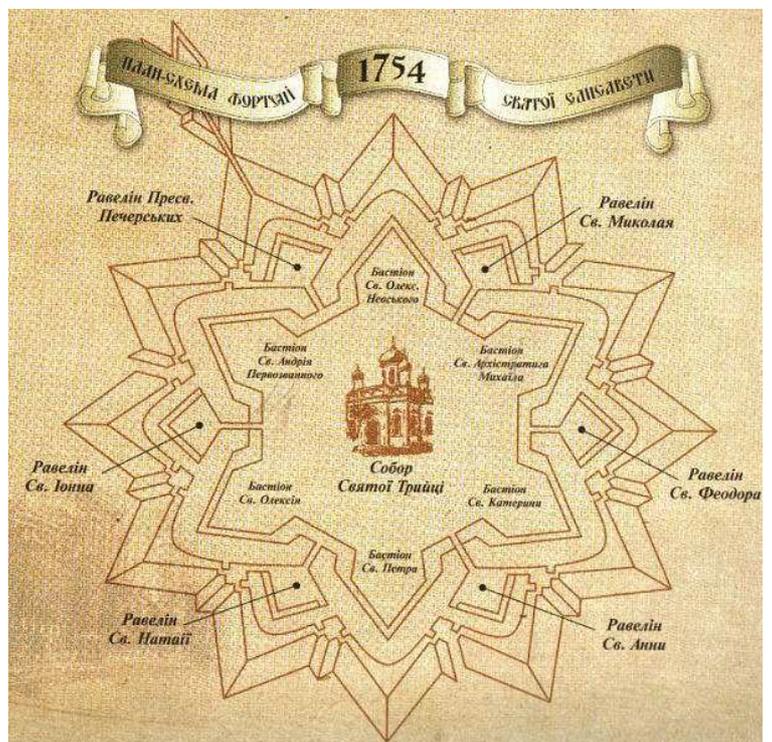
Others from Bulgaria in September were LZ105AJ, LZ73TRC and LZ60VP.

All these calls seem to attract a lot of interest. They must be fun to operate, though just giving a callsign and 5.9.9, could get a bit tedious, and I am all for furthering activity.

I do wonder though whether some of these are stretching things a bit.

List of calls heard in order throughout the month:

RA75RA  
R13KHL  
DA2025C  
SP1920PS  
DK70DARC  
LZ105AJ  
EM90QMR  
LZ70IPA  
SX300MR  
LZ73TRC  
3A4CKG  
LZ595PI  
R120LM  
LZ60VP  
IY8MD  
DQ750KL  
SP95IARU  
OL1941FP  
LY784A  
R175JRGO  
TM100LY



To the right is the QRZ graphic for EM1754V, this represents the Fort of St Elizabeth standing on the banks of the river Inhul at Kirovograd, Ukraine, for further details visit [QRZ.com](http://QRZ.com) and look up the callsign. Jeremy made contact with this callsign on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October.

# I'm not sure where JS8Call went, but...

For a change I thought I would partake in the monthly 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday 24-hour JS8Call QSO Party, this meant a possible all-nighter, which I was prepared to put in, the 'Party' runs from 19:00 UTC to 19:00 UTC.

By 8:00pm (GMT) 80m was beginning to warm up with several European stations coming online, I managed a German station, he gave me a SNR (signal-to-noise ratio) report and disappeared into the ether, next was a 2E0 who was based in Hampshire, we had a 5-minute QSO and exchanged rig and antenna details etc., this was to be the one and only "let's talk" QSO of the night, all others were the SNR response and that was that - suddenly JS8Call became more like FT8! As all the other bands were dead I decided to watch TV with the wife and come back to the radio later.

At 00:35 I went back to the radio. I put out 3 CQ calls on every band from 160m-10m for JS8Call, spaced 1 minute apart to ensure that I wasn't transmitting over someone's response, not one reply, could there be something wrong with my setup?

