

Newsletter

Chesham & District Amateur Radio Society

www.g3mdg.org.uk

June 2022

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

Welcome

June and July are heavy with the VHF contests, HF is a little quieter, plenty to keep you busy though!

Nothing much from me this month, with the fine weather I've made the most of it and been out in the garden with Angie doing a little landscaping.

With 6 pages of photo's from the Brill Windmill weekend and with the nice weather, it seems you guys had a great time.

All set for Ashley Green village fête? See page 3 for details.

Has anyone made contact with either GB100BBC, or GB8PJE special event stations lately? Check out **Any other business** to find out who.

My thanks to Guy (M0GUY) and Malcolm (G3ZNU) for the Brill Windmill photographs, Jeremy (G3XZG) for 'Spotlight', the write-up on the Ashley Green Fête and his Chairman's Ramble, and Bob (G8MFH) for his 'Getting to know you...' all of which have helped fill the newsletter.

With July approaching at a fast pace we'll have to turn our thoughts to the VHF Field Day on the 2nd and 3rd of July, likely to be at Wiggington.

Bryan M0IHY

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Contact details

Chairman - Jeremy Brown (G3XZG)	Secretary - Malcolm Appleby (G3ZNU)	Treasurer - Matt Whitchurch (M1DTG)
- Guy Plunkett (M0GUY)	- Dave Keston (G8FMC)	

All the above are members of the committee and can be contacted on cdars-committee@googlegroups.com

Editor - Bryan Page (M0IHY)

Chairman's Ramble

I took my handheld with me on holiday to the west country this month, intending to contact some of the locals on FM. We stayed for a week in a sort of log cabin with a verandah overlooking a small lake and I had visions of myself lounging in the sunshine, beer in one hand and handheld in the other, which for various reasons, weather, other things to do, did not materialise. Note that lack of beer was not one of the reasons. Ah well, perhaps next time we go away, it will get some use.

It has though been another very active month for the club.

We spent the weekend of 7th and 8th of May at Brill windmill and a very enjoyable time it proved to be, with a much easier task erecting antennas this year. It even threatened to be warm once or twice and the windspeed was low. We set up the HF station in the bottom of the mill, and used upstairs for VHF, moving to Dave's gazebo on Sunday when the mill was open to the public. Malcolm proved that he may have a second career as a tour guide, and a good many people were interested not only in the mill, but in what we were doing. The logs are available on our website, and we will be making a donation as a club to their fund for repairing the sails.

We were able to do some antenna testing at our meeting on 11th May and enjoyed a great presentation on portable operation by Phil (NVS) on the 25th, attended also by Dan, NG5S from Oklahoma who was visiting the area and got our details.

We continue to put in a good showing in the VHF contest series and also the UKAC contests as part of our collaboration with Northampton. We aim to visit their club by invitation for a meeting at some point over the summer.

Looking ahead, we will be operating GB0AGF from Ashley Green fair on the 18th June and hope that this will help foster good links with the village. We have a very good relationship with those who run the hall, and thought it would create interest for others to see what we do. Demystifying always helps.

As always I would like to thank all members and the committee for your help and support in operating the club. It really is very encouraging.

Now we need a warm sunny day on the 18th.

73, Jeremy

Editor's Muse

On the 25th of May the planned National Radio Centre's Christmas dinner happened at the 3rd attempt! Covid was responsible for the cancellation of the first two attempts, both Angie and I attended, hence our 'no show' at the last club meeting. As Dave (G8FMC) said "it's on the 25th, just not December"!. Angie was the only female in the almost 40 group of men attending the NRC dinner.

As an aside, Angie and I attended a RISC OS computer show at Bradford on the 21st of May, while there we bumped into G4BLT, affectionately known as G4 Bacon Lettuce and Tomato!

As I type (30th May) it's tipping it down with rain, hopefully the Ashley Green Village fête on Saturday the 18th of June (13:00 - 17:00) will have better weather.

