

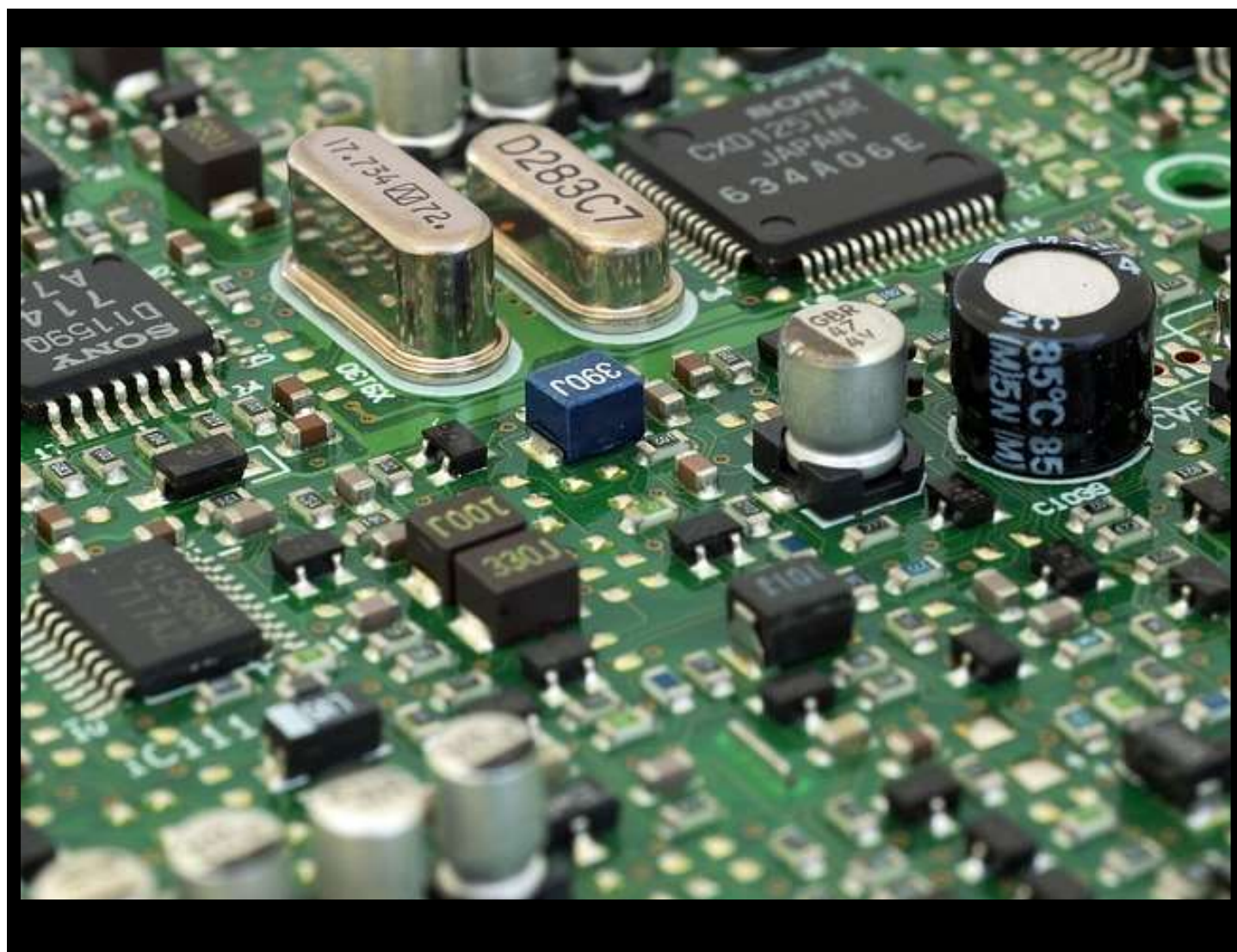
C.D.A.R.S.

September 2024

CESHAM & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

'The EKCO' - A Personal Connection

We meet the 2nd Wednesday each month at The Golden Eagle Pub in Ashley Green and every 4th Wednesday each month at the Ashley Green Memorial Hall, Ashley Green, HP5 3PP



Feature

The PYE Electronics
Company

For Sale and Wanted

SK Sale of Brian M0IHY

Want to write something for the newsletter?
Then you can contact me on
cdarsnews@gmail.com

Can't find that elusive part or have anything for sale?
Why not drop me an email and put it in
'For sale and wanted'.

Morse links

If you're interested in Morse code, here are a few useful links:



FISTS CW Club

Promoting Morse Code for 36 years 1987-2023

<https://fists.co.uk>

WIKIHOW

How to learn Morse Code

<https://www.wikihow.com/Learn-Morse-Code>

The Ham Whisperer

Morse Code Course

<http://www.hamwhisperer.com/p/morse-code-course.html>

LEARN MORSE CODE

LEARN MORSE CODE in one minute !

<http://www.learnmorsecode.com/>

Welcome to LCWO.net

Learn Morse Code (CW) Online!

