

## RADIO SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY WHICH  
REPRESENTS UK RADIO AMATEURS



Founded in 1913 incorporated 1926.  
Limited by guarantee  
Member society of the  
International Amateur Radio Union

**Patron: HRH Prince Philip,  
Duke of Edinburgh, KG, KT**

Membership is open to all those with an active interest in radio experimentation and communication as a hobby. Applications for membership should be made to the Subscriptions Department from which full details of Society services may also be obtained.

### General Manager:

Peter Kirby, FCMI, MISM, GOTWW

### Honorary Company Secretary:

Rupert Thorogood, G3KKT

### Honorary Treasurer:

Dr R Dingle, G0OCB

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P Brooks, G4NZQ - Region 12

J Stevenson, G0EJQ - Region 13

Details of the Society's volunteer officers can be found in the RSGB Yearbook 2009.

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Website: www.rsgb.org

Members Area: www.rsgb.org/membersonly

Log-in using your callsign in lower case as the user name, and your membership number (see RadCom address label) as the password.

The on-line RadCom can now be found at  
www.rsgb.org/radcom should you want to mention it  
anywhere.

## GlobalSET

The Global Simulated Emergency Test, sponsored by IARU Region 1, has been altered to coincide with World Amateur Radio Day on 18 April. The theme for that day of 'Amateur Radio: Your Resource in Disaster and Emergency Communication' is an ideal opportunity to showcase the work of emergency communications groups around the world. The timing of GlobalSET remains at 1100 to 1500UTC. www.raynet-hf.net.

## AGM Broadcast

For the first time ever, it is planned to live webcast the RSGB AGM from the Novotel Newcastle Hotel on Saturday 18 April. Using their established live web streaming technology, volunteers from the British Amateur Television Club will be capturing events and playing them live from their streaming site, www.batc.tv. Broadband users are invited to go to the BATC.tv site and select Live Events from the menu on the left of the home page. As an added bonus, there is a live web chat facility on the live stream page so you can exchange comments with other viewers. The web stream is completely free and open to members and non-member alike.

## RSGB AGM

The RSGB AGM will take place at the Novotel Newcastle, Newcastle upon Tyne, from 11am on Saturday 18 April. The formal calling notice and agenda are contained in the Annual Report starting on page 41. Doors open for registration at 11am and refreshments will be available.

A buffet lunch will be available from 1pm and lunch tickets will be available on the day priced at £8.

Awards will be presented after lunch, followed by the President's Address.

Following this is an Open Forum session. On completion there will be a question and answer session.

A comprehensive RSGB bookstall will be open during registration and also over lunch.

## 500kHz Changes

Following proposals from the RSGB, Ofcom have extended the validity of the NoVs issued amateur radio Full licensees to operate under a Special Research Permit between 501 and 504kHz until 28th February 2010. Further, they have agreed to the Society's request that the peak effective radiated power be increased to +10dBW (10 watts).

## GB3RS back on the air shortly

Courtesy of the Milton Keynes Amateur Radio Society (MKARS), the RSGB HQ station callsign GB3RS will soon be back on the air, hopefully sometime in April. MKARS are generously allowing the RSGB the use of one bay of their club radio station, which is situated in the Bletchley Park museum. It is hoped that the station will be on air daily not just for QSOs but also bringing you the latest amateur radio news under the GB2RS callsign and bringing you up to date news of the progress in the building of the National Amateur Radio Centre at Bletchley Park, which it is hoped will be open later this year.

## Do you want to take a Morse test?

Do you want to test yourself and your Morse reading and sending ability? If you do, then look no further than, the new RSGB Morse Test Scheme, which is now fully operational. The scheme is run by the RSGB Regional teams so testing is available locally right across the UK. Full details are available on the regional websites just go to www.rsgb.org/Morse.

## RAYNET ID Cards



In this issue of *RadCom* (page 15), you will find full details on how to apply for your

RSGB RAYNET Identity cards. These cards are free to all members of RSGB Affiliated RAYNET Groups. Details can also be found on the RSGB website at www.rsgb.org.

## National Public Service Radio Coordinator

Do you have an interest in public service radio? This includes RAYNET and providing radio communications in support of national and local community events. If you do, the RSGB has a vacancy for the position of National Public Service Radio Coordinator.

This is a very busy and high profile position. You should have had some experience in talking to government and user services be an RSGB member and be an active member of a RAYNET group.

If you are interested, in the first instance please contact the RSGB General Manager, Peter Kirby, GOTWW by e-mail at GM.Dept@rsgb.org.uk.

# German Draft Order and UK Interference Regulations to control PLT Emissions

In October, the RSGB's President Colin Thomas, G3PSM, wrote to the Department of Business and Regulatory Reform (BERR) urging them to support the German Government's proposed Order to put in place their NB30 limits to control interference from Power Line Telecommunications (PLT) systems.

The German proposal was being held for three months by the EU Commission while it consulted Member States under the Directive on Technical Barriers to Trade in Goods and Services. Even though the German proposal was to be limited to protect broadcasting and safety services in the first instance, the RSGB nevertheless supported any move by EU Member States to put measures in place to curtail interference from PLT. This was of particular interest as the EU Commission had themselves supported Member States taking individual action after the failure of its own mandate for a Harmonised Standard in 2006.

BERR replied that it could not support the German measure as it appeared to be a de facto product standard that would thus constitute a technical barrier to trade. In reply, the Society has said that this clearly could not be the case as the German measure was to be made under the part of their EMC law, reflecting the EMC directive, that permitted special measures to be put in place in well defined spectrum situations; it was an interference resolution measure, not a general product standard. The Society also made the point that BERR's stance went against previous UK policy where they had themselves obtained clearance for similar interference measures at around MW using UK Standard MPT1570, under the Wireless

Telegraphy Act, in 2003.

At the same time, RSGB also asked Ofcom to reconsider putting WTA Interference regulations in place at HF to counter the PLT threat in UK. This again was against the background that the UK had previously obtained EU clearance for such measures. Ofcom had refused an earlier RSGB request in 2006. Ofcom's answer in November was in precisely the same words, that they thought this was disproportionate and unnecessary and they would need evidence of interference if they were not to act blindly. They also said that there were other parts of the WTA that could be used to counter such interference, although when they have stated this previously they have, when challenged, been unable to point to them. The RSGB's own experts in these matters believe that no such other powers exist.

Nevertheless, there may be signs that this position is changing. In response to a Freedom of Information Act request that RSGB has seen, and at a meeting with the UKQRM group last month, Ofcom, has said in effect that they would consider such regulations in the right circumstances and that they were looking into this. The UK amateur community and other users therefore must live in hope.

RSGB President Colin Thomas, G3PSM, said "PLT is a complete misuse of the radio spectrum by inappropriate technology. We will continue to press Ofcom and other agencies to take non compliant power line adapters (PLAs) and other such equipment off the market and to put suitable safeguards in place to protect the spectrum from harmful interference."

## Join us for Dinner!

Why not make the AGM a full day out and join us for dinner? After the AGM there will be a dinner in celebration of Amateur Radio at the Novotel Newcastle Hotel. Join President Colin Thomas, G3PSM, members of the Board and our Guest of Honour Mike Goddard, OBE for a splendid social evening in the true traditions of Amateur Radio. Only 100 tickets are available, so you can be assured of very select company for this memorable evening. As well as individual bookings clubs and parties may book tables up to 10 guests. Tickets can be obtained from the RSGB online shop at [www.rsgbshop.org/agm](http://www.rsgbshop.org/agm), by telephone on 01234 832700 (Option 1) or by post from RSGB HQ. Tickets will be available until Wednesday 15 April, and cost £20 per person. Dress Code: Lounge suit, blazer or smart casual.

## Menu

*Tower of Ripe Galia Melon  
and Parma Ham  
with lemon and dill cream*

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*Roast Leg of Lamb with  
poached pear and a minted gravy*

\*\*\*\*

*Strawberry Charlotte Royal  
with a mix berry coulis*

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*Freshly Brewed Coffee  
and Chocolates*

**\*Vegetarian Option**

Char Grilled Mediterranean Vegetables with  
Fettuccini with Pesto and Parmesan Cheese

## Technical Forum Chairman

This is a new CHALLENGING volunteer appointment in an area that is vital to the future of amateur radio.

The Technical Forum is made up of like minded radio amateurs who have an interest in the technical aspects and innovation of amateur radio.

The Forum members also play a key role in reviewing articles for publication by the RSGB in our flagship magazine RadCom thus ensuring

that the technical content of the magazine is of the highest standard.

To accept this challenge you will need to be interested in all things technical, be a diplomat and be well motivated. If you meet the criteria then apply in writing or via e-mail enclosing your amateur radio CV to the RSGB General Manager, Peter Kirby, GOTWW at [GM.Dept@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:GM.Dept@rsgb.org.uk) or by post to Abbey Court.

## Silent Key Error

In the March issue of *RadCom*, Mr DRA Love, GODRA, was listed in error as a Silent Key. The Society would like to apologise unreservedly for the unfortunate mistake. There are set rules in dealing with Silent Key notification that, on this occasion, were not followed. Mr Love had contacted the Society with details of the passing of his friend GOERH when the error occurred.

# Exam Successes

Brede Steam ARS (BSARS) have had two successful candidates obtaining their Foundation Licence – Graham, M6GLF and Richard, M6RCB. Both Graham and Richard cannot wait to get on the air, join the club and participate in the various activities planned for the year. Congratulations to them both. For details of the club and their exam scheme, check out the website at [www.bsars.co.uk](http://www.bsars.co.uk).

Congratulations to Alan, M3SXB, Walter, M6WJC, Stuart, M6STU and Steven, M6STE on passing their Intermediate Examination on 24 February following a five week course at Wythall Radio Club. Alan (87 next birthday) is the oldest candidate to have taken a course and examination at Wythall and may well be one of the oldest in the country – especially well done to him. All four candidates received their pass slip from Club Chairman Martin, G8VXX. Thanks go to exam invigilators, Mike, G4VPD and Tom, G3PQP and the tutors who did a sterling job. The next course at Wythall will be a Foundation course, which is planned to run from Saturday 18 April to Saturday 2 May as a mixture of Saturday mornings and Tuesday evenings. If you are interested in this course or know of someone who may be, then contact Chris, GOEYO on [gOeyo@wythallradioclub.co.uk](mailto:gOeyo@wythallradioclub.co.uk).



Stenigot CHARC have had two Foundation successes when Eddie, H6EDS and Mick, M6KMD passed recently. The photograph shows them receiving their certificates and pass slips from Alan, MOAQC, Chairman & Training Officer of Stenigot.



## Isle of Man ARS



Since 1948, when the Isle of Man Amateur Radio Society affiliated to the RSGB, they have grown from

strength to strength. In addition to monthly meetings (with a new lecture most months) they have developed a radio shack where members meet each week and operate radio, undertake repairs and various construction projects. They also have an active 'digital' corner and are just starting regular CW training sessions.

Classes for all three examinations take place as there are still people on the Isle of Man who don't have a radio licence! With strong links with their Government, they are developing a new RAYNET group in case TETRA fails. A 70cm wide split repeater system covers all the Island, Internet linked (supported by a local ISP company) and 50% funded by the statutory services is under development.

Manx National Heritage and a local insurance company fund all their QSL cards, which are free to local members. If you hear the club callsign GT3FLH (originally used for lighthouses on the air – Flashing Light House), they say please give us a call as they will be very pleased to talk to you.

## International Marconi Day

This year sees the 22nd International Marconi Day (IMD), which marks the anniversary of Guglielmo Marconi's birth, 25 April 1874.

Located just outside Chelmsford, Essex, the village of Writtle was to play an important role in the development of public broadcasting. The actual site, now long gone under a housing development, is marked only by a small information board. The original station, callsign 2MT, was operated by the Marconi Scientific Instrument Company from 14 February 1922 until 17 January 1923, broadcasting weekly half-hour programmes on Tuesday evenings between 8 and 8.30pm. A three valve transmitter producing 200W aerial power fed a four-wire antenna 250ft long and 100ft high radiating on a wavelength of 700m.

It is planned that GB2MT will be operational for at least part of the day from the Writtle Agricultural College sports field, which is the closest available space to the original location. It overlooks the original site. For further information please e-mail [gb2mt@essexamateurradio.org](mailto:gb2mt@essexamateurradio.org).

## New name for HFC



Formerly known as HFC



This year, the event formerly known as the HFC (or HF Convention) is changing its name. Now called The RSGB Convention, it will

continue the traditional lecture streams for HF, DX, Technical and Beginners but, for the first time, will also include a full stream of VHF lectures. Ian, G4FSU is co-ordinating the traditional streams, while Neil, G3RIR and Reg, G8VHI have plans well in hand for what promises to be a very interesting stream of VHF lectures. The full range of UK exams will as usual be available over the weekend along with chances to take the US exams. Mark, MODXR, who ran the extremely popular Contest University sessions at last year's event is currently working on running another University session at this year's event, likewise the FOC are planning another Morse challenge for you to have a go at.

The RSGB Convention takes place over the weekend 9 to 11 October. A detailed programme will be available in due course including details of the Partners programme for those not so keen on things radio.

The RSGB Convention is a great opportunity to meet the people involved at the leading edge of the use of spectrum not just in a lecture type environment but also in a social environment be it either over a coffee between the lectures, over a leisurely lunch or during and after the Dinners on the Friday and Saturday evenings.

The sponsors of the RSGB Convention, Icom UK and Martin Lynch & Sons will both have the latest range of equipment on display for you to examine and take away. The RSGB book shop, manned by members the local Regional team, will also be at the Convention, as will a number of other specialised interest groups.

## Unusual Prefix

9A48IFATCA will be on all year. It celebrates the 48th annual conference of the International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Associations, which represents 50,000 air traffic controllers in 130 countries worldwide. The conference is in Cavtat from 20 to 24 April. QSL via 9A4WW.

## Stranded Motorists



A team of volunteers from Humber-Yorkshire 4x4 Response (HY4X4R) were mobilised during the bad weather in February by Lincolnshire and Humberside Police.

The first activation was a request from Humberside Police. Due to severe weather conditions, up to nine cars and a bus were stranded on the B1246 between North Dalton and Pocklington. Amongst the bus passengers was a diabetic, a pregnant lady and many school children. The HY4X4R Group immediately dispatched eight local response vehicles to the scene with VHF / UHF amateur radio equipment on board. The East Yorkshire Repeater Group (EYRG) repeater GB3HS was used for longer distance emergency traffic, along with the 2m simplex frequencies on location. The stranded bus and vehicles were located in just over an hour and the people were all taken to safety to Warter Village Hall where services were waiting. Many other amateurs were involved in this incident – including several new M3 and M6 calls.

The second incident was attended by request of Lincolnshire Police. The Group were asked to attend the A46 between Laceby and Cabourne in Lincolnshire to assist an elderly lady in distress due her vehicle to being stranded in snow. Five 4x4 vehicles were dispatched from Grimsby, Scunthorpe & Doncaster to assist, again with amateur radio comms aboard. Responders

on scene found many vehicles stranded at Caistor Hill and succeeded in recovering around 30 in all.

At a later incident on the A164 Market Weighton, a call was received by Humberside Police to attend several stranded motorists. Radio comms were again through the Hull EYRG repeater GB3HS and simplex VHF. Several police radios (on the TETRA system) at this location were not operational.