Bryan M0IHY

GB0AGF - Ashley Green Village Fête



Mr Malcom Appleby
6 Mandeville Road, Prestwood
Great Missenden
Buckinghamshire
United Kingdom
HP16 9DS

Spectrum Licensing
PO Box 56373
London,
SE1 9SZ
spectrum.licensing@ofcom.org.uk
17-May-2022

Licence No: AM0015335
Callsign: G#3MDG

Dear Mr Malcom Appleby,

CONFIRMATION OF LICENCE NOTICE OF VARIATION:

In response to your recent request, we are pleased to confirm that your Notice of Variation to your radio licence for a NoV Special Event Station is attached with this letter.

Should you need to contact Spectrum Licensing in the future then you can use the contact details above.

Yours sincerely,

Spectrum Licensing

GB0AGF - Ashley Green Fête



Mr Malcom Appleby
6 Mandeville Road, Prestwood
Great Missenden
Buckinghamshire
United Kingdom
HP16 9DS

Notes:

- 1) See application form for operating guidelines
- 2) QSLs Sought : Yes
- 3) Special event callsign: **GB0AGF**

17-May-2022

Call sign: **G#3MDG**

Licence: **AM0015335** ("The Licence")

Dear **Mr Malcom Appleby**,

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY ACT 2006

NOTICE OF VARIATION OF AN AMATEUR RADIO FULL LICENCE OR FULL (CLUB) LICENCE AUTHORISING THE USE OF AN AMATEUR RADIO STATION AT A SPECIAL EVENT

Thank you for your application to use your Amateur Radio Station call sign G#3MDG at a Special event.

Ofcom, in exercise of the power conferred by Schedule 1, paragraph 6 of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 ("the Act"), hereby varies the Licence in accordance with Schedule 1, paragraph 7 of the Act, as detailed below:

1. Terms and expressions defined in the Licence shall have the same meaning herein except where the context requires otherwise.
2. Your Special event Station may be established only at:

**Two Dells Lane, Ashley Green
Chesham
HP5 3PN
England**

3. The Special event call sign **GB0AGF** is hereby assigned only for use at the address indicated in clause 2 above.
4. Messages may be passed by non-licensed persons under the direct supervision of the Licensee.
5. This Notice of Variation and your current licence must be made available for inspection at the Station address indicated in clause 2 above.

GB0AGF - Ashley Green Fête

6. This Notice of Variation to the licence becomes effective on **18-Jun-2022** and is valid until **18-Jun-2022** inclusive.
7. Except for the terms laid down in this Notice of Variation, operation of the Station is not permitted except under and in accordance with the terms of your Amateur Radio Full Licence as indicated above.
8. Notwithstanding Clause 3 of the Licence, the Licensee may authorise any person who holds their own valid individual Full Licence to use and supervise the operation of the Special Event Station.
9. Unless the Licence varied by this variation is a Full (Club) Licence, the Licensee must record in the Station's log the name and call sign of any person so authorised.

Issued by Ofcom:

Spectrum Licensing
Riverside House
2a Southwark Bridge Road
London, SE1 9HA
UK
Tel. +44 (0)20 7981 3131
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The story may be apocryphal, but an advertisement for a village fête in an Irish newspaper was said to contain the following: "the fête will start at 2pm, but if its raining in the afternoon, the fête will start at 11.30am." If it rains on the afternoon of 18th June, we may simply get wet, although we should have Dave's gazebo and the hall is nearby.

What am I rambling about? We are putting on a station for Ashley Green Fair on Saturday the 18th June, using the special call GB0AGF. The idea is to be seen by the people who live there, rather than merely be a strange club that rents the hall once a fortnight and occasionally puts up poles and wires outside. We have done this sort of thing before, but not for some years.

At one time, the club put on a special station each year for schools of Chesham carnival, until they wanted to charge us for the privilege, and for a couple of years we ran a successful station in Westwood Park, for what was known as Chalfont Village day. I seem to remember that the second occasion clashed with a cricket match which was taking place on the pitch, which was surrounded by stalls for the village day itself. We carefully erected the tent so that the entrance was facing away from the match. Others were not so savvy and had to dodge the ball when it was hit to the boundary. There isn't a pitch by the village hall, so this should be one hazard we don't have to worry about.