<https://lcwo.net/>



Tools for learning Morse Code

<https://www.aa9pw.com/morsecode/>



Celebrating the unique art form of Morse Code

<https://cwops.org/>



Morse Code by Ray Burlingame-Goff (SK - 29th July 2021)

<http://www.g4fon.net/>

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Chairman - Dave Keston (G8FMC) **Secretary** - Malcolm Appleby (G3ZNU) **Treasurer** - Matt Whitchurch (M1DTG)
- Guy Plunkett (M0GUY) - John Hall (G0ODQ) - Peter Holliday (2E0PTH)
- Roger Fellows (M7RMF)

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

Newsletter Editor - RogerFellows (M7RMF)

Welcome

Welcome once again to the CDARS monthly newsletter. A much quieter month club radio wise now VHF Field Day is done and dusted.

The clubs participation in various monthly contests continues and Dave G8FMC has his usual contest updates along with his monthly 'Ramble'.

There are two feature stories this month both having commercial links with each other, one of which I have a personal link to. All is explained on page seven.

If anyone would like to include an item for future editions of the newsletter it would be greatly appreciated. I have had an idea of including a 'How to' section following on from the coax cable testing at Ashley Green recently. I have not explored what this could include, or even if it's worth doing, but if any club members have any thoughts on this then please do let me know.

Thats all from me for this month. Enjoy the newsletter.

Roger M7RMF/2E0TGU



**Roger
M7RMF/2E0TGU**

Chairmans Ramble

What has happened in the last month?

An interesting property of Red brick dust:

Starting on a very non-radio topic; I can report that my son-in-law Pete has fitted a S/H PVC window in the back of my garage (replacement for a VERY rotten wooden one). I have had this 'spare' window propped-up down my side passage for at least 2 – 3 years, but now it is installed!

Of course since it was a freebie it was not exactly the correct size. No matter it just meant opening out the brickwork a little to accommodate this slightly bigger window. This entailed using an angle-grinder on the red brickwork. Now brick dust seems to have an almost unique property, in spite of being a fairly heavy material, of being able to become airborne & travel quite amazing distances!

So, after enlarging the window opening in the back wall of the garage (with the front door open as we had been carrying tools etc through) I had a garage with every item & surface, right up to the ceiling, covered with this nice red dusting of very gritty powder! In addition to that we had on my drive a black & a grey car that now had an interesting brick-red speckled effect. Since Pete had borrowed my daughters car for the visit, he had to take it home via a car wash, to avoid the risk of injury when returning home!

Does anyone have an old vacuum cleaner I can borrow, that can be used for brick-dust??

Paul has been progressing with masts etc & Angie has a few less poles in her garden. It really is beginning to look like a 'normal' person's house & garden now at Angie's! We were delighted to see Angie at our 'Informal' (pub) meeting on the 14th August & at the 'Hall' meeting on the 28th; many thanks to Paul for providing a Taxi service for Angie.

I visited the Northampton Clubs Bring-&-buy sale on Thursday 22nd & also the MKARS Rally (Boot sale) on Sunday 25th, where Roger M7RMF gave me some support. Thanks to the generosity of the Northampton guys, we were able to 'borrow' a bit of their table space, without having to turn up at silly-o-clock in the morning! (Some of us pensioners are not good at early rising) This has proved modestly productive with some proceeds for Angie & £50 for the club, not to mention a bit less 'bulk'!

BTW we are please to note that Roger M7RMF is now 2E0TGU. Got that sorted just before the changes to the exam papers. Congrats Roger & interesting to note that Ofcom are still issuing 2E0's. I guess the change to M9? is in their 'Phase 3'.

The proposed Bar-B-Q at John's GOODQ, was cancelled due to many folks being away on holiday or otherwise busy. As it turned out a good decision as the weather was terrible on Sat 24th! To be re-scheduled, possibly in Sept? Members will be invited via email as soon as it is sorted.

(Stop press; it might be on Sat 14th Sept, with Sat 21st as backup if rained-off?)

73 all, Dave K
G8FMC (Chairman & Contest Coordinator)

73 all, Dave K, G8FMC (Chairman and Contest Coordinator)



Dave G8FMC

Contests/Operating

VHF Field Day 6-7 July:

We now have the results: CDARS & friends secured 1st place in the MS section! Our only direct rival entering the same 3 bands (2m,70cm & 23cm) was the Oxford team. We comfortably beat them on 2m, thrashed them on 70cm & annihilated them on 23cm. We also beat Addiscombe on 2m for the 2nd time in 3 years, so got the 1,000 pts on each band x 3 = 3,000 pts, the maximum possible! (Not achieved by any other team in VHF Field Day). Our thanks and appreciation to all those involved.

The UKAC's 2024:

Tim G6GEI (& Chairman of the MKARS club) has recently joined our band of Associate members & contributed points on several bands. Welcome aboard Tim & thanks for the contributions. MKARS were having a rest year & Tim has been very busy with work, but has re-surfaced recently & kindly agreed to put his points to CDARS, to give us a boost for the last few months.

Yet again we are still maintaining 3rd place quite close to Hereford, but reasonably clear of the rest of the clubs. We still lead Hereford on 432MHz & 1296MHz.

Parallel Lines are way ahead with so far a clean sweep of 1,000 points on all 6 bands!

That is 6,000 points, with Hereford on 2,730 & CDARS fairly close behind on 2,574.

VHF Championship 2024 (AFS section):

We fielded a large team of 9 for the 70MHz Trophy and got another coveted 1,000 pts for the lead Affiliated Society. This put us back to top spot above Hereford, with them winning 2 comps & CDARS (& friends) winning 3 comps at that point in the series.