It was just gone 01:00 when I decided to give FT8 a bash, starting on 160m, for the next hour I would work 'top band' with some brilliant results, Iceland, Scotland, Spain, Russia and Italy were a few of the more exotic contacts, Belgium, Norway, Germany, they were coming thick and fast, all on 50W and a 10 metre fishing pole with an extra 9.6 metres of wire from the top towards the house, in inverted-L format.

A little later I switched to JS8Call and again tried the 1 minute apart 3 CQ's on each band but to no avail, either they're fussy who they talk to, or they're all in bed, who knows!

Getting back to FT8 I tried 80m and was surprised to get a response from I10BIKE (India India Zero), an Italian special callsign commemorating cycling, here's the QSO card I got this morning.



What surprised me was the +2 report, quite pleasing given my setup.

By 04:35 I decided to call it a day. What did I learn, well apart from the fact that JS8Call QSO's are just about non-existent, 'top band' FT8 suddenly comes to life with a few unexpected results, I received Canada, Brazil, Gambia, all on 160m, I just couldn't get back to them, maybe time to raise the power? It also shows how quiet (almost interference free) the bands are at that time of day!

Bryan M0IHY

# So how do they score it?

Trying to understand how contests are scored can be quite a daunting process, here's how the SSB Field Day is scored.

There are 7 sections within the contest:

QRP-Unassisted-Portable  
100W-Unassisted-Portable  
High-Power-Assisted-Portable  
QRP-Renewable-Energy  
Fixed-QRP  
Fixed-100W  
Fixed-High-Power

All participants in a section will have their accumulated points scored, the winner of the section is awarded 1000 points, this is called the 'normalised' score. Each participant in that section has their accumulated points compared to that of the winners accumulated points and is awarded the same percentage of the 1000 points as their final 'normalised' total, e.g:

High Power Assisted Portable															
Pos	Callsign	Club	80 Qs	80 Ps	40 Qs	40 Ps	20 Qs	20 Ps	15 Qs	15 Ps	10 Qs	10 Ps	QSOs	Score	Norm
1	M8C/P	Cray Valley RS	334	860	201	526	181	481	47	137	0	0	763	188,376	1,000
2	MM0HTL/P	Galashiels & DARS	27	84	55	202	23	86	2	8	0	0	107	11,780	63
3	2E0HBX/P	Burnham Beeches RC	0	0	39	136	23	80	0	0	0	0	62	4,536	25

As can be seen above, M8C/P has accumulated 188,376 points, for this they are awarded 1000 'normalised' points. MM0HTL/P has accumulated 11,780 points, this equates to just over 6.2% of the winners accumulated points therefore they are awarded the same percentage of the winners 'normalised' score, 63 points (they round up to the next whole number), this process is repeated for all the participants in the competition.

The participants 'normalised' scores are those passed over to the club scores, please see the following page for the 2020 SSB Field Day results plus my thoughts.

Hopefully this has enlightened you and makes sense.

Bryan M0IHY

# 2020 SSB Field Day results.

Pos	Club	Participants	Normalised
1	Cray Valley RS	6	3,762
2	Yorkshire Amateur Radio Friends	6	3,529
3	Oxford & DARS	2	1,126
4	Norfolk ARC	7	1,076
5	Chorley & DARS	1	1,000
5	Hereford ARS	1	1,000
7	Reading & DARC	4	969
8	Basingstoke ARC	4	966
9	St Tybie ARS	3	942
10	Echelford ARS	6	884
11	Hornsea ARC	6	758
12	RSGB Contest Club	2	717
13	Aberdeen ARS	1	650
14	Ripon & DARS	3	616
15	West Kent ARS	6	605
16	Spalding & DARS	7	596
17	Tall Trees CG	1	571
18	Norfolk Coast ARS	4	512
19	Triple B ARCG	1	425
20	Torbay ARS	2	359
21	Chesham & DARS	3	332
22	Furness ARS	2	287
23	Addiscombe ARC	1	277
24	Scunthorpe Steel ARC	2	252
25	South Derbyshire & Ashby Woulds ARG	1	132
26	Braintree & DARS	2	97
27	Bolton Wireless Club	1	95
28	Dragon ARC	1	87
29	Galashiels & DARS	1	63
30	Leicester RS	1	61
31	Farnborough & DRS	1	56
32	Andover RAC	1	48
33	RAF Waddington ARC	2	46
34	Three As CG	1	32
35	Burnham Beeches RC	1	25
36	RAFARS	1	18
37	Stratford-upon-Avon & DRS	1	17
38	Cockenzie & Port Seton ARC	1	4
39	Newbury & DARS	1	2
39	Southport & DARC	1	2