We also don't need the generator, as there is an outdoor electrical point. There are in fact two adjacent to each other, with the second being used by the barbecue, so we should not be far away from the food.

I have no idea about what other stalls there may be, but if there is a shooting gallery, I'll promise to avoid it. Let's hope for a dry and enjoyable afternoon.

Jeremy.

Brill Windmill



1. At the beginning, Angie (M6WTL) and Bryan (M0IHY) getting to grips with the poster, Malcolm (G3ZNU) is providing us with tape for the poster..

M0GUY



M0GUY



2. Malcolm (G3ZNU) and Matt (M1DTG) getting the antenna up and over the sail - note the broken sail at top left.
3. The 'bottom' end of the antenna firmly fixed. At that time there seemed to be a permanent black cloud over the windmill.

M0GUY

Brill Windmill



4. By this time Dave (G8FMC - blue BMW) had arrived and had erected both the dual band Diamond X50N 2m/70cm vertical (attached to stairs on the right) for GB0BWM and a 70cm yagi (back of the BMW) for contesting.

M0GUY



M0GUY



6. Roger (M7MRF) working the Yaesu FT-897D 'upstairs' on 2m and 70cm, all paper logging.

M0GUY

Brill Windmill



7. Dave (G8FMC) 'back seat driver', working 70cms during the contest.

M0GUY



G3ZNU



G3ZNU

9. Peter (2E0PTH) and Roger (M7MRF) operating and logging on what looks like the FT-897D?

Brill Windmill



10. The “Magnificent 7” - take 1.

Bob (G8MFH), Ant (2E0GUB), Roger (M7MRF), Peter (2E0PTH), Jeremy (G3XZG), Malcolm (G3ZNU), Dave (G8FMC) and Matt (M1DTG).

Brill Windmill



G3ZNU

11. A brilliant shot depicting the damage to the sail with Peter (2E0PTH) and Roger (M7MRF) operating.



G3ZNU

12. The “Magnificent 7” - take 2.

Bob (G8MFH), Ant (2E0GUB), Roger (M7MRF), Peter (2E0PTH), Jeremy (G3XZG), Malcolm (G3ZNU), Dave (G8FMC) and Matt (M1DTG).

Brill Windmill

...and finally



G3ZNU

13. The “Magnificent 7” - take 3.

Guy (M0GUY), Matt (M1DTG), Dave (G8FMC), James (M0JCQ), Jeremy (G3XZG), Roger (M7MRF) and Malcolm (G3ZNU).

Portable at Gawcott, a first-time for G8FMC/P at this local hill

G8FMC VERY rarely goes out /P, but I am breaking new ground; hot on the heals of the excellent demonstration on /P operation at the club by Phil M0NVS recently. I picked up a few tips from Phil's demo, so modified my setup accordingly.

4m & 6m tend to be incredibly noisy bands at the average QTH, due no doubt to the many non EMC compliant devices in most homes? One solution; go out portable? Having got myself a Yaesu FTDX10 just before Christmas, my 4m (70MHz) capability is now all-in-one package. Before I have had Elecraft K3, Elecraft P3 scope, OZ2M Transverter etc; all a bit messy for a brief /P outing?

Being concerned about running the car battery down & ending up stranded, I treated myself to a new LiPO4 Battery of a generous 30Ah (the FTDX10 is incredibly inefficient!) that weighs just 3Kg. I have just completed 'stage 1' of a 2 stage project to have a 3 element LFA for either 4m or (with a swap of elements on the same boom, & using the same clamps) a 3 element LFA for 6m. This is intended for /P work or other temporary arrangements where I will not need both 6m & 4m at the same time.

So; new(ish) radio, new antenna, new mast support system & newly acquired 6.5m (20ft) mast. Thanks to Roger G3MEH for selling me the mast (MUCH easier to handle than my 10m one, for this old weakling, with a dodgy back plus a hernia!)

Although I have not yet sussed rig control on the FTDX10, I should have access to the KST message board via my phone as a 'hot-spot'? Thus I might be able to set up a few extra contacts, by getting beam direction optimised between us.

So, how did it all work out? (I drafted the above before the event)

Well, setting up (this simple? station) took a bit longer than anticipated, but I made it with a couple of minutes spare! No time to check beacons, just dive in.