We then had; the 144MHz Low Power and the 432MHz Low Power. We put on a good show, with Anthony G7LRQ contributing a magnificent 4th on 144MHz & 1st on 432MHz. This unfortunately was not quite good enough to hold off Hereford. They had a few VERY strong entries bunched up at the top of the leader-board (including Darrell 2E0VCC/P in Cornwall!) which tipped the balance in their favour & got them another 2,000 pts! Current status; Hereford back in front having now got 6838, against our 6510. With the 144MHz Trophy plus 1.3GHz & 2.3GHz to go, maybe we can make it, with our extra helpers?

Other Contests:

SSB HF Field Day: it has been decided that for this year CDARS will pass on this & put all our efforts into the 144MHz Trophy, which is on at the same time. The 144MHz Trophy is another big one in the VHF Championship series, so we will give that priority this year.

2024/25 AFS series:

We may NOT give this priority this year, but please enter if you want.

73, Dave K, G8FMC

The EKCO Electronics Company. A Personal Connection.

As some of you may be aware my mother passed away in July at the age of 100. In fact she would have celebrated her 101st birthday on August 25th just gone. So, you are thinking 'what has this to do with radio'? It's strange how things that are forgotten until there is a discussion about someones life, especially someone who had such a long life, come to the fore. During such a discussion, whilst preparing for the eulogy which would be read at the funeral service, my brother and I remembered, amongst many other things, how mum would talk about the time during World War 2 when she worked for 'The Ekco'.

At the age 16 or 17 she gave up her day job at Hazell, Watson and Viney printers in Aylesbury and went to work at Ekco and in her words 'to do war work'. The Ekco factory had moved to Aylesbury and had taken over the former Cubbits Car factory in Bicester Road where they manufactured R1155 receivers and T1154 transmitters that were fitted to Avro Lancaster, Handley Page Halifax, Vickers Wellington and Short Sunderland aircraft. Some were also used in vehicles and air-sea rescue launches. Along with many other local people and workers from the original Ekco factory based in Southend on Sea, Essex my mum would spend her day soldering the components and wiring for these transmitters and receivers, all doing their bit for the war effort. Again in my mums words 'they were Happy Days'.

This is just a snippet of how people, during that period, changed their daily lives to help the country in dark and worrying times.

On the following pages is the story of the Ekco electronics company.

Roger M7RMF/2E0TGU

EKCO (from Eric Kirkham Cole Limited) was a British electronics company producing radio and television sets from 1924 until 1960. Expanding into plastic production for its own use, Ekco Plastics produced both radio cases and later domestic plastic products; the plastics company became Lin Pac Mouldings Ltd.

Early history

The company's founder Eric Kirkham Cole was born on 4 July 1901 at Prittlewell, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, and was educated at Southend Day Technical School, followed by a three-year apprenticeship. Cole and his future wife Muriel Bradshaw started out making radio sets in 1924.

William Streatfield Verrells, a schoolmaster and freelance journalist from Southend-on-Sea, wrote an article in a local newspaper asking if it was possible to power a radio set from the mains electricity supply rather than batteries. Cole saw a possible business opportunity and set about building his battery eliminator, which he later demonstrated to Verrells. Suitably impressed, Verrells joined Cole in a business venture, with Cole manufacturing the battery eliminators, and Verrells marketing them. In 1926 a private company E.K. Cole Ltd was formed with Verrells as chairman and Cole as vice-chairman.

With the extra funding that was raised, the company set up a new factory at Leigh-on-Sea in 1927. After further expansion E.K. Cole Ltd became a public limited company in 1930, and moved to a spacious new factory at Southend-on-Sea. The company also began to concentrate on the manufacture of mains powered radios rather than battery eliminators which were becoming obsolete.

The company suffered a major financial setback in 1932, when a fire swept through its research and development laboratories. The blaze destroyed much of the design work for the company's new range of receivers.



Ekcovision television signage in Balham, South London, 1985



Ekco launched its first car radio at the 1934 Radiolympia exhibition. Another important development for the company was the introduction of bakelite cabinets for its radios. Initially these cabinets were made for the company in Germany by AEG, however the introduction of high import duties on the cabinets in 1931 led Ekco to establish its own bakelite moulding shop adjacent to its Southend-on-Sea works. The company employed famous architects such as Serge Chermayeff and Wells Coates to design its bakelite radio cabinets.

In 1935 Ekco made a substantial investment in Scophony Limited, the developers of the ingenious Scophony projection television system. Although the system showed great promise, its development was halted by the Second World War, and not resumed postwar.

World War II

Before the start of the Second World War, the Government decided to disperse certain production to locations away from obvious bombing targets. This led to a shadow factory at Cowbridge House, Malmesbury, Wiltshire, being established by Ekco. This was followed by other shadow factories at Aylesbury, Woking, Preston, and Rutherglen in Scotland. The wartime headquarters of Ekco was based at Aston Clinton House in Buckinghamshire (now Green Park). Following the outbreak of war, the Southend-on-Sea factory was evacuated apart from the bakelite moulding shop whose large moulding presses could not be moved easily. Less than a year later, the empty factory was re-equipped to make wiring looms for aircraft such as the Avro Lancaster.

The Malmesbury specialised in the top-secret development and production of the new radar systems as part of the "Western Development Unit". Radar equipment produced at Malmesbury during the war included the AI Mk. IV and AI Mk. VIII air interception radars, and the ASV Mk. II air to surface vessel radar.