As can be seen, the clubs with less participants have a harder time, it all seems the more people you throw at it the higher you go, this I feel is unfair.

# 2020 SSB Field Day, Long Grass style.

By taking the 'average' score for each participant is how I would see giving the 'smaller' clubs a better chance.

New	Old	Club	Participants	Combined	Average
1	13	Aberdeen ARS	1	92,209	92,209
2	1	Cray Valley RS	6	307,328	51,221
3	6	Hereford ARS	1	45,660	45,660
4	7	Reading & DARC	4	119,238	29,809
5	4	Norfolk ARC	7	154,004	22,000
6	2	Yorkshire Amateur Radio Friends	6	127,533	21,255
7	17	Tall Trees CG	1	15,892	15,892
8	12	RSGB Contest Club	2	28,591	14,295
9	22	Furness ARS	2	28,077	14,038
10	34	Three As CG	1	9,962	9,962
11	3	Oxford & DARS	2	17,958	8,979
12	14	Ripon & DARS	3	22,715	7,571
13	9	St Tybie ARS	3	16,948	5,649
14	29	Galashiels & DARS	1	5,382	5,382
15	24	Scunthorpe Steel ARC	2	10,431	5,215
16	5	Chorley & DARS	1	3,840	3,840
17	16	Spalding & DARS	7	22,949	3,278
18	20	Torbay ARS	2	5,841	2,920
19	35	Burnham Beeches RC	1	2,834	2,834
20	18	Norfolk Coast ARS	4	10,836	2,709
21	10	Echelford ARS	6	16,017	2,669
22	25	South Derbyshire & Ashby Woulds ARG	1	2,561	2,561
23	11	Hornsea ARC	6	13,734	2,289
24	21	Chesham & DARS	3	6,840	2,280
25	15	West Kent ARS	6	12,233	2,038
26	19	Triple B ARCG	1	2,016	2,016
27	28	Dragon ARC	1	1,920	1,920
28	33	RAF Waddington ARC	2	3,462	1,731
29	27	Bolton Wireless Club	1	1,720	1,720
30	32	Andover RAC	1	1,482	1,482
31	8	Basingstoke ARC	3	4,190	1,396
32	26	Braintree & DARS	2	2,486	1,243
33	30	Leicester RS	1	1,224	1,224
34	31	Farnborough & DRS	1	1,197	1,197
35	23	Addiscombe ARC	1	990	990
36	36	RAFARS	1	648	648
37	37	Stratford-upon-Avon & DRS	1	518	518
38	40	Southport & DARC	1	434	434
39	39	Newbury & DARS	1	372	372
40	38	Cockenzie & Port Seton ARC	1	130	130

This seems a more proportionate way to distribute the points at club level, I think the 'club' scoring should change (this is how I see 'Long Grass' scoring working) but leave the individual scoring 'as is', what are your thoughts?

Bryan M0IHV

Recently I've been slowly but surely upgrading my HF base station at home. After deciding an ICOM 7300 was more than enough for my operating needs and that any new shiny radio would NOT help me work any more stations, I turned my attention to the other things I could improve.