I could not believe the low noise level; about 15dB lower than at home. No need for the excellent noise reduction on the FTDX10. The only trouble with a low noise level is that when running low power (10W) there are lots of stations running 50W or even 160W, that were comfortable copy for me, but (due to their high noise) they did not hear me!

I managed some reasonable distances & the 3ele LFA at 6m AGL seemed to be a bit better than my 4ele at 12m AGL at home. Best DX was GI4SNA in IO64XM at 441Km. Not far behind was G7RAU in IN79JX at 372Km & G4FZN/P in IO94JF at 251Km.

I would normally have to rely on aircraft scatter to stand any chance of the first 2 with just 10W, often without success. At the end of the 2hrs I had 16 QSO's in 3 countries & 8 squares, total = 2213pts (1pt/km). Oh & KST did work eventually & helped with a couple.

I checked the Buxton & St Austell beacons before packing up & they were both about S3 & very easy copy. At QTHR Buxton is always there, JUST! St Austell often below noise threshold. So, my take-off was obviously somewhat better with minimal trees & NO big houses in the way.

Results will take a little while to arrive but I am anticipating 2nd place in Low Power, behind Andy M5TKA (who won the low power section last year) a local with a magnificent home QTH 130m ASL & a 7ele beam on this band!

Weather was cool, but the rain stayed away, just, & a satisfying session all round.

Next 2 sessions are on 26 June & 14 August. If Andy is busy & fails to come on, for 1 of those sessions I might even get 1st place overall?

Getting to know you...

As a young child I can remember my father had a large Pye multi band wireless, it covered the Long wave, Medium wave and two shortwave band which could tune to 10 metres. My father would on occasions string up a long wire along the washing line down the garden and would tune in some of the foreign broadcast stations and ask us to guess the language being spoken and where it might be in the world. My father had no interest in amateur radio or anything to do with electronics but I did remember he got an early transistor radio kit and put it together with a little help from me, I was about 11 at the time, I think this was the start of my interest in electronics.

After leaving school I joined GEC Computers in Borehamwood who built early mini computers, they sent me to collage and whilst there I enrolled into a RAE evening class. The RAE tutor was George Benbow, G3HB, who was the author of some of the amateur radio text book of that time. I just managed to scrape through the exam on my first attempt and got my licence in 1977.

My first transceiver was a Trio 2300 2 metre FM with an output of 1 watt. I could access GB3VA and the west London repeaters from home on a homemade Slim Jim but I mainly used it travelling to and from work.

Maintaining a growing family on a limited budget (interest rate reaching 15 or more percent in the early 90's) limited my activity and interest in the hobby waned and in an effort to regain my enthusiasm I joined local clubs, Chesham was the first club I joined when meetings were held in a Pigeon loft on a farm on the Pednor road out of Chesham. I also attended the Verulam club for a short time and then joined Dacorum club shortly after it first started and staying to its demise. Now I have come back to Chesham and finding the talks by other members of the club very informative, I shall have to try some portable working after Phil's recent talk.

I do enjoy constructional projects, mechanical and electrical, I have built the odd antenna and have converted some ex PMR equipment to work on the amateur bands such as the Pye PF2 and M294 transceivers in the past. I am currently attempting to build a 6 metre Hex Beam and an Arduino rotator controller for an old rotator I acquired years ago.

That's it for now. 73 de Bob, G8MFH.

Spotlight - Nuuk

QSO with OX3XR, Peter

Band: 10MHz
Mode: CW
Date: 9th May 2022
Time: 20:30 GMT

QTH: Nuuk
Coordinates: 64°10'N 51°44'W
Time Zone: GMT - 3 hours
Population: 17,635 (2017)



Flag

Coat of arms

Nuuk is the capital of Greenland, and situated on the south-west of the island at the head of a fjord.

The country is in fact part of Denmark, though there seems to be a home-rule movement, mainly based around the kalaalisut language and culture. This is one of the Inuit language, and spoken by around 56,000 people. The Inuit are the original inhabitants and there is a museum which contains skin boats and mummies, presumably the latter preserved by the ice.