In addition to radar equipment, Ekco also manufactured the ubiquitous R1155 and T1154 aircraft radios at its Aylesbury shadow factory. Ekco carried out extensive development work on both units before putting them into production, significantly improving on the original Marconi design. The R1155 and T1154 were also produced by Marconi, Plessey, and EMI. The company also manufactured the Wireless Set No. 19 tank radio at Woking. It was a Pye designed set made by several other British and American companies. In 1942, Ekco began production of its Wireless Set No. 46 portable man-pack radio, and large numbers of these were made at the company's Woking and Southend-on-Sea factories.



The R1155 receiver (top) and T1154 Transmitter.

Post war history

It is estimated that by 1945 EKCO had over 8,000 people working for it across various sites making mains and portable TVs, mains and portable radios, radiograms, tape recorders, car radios, electric heaters, thermovent heaters, electric blankets, plastic toilet seats, various plastic utensils, plastic bathroom fittings and 'Superbath' baby-baths. It was at one of those sites in Malmesbury, Wiltshire that in 1948 production of the 'Thermotube' tubular heaters started.

In 1947, the company introduced the Wireless Set No. 88 VHF man-pack transceiver for use by the British Army.

Ekco bought the Dynatron business in 1954 and the Ferranti brown goods brand in 1957 (though not Ferranti's heavy industries, defence electronics or meter businesses).



An Avro Anson at Blackbushe Aerodrome in 1955 showing the Ekco logo on the tail fin.

Radar

During the 1950s, the company produced a number of military radar systems including the ARI 5820 ranging radar for the Hawker Hunter; the ASV Mk. 19 air to surface vessel radar for the Fairey Gannet, and the Red Steer tail warning radar for the Avro Vulcan. EKCO also supplied weather radars for a variety of civil aircraft such as the Bristol Britannia, De Havilland Comet, Vickers Vanguard, Vickers VC10 and BAC 111. The company also made the E390/564 weather radar for the Concorde. In 1970, EKCO's radar activities were subsumed into MEL, the military electronics subsidiary of Philips. British Electronic Industries

Ekco merged with Pye in 1960 to form a new holding company, British Electronic Industries Ltd, with C.O. Stanley as Chairman and E.K. Cole as Vice-Chairman. The following year Cole resigned from the board and retired. He died on 18 November 1966 in the Bahamas due to a bathing accident, his wife Muriel having predeceased him in 1965.

British Electronic Industries was put up for sale in 1966, and in the same year Pye closed the Southend-on-Sea factory (but maintained its car radio repair workshop until 1977) as part of its restructuring plan. In 1967, Philips Electrical Industries emerged as the new owner of the Ekco/Pye business which was then split into three different companies.

By the early 1970s the Ekco brand had all but disappeared.

Source: *Wikipedia.*

Photo Acknowledgements: *Balham Shop Front - Alison Sinclair.*

Bakelite Radio's 1930's - Southend Museum Services.

R1155/T1154 Receiver & Transmitter - Ivor The Driver.

Avro Anson at Blackbushe - RuthAS.

Coax Cable Measurements Update

Here's a screenshot of the results of measurements from last months Wednesday Club night and updated with measurements from Wednesday 28th club night. I've added a column to show the measured "per 100m" value, for comparison with the manufacturers' quoted values. Of course, the shorter the sample the more inaccurate it will be of the 100m value, after all Dave was reading the measurement off the screen visually, even though he had the scale set to one square per dB.

Best coax of the night was Bob G8MFH's Ultraflex 10, which had a measured loss of 12.0dB per 100m at 430MHz. Bearing in mind that just about everything measured considerably worse than manufacturers' specs, Bob's coax compared quite well against the spec value of 8.3dB per 100m at 430MHz.

I guess the take away from all this is that you should use the manufacturers' spec values as a guide for comparison, not as an absolute value. We've also found that the apparently better coaxes can deteriorate over time and, more importantly, when flexed a lot.

Malcolm G3ZNU

	10MHz	30MHz	50MHz	145MHz	430MHz	1000MHz
RG58	4.70		10.80	19.30		54.60
Mini 8			7.20	11.00	22.20	37.00
RG213	2.10	3.40	4.50	7.50	13.50	22.50
Aircell 7	2.09		4.29	7.22	12.92	20.44
Ultraflex 7	1.90	3.00	4.00	6.90	11.80	19.00
Ecoflex 10	1.20		2.80	4.90	8.90	14.20
Ultraflex 10	1.30	2.00	2.70	4.70	8.30	13.80
LMR400		2.20	2.90	5.00	8.90	
LMR400 UF		2.70	3.50	6.10	10.70	
LBC400 EXF				5.90	10.82	
Ecoflex 15	0.86		1.96	3.40	6.10	9.80