The first thing was clearly the antenna, after sticking with a simple Western HF-10 wire antenna for a few years, it was clear this was a compromise. Covering everything from 80m up to 6m is a push. I found this antenna to best perform on 30m and 80m, but elsewhere it was hard work!

I went for an [AWK Antennas Cobwebb](http://www.hamblog.co.uk/building-a-cobweb-antenna-and-testing-it-with-nanovna-with-video/) which covers seven bands (20m/17m/15m/12m/10m/6m/4m). You can read more about my experience of building this at (<http://www.hamblog.co.uk/building-a-cobweb-antenna-and-testing-it-with-nanovna-with-video/>).



The finished cobweb in the air

I initially used an old run of RG58 coax, which is clearly not the best and also with my eyes on an amplifier, absolutely not suitable for QRO! I instead made up a new run of Messi & Paloni Ultraflex 7, complete with quality QRO ferrite toroids (FT240-43) at each end.

At this point it was time to bring my second hand ACOM 1000 amplifier inline, so I connected everything up, including the keying line from the ICOM 7300 to the amplifier. Now up until this point I've been mostly a QRP man, so amplifiers are new territory (outside of contest groups and field day). The ACOM 1000 can output up to a maximum of 1.2kW, so clearly it's only going to loaf along at UK legal limit of 400w. This gives me a lot of headroom to run data modes at 400w and not push the amp too hard, I can also be sure it remains linear, as I'm only running it at a third of its total output.



Acom 1000 amplifier chugging along

I've done tests with a local amateur (thanks Malcolm G3ZNU) to make sure my FT8 signal is as clean as possible and at 400w it caused them no issue (other than it being very strong)!

The results have been a sharp increase in DX worked on HF, with several all time new ones in the log, including Seychelles, New Zealand, South Africa, St Lucia and Korea. It's also been a new experience to work pileups of JA and west coast North American stations on 20m FT8...

081615	-14	0.3	1483	-	M0JQC	BG0BBE	-19
081630	Tx		2516	-	BG0BBE	M0JQC	R-14
081700	Tx		2516	-	BG0BBE	M0JQC	R-14
081645	-15	-0.0	2516	-	M0JQC	JA6VQA	-18
081715	-6	0.3	1483	-	M0JQC	BG0BBE	RR73
081715	-12	-0.0	2516	-	M0JQC	JA6VQA	-18
081730	Tx		2516	-	BG0BBE	M0JQC	73
081745	-12	-0.0	2516	-	M0JQC	JA6VQA	-18
081800	Tx		2516	-	JA6VQA	M0JQC	R-12
081745	-12	0.0	2314	-	M0JQC	JH1EIG	-07
081815	-8	-0.0	2516	-	M0JQC	JA6VQA	RR73
081830	Tx		2516	-	JA6VQA	M0JQC	73
081845	-19	0.1	1730	-	M0JQC	JM1GAW	-09
081845	-12	0.0	2762	-	M0JQC	JH1EIG	-07
081915	-11	0.4	2762	-	M0JQC	JH1EIG	-07
081930	Tx		2516	-	JM1GAW	M0JQC	R-19
081915	-11	-0.1	2488	-	M0JQC	JA1DCO	-11

Pileup of JA stations on 20m FT8



Being received well in JA on 20m

So in conclusion, it's safe to say the upgrade was worth the effort, I'm now finally working some DX on HF and have almost reached DXCC. I'm still very much interested in QRP, but QRO has added another dimension to my operating and opened up a world of DX for me.