The Humberside & Yorks 4x4 Response Group was formed in January 2007. The HY4X4 network is able to provide a network of volunteers with well maintained 4 wheel drive vehicles who are experienced in off road driving. The 4x4 Response Network is able to provide a specialist logistics solution to local authorities and emergency services in time of emergency, or where there is a likelihood of danger or major disruption.

Soon after their formation, they contacted the local DRM for assistance with radio training. Mario Brashill, G2DPA and Andy Russell, G0VRM gave a presentation to the group about amateur radio. The first 10 Foundation licensees (100% pass rate) occurred in April last year. Since then, there have been a further 3 Foundation and 4 Intermediate passes. In March 2009, another 5 Foundation students and 4 Intermediate students will sit their exams and, on the 1 April, 4 Full licence students will take their exams – all from Humber-Yorkshire 4x4 Response Group.



## Norfolk County RAYNET exercise

Weather conditions were good for the start of the exercise and the VHF and HF radio stations were soon up and running with contacts being made on 80m and 2m. The antenna in use was an Inverted V trap dipole for GB4NCR and 2m/70cm vertical collinear used for normal RAYNET operations on the 10m pump up mast.

One of the purposes of the exercise was to demonstrate RAYNET capability to Council Emergency Planning Officers, Police and the public – especially local emergency services as Sea Palling is in a high risk sea inundation area. They were visited by a County Emergency Planning Officer, local flood wardens and 4X4 co-ordinator as well as curious members of the public who were drawn by the sight of the RAYNET Caravan and its twin 10m masts.

Another aspect of the Exercise was to test all the equipment and refresh members of operating all the equipment during an emergency call out by County Hall or the Police for flooding or any unforeseen disaster.

A fuller debrief can be found at [www.norfolkraynet.org.uk](http://www.norfolkraynet.org.uk).



## OE100M

To celebrate 100 years of amateur radio, the amateur radio section of ORF (Austrian Broadcasting Corporation) and the Documentary Archives Radio Communication / QSL Collection will activate a special event station with the callsign OE100M during April.

OE100M is an official 'International Marconi Day' station and contacts made on Saturday, 25 April are valid for the IMD Award.

QSL via the OE-Bureau or direct to OE1WHC. Cards without SASE and IRC or \$ to cover postage will be processed via Bureau.

Contact Wolf Harranth, OE1WHC, Dokufunk / QSL Collection, ORF/QSL, Argentinierstraße 30A, A-1040 Wien, Austria.

## Morse Proficiency



Anthony Freeman, MOHAZ passed his 12 wpm Morse exam on 4 March. The test was

conducted by Peter Kendal, MOEJL. Jim Stevenson, G0EJQ (RMR 13) was the adjudicator for the exam. Anthony achieved 100% on both receiving and sending. It is believed this is the first certificate to be issued in the UK under the new Morse Proficiency scheme.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

- The Horndean & District Amateur Radio club has been successful in its application for lottery funding with an award of £2145 by the National Lottery Awards For All scheme. The money will be used to update and modernise their training course equipment, the main items being a laptop computer plus software, a data projector, a projector screen and a whiteboard. The club is planning to run further Foundation licence courses at regular intervals and the club has exam centres registered by the Radio Society of Great Britain for the purposes of holding Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced licence examinations.

## Thinking Day on the Air



Pete, G14VIV,  
Bertie,  
G14POC,  
Merrill,  
G16JGB,  
Harry, G14JTF,  
Myles,  
G10VTS and

Richard, G14DOH, all members of Bangor & District Amateur Radio Society ran an event for Thinking Day on the Air at Lorne Guide Centre. Fiona, M13FSW shepherded about 70 Brownies and Guides and also kept the supply of tea, coffee and biscuits flowing. Equipment was used to demonstrate RTTY and HF SSB using a vertical antenna. Small PMR rigs were used to get the Guides/Brownies through their badge test.

Although conditions were generally poor, a booming station in Antarctica was worked. The girls showed great interest in the Morse practice setup and quite a few of them enthusiastically sent words and even sentences using the printed code translation sheets as a guide. The group were able to write down what was being sent and show it to the Brownies and Guides when they were finished – much to everyone's delight. The quality of the Morse was excellent even if the spelling was a bit questionable in the excitement.

The skill displayed in matching QSL card countries with the right spot on the global maps was a credit to the education system and some of the rarer cards produced quite a challenge – and one or two laughs as well.

## GB10SP

Cockenzie & Port Seton Amateur Radio Club will be running a Special Event Station from the Scottish Parliament at Holyrood, Edinburgh to celebrate 10 years of the Scottish Parliament. They will be using the callsign GB10SP and will be active on 16 and 17 May from 9am to 5pm each day.

The club was invited to run the Special Event Station by Jim Hume MSP, MMODXH, who is also a member of the Radio Club. They will be active on 40 metres and possibly the 80 and 20 metre bands using Yaesu 1000MPs and amplifiers giving 400 watts on both bands. Special QSL cards will be sent to acknowledge every contact.

## Harris DXpedition

After a successful DXpedition in 2008 to the Isle of Mull, the Cambridge Repeater Group have decided to do another, this time to the Isle of Harris on the west coast of Scotland between 18 and 25 April. They plan to run HF voice and data, with most bands (including 5MHz) being activated alongside 6m, 4m, 2m and possibly 70cm (SSB and MS). There will be lots of portable operation around the islands (with possible interest to WAB chasers) and three very energetic climbers activating SOTA summits all week.

The Base camp callsign for the trip will be the CRG call G3PYE; as the activation is in Scotland this becomes GM3PYE/P or GS3PYE/P, both of which will be used. The locator is IO67NT.

If you would like to make a sked with them for any particular mode/band slot please e-mail [skeds@camb-hams.com](mailto:skeds@camb-hams.com).

## Jersey Repeater Group

Jersey Amateur Radio Society formed a Repeater Group in late 2008 to research the viability of resurrecting the former Jersey 2m repeater. So far the JARS sub-committee has been instrumental in carrying out initial project planning with a view to reinstating the Jersey amateur radio VHF repeater station for the use of licensed radio amateurs within the island of Jersey and beyond. The project has been and will continue to be entirely planned and resourced by local radio amateurs with the use of funds raised and (hopefully) donated by the membership of the repeater group.

There is the likelihood of securing a site for

the repeater equipment and associated antenna installation at Jersey Water's soon-to-be-constructed Westmount communications tower in St. Helier. The inaugural meeting for the formation of The Jersey Amateur Radio Repeater Group will be at the Jersey Amateur Radio Society club house at La Moye on Wednesday 25 March at 7.30pm. Proposals or nominations for committee posts can be made in advance or on the night of the meeting and should be addressed to Rob Luscombe as repeater group secretary (designate) on 07797 923916 or at [robialbion@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:robialbion@yahoo.co.uk).



### NEWS IN BRIEF

- Mick, G0FNI became silent key in February. He was very often heard on the air driving his HGV all over this country and Europe. He will be sadly missed.

- The 2nd HF International Vintage Contest will take place on 12 April from 0800 to 1200UTC and from 1500 to 1900UTC. Using the 14 and 7MHz bands, it is primarily for those using equipment that is either home made or commercial equipment dating from 1950 to 1980. The official rules of the contest can be found at [www.contestvintage.beepworld.it](http://www.contestvintage.beepworld.it).

- D-Star repeater GB7DB went live on 4 February. It is located in the village of Millbrook in Bedfordshire, adjacent to the famous Millbrook Test Track. The output is on 439.6625MHz with a 9MHz split. It uses a single aerial – a 3dB gain collinear at 352ft ASL. It is expected that it will be connected to the Gateway by the time you read this.

- If you plan to visit Cyprus then the Pafos Radio Club 5B4PRC extends a warm welcome. Monthly meetings are held at the Pafos Gardens Hotel on the 3rd Thursday at 7pm for 7.30pm. Food is available and XYLs most welcome. Also check out the repeater on 145.750/145.150 CTCSS 88.5. A Sunday net is held on 145.550 at 0915. Further details from Don, 5B4AGQ, on 00357 26652975 or e-mail [mardon@cytanet.com.cy](mailto:mardon@cytanet.com.cy).

- A new school radio club will be launching at the Notre Dame High School in Norwich, during this year's science week, with a club call sign of MXONDH. Pupils will be operational on HF & VHF each Monday lunchtime and will be very appreciative of supportive contacts.

- The next dates for the Foundation licence course at Tamworth ARS are 9, 16 and 23 May from 9am to 4pm. Contact Colin, G4ZPJ on 01827 700893 if you are interested in attending.

- The AMTOR mailbox DA5TOR will move its 40m access frequency in order to comply with the new bandplan starting on 29 March. The new frequencies are 7047, 7049 and 7051kHz. The access frequencies on the other bands remain unchanged and still allow worldwide access. All frequencies and technical details of the mailbox can be found on [www.amtor.de](http://www.amtor.de).

- Hogwash for Hamsters, reviewed in the February 2009 RadCom, is now available from Trafford Publishing in the UK ([www.trafford.com](http://www.trafford.com)). It is priced at £8.23 and post and packing is £3.54 at the present time.

## SBS Open Day

The recent Martin Lynch & Son SBS Open Day gave visitors the chance to have a good natter with fellow SBS-1 enthusiasts. There was an informative demonstration of the latest SBS-Resources release, which included the latest high resolution airfield plans and the new XSL Editor feature. Those who attended were able to take away a copy of SBS-Resources on a memory stick, although it can be downloaded now from the ML&S website.

David Goodman, CEO of Kinetic Avionic Products Limited, gave two presentations during the day as did other colleagues and Chris Taylor from ML&S. David brought news of the next development – Basestation 2 – targeted for launch this summer. With its three-dimensional map, this could mean developments like cockpit view, rendered aircraft and weather overlays. He also announced that there are plans for a two-day Summer Party this year at Sywell Aerodrome, near Northampton, comprising presentations, workshops, helicopter rides and lots more fun.

Towards the end of the day, Surrey Air Ambulance were presented with a cheque for £500. Funds were raised through ML&S customers buying raffle tickets for a prize fund of almost £2000, made up from equipment (and even a London helicopter ride) donated by Kinetic Avionics (the design and manufacturer of the SBS-1 Real-Time Virtual Radar), ML&S & Yaesu, Icom and Kenwood.

The Air Ambulance Open Day 2009 takes place on Sunday 31 May from 11am to 4pm at Dunsfold Park in Horsham. For further details see [www.surreyairambulance.co.uk](http://www.surreyairambulance.co.uk).



Chris Taylor, ML&S Technical Sales Director, and Andy Bustin, representing Surrey Air Ambulance.

## Memories

Last year Verulam ARC enjoyed a talk given by John Alexander, G7CGK, on mechanical cipher machines. This WWII theme continued with a lecture by Stan Ames, G4OAV, entitled Secret Wireless Operations in St Albans during WWII.

Stan's presentation described the development of the network of secret wireless stations that intercepted enemy transmissions during WWII and subsequently decrypted at Bletchley Park. The story began with a Post Office radio station at St Albans that was secretly reporting German wireless traffic to the Foreign Office in 1932. By the end of 1938, the military authorities asked the Post Office to set up a network of eavesdropping stations – the first of which was built at Sandridge near St Albans. The packed audience of Verulam ARC members and guests from other local amateur clubs were honoured by the presence of Ethel Constance Davies and her family. Ethel, aged 103, was one of the intercept operators at Sandridge and recounted some of her memories. Rumour has it that Ethel is still able to read Morse at a speed to shame many a radio amateur! Ethel has also provided an entry on the BBC's WW2 People's War Website and you can read this and other fascinating stories at [www.bbc.co.uk/ww2peopleswar/stories/16/a7440716.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/ww2peopleswar/stories/16/a7440716.shtml).



Star of the Show Ethel greets one of Verulam ARCs other guests from the Dunstable Downs ARC.

## GB3WA

GB3WA, the 70cm repeater located near the village of Kilmington in South Wiltshire, has been permanently taken out of service. The repeater needs several of its 30+ year old cavities replacing as well as its PA to make it a viable repeater operating at full capability again. The site is still in need of a suitable mast / tower to support both the antennas, thus replacing the temporary mast, currently on site. Unfortunately the funds are just not available and so the groups have taken the decision to remove the repeater from the air.

## Fund Raising



Mid Cornwall Beacons on 50, 70, 144 and 432MHz (GB3MCB) will be switched off

on 2 April and remain off until more funds are raised. The Mid Cornwall Beacon and Repeater Group was formed in 1976 and has been using an old mast for many years on Hensbarrow Down near St Austell, Cornwall. The antennas and coax have aged and the mast has become very corroded and dangerous to climb. Although they've been offered a newer mast site at a peppercorn rent, most of the Group's savings are now being spent on replacing the antennae and feeders for the repeaters.

The Group exists on donations, most of which are from local stations and the current level of local donations only covers the cost of running the repeaters (GB3NC and GB3HB), the Echolink facility and insurance and maintenance.

The Group is appealing for donations to keep the beacons on the air and these can be made via its website [www.mcbarg.co.uk](http://www.mcbarg.co.uk). All donations received via the website PayPal link from people outside Cornwall will be put towards keeping the beacons on the air. You can also donate by cheque to the group secretary: John Newman, GOVDU, Shangri-La, Treverbyn Road, Stenalees, St Austell, Cornwall PL 26 8TL.

## Top Ham Competition



The third Top Ham Competition, sponsored by the RSGB, will be held at the spring Kempton Radio

and Electronics Fair on 19 April at Kempton Park Racecourse. Everybody at the rally will get chance to enter the competition, free of charge. The initial round will be relatively simple multiple choice questions on amateur radio and electronics. The first 95 entries handed in will all receive a commemorative prize. Once marked, the 10% with the highest score will be entered for a valuable prize draw. Those who get the six highest scores will be invited to compete in the second round which will involve much harder questions in a TV-style quiz on a stage in the exhibition hall. The final winner will be presented with the RSGB Top Ham Trophy and a brand new Icom 7200 HF transceiver; the runner-up will receive an Icom E-92D VHF/UHF transceiver.

# RSGB Annual Report

## Introduction from the General Manager



2008 was certainly a memorable year in the history of the Society! It was both challenging and rewarding in equal measures.

We left behind Lambda House and Potters Bar after more than twenty six years in residence and moved into our new modern office at Abbey Court in Bedford. There is no doubt that the relocation has been an unqualified success. Costs have been lowered and, as you will see in the accounts reported here, a handsome profit was made. The Society is financially stable and should, with careful management, remain so for many years to come. The only slight disappointment is that due to the current recession we are not at the present time enjoy the level of interest we expected on our investments which will, in the short term, hamper some of the plans we had to promote amateur radio more aggressively. Of course, the move to Abbey Court was only part of the re-location plan. Phase two was the creation of a National Centre for Amateur Radio at Bletchley Park. Although delayed, I am pleased to be able to report at the time of writing that we are now back on track with this project and we expect the centre to be open later this year.

2008 was an IARU Region 1 conference year and, once again, the RSGB was a major contributor to the conference not just in the papers we submitted but also in the conference administrative

support. Another change in the year was that GB4FUN (1) came to the end of its working life and GB4FUN (2) was commissioned in late September. Those of you who have seen the new trailer can be nothing but impressed and I am sure GB4FUN (2) will be a great asset to the Society and amateur radio for many years to come.