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
1	Name	Coax type	Length	Spec	Measured	per 100m	Spec	Measured	per 100m	Spec	Measured	per 100m	Spec	Measured	per 100m
2				30MHz			50MHz			145MHz			430MHz		
3	G00DQ	RG213	3	0.10			0.14	0.1	4.0	0.23	0.1	4.3	0.41	0.8	26.0
4	M7RMF	Ultraflex 7	10	0.30	0.6	5.8	0.40		0.0	0.69	1.6	16.0	1.18	3.3	33.0
5	G3ZNU	RG58	40	0.00	2.8	6.9	4.32	3.8	9.4	7.72	6.8	17.0	0.00		0.0
6	M7EFR	RG213	1.2	0.04	0.1	5.8	0.05	0.0	3.3	0.09	0.2	12.5	0.16	0.5	42.5
7	G3ZNU	RG213	17	0.58	0.6	3.4	0.77	0.7	4.4	1.28	1.4	8.2	2.30	2.9	17.1
8	M0IHY	RG58	2	0.00	0.3	17.0	0.22	0.4	21.0	0.39	0.6	32.0	0.00	1.1	53.5
9	M0IHY	Ultraflex 7	10	0.30	0.7	6.7	0.40	0.9	8.8	0.69	1.7	17.3	1.18	4.1	40.5
10	G4CZB	Ecoflex 15	16	0.00	0.5	3.1	0.31	0.7	4.6	0.54	1.9	11.9	0.98	4.6	28.8
11	Club	Mini 8	20	0.00	1.1	5.3	1.44	1.4	7.0	2.2	2.6	13.0	4.44	5.0	25.0
12	Club	RG213	14	0.48	0.7	5.0	0.63	0.9	6.6	1.05	1.6	11.4	1.89	3.0	21.7
13	Club	RG213	18	0.61	1.0	5.7	0.81	1.3	7.4	1.35	2.3	12.9	2.43	4.3	23.6
14	G8MFH	Ultraflex 10	10	0.20	0.4	3.9	0.27	0.5	4.7	0.47	0.7	7.0	0.83	1.2	12.0
15	Club	Mini 8	11	0.00	0.8	7.2	0.79	1.0	9.1	1.21	1.6	14.8	2.44	2.9	26.4
16	Club	Mini 8	18	0.00	1.2	6.7	1.30	1.5	8.5	1.98	2.6	14.3	4.00	4.6	25.3
17	G8MFH	Mini 8	15	0.00	1.3	8.4	1.08	1.6	10.7	1.65	2.8	18.7	3.33	5.1	34.2
18	G3ZNU	RG213	7	0.24	0.4	6.1	0.32	0.5	7.6	0.525	0.7	9.9	0.95	2.2	30.9
19				#N/A			#N/A			#N/A			#N/A		

The PYE Electronics Company.

Pye Ltd was an electronics company founded in 1896 in Cambridge, England, as a manufacturer of scientific instruments. The company merged with EKCO in 1960. Philips of the Netherlands acquired a majority shareholding in 1967, and later gained full ownership.

Early growth

W. G. Pye & Co. Ltd was founded in 1896 in Cambridge by William Pye, superintendent of the Cavendish Laboratory workshop, as a part-time business making scientific instruments.

By the outbreak of World War I in 1914, the company employed 40 people manufacturing instruments used for teaching and research. The war increased demand for such instruments and the War Office needed experimental thermionic valves. The manufacture of such components afforded the company the technical knowledge needed to develop the first wireless receiver when the first UK broadcasts were made by the British Broadcasting Company in 1922.

Instruments continued to be designed and manufactured under W G Pye Ltd, later situated in York Street Cambridge, while a separate company was started to build wireless components in a factory to become known as Cambridge Works at Church Path, Chesterton.

A series of receivers made at Church Path were given positive reviews by Popular Wireless magazine. In 1924, Harold Pye, the son of the founder, and Edward Appleton, his former tutor at St John's College, Cambridge, designed a new series of receivers which proved even more saleable. In 1928 William Pye sold the company, now renamed Pye Radio Limited, to C. O. Stanley, who established a chain of small component-manufacturing factories across East Anglia.

When the BBC started to explore television broadcasting, Pye found that the closest of their East Anglian offices was 25 miles outside the estimated effective 25-mile radius of the Alexandra Palace transmitter. Stanley was fascinated by the new technology and on his instructions the company built a high gain receiver that could pick up these transmissions. In 1937, a five-inch Pye television receiver was priced at 21 guineas (£22.05) and within two years the company had sold 2,000 sets at an average price of £34 (equivalent to £2,663 in 2023).

The new EF50 valve from Philips enabled Pye to build this high-gain receiver, which was a tuned radio frequency (TRF) type and not a superhet type. With the outbreak of World War II, the Pye receiver using EF50 valves became a key component of many radar receivers, forming the 45 MHz Intermediate Amplifier (IF) section of the equipment. Pye went on to design and manufacture radio equipment for the British Army, including Wireless Sets No. 10, 18, 19, 22, 62 and 68. Pye was also responsible for the early development work on the proximity fuze for anti-aircraft shells.

In February 1944, Pye formed a subsidiary called Pye Telecommunications Ltd, which it intended would design and produce radio communications equipment when the war ended.[3] This company grew to become the leading UK producer of mobile radio equipment for commercial, business, industrial, police and government purposes. Popular products included the Reporter, Cambridge, and Westminster series of VHF radio transceivers. The company also produced the PF8 UHF hand-held radios featured in episodes of The Professionals television series.



A TV Demo in Mons, Belgium - Sept 1947.

After the war, Pye's B16T nine-inch table television was designed around the 12-year-old EF50 valve. It was soon superseded by the B18T, which used an extra high tension (EHT) transformer developed by German companies before the war to produce the high voltage required by the cathode ray tube.