New station setup

08/10/2020 08:58:30	JA5BDZ	20m	FT8	Japan
08/10/2020 08:56:45	JH4IFF	20m	FT8	Japan
08/10/2020 08:54:30	JR1NHD	20m	FT8	Japan
08/10/2020 08:53:45	JR7RHO	20m	FT8	Japan
08/10/2020 08:50:00	JA4NDJ	20m	FT8	Japan
08/10/2020 08:48:15	JR3KLS	20m	FT8	Japan
08/10/2020 08:45:15	R6LP	20m	FT8	European Russia
08/10/2020 08:43:30	JA2XTV	20m	FT8	Japan
08/10/2020 08:41:30	DS4NPL	20m	FT8	Republic of Korea (S.
08/10/2020 08:38:45	JH1XEF	20m	FT8	Japan
08/10/2020 08:36:00	JA1JAN	20m	FT8	Japan
08/10/2020 08:34:15	JA1GUC	20m	FT8	Japan
08/10/2020 08:33:00	J11HTJ	20m	FT8	Japan
08/10/2020 08:29:00	JA1DCO	20m	FT8	Japan
08/10/2020 08:26:00	JH1AQG	20m	FT8	Japan
08/10/2020 08:25:15	7K3OWM	20m	FT8	Japan
08/10/2020 08:22:30	JA1JCQ	20m	FT8	Japan
08/10/2020 08:19:00	JM1GAW	20m	FT8	Japan
08/10/2020 08:17:30	JA6VQA	20m	FT8	Japan
08/10/2020 08:12:30	BG0BBB	20m	FT8	China
08/10/2020 08:09:30	JA1PSS	20m	FT8	Japan
08/10/2020 08:08:15	JA1EPJ	20m	FT8	Japan
08/10/2020 08:05:45	JH2KKW	20m	FT8	Japan
08/10/2020 08:02:30	JA3PCQ	20m	FT8	Japan
08/10/2020 08:00:15	RA0CGY	20m	FT8	Asiatic Russia
08/10/2020 07:56:15	ZL3IO	20m	FT8	New Zealand

My transformed log book

# 'Air Miles', how far have we gone? / results

For me this month has been busier, I even got to work JS8Call (eventually) and PSK31... For those submitting logs (Jeremy, you're the exception) could you please do so in ADIF or Cabrillo format, the interrogation of the log files is most time consuming and with more people onboard becomes an almost full-time job.

So, how have we done this month?

(Running totals in red)

## General

<i>Most Miles</i>				<i>Most QSO's</i>			
G3ZNU		73,457	856,984	M0IHY		60	690
G3XZG		64,425	354,988	G3ZNU		45	1,007
M0IHY		62,929	676,840	G3XZG		42	310
M7CKP		2	4	M7CKP		2	3

<i>Longest QSO</i>				<i>Shortest QSO (miles)</i>			
G3ZNU		PY2IQ(5897)	JR3NZC(5909)	M7CKP		M7GGH/P(0)	M7GGH/P(0)
M0IHY		PT2VHF(5466)	CP6CL(6099)	M0IHY		G7EOB(4)	M0UGAP(4)
G3XZG		W7SW(5243)	OA1F(6130)	G3ZNU		G0XDI(6)	G8XTJ(0)
M7CKP		M7RAZ/P(2)	G0OIW/P(2)	G3XZG		G4CJY(8)	G4XRV(2)

<i>Average per QSO (miles)</i>				<i>Maidenhead Squares</i>			
G3ZNU		1,632.38	851.03	M0IHY		51	402
G3XZG		1,533.93	1,145.12	G3XZG		40	254
M0IHY		1,048.82	980.93	G3ZNU		38	519
M7CKP		1	1.33	M7CKP		1	3

## By Band

<i>160m</i>				<i>20m</i>				<i>6m</i>			
M0IHY		18	19	G3XZG		24	94	G3ZNU		543	
				M0IHY		19	186	G3XZG		135	
				G3ZNU		6	20	M0IHY		11	

<i>80m</i>				<i>17m</i>				<i>2m</i>				
G3ZNU		12	12	G3ZNU		13	88	G3ZNU		124	175	
M0IHY		10	23	G3XZG		10	22					
				M0IHY			186					