What's coming in 2009? well I've already mentioned the new centre at Bletchley Park but also watch out for a major marketing initiative to help promote amateur radio at the grass roots level and, at last, national vocational recognition for the RCE examinations. Once again, I can not close without mentioning the outstanding support provided by the volunteers who are really the backbone of the Society. I would like to thank them all personally through this introduction for the work that they do. It's greatly appreciated. I would also like to thank you, the members, for your continued support, again it's greatly appreciated.

The Annual Report is true record of the work of the RSGB throughout the year. I think you will agree that 2008 was an exceptional year and that despite all the pressure, amateur radio and, in particular, the national society is alive and kicking.

**Peter Kirby, G0TWW**  
General Manager

## Preview of the Year by the President



This time last year I wrote about the impending move to Bedford and the fact that it was due to take place a few weeks before the AGM. Due to the usual problems associated with these matters, the move actually took place the same week as the AGM and there were one or two stressful moments amongst the HQ staff, however both the move and the AGM successfully took place with few problems.

This year, the AGM moves to Newcastle-on-Tyne and we look forward to having a good turnout from our members in that part of the country. A new innovation will be that the AGM will be webcast courtesy of the British Amateur Television Club and it will be interesting to receive the feedback as a result of this experiment.

Club visits have been a focus of activity over the past 12 months and it has been encouraging to find the level of support for the Society from the club members I have spoken to. In the majority of cases a large proportion of the club membership were also RSGB members and I like to think that I encouraged a few of the undecided to join the Society.

The past year also included the Tri-annual IARU Region 1 Conference in Croatia and to which the RSGB made a considerable contribution. The report of this conference has already been written up in

*RadCom* and there are references in the various reports submitted by the spectrum managers. The Society plays a very active role in forming the amateur radio policies in the Region 1 area that includes Europe, the Middle East, Africa and parts of Asia.

An increasing problem over the period has been the gradual spread of Power Line Adapters, which are used in the home as networking tools. These devices cause high levels of interference on the HF bands and, although generally notched in the amateur service bands, they do increase the level of the noise floor and make life difficult for listeners interested in HF broadcasting. To give credit where due, Ofcom normally responds quite quickly when instances of this problem is reported, but with an estimated 500,000 units in the marketplace it promises to be a busy time for their field engineers. In the meantime, we continue to press Ofcom and the DBERR to take a more pro-active approach where these units are concerned.

The Society survives by the work of the volunteers and if you feel you can contribute to the amateur radio services in whatever field then I would be delighted to hear from you.

**Colin Thomas, G3PSM**

# 1 January to 31 December 2008

Company no. 216431

Radio Society of Great Britain  
Report and Financial Statements  
31 December 2008

Legal and administrative details  
For the year ended 31 December 2008

**Status** The organisation is a company limited by Guarantee, incorporated on 21 July 1926.

**Company number** 216431

**Registered office and Operational address**

Lambda House, Cranborne Road, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire EN6 3JE (to March 2008)  
3 Abbey Court, Fraser Road, Priory Business Park, Bedford, MK44 3WH (from April 2008)

**President** C Thomas, G3PSM

**Honorary Officers** **Treasurer**

R Dingle, G0OCB

**Company Secretary**

R Thorogood, G3KKT

**Principal Staff** **General Manager**

Peter Kirby, G0TWW

**Bankers** Natwest Plc, 181 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire EN6 1XT

**Solicitors** Eversheds LLP, Kett House, Station Road, Cambridge CB1 2JY

**Auditors** Sayer Vincent Chartered accountants and registered auditors, 8 Angel Gate, City Road, London EC1V 2SJ

## Report of the directors for the year ended 31 December 2008

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements for the period ended 31 December 2008

**PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES.** The principal activities of the Society are to provide services to members who are radio amateurs, short wave listeners or others with interests in radio communications. The Society represents the interests of UK licensed radio amateurs to the regulatory authority in the UK, Ofcom and via the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) to other international bodies.

The main thrust of Society activity at the start of the year was the move from Lambda House and the relocation to Abbey Court, Bedford. The purchase of Abbey Court was completed in March and the sale of Lambda House in April. The office move was completed by the end of April. A number of staff transferred to Bedford and a small number were made redundant. The QSL Bureau following a tendering process was outsourced to Norcomm Ltd, which is based in Halifax, Yorkshire. Both the office move and the outsourcing of the bureau have been a success.

The timing of this move proved to be sound judgement by the directors and senior management who were able to maximise the value of Lambda House in what was to become a quickly declining market. The move to Bedford has achieved a reduction in staff and overheads without compromising the services to members and the Society now owns a modern energy efficient, low maintenance office complex. In a period of recession, your Society has been able to maintain subscriptions at the current levels when many other similar organisations have had to put up fees to remain in business. This is a testament to the forward thinking of your Board and senior management. The capital we now hold in investments will continue to provide a springboard for future development that will ensure the Society is able to support and lead amateur radio well into the 21st Century.

The Society has continued to negotiate with the Bletchley Park Trust over the establishment of a National Centre for Amateur Radio on the Bletchley Park site. At the time of this report, a site has been agreed and plans are being drawn up for a new building, which it is hoped will be commissioned in late

summer 2009. The centre will provide an interactive amateur radio station, library and archive, meeting room facilities and an education resource centre.

The Society has continued to monitor the threat to the amateur spectrum allocations, particularly from 'Power Line Adapters' that do not conform to the European Electro Magnetic Compatibility Directive (EMC Directive) that became law in July 2007. The Society has actively challenged Ofcom and BERR (formerly the DTI) on the non-conformity of a number of these devices being marketed in the UK. We have continued to discuss with the administration other issues threatening the HF and microwave bands in particular. The Society has continued to work closely with Ofcom to improve the reporting and investigation of interference and abuse on the amateur bands. It continues to seek the agreement of a Memorandum of Understanding to put in place a much clearer reporting and action system and to allow much closer co-operation between the UK Regulator, the Society's Amateur Radio Observation Service and EMC Committee. During the course of the year, the Society was invited to input into the review of MoD spectrum holdings that directly affect the Amateur Radio Service as secondary users.

The Society was represented at the IARU Region 1 conference in Cavtat, Croatia where the RSGB team had a successful conference. The Society's proposals regarding the 40m Band Plan were generally accepted. There was unanimous acceptance of the RSGB proposals that put the onus on HF contest organisers to make more effort to control their contests within the published frequency segments. The VHF and Microwave team had great success in having 16 out of 17 proposals supported by conference. Of particular importance were the visionary RSGB papers on the IARU Region 1 VHF and Microwave spectrum requirements, the 70MHz band within the IARU, low VHF multi band beacons and a new vision for 23cm.

In November, the Board voted to accept the Ascension marketing plan. Ascension was first commissioned in 2007 to carry out the first fully independent assessment of amateur radio in the UK and its needs to ensure stability and growth in the 21st Century. The first phase of this plan, which is designed to improve the public relations effort at the regional level, will be rolled out in April 2009.

Once again, it is pleasing to report that the number of candidates sitting the Radio Communications Examination (RCE) at all three levels has shown no signs of decline. It is also encouraging to note that the number of candidates taking the Intermediate and Advanced examination has continued to rise throughout the year.

The Society continues to maintain strong links with Ofcom and other government departments to ensure that amateur radio continues to be recognised as a scientific hobby that has a role to play in education and in shaping the future of the radio communications workforce in the UK. In October 2006, the Society commissioned a consultation into aligning the Radio Communications Examination with the Government's NVQ scheme. After discussions with Ofqual (formerly the QCA) and the E-skills Council, it was recognised that the RCE scheme fitted better into the Related Vocational training environment. The RCF, sponsored by the RSGB, have applied for this recognition and discussions with Ofqual are continuing. It is expected that the application process will receive final approval in the near future.

In February 2008, the original GB4FUN vehicle was found to be at the end of its working life and was decommissioned. After considering the findings of the Board review into the operation of GB4FUN, it was decided by the RCF Trustees and supported by the RSGB Board to commission a new trailer classroom. GB4FUN (2) is a bespoke 27ft trailer that was delivered in September 2008 and, following fitting out and trials, is expected to recommence its schools visits programme in March 2009. The new programme of visits will target schools and technical academies that have encompassed the 21st Century science curriculum.

The Society's membership on the 31 December was 22,532 compared to 22,791 at the start of the reporting period.

**FINANCIAL REPORT.** The financial result for the year, after interest income, was a surplus of £577,990 compared to a surplus of £4,483 for the prior year. The net surplus on the sale of Lambda House, after re-location costs, was £543,316 resulting in an underlying trading surplus of £34,674. The result also includes a donation received from the Radio Communications Foundation towards the running costs of GB4FUN. During the course of the

year the Society was bequeathed the sum of £22,488 by a Mrs O L Taylor. How these funds will be utilised is to be decided by the Board. There is a separate note in the accounts for this item.

It is not surprising that, in line with other organisations, we are experiencing a fall in membership numbers. This is partly due to people's reluctance to join organisations such as ours and we believe that this may be exacerbated by the current economic situation in the forthcoming year. We believe that without the work undertaken this year to encourage new members and lapsed members to join, the year end membership number would be lower.

Book sales have increased by £20,000. This is partly due to the successful introduction of membership offers.

The downsizing of the Society's headquarters means that there have been savings in staff and building costs. It has also meant that some new costs have been incurred to enable us to continue with membership services, such as the QSL Bureau. Overall, the move is viewed as a success both from a financial and functional viewpoint.

The surplus funds generated by the sale of Lambda House have been invested with two banking institutions on a short term basis. This will enable us to react quickly to future changes in interest rates. Some of these funds will be used to establish Bletchley Park and the interest earned on the balance will be used to re-invest in amateur radio when opportunities present themselves.

**OUTLOOK.** The Society is in a strong financial position to overcome any adverse trading conditions that it may encounter in the new financial year. Marketing efforts will continue to be made to attract and retain members and costs in all areas will be monitored to ensure that they remain within budget and that value for money is obtained.

The Society always plans for a break-even position.

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DIRECTORS.** Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the balance sheet date and the profit and loss for the year ended.

In preparing those financial statements that give a true and fair view, the directors should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Each of the directors confirm that to the best of his/her knowledge there is no information relevant to the audit of which the auditors are unaware. The directors also confirm that they have taken all necessary steps to ensure that they themselves are aware of all relevant audit information and that this information has been communicated to the auditors.

The directors who served on the board during the period and up to the date of this report were as follows:

C Thomas, G3PSM  
 R Barden, MDOCCE - Appointed 1 January 2009  
 L Butterfield, GOCIB  
 R Bellerby, GM3ZYE - Resigned 14 February 2009  
 P Brooks, G4NZQ  
 D Field, G3XTT  
 B Reay, G8OSN  
 J Smith, MIOAEX - Co-opted 19 January 2008.  
 J Stevenson, G0EJQ  
 A Vinters, G0WFG - Co-opted 19 January 2008.  
 D Wilson, MOOBW

Every member of the Society undertakes to contribute to the assets if it should be wound up while he/she is a member or within one year after he/she ceases to be a member for payment of the liabilities of the Society contracted before he/she ceases to be a member.

Every member also undertakes to contribute to the costs, charges and expenses of winding up the same, and for the adjustment of the rights of the

contributories amongst themselves, such amount as may be required not exceeding one pound.

**AUDITORS.** Sayer Vincent were re-appointed as the company's auditors during the period and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

The director's report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of part VII of the Companies Act 1985 relating to small companies.

Approved by the directors on 3 March 2009 and signed on their behalf by  
 Colin Thomas, G3PSM, President  
 Rupert Thorogood, G3KKT, Company Secretary

#### Independent auditors' report

##### To the members of Radio Society of Great Britain

We have audited the financial statements of Radio Society of Great Britain for the year ended 31 December 2008 which comprise the income and expenditure account, balance sheet and related notes. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out therein.

This report is made solely to the company's shareholders, as a body, in accordance with section 235 of the Companies Act 1985. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's shareholders those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's shareholders as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

#### RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DIRECTORS AND AUDITORS.

The responsibilities of the directors for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), are set out in the statement of responsibilities of the directors. Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985. We also report to you whether, in our opinion, the information given in the report of the directors is consistent with the financial statements. In addition we report to you if, in our opinion, the company has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if information specified by law regarding the directors' remuneration and other transactions is not disclosed.

We read the annual report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

**BASIS OF OPINION.** We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

#### OPINION.

- In our opinion:
- the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, of the company's state of affairs as at 31 December 2008 and of its results for the year then ended; and
  - the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985; and
  - the information given in the report of the directors is consistent with the financial statements

SAYER VINCENT

Chartered accountants & registered auditors, London

## Income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 December 2008

	Note	2008 Total £'000	2007 Total £'000
Turnover	2	1,524	1,501
Cost of sales		(201)	(184)
Gross surplus		1,323	1,317
Sales and distribution expenses		(258)	(246)
Other operating expenses		(1,258)	(1,092)
Operating deficit		(193)	(21)
Profit on disposal of fixed assets		737	-
Interest receivable		34	26
Surplus on ordinary activities before taxation	4	578	5
Taxation	6	-	-
Retained surplus for the financial year		578	5
Accumulated surplus at the start of the year		398	393
Accumulated surplus at the end of the year		976	398

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities.

The movement in the income and expenditure account is shown in note 13.

## Balance sheet as at 31 December 2008

	Note	2008 £'000	2007 £'000
Tangible fixed assets	7	434	81
Current assets			
Stock	8	74	73
Debtors	9	159	164
Cash at bank and in hand		571	494
Short term deposits		355	-
Asset held for sale	7	-	929
		1,159	1,660
Creditors: amounts due within one year	10	603	620
Net current assets		556	1,040
Total assets less current liabilities		990	1,121
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	11	14	11
Net assets		976	1,110
Capital and reserves			
Income and expenditure account		976	398
Revaluation reserve		-	712
Total funds	13	976	1,110

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part VII of the Companies Act 1985 relating to small companies.

Approved by the directors on 3 March 2009 and signed on their behalf by

Colin Thomas, G3PSM, President

Rupert Thorogood, G3KKT, Company Secretary

## Statement of total recognised gains and losses for the year ended 31 December 2008

	2008 £'000	2007 £'000
Surplus for the financial year	578	5
Unrealised surplus on revaluation of properties	-	422
Total recognised gains and losses relating to the financial year	578	427

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2008

## 1: Accounting policies

- (a) The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Companies Act 1985, modified to include the revaluation of land and buildings.
- (b) Turnover represents the invoiced amounts of goods sold and services provided, net of Value Added Tax and trade discounts. Turnover comprises subscription income, book income, advertising income and exam income. Subscriptions income is recognised on a monthly basis over the duration of the subscription; book income is recognised on despatch of books; advertising income is recognised on publication date; and exam income is recognised on the date of the exam. All income arises in the UK.
- (c) Depreciation is provided on all tangible assets at rates calculated to write each asset down to its estimated residual value evenly over its expected useful life (except freehold land which is not depreciated), as follows:
- |                                |                              |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Leasehold buildings            | 2%                           |
| Computer equipment             | 20%-33%                      |
| Fixtures and fittings          | 10%                          |
| Furniture and equipment        | 20%-25%                      |
| Motor Vehicles (not leased)    | 33%                          |
| Leased assets (motor vehicles) | over the period of the lease |
- (d) Where the carrying value of an asset will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through continuing use, the asset is classified as held for sale and stated at the fair value less costs to sell, following the adoption of a policy of revaluation for this class of asset. No depreciation is charged in respect of current assets classified as held for sale.
- (e) Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. In general, cost is determined on a first in first out basis and includes transport and handling costs. Net realisable value is the price at which stocks can be sold in the normal course of business after allowing for the costs of realisation. Provision is made where necessary for obsolete, slow moving and defective stocks.
- (f) Any charge for taxation is based on the surplus for the year and takes into account taxation deferred because of timing differences between the treatment of certain items for taxation and accounting purposes. When this arises it appears in the income and expenditure account. Deferred tax is recognised, without discounting, in respect of all timing differences between the treatment of certain items for taxation and accounting purposes which have arisen but not reversed by the balance sheet date, except as otherwise required by FRS19.
- (g) Leases acquired under finance leases are capitalised and the outstanding future lease obligations are shown in creditors.
- (h) The Society contributes to group personal pension policies to provide benefits for employees on a defined contribution basis. The assets of the policies are held separately from those of the Society in independently administered funds. The amount charged to the income and expenditure account represents the contributions payable to the policies in respect of the accounting period.
- (i) Under FRS 1 the company is exempt from the requirement to prepare a cashflow statement on the grounds of its size.