In 1955, the company diversified into music production with Pye Records. The Independent Television Authority (ITA) started public transmissions in the same year, so Pye produced new televisions that could receive ITV, and the availability of a second channel introduced the need for tuners. Pye's VT4 tunable television was launched in March 1954 and was followed by the V14. The V14 proved to be technically unreliable and so tarnished the Pye name that many dealers transferred their allegiance to other manufacturers. This failure so damaged corporate confidence that Pye avoided being first-to-market thereafter, although they developed the first British transistor in 1956.



PYE Television Camera and Monitor

Pye TVT Ltd was formed to produce broadcast television equipment, including cameras, which were popular with British broadcasters including the BBC as well as achieving international sales. The early cameras were called "Photicon" and the later models by their Mk number: 2, 3, etc. The Mk7/8 solid-state monochrome cameras were the last to be produced. The Pye Mk6 image orthicon camera, known as the PC60, was the last version supplied to BBC Outside Broadcasts in 1963 for a new fleet of eight outside broadcast vans. These cameras were the first generation of outside broadcast cameras to feature a zoom lens, rather than a turret system..

These three-tubed cameras were known for their reliability but were so heavy and unwieldy that they required a stretcher to carry them around the OB site. The Pye PC60 was eventually replaced by the EMI 2001 on BBC outside broadcasts but, during its lifespan, it was used on numerous high-profile productions including Wimbledon tennis and Open golf.

The ITV companies purchased the Pye Mk3s, and to a lesser extent the Mk4s and Mk7s. Pye TVT never produced a colour broadcast television camera, but there was an abortive colour telecine camera; few if any were sold. The reason for this was probably the financial difficulties the company was in.

In 1960, Pye acquired the Telephone Manufacturing Company.

Decline and Sale.

Not wishing to risk further damage to their fragile brand, Pye first used transistors in a product sold as a subsidiary brand: the Pam 710 radio (1956), with the transistors themselves labelled Newmarket Transistors (another subsidiary). When this proved acceptable the company launched the Pye 123 radio (1957, still with the Newmarket label on the novel internal components). Products such as these reversed the decline but the arrival of Japanese competition reduced demand to a level that threatened the viability of the manufacturing plants. In 1960, Pye merged with its rival EKCO to form British Electronic Industries Ltd, with C. O. Stanley as Chairman and E. K. Cole as Vice-Chairman.



"D" building at the former Chesterton Pye factory site,

The company, like most of its domestic competitors, attempted to restore demand with price competition and, where viable production exceeded demand, sold excess stock at loss-making clearance prices. By 1966 Pye was in such difficulties that they started to reduce their manufacturing capacity with closure of the EKCO factory in Southend-on-Sea.

Philips attempted to buy out the ailing Pye in 1966. The Minister of Technology Tony Benn determined that a complete sale would create a de facto monopoly so he permitted the transfer of only a 60% shareholding, with an undertaking that the Lowestoft factory would continue to manufacture televisions.

On 20 April 1964, BBC2 was launched, broadcasting entirely on the new television standard of 625-line UHF, but BBC1 and ITV would remain in 405-line VHF until 1969, when they began UHF broadcasting. During this transition, television receivers in the UK had to handle both the VHF and UHF wavebands, which added to the cost of producing the sets. The price of a dual-standard set, combined with the limited coverage of BBC2, meant that initial sales of dual-standard sets were slow.

PAL colour test signals began in 1966 and scheduled transmissions commenced on BBC2 on 1 July 1967, with a full colour service beginning on that channel on 2 December 1967. BBC1 and ITV followed suit on 15 November 1969. Colour broadcasting added further to the cost and complexity of producing television sets. The resulting high price and low coverage areas of the new technology delayed consumer adoption further: it wasn't until 1977 that the number of colour licences sold outnumbered those of black and white.



PYE CT205 Colour Television

In the early 1970s, Sony and Hitachi launched UK colour televisions that cost less than £200.

Domestic manufacturers attempted to compete, but were handicapped by outdated manufacturing techniques and an inflexible workforce. Pye found themselves with high stocks and low cash flow at a time of poor industrial relations, a low-growth economy and limited scope for reducing costs.

The Pye group of companies was bought outright by Philips in 1976. The Lowestoft factory was subsequently sold to Sanyo and Philips moved the manufacture of Pye televisions to Singapore.

Prior to the manufacturing offshoring, the company produced a range of televisions branded 'Pye Chelsea'. The range were teak-clad with stainless steel 'feet' and sported three large channel

selectors. Whilst unsuitable for the reception of the forthcoming Channel 4, the equipment would operate through early video recorders, machines with larger channel capability. The Chelsea range were popular with TV rental companies such as Radio Rentals, Rumbelows and Wigfalls. Maintenance of these sets continued well into the 1980s, with the northern rental chain Wigfalls being the last to withdraw them in 1988.

In 1979 Pye were implicated in an episode of Granada's World in Action in relation to the sale of UHF and VHF radios as well as telephone intercept equipment which was used by the Ugandan Public Safety Unit, the secret police of Idi Amin's rule responsible for killing perhaps several hundred thousand Ugandans. Pye had been supplying Uganda through Wilken Telecommunications, its East Africa distributor.

The Pye brand enjoyed a short-lived renaissance in audio equipment (known as music centres) during the 1970s, and in the late 1980s with televisions. The brand later appeared on DVD recorders.