The city itself seems to date from the mid 18th century, when two competing missions, Lutheran and Moravian were established. That must have confused the local Inuit, but they took to it sufficiently to enable a Lutheran church to be built by about 1750. That is now known as the cathedral.



The city also has its own airport, shopping mall with the imaginative name of Nuuk center, and a multi-purpose stadium. This is mainly used for football, not surprisingly with artificial turf, and has a capacity of 2,000. That may say something about the standard of the local teams.

It has a very attractive waterfront with "colourful" houses and is described as the "rainbow" city because of this.



The weather does not sound very hospitable however. Today, 27th May, the temperature at around 10.30am was minus 1 centigrade. Its late spring there as well.

Greenland itself of course has a much longer and more colourful history involving Vikings and such, but that is beyond the scope of a spotlight on Nuuk.

Jermey (G3XZG)

Contest Corner

June

HF

Day	Date (2021)	Time UTC	Contest Name
Sat-Sun	04-05 Jun	1500-1500	NFD
Mon	06 Jun	1900-2030	80m CC DATA
Wed	15 Jun	1900-2030	80m CC CW
Thu	23 Jun	1900-2030	80m CC SSB
Mon	27 Jun	1900-2030	RSGB FT4 Contest

VHF

Day	Date (2021)	Time UTC	Contest Name
Wed	01 Jun	1900-2100	144MHz FT8 AC
Tue	07 Jun	1800-1855	144MHz FMAC
Tue	07 Jun	1900-2130	144MHz UKAC
Wed	08 Jun	1900-2100	432MHz FT8 AC
Thu	09 Jun	1900-2130	50MHz UKAC
Sun	12 Jun	0900-1300	2nd 144MHz Backpackers
Tue	14 Jun	1800-1855	432MHz FMAC
Tue	14 Jun	1900-2130	432MHz UKAC
Thu	16 Jun	1900-2130	70MHz UKAC
Sat-Sun	18-19 Jun	1400-1400	50MHz Trophy Contest
Tue	21 Jun	1900-2130	1.3GHz UKAC
Sun	26 Jun	0900-1200	50MHz Contest CW
Sun	26 Jun	1400-1600	70MHz Cumulatives #4
Tue	28 Jun	1830-2130	SHF UKAC

July

HF

Day	Date (2021)	Time UTC	Contest Name
Mon	06 Jun	1900-2030	80m CC DATA
Wed	15 Jun	1900-2030	80m CC CW
Thu	23 Jun	1900-2030	80m CC SSB
Mon	27 Jun	1900-2030	RSGB FT4 Contest

VHF

Day	Date (2021)	Time UTC	Contest Name
Wed	01 Jun	1900-2100	144MHz FT8 AC
Tue	07 Jun	1800-1855	144MHz FMAC
Tue	07 Jun	1900-2130	144MHz UKAC
Wed	08 Jun	1900-2100	432MHz FT8 AC
Thu	09 Jun	1900-2130	50MHz UKAC
Sun	12 Jun	0900-1300	2nd 144MHz Backpackers
Tue	14 Jun	1800-1855	432MHz FMAC
Tue	14 Jun	1900-2130	432MHz UKAC
Thu	16 Jun	1900-2130	70MHz UKAC
Sat-Sun	18-19 Jun	1400-1400	50MHz Trophy Contest
Tue	21 Jun	1900-2130	1.3GHz UKAC
Sun	26 Jun	0900-1200	50MHz Contest CW
Sun	26 Jun	1400-1600	70MHz Cumulatives #4
Tue	28 Jun	1830-2130	SHF UKAC

ADI files and Air-Miles

When working with your ADI log files in Air-Miles I look for the following fields for the data:

<BAND:n>	- Band
<CALL:n>	- Their callsign
<DISTANCE:n>	- Miles
<GRID SQUARE:n>	- Their locator
<MODE:n>	- Mode
<MY_GRID SQUARE:n>	- Your locator
<OPERATOR:n>	- Your callsign
<QSO_DATE:n>	- Date
<TIME_ON:n>	- Time
<TX_PWR:n>	- Power

The 'n' after the field name denotes how many characters after the right-hand chevron that contain the data for that field.