## 2: Turnover

	2008 £'000	2007 £'000
Subscription income	850	854
RadCom advertising income	170	170
Book sales	366	345
Other income (note 3)	138	132
	1,524	1,501

**3: Other income**

	2008	2007
	£'000	£'000
Foundation licence	41	41
Intermediate licence	18	16
Full licence	12	9
Legacy	22	-
GB4FUN donation	15	40
ICOM Sponsorship	10	10
Sundry income	12	10
Rallies and exhibition fees	8	6
	<u>138</u>	<u>132</u>

**4: Surplus on ordinary activities before taxation**

This is stated after charging / (crediting):	2008	2007
	£'000	£'000
Depreciation on owned assets	50	38
Depreciation on leased assets	14	16
Interest receivable	(34)	(25)
Profit on disposal of property	(733)	-
(Profit) / loss on disposal of other fixed assets	(4)	1
Directors' remuneration	-	-
Board reimbursed expenses	25	21
Regional & Committee reimbursed expenses	33	35
Auditors' remuneration: • Audit	10	8
• Non-audit services	2	2

Expenses totalling £25,000 (2007: £21,000) were reimbursed to 10 Board members (2007: 10) for travel and subsistence costs of attending meetings and other sundry costs.

**5: Staff costs and numbers**

	2008	2007
	£'000	£'000
Salaries and wages	468	452
Social security costs	47	43
Pension contributions	10	13
	<u>525</u>	<u>508</u>

One employee earned more than £50,000 during the year. (2007:1)  
The average weekly number of employees (full-time equivalent) during the year was as follows:

	2008	2007
	No.	No.
Headquarters staff	<u>18</u>	<u>20</u>

**6: Taxation**

	2008	2007
	£	£
UK corporation tax	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

RSGB has an agreement with HMRC over the calculation of schedule D Case I profits for corporation tax purposes. In recent years this has generated a loss, contributing to a deferred tax asset (see note 12). Although RSGB has generated an accounting surplus in the year, there is a tax loss, and consequently no corporation tax liability has arisen in the year.

**7: Tangible fixed assets on page 47****8: Stock**

	2008	2007
	£'000	£'000
Goods held for resale	<u>74</u>	<u>73</u>
	<u>74</u>	<u>73</u>

**9: Debtors**

	2008	2007
	£'000	£'000
Trade debtors	38	63
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>121</u>	<u>101</u>
	<u>159</u>	<u>164</u>

**10: Creditors: amounts due within one year**

	2008	2007
	£'000	£'000
Trade creditors	87	98
Obligations under finance leases (note 11)	11	12
Taxation and social security	16	12
Other creditors	12	23
Subscriptions in advance	355	361
Accruals	<u>122</u>	<u>114</u>
	<u>603</u>	<u>620</u>

**11: Obligations under finance leases**

	2008	2007
	£'000	£'000
Gross obligations under finance leases	28	26
Less: finance charges allocated to future periods	<u>(3)</u>	<u>(3)</u>
	<u>25</u>	<u>23</u>
Due within one year	11	12
Due within two to five years	<u>14</u>	<u>11</u>
	<u>25</u>	<u>23</u>

**12: Unprovided deferred tax asset**

	2008	2007
	£'000	£'000
Difference between accumulated depreciation and capital allowances	(8)	(4)
Tax losses	<u>(2,168)</u>	<u>(1,928)</u>
Undiscounted, unprovided deferred tax asset	<u>(2,176)</u>	<u>(1,932)</u>

Deferred tax asset is not recognised because of the unlikelihood of utilising trading losses brought forward in the light of current trading conditions.

**13: Reconciliation of movements in members' funds**

	Income and expenditure	Revaluation reserve	2008	2007
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Members' funds at the start of the year	398	712	1,110	684
Surplus for the period	578	(712)	(134)	4
Other recognised gains and losses	-	-	-	422
Members' funds at the end of the year	<u>976</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>976</u>	<u>1,110</u>

**14: Pension scheme**

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charged for the period represents contributions payable by the company to the scheme and amounted to £9,882 (2007: £12,511). Outstanding contributions at the year end amounted to £873 (2007:£1,763). These are included in other creditors at the year end.

**15: Related party disclosure**

The Radio Communications Foundation is a registered charity, number 1100694. Peter Kirby and Marilyn Slade, two officers of the Society, are trustees of the charity.

Since its inception, the Society has provided the Foundation with management services at no cost. During the year the Society was awarded a donation of £15,000 towards the running costs of GB4FUN.

**16: Disposal of property**

During the year RSGB disposed of a property which had been revalued in the previous year and shown on the balance sheet as an asset held for sale. The accounting surplus shown on the face of the income and expenditure account is calculated as follows:

	2008
	£'000
Proceeds of disposals	950
Less asset value at 1 January 2008	(929)
Transferred from revaluation reserve to income and expenditure account	<u>712</u>
Profit on disposal of asset	<u>733</u>

This profit on disposal does not include any relocation costs. These are included in the income and expenditure account as other operating expenses.

### 17: Designated funds

During the course of the year Mrs Olive Taylor bequeathed to the Society the sum of £22,488. Her late husband was a radio amateur.

It is the intention of the Society to use this bequest to assist in some way with the operation or promotion of GB4FUN. A plan is currently being formulated for the best use of these funds and will be submitted to the Board for its approval.

### 7: Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land and buildings £'000	Computer equipment £'000	Fixtures and fittings £'000	Furniture and equipment £'000	Motor vehicles £'000	GB4Fun	Toyota GB4Fun trailer	Totals £'000
<b>Cost</b>								
At the start of the year	-	287	100	173	49	-	-	609
Additions in year	339	12	6	1	14	37	8	417
Disposals in the year	-	-	(53)	(20)	(17)	-	-	(90)
At the end of the year	<u>339</u>	<u>299</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>154</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>936</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>								
At the start of the year	-	275	81	148	24	-	-	528
Charge for the year	5	9	20	13	14	2	1	64
Disposals in year	-	-	(53)	(20)	(17)	-	-	(90)
At the end of the year	<u>5</u>	<u>284</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>141</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>502</u>
<b>Net book value</b>								
At the end of the year	<u>334</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>434</u>
At the start of the year	<u>-</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>81</u>

Included in the total net book value of motor vehicles is £25,000 (2007: £24,000) in respect of assets held under finance leases. Depreciation for the year was £14,000 (2007: £14,000).

The Society purchased 3 Abbey Court, Fraser Road, Priory Business Park, Bedford MK44 3WH on 17 March for £339,000. The building has been acquired on a leasehold of 125 years. The land is on a peppercorn lease from Bedford Council for 125 years, and is not depreciated.

The following information shows the original cost of the land and buildings and what depreciation would have been charged. The 2007 figures relate to the Potters Bar property which has now been sold. There are no corresponding figures for 2008 as the new property is shown at cost and needs no revaluation in these accounts.

	2008 £'000	2007 £'000
Historical cost of revalued assets	-	422
Aggregate depreciation thereon	-	(184)
Historical cost net book value	<u>-</u>	<u>238</u>

The Potters Bar property appeared in the 2007 accounts as an asset held for resale at a valuation of £929,000.

### 18: Funds held on behalf of trusts

RSGB acts as custodian for the funds below and holds the amounts below within accounts for each fund. These funds are repayable to the individual trusts upon demand, and as such are not recognised as assets held by RSGB. The movements on these funds are shown below.

	At 31 December 2007 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	At 31 December 2008 £
The J Fraser Shepherd Prize Fund	1,170	72	-	1,242
DXpedition Fund	8,082	1,639	(2,210)	7,511
K M Bennett Legacy Fund	982	45	-	1,027
The Pilot Officer Norman Keith Adams Prize Fund	1,139	99	(19)	1,219
The Legacy Fund	<u>18,337</u>	<u>838</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,175</u>
Total trust funds	<u>29,710</u>	<u>2,693</u>	<u>(2,229)</u>	<u>30,174</u>

These amounts are not included in the balance sheet of RSGB at the year end.

### AMATEUR RADIO DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

In 2008 the main focus of activity continued to be supporting training for the UK's Radio Communication Examinations and those offering training to new, and developing, radio amateurs.

I am pleased to report that the Morse Competency Programme is now up and running, largely due to the hard work and persistence of Phillip Brooks, G4NZQ and Roger Cooke, G3LDI. Those who are proficient in Morse Code and are keen to assist in its promotion, are needed in the Regions to act as instructors and examiners. Those interested in being part of this programme should contact their Regional Manager.

Equally pleasing is the 'Buildathon' initiative being led by Steve Hartley, G0FUW. 'Buildathons' aim to encourage those with a fledgling interest in home construction by providing a mentored environment to undertake that key 'first project'.

2008 was a very busy year for the Train the Trainers sessions. Indeed, demand was so high that we now have two teams running sessions, one covering the South and another covering the North. The Train the Trainer sessions offer instructors the opportunity to learn the details of the progressive examination scheme from the members of the team who developed it, plus advice on teaching best practice from experienced instructors and professional educators. In addition, the Tutors Reflector continues to flourish and provides a valuable link for active instructors to share ideas and resources. Instructors wishing to join the reflector, or enquire about a Train the Trainers session, should contact me direct at g8osn@rsgb.org.uk.

As in previous years, the ARDC organised a 'one stop' Radio Communication Examination session at the RSGB's HF Convention, allowing candidates to complete the assessments and examination(s) for one or more levels. On this occasion we had a remarkable 'DX candidate', Ritsu Seo, JR3RVO who completed all the required assessments.

The International Amateur Radio Examination (IARE) continues to be offered twice per year and remains the only examination endorsed by the International Amateur Radio Union for countries that lack the resources to support their own examination system.

**Brian Reay, G8OSN**

**ARDF COMMITTEE.** ARDF continued to develop during the year and, once again, a full programme of events was staged. The 'season' runs from February to November and we commenced in February in glorious May-like sunshine at High Wycombe. After at least one event each month, the season closed in rather less benign weather at Bagworth, Leicestershire in November. Events are the lifeblood of our sport and the Committee wishes to record its thanks and appreciation to all those who organised events in 2008.

The British ARDF Championships were held for the fourth time in 2007. Separate competitions are held on 144MHz and on 3.5MHz. The latter frequency band is more of a challenge due to reflections of the signals and multi-path propagation. The Championships were held in the Forest of Dean over a glorious weekend in May. Electronic punching is now the norm at major events and this allows competitors to have their split times after finishing. Some competitors carry GPS receivers which, whilst of no assistance whatsoever in either locating the hidden transmitters or for locating yourself on the maps,

which are devoid of a co-ordinate system, do allow you to plot your track over the ground after the event as part of the post race analysis.

The 3.5MHz Champion was David Williams, M3WDD running in the M40 class and the 144MHz Champion was Robert Vickers, G3ORI running M60.

FoxOring developed further during the year thanks to the initiative of David Deane, G3ZOI and Ken Jones, MOAET. This is more aligned with Orienteering than the IARU sport of ARDF and involves the use of micro power transmitters with a range of one or two hundred yards. Typically, ten of these might be placed in the competition area and a map provided with circles marked on it to represent an area in which the transmitter is guaranteed to be audible. FoxOring is not covered by the IARU rules and so variants can be tried out at will. A typical ARDF event might include a morning competition on 144MHz using the IARU rules and then a FoxOring competition after lunch. We have found that transmitters that send for 30 seconds in every minute are ideal for an interesting and enjoyable competition.

David and Ken designed a new FoxOring transmitter during the year and this has a wide range of options regarding the callsign transmitted and the transmission format.

The Committee provided a stand as part of the RSGB suite at the Leicester Show in October and again at the RSGB HF Convention at St Neots in the same month. These stands do attract a group of radio amateurs who have an interest in the more energetic pursuits of life and who are tempted to try out ARDF.

On the International scene, 2008 was the year of the bi-annual World ARDF Championships in September. The event was staged by Korea in IARU Region 3. David Williams, M3WDD achieved the highest placing ever by a British competitor at a World event when he placed sixth in the 144MHz race. This is welcome evidence of the rising standard of ARDF in the UK. The UK competitors were entirely self funded.

During the year, the Committee enjoyed excellent support from the *RadCom* editorial team including the November cover photo for *RadCom*. Tim Kirby has included ARDF material in his Sport Radio column each month, so that it truly embraces all of radio sport and not only contesting.

Looking ahead to 2009, the Committee sees the continuing need to focus on increasing participation. A seminar is planned in Scotland in an attempt to promote ARDF north of the border. The spread of activity to the North of England, where Phil Ellis, MOGIE is the stalwart organiser, needs to be nurtured. There will be the Region 1 Championships in Bulgaria in September. It is hoped that the RSGB will be represented.

**R G Titterington, G3ORY**

### AMATEUR RADIO OBSERVATION SERVICE.

What has AROS achieved during the past 12 months? The answer is that we have not progressed much further than this time last year. To our frustration, Ofcom has not yet answered our questions on simple procedures that would not take more than a week to thrash out to the satisfaction of both parties. AROS has responsibility but no authority, the emphasis being put on our own resources to provide all the relevant material for a successful conclusion against the abuser. We, as a body of RSGB, can only do our best to forward all information to Ofcom but it must be of a more specific nature. It's surprising how many times

complaints have been received with such little detail that AROS has to request simple questions such as frequency, date, mode etc., Ofcom have stated many times that requests for help be accompanied with recordings of the offence. Detailed logging over a period of several days is a must for them before any actions can be initiated.

Education of new hams is a must regarding do's and don'ts and I seriously think that the groups/clubs involved in training should provide hands on guidance as a service to any new licence holders.

To conclude, we as a group must help ourselves as much as possible. AROS needs you as much as you need us, by the way any volunteers for Observer duties are very welcome, please contact the RSGB HQ for any information.

**Tony Selmes, G4KLF**



**CONTEST COMMITTEE.** The Contest Committee continues to make progress in a number of areas, from ease of log submission to speed of turnaround of results. Much of this is helped by software developments such as the web submission page, which has been well received by users and also the adjudication software used for many events. Thanks are due once again to Pete, G4CLA and Mike, G0GJV for their work on these invaluable tools.

In 2008, in response to requests from the VHF contesting community, VHF trophy presentations were made at the Kempton rally, the date being more appropriate to the VHF contest calendar compared with the RSGB Convention in October. The Committee is aware that the date has now clashed on two occasions with scheduled VHF contests. Sadly, there simply aren't enough weekends in the year or suitable events at which such presentations can take place, but the situation is under review.