In 2022, it appears that the Pye brand and symbol has been purchased by broadcast audio manufacturer Alice Ltd.

2024 Club (Team) Contests

Note: Contests in Bold are Sat or Sat-Sun Contests

Sat/Sun	31 Au/1 Sep	1200-1200	UK/EI DX SSB	SSB HF. Single & Multi-Op	
Mon	2 Sept	1900-2030	Autumn Series SSB	100W, 10W	NRC
Sat/Sun	7-8 Sept	1300-1300	SSB FD	SSB HF. Single & Multi-Op	CDARS
Sat/Sun	7-8 Sept	1400-1400	144MHz Trophy	O, 6O, SF, SO & 6S (6hr options)	CDARS
Sun	8 Sept	1100-1500	5th 144MHz B-packers	5B, 25H	Solo
Wed	11 Sept	1900-2030	Autumn Series CW	100W-A, 10W-A, 100W-U, 10W-U	NRC
Sun	15 Sept	0900-1200	70MHz AFS	SF, O	CDARS
Thurs	26 Sept	1900-2030	Autumn Series Data	100W-A, 10W-A, 100W-U, 10W-U	NRC
Sat	5 Oct	1400-2200	2.3/1.3GHz Trophy	O, SF	CDARS
Mon	7 Oct	1900-2030	Autumn Series CW	100W-A, 10W-A, 100W-U, 10W-U	NRC
Wed	16 Oct	1900-2030	Autumn Series Data	100W-A, 10W-A, 100W-U, 10W-U	NRC
Sun	20 Oct	0900-1300	50MHz Trophy	O, SF	CDARS
Thurs	24 Oct	1900-2030	Autumn Series SSB	100W, 10W	NRC
Mon	4 Nov	1900-2030	Autumn Series Data	100W-A, 10W-A, 100W-U, 10W-U	NRC
Sat	9 Nov	2000-2300	C-calls (1.8MHz AFS)		CDARS
Wed	13 Nov	1900-2030	Autumn Series SSB	100W, 10W	NRC
Thur	28 Nov	1900-2030	Autumn Series Data	100W-A, 10W-A, 100W-U, 10W-U	NRC
Sun	8 Dec	1000-1400	144MHz AFS	SF, O	CDARS

September - HF

Day	Date (2024)	Time (UTC)	Contest Name
Mon	02 Sep	1900-2030	Autumn Series SSB
Sat-Sun	07-08 Sep	1300-1300	SSB Field Day
Wed	11 Sep	1900-2030	Autumn Series CW
Mon	16 Sep	1900-2030	RSGB FT4 Contest
Thu	26 Sep	1900-2030	Autumn Series DATA

September - VHF

Day	Date (2024)	Time (UTC)	Contest Name
Tue	03 Sep	1800-1855	144MHz FMAC
Tue	03 Sep	1900-2130	144MHz UKAC
Wed	04 Sep	1700-2100	144MHz FT8 AC (4 hours)
Wed	04 Sep	1900-2100	144MHz FT8 AC (2 hours)
Sat-Sun	07-08 Sep	1400-1400	144MHz Trophy Contest
Sun	08 Sep	1100-1500	5th 144MHz Backpackers
Tue	10 Sep	1800-1855	432MHz FMAC
Tue	10 Sep	1900-2130	432MHz UKAC
Wed	11 Sep	1700-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (4 hours)
Wed	11 Sep	1900-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (2 hours)
Thu	12 Sep	1900-2130	50MHz UKAC
Sun	15 Sep	900-1200	70MHz AFS Contest
Tue	17 Sep	1900-2130	1.3GHz UKAC
Thu	19 Sep	1900-2130	70MHz UKAC
Tue	24 Sep	1830-2130	SHF UKAC

October - HF

Day	Date (2024)	Time (UTC)	Contest Name
Mon	07 Oct	1900-2030	Autumn Series CW
Wed	16 Oct	1900-2030	Autumn Series DATA
Thu	24 Oct	1900-2030	Autumn Series SSB
Mon	28 Oct	2000-2130	RSGB FT4 Contest

October - VHF

Day	Date (2024)	Time (UTC)	Contest Name
Tue	01 Oct	1800-1855	144MHz FMAC
Tue	01 Oct	1900-2130	144MHz UKAC
Wed	02 Oct	1700-2100	144MHz FT8 AC (4 hours)
Wed	02 Oct	1900-2100	144MHz FT8 AC (2 hours)
Sat	05 Oct	1400-2200	1.2GHz Trophy
Sat	05 Oct	1400-2200	2.3GHz Trophy
Sat-Sun	05-06 Oct	1400-1400	Oct 432MHz-245GHz Contest
Tue	08 Oct	1800-1855	432MHz FMAC
Tue	08 Oct	1900-2130	432MHz UKAC
Wed	09 Oct	1700-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (4 hours)
Wed	09 Oct	1900-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (2 hours)
Thu	10 Oct	1900-2130	50MHz UKAC
Tue	15 Oct	1900-2130	1.3GHz UKAC
Thu	17 Oct	1900-2130	70MHz UKAC
Sun	20 Oct	900-1300	50MHz AFS Contest
Tue	22 Oct	1830-2130	SHF UKAC

SK sale of the shack contents of the late Bryan M0IHY (Items with Dave G8FMC)