When my software trawls through the data, it looks for the above fields for its data and if the field is not found will return a blank value for that particular field. The reasons for missing fields in the logs is more than likely because they've not been set up in your logging software.

Most of the fields above are self explanatory, with the exception of 'miles', 'date' and 'time'. I used to use the miles recorded in the log but because some software returns a 4-character locator (WSJT-X) and others a 6-character locator I calculate the mileage on a built up locator of 6 characters. The 'date' is primarily to ensure the data being processed is for 'this month' and the 'time' is used in conjunction with the date to ensure no two QSO's happen at the same time (yes, it has happened before!).

If any of you are unsure of your logging software settings a quick chat with Malcolm (G3ZNU) will more than likely put the matter right.

Bryan (MOIHY)

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

Due to commitments on stage, good weather, holidays, gardening and many other valid things, Air Miles is a little 'thin' this month with just 2 entries!

SSB is the favoured mode this month, followed by CW, FM and last FT8.

So, how have we done?

(Running totals in red)

General

Most Miles

G3XZG		64,295	313,392	
2E0GUB		22,424	35,370	
G3ZNU			435,723	
M7SMI			3,721,560	

Most QSO's

2E0GUB		88	103	
G3XZG		26	145	
G3ZNU			141	
M7SMI			2,322	

Longest QSO

G3XZG		3B8FR(6417)	XQ6XF(7707)	
2E0GUB		KF2GV(3400)	KF2GV(3400)	
G3ZNU			YB9BCS(7770)	
M7SMI			ZL3GAV(11785)	

Shortest QSO (miles)

2E0GUB		2E0NEP(0)	2E0NEP(0)	
G3XZG		MW0CHR(104)	G0SWU(22)	
G3ZNU)	G0ODQ(19)	
M7SMI			G0BLQ(28)	

Average per QSO (miles)

G3XZG		2,161	2,472	
2E0GUB		343	254	
G3ZNU			744	
M7SMI			1,664	

Maidenhead Squares

2E0GUB		74	35	
G3XZG		26	121	
G3ZNU			97	
M7SMI			631	

QSO Economy Drive

High miles per Watt

2E0GUB		68.00(50)	68.00(50)	
G3XZG		64.17(100)	77.07(100)	
G3ZNU			77.70(100)	
M7SMI			1178.50(10)	

Low miles per Watt

2E0GUB		0.06(50)	0.06(50)	
G3XZG		1.04(100)	0.22(100)	
G3ZNU		10.30(400)	0.05(400)	
M7SMI			2.80(10)	

By Band

160m

30m

12m

2m

80m

20m

10m

70cm

60m

17m

6m

23cm

40m

15m

4m

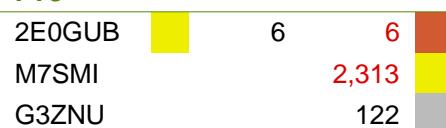
'Air Miles', how far have we gone? / results