Participation in VHF contests, especially the weekday evening activity contests, continues to grow, fuelled perhaps by the simplified submission process and also by the new weighted scoring system that gives more encouragement to those who don't have megastation capabilities. This increased participation is very welcome at a time when, sadly, day to day VHF activity seems to be in decline in many areas.

The publication of contest results on the Committee's web pages enables results to be made available at the earliest opportunity, but the Committee remains committed to making summary results available in printed form through the Sports Radio supplements in *RadCom*. At the time of writing there is still a backlog of results to be published, but we are working closely with the *RadCom* editor to eliminate this backlog at the earliest opportunity.

The Committee continues to manage an average of roughly two contests a week, which is a

very substantial workload. There has been some debate on the contests reflector about the rules that require UK entrants to RSGB contests to be RSGB members (there are some exceptions, such as the AFS contests and Field Day). Obviously there are no restrictions on who takes part in contests, but the committee volunteers offer their time on behalf of RSGB and its members and it is RSGB members who fund the costs of administering the contest programme. It hasn't always been possible in the past to check membership status, but we are now able to do so.

The Committee is aware that some confusion exists due to the continued existence of two websites (HF and VHF), or four if the separate IOTA Contest and Commonwealth Contest sites are included. This situation exists for historical reasons and is far from ideal. The hope was, by now, to have merged most if not all of these sites into the main RSGB site but there are technical reasons why this has not been possible and the solution may be to maintain the existing sites but to change their 'look and feel' to be compatible with the RSGB site while providing enough cross-linking to make for the feel of a single site. Please bear with us in trying to achieve this.

During the year, Ofcom agreed to the issue Special Contest Calls to individuals, in addition to those already available to clubs. The details are currently being worked on and will be publicised in due course. They will be available to advanced licence holders only, who will need to demonstrate that they are bona fide contesters (criteria to be advised when agreed).

A couple of changes were made to the popular 80m Club Championship events for 2009. One was to reintroduce to the January events, primarily to help Scottish entrants who suffer from limited propagation later in the year. The other change was to increase the emphasis of the datamodes events on PSK, which is more spectrum efficient, the RTTY events having been a victim of their own success. Suffice to say that the change didn't meet with universal approval but early indications are that entrants are actually finding PSK of benefit where signals are weak and RTTY simply wouldn't get through.

One of the challenges the Committee faces is getting feedback from the contest community as a whole, not just those who feel strongly about one particular matter. By no means all entrants to RSGB contests are subscribed to the UK Contest reflector or the VHF Contest reflector (though they can certainly be recommended). We have trialled a survey of VHF contesters and plan to do more. Meanwhile, feedback is always welcome. But bear in mind that we cannot please all the people all of the time!

The main development aims for the Contest Committee for the coming year are to continue work on the adjudication software, to add more contests to the web submission page, to continue to review the contest programme and to make progress on the rationalisation of the various Contest Committee websites.

**Don Field, G3XTT**

**EMC COMMITTEE.** The EMC committee has held bi-monthly meetings for the past five years, with a very full agenda, which has meant that the meetings have extended over 3 to 4 hours. It was recently suggested that, in view of the workload, the frequency of meeting should be reviewed. After some discussion it was decided that some sub-

committee work between the main meetings was the right solution. This gives some feel for the amount of work that the volunteer committee members are asked to perform.

Our primary objective is to help members with particular RFI/EMC and this always proves to be an interesting task. The complaints and request for advice help are very varied, ranging from interference on 23cm, to wideband noise caused by a sewerage pump covering the HF bands. The EMCC find the nature of the issues interesting and challenging – and this is one of the factors that encourages the continued involvement of the volunteer members. I believe that we have been able to provide useful advice, and have responded to all of the many e-mails sent to [emc.committee@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:emc.committee@rsgb.org.uk).

David Lauder's column in *RadCom*, has provided some insight into the more technical aspect of the help that has been provided and David has always welcomed information from members on their findings and how they have fixed their own problems. We have encouraged members to share their expertise in this way.

Through extensive use of the internet – and occasional home visits – I firmly believe that we have given good service to the membership. There has been some positive feedback from Society members, which encourages us to continue.

Another significant role is to advise the Board and Management on matters of policy, and, in turn, we seek their support for our activities. This year we have had a most excellent reaction from our President and from Angus Annan who has special responsibility for International matters. Both have a thorough understanding of RFI/EMC matters and, when requested, they have supported our work, attending meetings and writing letters.

The Committee have been dealing with the long term threat imposed by the use of in-house Power Line Adapters. This work has been going on for over five years, but the introduction in the last 15 months of PLA's from BT Vision has certainly brought the threat to be a reality. David Lauder has covered the technicalities of these Comtrend units in his column and Robin Page-Jones has provided practical examples of the effect of the units when used close to a radio amateur station.

During the year, your Society has provided considerable financial support to committee members attending meetings of the National and International Standards organisations aimed at the development and introduction of standards introduced that will minimise the impact on amateur radio – and the HF spectrum in particular.

This year, the long term cost of this involvement can be seen, with real progress having been made. The PLA manufacturers now accept that notching of our bands is a necessity; it is not just a sop to a few hobbyists. Just recently the users of Aeronautic frequencies and the Marine users have added their weight to our assertion. They may want some of their frequencies notched – they report that they still use HF and have ground/shore stations close to town and villages where PLT may be installed.

Furthermore, the PLT community have been pushed towards the implementation of Dynamic Power control, such that the output of PLA's is reduced when there is low network attenuation. I am sure that if we can make this stick it will be a major advance towards reducing spectrum pollution. Our insistence that PLA's, which are not carrying traffic, must be silent is yet another well supported requirement within the Standard

community. In some cases this will require re-design of the silicon chip-sets, at significant cost to the manufacturers.

The need to implement these mitigation measures raises the question, how much longer it will be before the PLT proponents recognise that it is 'a complete misuse of the radio spectrum by inappropriate technology'.

The pollution caused by 'cheap' computer power supplies has challenged the committee for the last 15 months. The challenge has not been whether or not these units are non-compliant, but rather – what can be done about it!

On the face of it, Ofcom should be keeping the radio spectrum clean – or, BERR (ex-DTI) should be demanding that non-compliant products be removed from the market.

The EMC committee have communicated its finding to DARC in Germany, REF in France, and other countries, with equally astonishing results. Nobody seemed to be prepared to stop the import of these products into the EU.

I hope that after a huge up-hill struggle committee member Stewart Baker, G3RXQ is making some real progress through the Trading Standards Organisation. Cash strapped as TSO is, they do see a case that they can win and we hope that our assertion – that they should be removed from the market – will be granted.

One of the precepts of our hobby is self training, as each year passes this become more relevant – finding the source of an irritating QRM – curing interference on the broadband connection or burglar alarm, each require some experimentation and understanding. The EMC committee has dealt with a myriad of these issues this year, but we are always interested to hear success stories that we can share with other members.

**John Pink, G8MM**



## EMERGING TECHNOLOGY COORDINATION COMMITTEE.

The main aims and objectives for the Committee are to develop and enhance the UK Amateur Radio Repeater and Data Communications systems and promote the introduction and rollout of appropriate new technologies.

A full list of Office Bearers and Committee Members and how to contact them can be found on our website at [www.etcc.rsgb.org](http://www.etcc.rsgb.org).

In my report last year I said that 'Two Metres being much more congested is unlikely to be able to support many digital proposals unless existing frequencies are relinquished.' Following several requests for 2 metre frequencies, our Proposals Manager carried out a re-planning exercise that led to the following position statement being published:

"Amateurs who use the 144MHz band will be only too well aware of the congestion being



experienced in this band especially in the Midlands and South East.

“To enable the ETCC to make an informed decision on best use of the band in the future, a complete frequency re-planning exercise was carried out for England and Wales, using computer simulation and taking existing repeaters as the base model.

“The output of this exercise was a new plan that re-assigned frequencies with a probability of less than 5% interference but with NO spare capacity. When additional repeaters were entered into the model, the interference level increased to unacceptable levels. This suggests that maximum use of available channels has already been reached in central and southern England.

“As a consequence of this, the ETCC have agreed that proposals for GMSK nodes in this band can no longer be recommended to Ofcom unless the proposal incorporates a plan to either close down an existing repeater in the area, replacing it with a digital node at a location that retains the same general coverage characteristics or convert the repeater to dual mode working. Dual mode working in this context means analogue and digital operation on the same site using the same frequency.”

On the analogue side of business, we still find that some amateurs find it amusing to make life difficult for others by jamming and deliberately interfering with repeaters and the packet radio system. Discussions continue with Ofcom on how the perpetrators can be dealt with and advice on combating abuse has recently been published on the ETCC website [www.etc.org.uk](http://www.etc.org.uk). The imposition of curfews on certain repeaters has been quite successful in calming things down and is a very useful tool in the armoury against abusers.

The continuing proliferation of Short Range Devices in the 70cm band has caused persistent interference to a number of repeaters and a paper on mitigation techniques was produced and again can be found on the website. Discussions continue between the RSGB and Ofcom to ensure that this problem which is also being pursued through CEPT is highlighted.

The ETCC website, which is maintained by our Proposals Manager Colin, GM8LBC, provides a comprehensive source of information on all aspects of repeaters in the UK. Downloadable forms are also provided, giving an all electronic application process for repeater proposals.

The table details the repeater proposals and amendments that the committee processed to Ofcom throughout the period of this report.

There were a total of 192 new applications for Simplex Internet Gateways. Taking into account new applications and renewals, a total of 213 NoVs were issued. This year, 10 packet NoVs were

issued compared with 9 last year.

	New	Site	Ch	Freq	Ch
6m	3	0			0
2m Analogue	6	4			2
2m Digital	9	2			0
70cm Analogue	13	5			3
70cm Digital	18	0			1
23cm	2	0			0
TV	0	1			1
Total	51	12			7

John McCullagh, G14BWM

**GB2RS NEWS.** The most significant GB2RS event during 2008 occurred early in the year when the massive HF log periodic antenna belonging to Jimmy Porter, G13GGY was brought down by a violent storm. Jimmy has read the GB2RS News for over fifty years and is our longest serving newsreader. However, he could not get the antenna re-instated and, reluctantly, gave up his news reading schedule at 10am on 7150kHz. He does, however, continue with his colleague June, G14MJD, to read the news on 145MHz for the Londonderry area.

Jimmy's misfortune required a rapid appraisal of the 40m coverage. Due to the skip distance presented by the sky wave at 7MHz, it was clear that to cover the whole of the UK adequately, two readings were required – at least during the 7 or 8 low years of the sunspot cycle. A novel solution was found. Two radio amateurs in Germany, near the city of Aachen, who are members of the RSGB and have the callsigns M0DXM/DJ2XB (Guenter) and G3ISB/DJ00K (Colin), have been appointed to read the news in English, under their own German callsigns on behalf of the RSGB. This reading goes out at 10am on 7150kHz (LSB) and covers the northern half of the UK. Furthermore, it is permitted by the German radio regulations. To fill in the skip distance gap and cover the southern portion of the UK, John, GM3JIJ located in Stornoway, Outer Hebrides, was invited to read a following bulletin on 7150kHz at 10.30am. This arrangement has proved to be most effective and should not require any modification until the peak of the new sunspot Cycle 24 approaches in 2012.

Besides the National news readings on 40m, similar National bulletins continue to go out on 60m (5403.5kHz USB at 12.30pm) and after dark on 160m (1990kHz LSB at 9.30pm) and these are both supported by large after-news nets.

Plans for later in 2009 envisage a series of news readings from the RSGB's facility at Bletchley Park. These are likely to involve 80m, 60m and 40m each Sunday and possibly a parallel reading on 145MHz. Furthermore update bulletins may be introduced on weekdays as well. It is expected that these would be observed by visiting members of the general public.

Gordon L Adams, G3LEQ

**HF AWARDS MANAGER.** A major part of activities involves day to day e-mail enquiries on various award programmes in addition to RSGB, IARU, CQ, and ARRL enquiries.

The most popular Society sponsored HF Award programme is the IARU Region-1 Award for confirmation of contacts with Region-1 member countries. It has 3-levels of achievement thus enabling both newer and more modest stations to complete the award. Region-1 covers Europe, Africa, Middle East and Russia.

A special Listener Award based around DXCC Entities is available to all short wave listeners starting at 100 confirmed DXCC Entities. Several have gone on to have well over 300-confirmed.

In September 2008, it was decided to bring both HF and VHF awards under the same manager and to this end John Dunnington, G3LZQ (HF Awards Manager) agreed to take on this extended role. Over the initial months reorganisation of existing 50MHz and 144MHz historical records has taken place. Any new claims are now entered into a local database and records of individual claims are available at any time. The exchange of award claims has been enhanced now such that advance applications are accepted by e-mail in Microsoft Excel or Word format to allow scrutiny before filing a claim.

Based on previous VHF issues, there has been a marked increase in activity in respect of 50MHz claims. It is noticeable that both HF and VHF series of awards each have their devotees in very competitive sub groups. However, the most popular awards with overseas claimants is still the IARU Region-1 Award.

A major step forward was introduced by the ARRL Awards Section who are responsible for the IARU Worked All Continents Series in that having redesigned the certificates they have made available suitable software for printing these awards by a limited number of National Societies. The RSGB is one such organisation. This has resulted in reducing turnaround issue times from several weeks to a few days.

Plans are underway to allow members access to various data files relating to their award claims and historical information. Further data including several league tables to encourage competition in particular the Commonwealth Series, which has a strong following will be introduced.

Preliminary work has started with a view to upgrading the Commonwealth Series of Awards.

IARU Region-1 Award is the most popular of all Society Awards with 21-Awards issued representing 12-Countries. A total of twelve awards and sixteen other endorsements for new levels, WARC Claims or 160m claims have been issued for the Commonwealth Series 5-Band Supreme Awards (500+ Areas). Two Certificates were issued for 100 Call Area Basic Award both to Japan.

A number of SWL DXLA endorsements have been issued plus 2-new Certificates.

One each to Russia and Germany

The IARU WAC Award is the most popular with newer UK Licences and some 40+ claims have been processed. Feedback on the new certificates shows the changes are very welcome.

A number of WAS claims from UK Members have been processed during the year and some taking advantage of the hybrid arrangement with LoTW confirmations and conventional QSL Cards.

The RSGB and other national Societies with a few exceptions have never accepted proof of contacts by any electronic means ie FAX, e-mail, etc. However, with the growth of electronic processing ie LoTW and EQSL in the States, pressure is mounting for home printed certified eQSLs to be accepted as proof in award programmes. As stated in the March 2009 *RadCom* in a guest editorial, CQ Magazine recently agreed with eQSL to form a partnership, which allows the highest acceptable verified eQSLs to be used in most of the CQ Magazines Awards. This has once again put the focus on RSGB Awards but there are no plans to propose introduction of a

similar scheme. It has further been noted that the ARRL Log Book of the World (LoTW) has undergone a significant upgrade to simplify both initial applications and on going up and down loads. Worth noting there are now well over 300 Countries represented and 208-Million QSO records from almost 25,000 users.

With *RadCom* space being at a premium, the Awards programme is detailed on the Spectrum Website. Regular exchanges occur with other Awards Managers and the Society Awards are also listed in the Awards Directory published by K1BV. Full details are also to be found in the RSGB Yearbook.