ITEM	ASKING PRICE or O.V.N.O.
1. Yaesu FT818 TCVR + soft carry case + LDG Z-817 auto-Tuner - As new	£675
2. CG3000 remote auto ATU (<i>Provisional: Suffered water ingress</i>)	Sold
3. Power Mag 145 – large magnetic mount + cable (new £62) New & boxed.	£40
4. Comet CHA-250HD/BXII Multi-Band HF Vertical Antenna (new £350) 250W SSB 75W Data. See March 2024 PW review. As new,unused	£220
5. Moonraker MRQ750 2m/70cm Mobile whip (new £35) Unused as new	£25
6. HF Mobile/portable antenna PL259 fitting e.g. large mag-mount? Unused	Offers
7. Modified Cobweb antenna (Polish) (new £200)	£70
8. DX Commander Pole about 12.4m, 12 section, heavy duty. Weight 3.7Kg With a rotating guy plate & 3 guys, that fits about 3m up. (New £139) (New Unused)	Sold
9. Halo antenna for 50MHz (£50 new)	Sold

Please initially contact Dave G8FMC if interested:- g8fmc547@gmail.com, or 07928-426553

SK sale of the shack contents of the late Bryan M0IHY (Items with Angie)

	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>ASKING PRICE or O.V.N.O.</u>
1	Sangean ATS-909X2 all-band portable receiver £225 ish new boxed	£150
2	QRM Eliminator X-phase 1-30MHz - £45 new	£25
3	L C Meter Juntek - £35 new	Sold
4	TYT DMR Hand-Held MD-UV380 -£65 ish new.	Sold
6	Begali Simplex Pro paddle key (£160 new)	Sold
7	Kent Straight key	£65
8	CW Keyer TC 701 - £70 new	£45
9	Soldering Station (basic) 60W	Offers
10	BNOS LPM432 – 10 – 50 Linear Amp - £150 new	Sold
11	IGEN Max regenerative receiver. eBay US has an unbuilt kit at £160.	£50
12	Lead-free solder & cleaner (in bag)	Offers
13	Kenwood HS-6 small headphones - £40 new	£20
14	SWR meter 1.8MHz to 50MHz 120W	Sold
15	SWR meter Moonraker SWR-300 120-500MHz £35 new	£15
16	Austcol Radiation Meter MT525 -£25 online average price new.	£10
17	Signalink USB sound Card 8pm. £120 new	£70
18	Metro VNA in case (£270 new)	£175
19	Prepp Comm multi-band morse transceiver. Approx £358 new.	£225
20	ATU 100 Kit by N7DDC	Sold
21	MFJ Super Hi-Q Loop Remote Control . Unknown model.	?
22	Morse Tutor D70 G0PJO	Sold
23	QRP Kits EFHW Tuner	Offers
24	RF Comms Wideband Matching Unit	Sold

Please initially contact Dave G8FMC if interested:- g8fmc547@gmail.com, or 07928-426553

Dates For Your Diary



Listed below are dates of RSGB, UK and International contests for 2024.

UK/EICC 80m Contest 2000Z-2100Z, 4th September 2024

SSB NFD - 7th/8th September (CDARS at Wiggington tbc).

WAB 144 MHz QRO Phone 1000Z-1400Z, 8th September

CQWW RTTY Contest - 26th/29th September 2024

Railways on the Air - Organised by Bishop Auckland RAC - 28th/29th September 2024.

CQWW DX SSB Contest - 26th/27th October 2024.

CQWW DX CW Contest - 23th24th November 2024.

ARRL 10m DX Contest - 14th/15th December 2024

Please double check dates, start/end times etc in good time prior to the event.

Full details and more contests at: <https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html>

Radio Rally Dates.

Full details of the events are available at: g4gra.org.uk/All

September 2024

8th - The Caister Lifeboat Radio Rally Caister Lifeboat station, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.

21st-22nd - East Midlands Ham & Electronics Rally, Southfield Lane, Doncaster.

22nd - 9th Radio & Electronics Rally, Worle, Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset,

27th & 28th– National Hamfest [Friday/Saturday] Newark & Notts Showground, Lincoln Road, Winthorpe, Newark, Notts. NG24 2NY

October 2024

6th - 49th Welsh Amateur Radio Rally, Newport, S. Wales, NP18 2YE

11th-13th - The 2024 RSGB Convention, Kents Hill Park, Milton Keynes, MK7 6BZ.
Alternative postcode for SatNav: MK7 6TT

13th - Dartmoor Autumn Rally 2024 Yelverton War Memorial Hall, Meavy Lane, Yelverton, Devon, PL20 6AL.

26th - BATC Convention For Amateur TV Online Only. Talks about ATV-related topics from 10:00 until 15:00.
<http://batc.org.uk/live>

26th - Essex CW Boot Camp, Powers Hall End, Witham, Essex, CM8 2HE.
Further information:<https://essexcw.uk>

November 2024

3rd - Holsworthy Radio Rally, Holsworthy Leisure Centre, Holsworthy, Devon. EX22 6DH.

December 2024

1st - Wiltshire Radio Winter Rally, Kingston Langley, Village Hall, Kingston Langley, Wilts. SN15 5NJ.

8th - Mid-Devon Amateur Radio & Electronics Fair. Winkleigh Sports Centre, Winkleigh, Devon. EX19 8HZ

(All information courtesy of g4gra.org.uk)