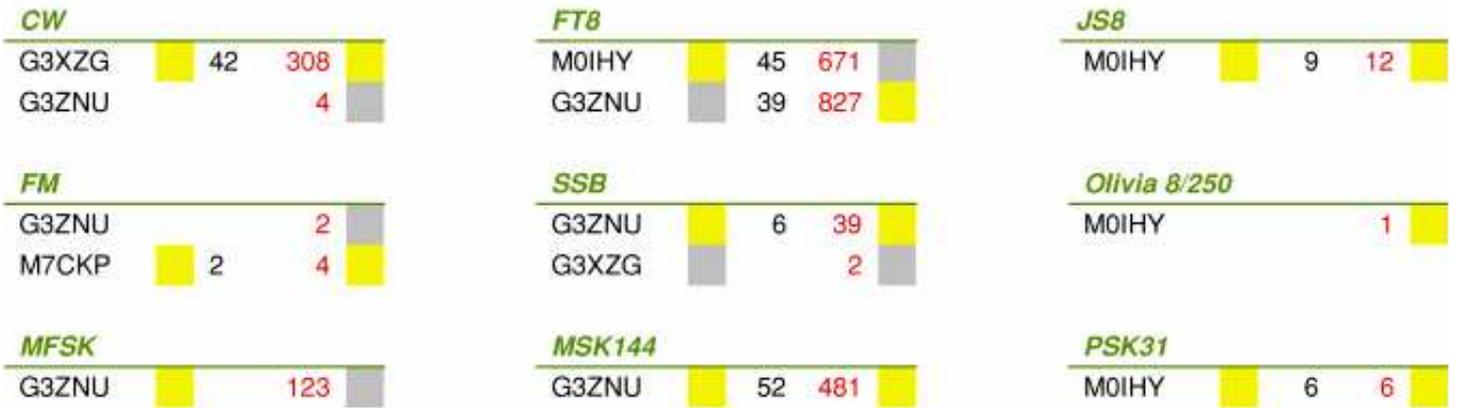
<i>40m</i>				<i>15m</i>				<i>70cm</i>				
M0IHY		9	126	G3ZNU		1	12	G3ZNU		1	176	
G3ZNU		7	15	M0IHY			25	M7CKP			2	
G3XZG		7	19	G3XZG			4					

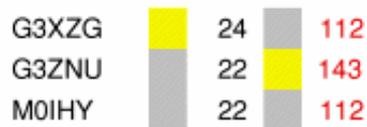
<i>30m</i>				<i>10m</i>			
M0IHY		3	100	M0IHY		1	14
G3XZG		1	11	G3ZNU			130
				G3XZG			25

# 'Air Miles', how far have we gone? / results

## By Mode



## By Country



# This months contests

## November HF

Day	Date	Time UTC	Contest Name
Mon	02-11-2020	2000-2130	Autumn Series DATA
Wed	11-11-2020	2000-2130	Autumn Series SSB
Sat	14-11-2020	2000-2300	Club Calls (1.8MHz AFS) HF Championship AFS Super League
Thu	26-11-2020	2000-2130	Autumn Series CW

## VHF

Day	Date	Time UTC	Contest Name
Sat-Sun	07/08-11-2020	1400 to 1400	144MHz CW Marconi

## December VHF

Day	Date	Time UTC	Contest Name
Sat-Sun	07/08-11-2020	1400 to 1400	144MHz CW Marconi

## TS590SG frequency drift

M0IHY

TS590SG frequency drift during 'warm up', this one caught me out when I went onto 6m to have a QSO with Jeremy, initially I had to adjust the RIT by 200Hz to get it to receive on the correct frequency, it's the first time I've ever turned the rig on and gone straight for 6m, maybe this has always been apparent. After around 5 minutes the RIT had been backed off to 0. On checking the internet I noted (regardless how good I think my rig is) that Kenwood **do not** include a temperature controlled crystal oscillator (TCXO) whereas Yaesu and Icom do. I've emailed M Lynch & Son for a quote to supply and install a TCXO (TCXO is around £103), the response I got quite surprised me, you learn something new every day.