**John Dunnington, G3LZQ**

**HF MANAGER.** It has been a busy year as most of the effort went towards ensuring a successful outcome from the triennial IARU Region 1 General Conference that was held in November 2008. The outcomes from the conference can be elevated to gain world-wide agreement within IARU and thus an important route toward influencing the IARU position at the ITU World Radio Conferences.

In terms of HF issues, the conference was a success. We went to the conference with nine papers, which out of a total of 39 is commendable. Whilst we were unsuccessful in our attempts to provide further leadership on the issue of deliberate interference, the other eight proposals were all accepted, albeit with some compromise on the 40m band plan proposal. It will be recalled that at the 2007 Interim Conference on deliberate interference we had successfully proposed improved education and training, though only saw this as a necessary precursor to further action.

The consensus on the 40m band plan, to cover the period after 29 March 2009, when the broadcasters vacate 7.1 – 7.2MHz, was hard to reach as there were three other proposals tabled and there was strong support from several countries for what we and others saw as a disproportionate allocation for CW operation. Whilst CW is my preferred operating mode one did need to consider the spectrum management issue in a dispassionate way and although time will tell, the final resolution, which included our proposal on contest preferred segments was, it is felt, workable.

Probably the second largest piece of work during the year was in relation to contesting. Work done in conjunction with the Contest Committee and myself to the Contesting Guideline's chapter in the Region 1 HF Manager's Handbook the previous year was to be carried forward to the conference. This was unanimously carried along with a useful addition concerning contest free segments by one of DARC's proposals. But the support for our proposals on improving frequency management of contests was unanimously carried. This does not impose any additional restrictions on contest organisers in how they choose the frequency segments for their contest, but it does encourage them to be more responsible for managing compliance. This resolution was restricted to those contests organised by Region 1 member societies and will not change matters for the very large contests, eg CQWW, ARRL DX, etc, there should be some improvement in terms of spectrum availability for the non-contest operators during the majority of the weekends in the year.

To complete the picture, our other proposals included a resolution concerning long-term assessment of the HF noise floor and representation on short-range EMC matters, clarifying the previous

ruling to discourage beacons below 20m except where they are related to a scientific, experimental or propagation requirement, or are experimental and operating at very low power. This last issue meant that we needed to gain agreement on a definition for a beacon, which surprisingly didn't exist! Our proposal concerning the 136kHz band plan made the plan less specific and deleted earlier recommendations made in 1999 and 2002.

5MHz has continued to be a significant task during the year. In terms of the 5MHz Experiment, the main activity has been related to securing support for the long-term analysis task originally envisaged. Whilst there are some with the necessary competencies in statistics and analytical techniques amongst UK amateurs, those that have the necessary background are not too keen to take on this analysis project – they prefer to do something different from their day job! Thus, we have continued to explore the gaining of support from universities in terms of treating the project as a research topic. This approach is ongoing, although under the current economic conditions the outlook is less promising both in terms of funding and gaining students interested in this particular line of research. Apart from the analysis task the other main activities have been to port the online 5MHz database from its development environment onto a server with sufficient bandwidth integrated with the main RSGB website, and on work to relate the QTH Locator and SOTA reference point data to latitude and longitude. The database continues to grow and now has around 800,000 data records.

The focus on 500kHz is both international and national. The RSGB has continued to play a major role in the IARU Region 1 500kHz Working Group, which put forward a proposal to the IARU Region 1 General Conference that it would work with representative from Regions 2 and 3 to prepare the IARU position for Agenda Item 1.23 at WRC11. Nationally, the focus has been to assist Ofcom in the spectrum management of the experimental access to 501-504kHz, in particular to address the issue of extending the period of NoV access, with a permissible ERP level increase to +10dBW, to end-February 2010. The RSGB 500kHz Working Group was formed in February, 2009 to provide support for the HF Manager and the RSGB in its dealings on 500kHz with the IARU Region 1 500kHz Working Group and Ofcom. It works by e-mail reflector and although it has been initially working to secure the extension of the 500kHz NoV, in future it will be mainly focused upon supporting the UK's position in the CEPT preparatory work for WRC11 Agenda Item 1.23. In terms of this task the HF Manager has a position on the UK's International Frequency Planning Group and has been asked to provide direct support for Ofcom on their coordination of the UK's position on the Agenda Item.

**John Gould, G3WKL**

**INTRUDER WATCH.** The number of reports caused by malfunctioning broadcast transmitters has fallen again during 2008. The main problems came from Radio Serbia on 7115kHz and Radio Tehran on 7125kHz. Both caused spurious products to spread across the 7MHz amateur band but were corrected fairly quickly when the Ofcom monitoring station at Baldock contacted the appropriate authorities on our behalf.

Once again, the prize for the highest number of intruders originating from any country was won convincingly by the Russians this year. Usually using RTTY or data modems, they have now been

joined by an Over The Horizon Radar (OTHR). It has been identified on 14MHz and has probably been in action on other bands as well. A UNIFIL voice net involving many different navies was heard on 14055kHz for a number of days but has not returned following complaints from a number of Intruder Watch organisations.

A number of mystery signals appeared during the year. One was a data transmission on 14201kHz, which was located in SW England and that disappeared as soon as Baldock started to make enquiries! This is a fairly common symptom of a legitimate HF user suddenly becoming aware of a frequency programming error and not wanting to own up to it.

Interference was reported to the 501-504kHz band from a broadcast transmitter on 531kHz that is located in the Faeroe Islands. Word got back to an engineer at the transmit site who is a licensed amateur and the problem was solved fairly quickly. A second problem occurred on this band a few days later. There was a fault from the NAVTEX transmitter from Cullercoates Coast Station that covered much of the UK. An approach locally by an amateur led to this being solved with very little delay.

A further case of note was the NATO data signal on 14102kHz. This was DFed by Baldock to two different sources. One was on the Croatian coast, the other around the SE coast of Spain. They appeared to move each day and ended up near Cyprus and off the coast of Nigeria, obviously ships! Baldock approached the Spanish authorities and the signals immediately dropped 1500kHz in frequency.

**Chris Cummings, G4BOH.**



Taking part in the IOTA Contest.

**IOTA.** Despite poor radio conditions, interest in the IOTA Programme continued at a high level during the year and this was reflected in the number of IOTA DXpeditions. How is this level of activity maintained? First, the Programme is highly attractive. It combines easy to work groups with harder and in some cases very remote and difficult to access ones. It offers a spread of IOTA awards and a popular Honour Roll for those keen on steady progression up the achievement ladder. It allows points to be earned from contacts in the many contests, not least the annual IOTA Contest, which brings many of the less activated groups on to the air for a weekend. But, above all, it has motivated a very large body of enthusiastic island-chasers who form what can be called the IOTA community.

The IOTA Committee's main job during the year has been to service the IOTA community through its primary tool, the IOTA website. This provides not only detailed up to date information, open to everyone, on activity and on the IOTA Programme generally, but also, following registration, an on-line application facility for awards. As at 26

February 2009, 6096 amateurs had registered for this facility with new registrations running at five every two days. 2725 or 45% of these had a record on the database. Calendar year 2008 saw 104 new applications for awards received, 706 applications with some 46,000 cards checked and 502 certificates, 16 Plaques (750 Islands) and 6 Trophies (1000 Islands) issued.

Some 90 participants have now reached the prestigious level of 1000 island groups worked. This is quite an achievement and shows the dedication put in over long periods of time in the hobby.

During the year the IOTA team has continued to develop the IOTA software, with new modules offering attractive additional facilities. It has in particular been designed to allow logged-in users to see the pages in their preferred language. So far we have Japanese, German and Italian translations online and we plan to expand this in 2009/10 to other main languages if translations are forthcoming. We currently have 19 checkpoints, 17 of them overseas, who, in addition to their main function of processing award applications, do sterling work in handling enquiries and in representing IOTA locally at conventions and hamfests. During 2009/10 we expect to appoint several additional checkpoints to boost our worldwide coverage.

As the programme grows, the volume of work generated increases proportionately. The nature of this is diverse yet time-consuming. This has been handled at IOTA Centre by a very small team. Efforts in 2009/10 will be devoted to a more equitable matching of workload with available resources, at the same time making as full use as possible of the New Generation IOTA Software.

**Roger Balister, G3KMA**

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.** The membership of the committee is a mix of people with business experience and knowledge of amateur radio affairs and board representation. It meets bi-monthly and closely reviews the financial and commercial performance of the Society. In the Year 2008, it was particularly concerned with the financial aspects of the successful sale of the old Potters Bar HQ and the acquisition of new premises at Abbey Court. The development of the Bletchley Park site, which is still to follow, will be driven by a sub group led by the President.

The committee attaches importance to the sponsorship of the IOTA programme and looks to further development of this RSGB flagship enterprise. The business aspects of the RSGB HFC are monitored by the committee and all concerned were delighted with the continued success of the event in 2008 held again at the new site of Wyboston Lakes, Bedford.

The Committee is closely involved in the setting of the annual budget and it was pleased to note that for the Year End 2008, with the settlement of the costs of the move to Bedford, the Society is now in a stronger financial position than has been the case for many years.

For 2009, the Committee will aim to ensure that in year operational costs and income remain in balance whilst sustaining the present level of services to members. It will also be important to manage the level of investment in the Bletchley Park site to make best use of this opportunity to show case amateur radio and stimulate membership. The number of members at the end of the year was 22,532.

**Angus Annan, MM1CCR**

**MICROWAVE MANAGER.** 2008 proved to be a busy and successful year for both the National Society and Special interest groups in the microwave bands.

The UK Microwave Group round table programme expanded in 2008 with new events at Sheffield and University of Bath. Beacons also continued to be a focus with both new and refurbished systems, as well as the introduction of an innovative online reporting system [www.beaconspot.eu](http://www.beaconspot.eu), which features mapping and download facilities. A major achievement was the publication of the 445 page 'Backscatter' compendium, which proved to be an instant hit. 2009 has begun with the introduction of changes to the contest programme, whilst work on beacons and novel microwave sources and receivers continues. July 2009 will see a new Yorkshire round table, whilst later in the year sees the Group present for the first time at the newly expanded RSGB Convention at Wyboston.

BATC was privileged to have the CAA address its BGM as 'spectrum friendly' DATV planning and practical developments gathered pace. This has the attractive prospect for ATV enthusiasts and the wider hobby of digital colour TV neatly fitting into 70cm and 23cm. Undoubtedly, a great success has been high bandwidth internet video streaming from [www.batc.tv](http://www.batc.tv), for both repeaters and broadcasts from roundtables and colloquia – not a cheap facility, for which BATC is keen to acquire further sponsors in 2009.

On the satellite front, AMSAT-UK members have been active in developing the Genso groundstation network, supporting the new Phase-3E satellite and staged a successful colloquium at Surrey (complete with BATC TV streaming). For 2009, an innovative move will see the annual colloquium being held in Manchester University in July. Plans for ESEO, Cubesats and ATV downlinks from the ISS Columbus module are also in hand.

The IARU Region-1 Conference at Cavtat was a particular focus throughout the year. In consultation with various groups, the RSGB submitted eight Microwave papers into the C5 Committee including strategic topics in 23cm and higher bands. Expansion of the beacon sub-bands and support for 3.4GHz was also sought. All papers gained broad approval, raising the profile of microwave spectrum in IARU and supporting international developments at a time when the frequencies are under considerable pressure.

Nationally, liaison continued with Ofcom and MoD throughout 2008 – topics varying from beacon applications to the Olympics, Licence exemption, Spectrum Pricing and Bands above 275GHz. As 2009 started, a major exercise to coordinate the transition of beacon licences got underway. Another significant 2009 project is to build on the Cavtat decisions and continue development of a revamped 23cm bandplan. Amongst other goals it will facilitate ETCCs goal of achieving a far higher success rate with Digital Voice and Data applications. Spectrum for the Olympics is expected to be just one 'highlight' of the 2009 workload, whilst further inputs to IARU are already in prospect.

**Murray Niman, G6JYB**

**PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.** It has been another busy 12 months for the Planning Team with the Society assisting with over a 100 planning enquiries from both Members and Local Planning Authorities. Whilst many of these enquiries were

answered by referring the member to the Member's Planning Guide or by advice given by RSGB HQ staff, there is often a request for help with less straight forward application or just the reassurance of being able to talk over the application with an informed source to ensure that their application is correct. This is where the members of the Planning Advisory Committee comes into their own. Experience has shown that those members that follow the advice give by the Planning Advisory Committee and the Society's Planning Guide are much more likely to be successful with their planning application.

The Society also can provide a letter of support for member's planning application to the Local Planning authorities if requested to do so and a total of 17 letters were sent to various Local Planning Authorities during 2008/9.

Unfortunately not all planning applications are successful and it is sometimes necessary to appeal the decision to refuse planning consent.

Traditionally planning appeals in general have a low success rate, but in the case of planning appeals related to amateur radio development, we have found that the majority of these are successful if the member has carefully followed the advice give in the Members Planning Guide and used the suggested form of appeal supplied by the Planning Committee. To assist members, the Planning Advisory Committee now has a list of all planning appeal decisions related to amateur radio antennas and masts in England, Scotland and Wales since 2005. Although each appeal is determined on own merits, information obtained from previous appeal determinations can be persuasive to a planning inspector.

The Committee has also assisted members with a number planning enforcement notices served on members, advising them on whether planning permission is actually required. In many cases the antennas and masts had been present for over 4 years and the Local Planning Authority were subsequently persuaded that no enforcement action could be taken and that planning permission was not required, saving the member the cost and inconvenience of applying for planning permission.

This year the Planning Advisory team were represented at the Leicester Rally at Donington Park. The event was a great success and, over the two days of the rally, the Planning team were able to assist dozens of visitors with their planning enquiries.

**Len Paget, GMOONX**

**PROPAGATION STUDIES COMMITTEE.** PSC's activity in 2008 was, as always, a mix of collective and individual efforts, delivering longstanding services and launching new projects. While the main responsibility is taken by a core group of full members, their work is enriched by corresponding members and associates participating via the PSC reflector.

Several members, including G4FKH, G3NYK, GOKYA and G3USF revised the Propagation chapter of the Society's Members' Handbook. GOKYA provided new material for the RSGB Yearbook and contributed well-received monthly articles on propagation to *RadCom*. G4FKH's propagation predictions have long been a regular feature of *RadCom*; now, thanks to the Editor, they are displayed to much better advantage across a full page. The predictions are also available in a special format for the visually handicapped, in versions for the Italian and Singapore national

societies and on the BERU website.

GOCAS and G3USF again prepared the solar reports and forecast for GB2RS through what turned out to be a pretty uneventful year that took us through a deeper and longer-than-average solar minimum. They look forward to the opportunities for more varied observations and commentaries that will come once cycle 24 is more evidently under way. Meanwhile, G3NYK presses on with his study of geomagnetic influences on MF and LF, a spinoff from which is his regular report on propagation in that part of the RF spectrum. G3SVW gave presentations on propagation to a number of local radio clubs, with a particular emphasis on encouraging members to become more interested in propagation. He has been exploring the characteristics of fading at HF. G3LEQ has again given his presentation on Near-Zenithal Radiation (NVIS) to local clubs. It has also been translated into Romanian and circulated to radio clubs in Romania. GBAGN and GODJA have been studying reflections from aircraft (and other moving objects) at VHF and UHF.

Associate NW7US, writes propagation columns monthly for *CQ Magazine*, and *Popular Communications*, quarterly for *CQ VHF* and twice-yearly for *Monitoring Times*; since each of these publications has a distinctive audience his articles are tailored to their particular preoccupations. He also maintains a website at <http://prop.hfradio.org> and, in a WAP/WML version, <http://wap.hfradio.org>.