By Mode

CW



FT8



MFSK



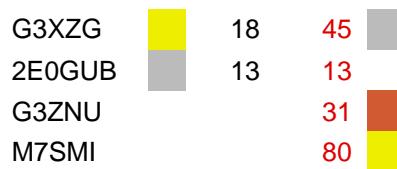
SSB



FM



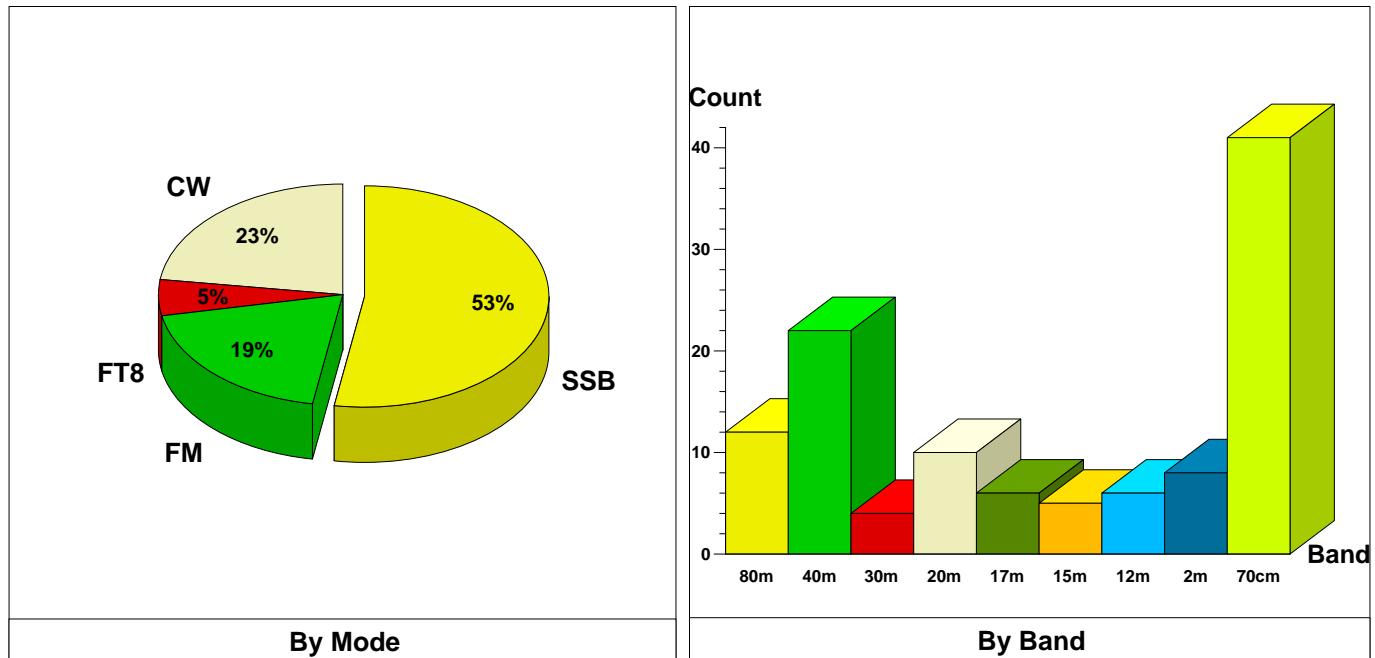
By Country



Countries visited	-	25
Most visited Country	-	England 69 times
Total Mileage	-	86,719
Total QSO's	-	2,711
Average miles per QSO	-	31.99
Total locators visited	-	48
Most visited locator	-	IO91-JN62 4 times

'Air Miles', this month at a glance

This month at a glance (accumulative)



No pretty display this month, far too crowded requiring a magnifying glass to see the results!

England	69	Hungary	1
Italy	5	Romania	1
Russia	4	Israel	1
United States	4	Saudi Arabia	1
Denmark	3	Scotland	1
Wales	3	Finland	1
Netherlands	2	Sweden	1
Northern Ireland	2	Switzerland	1
France	2	Turkey	1
Slovenia	2	Cyprus	1
Canada	2	Mauritius	1
Japan	2	Germany	1
Unknown	2		

Any other business

GB100BBC and GB8PJE

Ant (2E0GUB) said (dated 27th May 2022):

"Last night I made contact with GB100BBC on 40m SSB, the special event station for 100 years of the BBC, also I made contact with GB8PJE on 40m SSB which is a special event station for the Queen's Jubilee".

Dave (G8FMC) made this comment:

"I seem to remember talking to one GB100BBC station? Was it at the Windmill, maybe when I was on 40m near the end on Sunday? I think Malcolm has the log. Otherwise I shall have to look through my own logs.

It certainly rings a bell, because I remember discussing the fact that I was working at the BBC Designs Department in London & operated GB50BBC from the club station in the loft of the Langham. That makes it 1972 I guess which was right, as I joined the BBC in 1971 & was there for about 5 years."

Alex (M7MEX) said:

"I made contact with GB100BBC in February twice all logged on my QRZ page".

Looks like a couple of you got through, well done, and thanks for letting us know where you were 50 years ago Dave (G8FMC).

Has anyone else made contact with these special event stations?