Steve Venner (G0TAN / W6TAN) - Engineering Workshop Manager, Martin Lynch & Sons responded to my frequency drifting woes with this:

*"With the standard TCXO, the frequency drift can be +/- 250 Hz @ 50 MHz after the initial warm-up period (30 minutes), and this is quoted for -10C to +50C.*

*I've seen this on the TS-590 before, and I would have said that this is normal.*

*In fact, when we make adjustments to the TCXO, we wait for 30 minutes for this exact reason.*

*Unless you are operating in digital modes, then there's not normally any reason for going to the Hi-stab TCXO (+/- 25Hz @ 50 MHz). Just give your radio time to warm up when you first switch it on (always good practice)."*

Thanks Steve, it seems like I can put my wallet away then!

# Construction night

Construction night went well with James, Guy, Peter, Matt, Roger and Dave busily constructing their 2m Slim-Jims and maintaining 'social distancing' at the same time, well done!

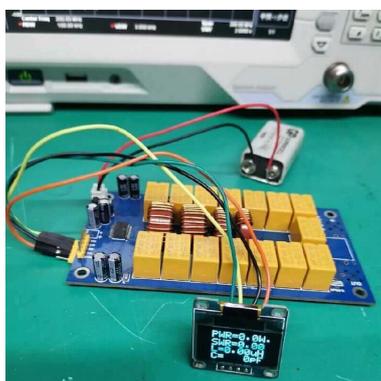
As the night appeared to have been very successful it would be great to have people forward a few ideas for the next construction project, Peter suggested a Raspberry Pi WSPR transmitter, a handy gadget to have, I can do an internet search and see if we can get kits, something I thought might be useful is an A.T.U., I've seen kits for them in them in the past, anybody else got any ideas? The project (whatever it is) can be built across several club nights and even continue at home, it doesn't all have to be 'on the night'.

Jeremy and I measured up for a steel cabinet which we feel will fit in the tables and chairs cupboard if things were a little tidier, Angie will email Ashley Green Village Hall and ask if that's okay, initially Jill from the village hall thinks it's a good idea, she just has to run it by the committee, more on that when she gets back to us.

## Future projects (ideas)

**QRP Pixie 40M Shortwave Transceiver 7.023 Kit with Case Instructions UK Seller.**

eBay - £9.32

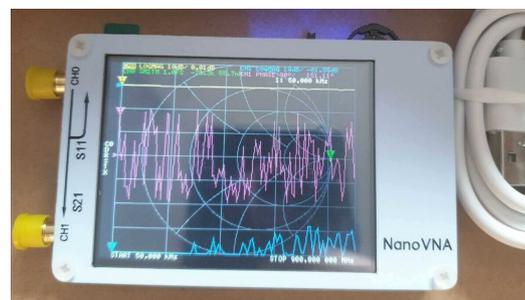


**0.96 Inch Oled Atu100 Automatic Antenna Tuner 1.8-50 Mhz 100w Kit By N7ddc DIY**

eBay - From £22.99

**Antenna Analyzer Kit 50kHz ~ 900MHz Equipment VNA HF VHF UHF UV Vector Network**

eBay - £25



These are but 3 kits I found on eBay, there are others elsewhere. It doesn't have to be that everyone has the same kit, it could be that you purchase your own kit and build it at the club, that would enable you to build what you want rather than a group build and might encourage other builders to take on what you've just built.

# Any other business

## Foundation exams - the results

Congratulations to Roger, he passed his Foundation Licence exam on the 6th of October, his callsign is M7RMF, as Roger said, "I was able to get my initials", well done, Intermediate Licence next?.

## Yet more congratulations...

Anthony (M7GUB) kept the secret of his Intermediate License exam very close to his chest, now he's 2E0GUB, congratulations Anthony.

## Licences...

When you get your license(s), providing you renew them every 5 years you keep them all.

## Advanced Licence exam

Fingers crossed for Guy who will be sitting his Advanced Licence exam in the first week of November.