G3USF maintains the monthly Six and Ten Report, covering propagation on those two bands. He runs beacon lists for HF and 50MHz, updated daily, and acts as IARU Region 1 HF beacon coordinator. He maintains the PSC web page, [www.keele.ac.uk/depts/por/psc.htm](http://www.keele.ac.uk/depts/por/psc.htm), with many links to propagation sources on the web.

Associate DF5AI continues with his Amateur Radio Propagation Studies web page, [www.df5ai.net](http://www.df5ai.net), focusing on propagation phenomena at 50 and 144MHz.

In 2009, we look forward to coming to grips with cycle 24. We will be asking what propagation phenomena, as yet insufficiently explained, could most usefully be explored by radio amateurs, and how best to encourage adoption of standard recording of contact data so as to facilitate research studies.

**Prof Martin Harrison, G3USF**

**SPECTRUM FORUM.** The annual Spectrum Managers meeting took place at Bletchley Park in February 2008 and there was a full meeting of the Spectrum Forum held in September. This was later than in past few years but seemed to suit more of the Forum membership. It also meant that a discussion on the papers in preparation for the IARU Region 1 Conference in November could take place. As in previous years, much of the work of was carried out by electronic means and this is covered in the respective Spectrum Managers and Committee reports.

The Society Spectrum Managers were also part of the RSGB delegation that attended the IARU Region 1 Conference in Croatia in November. The Society submitted a number of papers relating to spectrum use and the majority of these were accepted and will provide the basis for future frequency management within IARU, especially in the microwave bands where commercial pressures are increasing.

Talks continue between the Society and

regulator on various matters including the increasing problems being experienced with Power Line Adaptors. Although nominally notched in the amateur radio bands, these do cause an increase in the HF noise floor and are a particular problem for our members who listen to short wave broadcast stations. Ofcom reacts positively to reports of spectrum abuse being caused by these devices and dialogue continues between the various interested parties involved, including the government department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR).

A number of responses have been made to public consultations during 2008 including those from Ofcom, the Ministry of Defence and the European Radio Office of the CEPT. Of particular interest is the consultation on UK Defence Spectrum Management and our wish to continue our current good relationship where shared bands are involved. This consultation is ongoing and the Society has already met with the MoD on two occasions during 2008.

Up to date information regarding the Spectrum Forum can be found at [www.rsgb.org/spectrumforum](http://www.rsgb.org/spectrumforum).

**Colin Thomas, G3PSM**

**GB4FUN (2).**



**TECHNICAL FORUM.** During the year the Technical Committee was stood down as replaced with the Technical Forum. The aim of the forum is to proactively pursue, encourage and facilitate technical activities of the hobby, make recommendations or advise where appropriate. It is also involved in the peer review of technical articles. It was set up with a wider proactive remit than the Technical Committee. The working of the technical forum is reflector based. It consists of radio amateurs from a wide background of knowledge, skills and experience, columnists, the staff of *RadCom* and external expertise where appropriate. Although it has only been working for a relatively short period, significant progress has been made and has shown itself to be a valuable asset to the Society. It has been involved in the review of technical articles on subjects such as software defined radio, improving the intelligibility of SSB transmissions, laser communicator project, a one valve transmitter including providing technical advice. Some of these articles have already been published in the February and March issues of *RadCom*. Technical reviews on other areas and discussing of future projects are ongoing at time of print. The forum has also provided views directly to the Board on issues affecting the hobby – D-Star, CQ100 and EchoLink. The forum welcomes ideas, suggestions from members directly on what they would like to see occur on the technical side of the hobby.

**Leslie Butterfields, GOCIB**

**VHF MANAGER.** Some concerns have been voiced regarding the apparent lack of FM telephony Simplex frequencies within the 70MHz band. This has arisen because UK Usage of the All-Modes sub-band (70.294 – 70.500MHz) indicates that the majority of channels are 'used' by digital modes, internet gateways or emergency communication groups. However, that does not mean you cannot use these channels for FM telephony. It is simply a case of listening on these frequencies to ascertain locally whether they are in use or not. If nothing is heard then you may conduct your FM contact on any appropriate channel within the All-Modes sub-band.

The recommendation that 50.570MHz, 70.260MHz, 144.570MHz and 432.570MHz be used as 'centres of AM activity' appears to be working successfully.

Considerable concern was expressed (July 2008) that a UK station was operating an Internet Gateway on 145.975MHz within the Amateur Satellite section of the 145MHz Band. Although this situation was quickly resolved, it is a concern that Band Plans, although voluntary, are often ignored.

On a similar theme it has been noticed that interference is occasionally being caused to Emergency Communication groups (located on the south coast) by a continental repeater operating within the All-Modes section of the 145MHz band. There are standing IARU Region-1 regulations that require co-ordination between VHF Managers in neighbouring countries to reduce or eliminate this type of cross-border interference. In this instance, however, it appears that the group simply activated a local repeater without any co-ordination at a local level. In these circumstances it is often difficult, if not impossible, to move the offending repeater to the correct sub-band within the 145MHz band.

The SRP/NoV process continues to work well, with the exception of the 432MHz band. The number of enquiries however has reduced somewhat from that experienced in the same period in 2007.

It is of considerable concern that a number of VHF and UHF propagation beacons are being forced to closed down permanently. Primarily this is due to funding issues associated with commercial broadcast sites. The situation is particularly poor on the 432MHz band where it is expected that only two beacon units will remain active. So, if there are any members out there, with a suitable QTH, willing to host a beacon (or two) then please contact me! E-mail, [vhf.manager@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:vhf.manager@rsgb.org.uk).

As a member of the IARU Region 1 VHF/UHF/Microwaves Committee I have represented the RSGB in International VHF/UHF liaison work. This has been mainly been regarding band planning issues although other aspects such as 70MHz authorisations and Contest matters have also been dealt with.

In November 2008, I represented the Society as VHF manager at the IARU Region-1 conference held in Cavtat, Croatia. Seven VHF & UHF papers were submitted by the VHF Manager for consideration by the IARU Region -1, all of which were fully supported by the conference.

**David Butler, G4ASR**

# Formal Minutes of the 81st Annual General Meeting of the Radio Society of Great Britain

HELD ON 19 APRIL 2008 AT THE NOVOTEL HOTEL, VICTORIA STREET, BRISTOL.

## RESOLUTION 1

To receive and, if approved, confirm the minutes of the 80th Annual General Meeting  
Proposed: Mr J Stevenson, GOEJQ  
Seconded: Mr A Betts, GOHIQ  
The motion was carried unanimously.

## RESOLUTION 2

To appoint the auditors Sayer Vincent and to authorise the Board to fix their remuneration.  
Proposed: Mr C Thomas, G3PSM  
Seconded: Mr J Smith, MIOAEX  
The motion was carried unanimously.

## SPECIAL RESOLUTION 3

To adopt the changes and amendments to the Memorandum and Articles of Association and related Bylaws as recommended by the Board and attached to the notice of the meeting  
Proposed: Mr G Read, G1MFG  
Seconded: Mr J Smith, MIOAEX  
The motion was carried unanimously.

# Radio Society of Great Britain

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE, REGISTERED IN ENGLAND NO 216431)

## Notice for AGM 2009

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the 82nd Annual General Meeting of the Radio Society of Great Britain will be held in the Novotel Newcastle, Ponteland Road, Kenton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 3HZ on Saturday 18 April 2009, commencing at 12 noon for the transaction of the undermentioned business.

#### AGENDA

To receive and, if approved, confirm the minutes of the 81st Annual General Meeting circulated to members with the April 2009 edition of *RadCom* (Resolution 1).

To receive and consider the accounts for the period 1 January to 31 December 2008, and the reports of the Board and the Auditors therein.

To call for volunteer scrutineers for the 2010 Board and Regional Council Elections.

To appoint the Auditors Sayer Vincent and to authorise the Board to fix their remuneration (Resolution 2).

#### NOTES

Doors will open from 11.00am until 11.45am for registration. Refreshments will be available.

A Society bookstall will be open from 11.00am to 12.00 noon and again during lunch.

The Society will make available for sale an audio tape recording of the proceedings. The unauthorised use of video recording equipment will not be permitted at the meeting.

Members invited to attend and vote at the meeting may appoint a proxy to attend and, on a poll, vote on his or her behalf. The proxy need not be a

member of the Society, but is not allowed to speak at the meeting other than join in the demand for a poll.

By order of the Board  
R R Thorogood, G3KKT.  
Honorary Company Secretary  
15 March 2009

#### ON COMPLETION OF THE AGM

Presentation of Awards  
President's Address  
A buffet lunch will be available at 1pm.  
Lunch tickets priced £8 will be available on the day.

#### OPEN FORUM

The Open Forum will commence at 2pm and conclude at 4pm or shortly after.  
The meeting will open with a short presentation by the General Manager, Peter Kirby, GOTWW, followed by questions and answers.

#### TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT

The Novotel Newcastle is conveniently located and reachable by road or rail. It is just off the A1 at Kingston Park. Kingston Park Metro is a 5 minute walk to the hotel. The Novotel Newcastle is only 4 miles from Newcastle Central Station and taxis are readily available at a cost of approximately £10.00. Newcastle International Airport is just two miles from the Novotel Newcastle offering a complementary shuttle bus running all day between the airport and the hotel.

## Join us for Dinner!

Why not make it a full day out and join us for dinner? On the evening of 18 April, after the AGM, there will be a dinner in celebration of amateur radio. The dinner is being held at the Novotel Newcastle, Ponteland Road, Kenton, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 3HZ. Join the President, Colin Thomas, G3PSM, members of the Board and our Guest of Honour Mike Goddard, OBE for a splendid social evening in the true traditions of amateur radio. Only 100 tickets are available, priced £20. As well as individual bookings, clubs and parties may book tables of up to 10 guests. Tickets can be purchased via the RSGB on-line shop, telephone 01234 832700 (Option 1) or by post from RSGB HQ. Last date for tickets is Wednesday 15 April 2009.

Dress Code: Lounge suit, blazer or smart casual. Demand is always high so purchase your tickets early and you won't be disappointed.

# 1 January to 31 December 2008

# Radio Society of Great Britain

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE, REGISTERED IN ENGLAND NO 216431)

**PROXY FOR USE AT RSGB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.**

I, \* ..... CALL/RS.....

OF .....

A MEMBER OF THE ABOVE NAMED SOCIETY HEREBY APPOINT

.....CALL/RS .....

OF.....

OR FAILING HIM / HER .....CALL/RS .....

OF.....

AS MY PROXY TO VOTE FOR ME ON MY BEHALF AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY 18 APRIL 2009 AND AT ANY ADJOURNMENT THEREOF AS INDICATED BELOW.

IN THE EVENT OF NO PROXY BEING NAMED OR OF YOUR NOMINATED PROXIES FAILING TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, THE PROXY WILL AUTOMATICALLY REVERT TO THE CHAIR OF THE MEETING.

PLEASE INDICATE WITH AN 'X' HOW YOU WISH YOUR VOTE TO BE CAST; OTHERWISE THE PROXY WILL ABSTAIN OR VOTE AT HIS OR HER DISCRETION.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	FOR	AGAINST
<b>RESOLUTION 1</b> To receive and, if approved, confirm the minutes of the 81st Annual General Meeting as circulated to all members with the April 2009 edition of RadCom.		
<b>RESOLUTION 2</b> To appoint the auditors Sayer Vincent and to authorise the Board to fix their remuneration.		

SIGNATURE .....DATED .....2009

**NOTES**

Members may appoint any member OR non member as their proxy holder. However, the following are willing to act as proxies:  
 The President C J Thomas, G3PSM, 83 Salisbury Road, Totton, Hampshire SO40 3HY.  
 The Honorary Company Secretary R Thorogood, G3KKT, Station House, Station Road, Castle Cary, Somerset BA77PB.  
 The General Manager P A Kirby, GOTWW, RSGB, 3 Abbey Court, Priory Business Park, Fraser Road, Bedford MK44 3WH.

The proxy form must be signed by either the fully paid up corporate member or by his or her attorney duly authorised in writing. Articles 24 to 27 inclusive refer to proxy votes and the calling of a poll.

In order to be valid this form MUST reach the Society's registered office in the envelope provided not later than 11.00am on Wednesday 15 April 2009.

Getting listed here and on GB2RS is easy. E-mail details of your meetings as early as possible to GB2RS@RSGB.org.uk and we'll do the rest. We need to know your club name, RSGB Region number, contact name & phone number, date of meeting and detail of meeting. Example: South Bristol ARS, Region 11, Len, G4RZY, 01275 834 282, 29 October, On the Air. It's that simple. The deadline for RadCom is the 1st of the month before the cover month (so for this April issue it was 1 March), while for GB2RS it's 10am on the Tuesday for the week of broadcast.

## 1 SCOTLAND SOUTH & WESTERN ISLES

REGIONAL REP: GORDON HUNTER,  
GM3ULP, GM3ULP@RSGB.ORG.UK

### AYR ARG

Charlie, MM0GNS, 01563 551704,  
cgnstewart@hotmail.com

- 1 Geoff Harland: 50 years in Telecommunications
- 15 Group Discussion
- 29 Tam Stewart - South of Scotland RAYNET Co-Ordinator

### COCKENZIE & PORT SETON ARC

Bob, GM4UYZ, 01875 811 723

- 3 Normal Club Night
- 18 10 Pin Bowling Night - Megabowl Fountainbridge at 8pm

### LIVINGSTON & DARS

Norman, 0131 449 7641,  
uk.groups.yahoo/group/msOliv

- 7 Club Evening
- 14 Operating Evening
- 21 Antenna System Maintenance
- 28 Morse Code Practice

### LOTHIANS RS

Colin, GM4HWO,  
enquiries@lothiansradiosociety.com

- 8 Surplus Equipment Sale
- 22 Visit to Royal Observatory Dr. John Cooke GM8OTI

### PAISLEY (YMCA) ARC

Bill Anderson, 2M0BZZ, 01505 613633,  
bill@3bis.co.uk

- 15 Gordon Hunter Film Night GM3ULP

### WIGTOWNSHIRE ARC

Ellis Gaston GM0HPK, 01776 820413

- 2, 12, 16, 30 On Air PSK31
- 23 Steam Garden Railways by Ian Macdonald

## 2 SCOTLAND NORTH & NORTHERN ISLES

REGIONAL REP: DENNY MORRISON,  
GM1BAN, GM1BAN@RSGB.ORG.UK

### ABERDEEN ARS

Lewis, GM4AJR, 01224 575 663,  
www.aars.freeserve.co.uk

- 2 Junk Sale
- 9 Construction

### KINGDOM AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Brian, MM0XBD, 01383 738905,  
mm0xbd@kars.org.uk

- 1, 8, 22, 29 Shack Night
- 15 Presentation Night

### MORAY FIRTH ARS

Jim, MM0SMD, 01340 820 134,  
nicol123@btinternet.com

- 2 Club evening
- 11 Junk sale 12pm
- 30 VHF field day contesters meeting

## 3 NORTH WEST

REGIONAL REP: KATH WILSON,  
M1CNY, M1CNY@RSGB.ORG.UK

### CHESTER & DRS

Barbara Green on 0151 339 9183,  
www.chesterdars.org.uk

- 7 Cable & Wireless in the Falkland Islands in 1980s by Les Green
- 22 Quiz with Wirral Club at their meeting venue
- 28 Bring & Tell

### MID-CHESHIRE ARS

Peter Paul Fox G8HAV, 01606553401

- 1 VHF & HF On-air and activity night.
- 8 Film evening: Steve MOSTR.
- 15 Morse Key Appreciation Evening.
- 22 Small Talk: Importance of Phase Noise by G8ATB.
- 29 VHF & HF On-air and activity night. Foundation & Intermediate course training every meeting.

### SOUTH MANCHESTER R & CC

Ron, G3SVW, 0161 969 3999

- 2 A trip to Canada by Graham, G8TXW
- 9 Surface Mount Techniques by G4UGM
- 16 5A3 Libyan Adventures by G3SVW
- 23 Parallel Universes by Ged, G8RSI
- 27 Monthly Technical Forum
- 30 Aerial Clinic with Ron, G3SVW

### THORNTON CLEVELAYS ARS

John Webb G8RDP/M3RAE, 01253 876313, mail@tcars.org.uk

- 6 Natter Night
- 13 Slow scan TV, Ted, G3WBB
- 20 Video Old Radios
- 27 Auction, Mick, G4EZM

## 4 NORTH EAST

REGIONAL REP: HAROLD SCRIVENS,  
G0UGE, G0UGE@RSGB.ORG.UK

### ANGEL OF THE NORTH ARC

Nancy Bone, G7UUR, 0191 477 0036,  
nancybone2001@yahoo.co.uk

- 5 Coach to the NARAS Norbreck Castle Rally
- 20 Worked All Britain awards by Geoff Darby
- 27 On the Air Night

### DENBY DALE RC

Gerald, G3SDY, 01484 602905

- 1 Mini rally and grand auction of surplus items
- 15 Talk and demonstration of some multiband antennas

### EAST CLEVELAND ARC

Alistair, G4OLK, 01642 475 671,  
alistair.mackay@talk21.com

- 3 On the air
- 10 Radio components catalogues evening
- 17 On the air
- 24 Technical forum

### FINNINGLEY ARS

Colin, 2E0UBT, 0172 471 1686,  
www.g0ghk.co.uk

- 5 Radio health check, bring your rig for testing
- 12 Special events station, Sandtoft trolleybus museum
- 14 4m Transverter construction evening
- 18 Club day-operating
- 25 4m transverter alignment

### GOOLE R & ES

Ken G6YYN, 01757 638539

- 1 April Fools On Air Night
- 8 DVD Evening
- 15 Contest planning night
- 22 Constructors Competition
- 29 Committee Meeting

### HALIFAX & DARS

Anthony Vinters, 01422 822636,  
tony@g0wfg.demon.co.uk

- 21 Second Workshop at Rishworth School: programming and using PICs

### HORNSEA ARC

Gordon MacNaught, G3W0V, 01377 240573, gmacnaughtwov@yahoo.co.uk

- 1 D-Star, The whole picture,

### G4YTV/GOVVRM

- 5 RoPoCo Contest (0700-0900)
- 6 80m Club Champ.
- 8 Loop Antennas. Ger, G0UVR
- 15 Intro to Foxhunting, Richard, G4YTV
- 22 Foxhunt Calibration. Richard, G4YTV
- 23 80m Club Champ, Data
- 29 Music Quiz, Dave, GODMP

### MEXBOROUGH & DARS

Sharon, M0BOH, M0boh@aol.com

- 10 Repeaters by Michael, G7IDJ
- 17 Pie & Pea Supper.

### PONTEFRAC DARS

07594 596 040,  
info@pontefractradioclub.org,  
www.pdars.com

- 7 Construction Project Mystery Kit Wrap Up
- 14 CW on the air: G3FYQ and G1FYQ calling CQ FISTS
- 23 Annual General Meeting
- 30 Current Balun by MOJQR

### SHEFFIELD ARC

Mike Gordon G0TKO, 01709 382479  
www.sheffieldarc.org

- 6 Visit by local AR dealer
- 13 No meeting (Easter Monday)
- 20 Ask the Panel: Which rig for me and building up a station
- 27 Practical night/operating tuition for new amateurs

### TYNEMOUTH RADIO CLUB

Tony, G8YFA, mail@g0nwm.com

- 3 Annual General Meeting
- 10 Operating Night & Morse
- 17 Satellite Imaging, G8YFA
- 24 Operating Night & Morse

## 5 WEST MIDLANDS

REGIONAL REP: TREVOR BAILEY,  
MOKMB, MOKMB@RSGB.ORG.UK

### BROMSGROVE & DARC

Chris, M0BQE, 01905 776 869,  
m0bqe@hotmail.com

- 3 Normal meeting
- 10 'Hills on the Air' planning
- 17 Committee meeting
- 24 Contest Review

### CHELTENHAM ARS

Derek Thom, G3NKS, 01242 241099,  
g3nks@blueyonder.co.uk

- 3 Broadcast Radio & TV Today by G6AHX.

### COVENTRY ARS

John, G8SEQ, 07958 777363

- 3 The DXCC Awards by MOCAR & G4GEE
- 10 Committee Forum
- 17 2nd Round G2FDC 2m DF Trophy
- 24 Quiz Night

### GLOUCESTER AR & ES

Anne, 2E1GKY, 01452 548478,  
daytime, www.g4aym.org.uk

- 6 Warships to Waterbuses by G6UGW
- 13 Escarpment Operating (Easter)
- 20 VHF Operating
- 27 Informal/Natter Night

### MIDLAND ARS

Norman, G8BHE, QTHR,  
01214 229 787

- 1 Committee Meeting and Training Evening

### MID-WARWICKSHIRE ARS

Bernard, M1AUK, 01926 420 913

- 28 Used Equipment and Book sale

### SALOP ARS

www.salop-ars.org.uk

- 9 The Spirit of Amateur Radio by Richard, G3VZG
- 16 1st Fox Hunt
- 23 Natter night
- 30 TBA

### STRATFORD UPON AVON DRS

Jack, G3VYE, 01926 641 988,  
g3vye@onetel.com

- 13 Easter Monday Informal Meeting

### 27 Broadcast Aerials by Chris, G0EYO

### TELFORD & DARS

Mike, G3JKX, 01952 299 677,  
mjstreet3jkk@blueyonder.co.uk

- 1 Open House/On the air/Committee (away venue)
- 8 The Journey by Ted Cowling
- 15 Hints & Tips. Members talk about favourite ideas/methods
- 22 2m DFing

### WORCESTER RAA

Leslie Coyne M3WRZ, 01905 764320,  
m3wrz@wraa.co.uk

- 4 Scout Badge camp at Rhydd Covert, MOZOO on the air
- 6, 11 Club mobile mast renovation
- 14 Natter Night & On the air

## 6 NORTH WALES

REGIONAL REP:  
MARK HARPER, MW1MDH,  
MW1MDH@RSGB.ORG.UK

### CONWY VALLEY ARC

Wynne, GW6PMC, 01745 855 068

- 1 Radio Mobile (propagation program) by John, GW3GUX

### MEIRION ARS

John, MW0VTK, 07868 738016,  
meirionars.multiply.com

- 2 Quiz night (away leg)

### WREXHAM ARS

Glyn MW0BNB www.qsl.net/wars/  
7 Talk High voltage power supplies

- 21 County emergency planning officer

## 7 SOUTH WALES

REGIONAL REP: JIMMY SNEDDON,  
MW0EQL, MW0EQL@RSGB.ORG.UK

### CHEPSTOW & DARS

Mike, GW3YKZ, 07825 987115  
7 Mobile communication systems

## 8 NORTHERN IRELAND

REGIONAL REP: PETER LOWRIE,  
MI5JYK, MI5JYK@RSGB.ORG.UK

### BANGOR & DARC

Mike, G14XSF, 028 4277 2 383

- 2 Annual constructors contest

## 9 LONDON & THAMES VALLEY

REGIONAL REP: ALISON JOHNSTON,  
G8ROG, G8ROG@RSGB.ORG.UK

### AYLESBURY VALE RS

Roger, G3MEH, 01442 826 651

- 8 CAD of Yagis by G3MEH

### BURNHAM BEECHES RC

Dave, G4XDU, 01628 625 720

- 6 Surplus equipment sale

### CHESHAM & DARS

Terry, G0VFW, 01442 831 491,  
terry.g0vfw@ntlworld.com

- 1 General Meeting + CW Training session
- 8 Construction Evening
- 15 Night on the Air + CW Training Session 2 TBA
- 29 Linux Operating System by MOSKC

### COULSDON ATS

Andy, G8JAC, g8jac@btinternet.com

- 6 DAB and DRM by the BBC

### CRAY VALLEY RS

Bob, BR32525, 020 8265 7735  
after 8pm

- 2 PSK31 & DigiPan by G8ITB.
- 16 AGM

### DORKING & DRS

Garth, G3NPC, 01737 359472,  
garth@swansons.org.uk

- 28 Photonic band structures and broad band antennas, Dr David Jefferies, G6GPR

**NEWBURY & DARS**

Richard, G3ZGC, 01635 46241,  
richard.jolliffe@vodafone.com  
22 Serious Experiments using RF Energy,  
Derek, G3HEJ

**READING & DARC**

Pete, G8FRC, 01189 695 697

23 Martin Lynch Expedition

**SHEFFORD & DARS**

David, G8UOD, 01234 742 757

2 Kite Aerials by Roger, G4ROJ  
4 Club Dinner @ Stratton House Hotel  
9 Aerials from the ground up by G3RXQ  
16 Spring Junk Sale  
23 MKARS 80 metre TX/RX by G6ALU  
30 Club project provisional

**SOUTHGATE ARC**

David Sharp MOXDS,  
david.sharp1@tesco.net

8 Spring Junk Sale

**SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB**

Ray, G4FFY, 020 8644 7589

6 69th AGM

**SUTTON & CHEAM RS**

John, G0BWW, 020 8644 9945,  
info@scrs.org.uk

16 Amateur Television by Mike, G8LES

**VERULAM ARC**

Ralph, 01923 265572, g1bsz@aol.com

21 Practical Evening

**WEY VALLEY ARG**

www.weyvalleyarg.org.uk

3 Atlantic to Holland and the AR88 by  
Richard, G3AAT  
17 Used Equipment Sale

**WIMBLEDON & DARS**

Jim, MOCON, 020 8874 7456,  
www.gx3wim.org.uk

24 Contesting by Jim, G4WYJ

**10 SOUTH & SOUTH EAST**

REGIONAL REP: GAVIN KEEGAN,  
G6DGK, G6DGK@RSGB.ORG.UK

**ANDOVER RAC**

Martin, MOMWS, 07776181646,  
www.arac.co.uk

7 Operating old equipment  
19 Spring boot sale at wild  
21 Construction evening - portable 2m  
Slim Jim

**BREDE STEAM ARS**

Steve, 0142 720815, m0nuc@aol.com

4 At the bunker  
7, 14, 21, 28 Operating from the shack

**FAREHAM & DARC**

Ken, MOKLS, 02392 797 240

15 Visit to Southwick Brewery  
29 Grand Inter-Club Junk Sale  
Visitors welcome.

**FARNBOROUGH & DRS**

Derek, G3OFA, mail@fdrs.org.uk,  
www.fdrs.org.uk,

8 Model radio controlled aeroplanes  
Colin, G8BCO  
23 Skittles evening at The Foresters Arms,  
Bagshot

**HARWELL ARS**

Malcolm, G8NRF, 01235 524844,  
info@g3pia.org.uk

14 Kite aerials by Roger Stafford, G4ROG

**HASTINGS E & RC**

Gordon, 01424 431 909,  
gordon@gsweet.fsnet.co.uk  
www.herc.uk.net

28 Auction

**HORNDEAN & DARC**

Stuart, G0FYX, 023 9247 2846,  
www.hdarc.co.uk

7 Natter night/social evening  
23 Skittles evening - King's Head,  
Wickham  
28 Kite aerials by Roger, G4ROJ

**HORSHAM ARC**

www.harc.org.uk

2 The History of Mr Polly (Part 3) - Ron  
Polly, G3PYC

16 Social, The Blue ship, The Haven  
25 Weekend outing to les Chemin de Fer  
de la Baie de Somme

**SOUTHDOWN ARS**

John, G3DQY, 01424 424 319,  
vaughdqy@aol.com

6 Talk by Richard Draycott on the Sussex  
Air Ambulance  
8 Operating at Hailsham shack

**SWINDON & DARC**

Den, MOACM, 07810 317750,  
www.sdarc.net

2 Natter Night  
16 Vintage Domestic Radios 1920's -  
1950's by Geoff Harris, G3TPQ  
23 Natter Night  
30 Talk

**TROWBRIDGE & DARC**

Ian, G0GRI, 01225 864 698, E/W

1 VP8-YL's First All Ladies DXpedition to  
the Falklands January 2009 - by  
Nicky Marriott, M5YLO  
15 Natter Night

**WORTHING & DARC**

Roy, G4GPX, 01903 753 893

1 Introduction to Radio Contesting by  
Phil Godbold, G4UDU  
4 Worthing Museum Special Event  
Station GB2WM  
8 Experimenting with Software Defined  
Radio by Norman Billingham, MOEBI  
15 The General Knowledge & Radio Quiz  
by Steve Glew, M0SFG  
22 Computer ID Fraud by Peter Wood  
29 GX3WOR on the air evening and  
discussions

**BLACKMORE VALE ARS**

Nick Perrin, G3NRH,  
bnperrin@theiet.org,  
www.radioclubs.net/bvars/  
14 AGM

**11 SOUTH WEST  
& CHANNEL ISLANDS**

REGIONAL REP: PAM HELLIWELL,  
G7SME, G7SME@RSGB.ORG.UK

**BRISTOL RSGB GROUP**

Robin, G3TKF, 01225 420442

27 The RSGB Yearbook by Steve White,  
G3ZVW

**CORNISH RADIO AMATEUR CLUB**

Ian, 01872 561 058

6 Annual General Meeting  
20 Computer Section Meeting  
24 Setting up for IMD  
25 International Marconi Day  
26 Dismantling from IMD

**NEWQUAY & DARS**

Joe Bell, M6JOE, 01726 891557

2, 16, 30 Club night general ragchew,  
Foundation training

**SALTASH & DARC**

Brian, MOBHG, 01752 844 321

3 Local repeater activation evening

**SOUTH BRISTOL ARC**

Len, G4RZY, 01275 834 282

1 Antenna Tuning Units  
8 Spring Table Top Sale  
15 Wine and Cheese Evening  
22 Horticultural Evening  
29 On the Air Evening

**TAUNTON & DARC**

William, G3WNI, 01823 666 234,  
g3wni@btinternet.com

1 Home Brew by Michael, MOCIE &  
David, MOCIF  
8 Operating club station & Morse class  
15 Digimode Evening  
22 Operating club station & Morse class  
29 Natter night & Morse class

**THORNBURY & SOUTH**

GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARC  
Tony, GOWMB, 01454 417048,  
tonytsgarc@sky.com

1 AGM  
8, 22, 29 On the Air  
15 Video Night

**WEST DEVON RADIO CLUB**

Jules Cuddy, M1AGY, 01752291588

14 Radio Repair Night  
28 Bring and Buy table top night

**YEOVIL ARC**

Gary, 2E0BFJ, g.swain@tesco.net

2 Data Modes  
9 My Trip to Australia, M1FFP  
16 QRP convention briefing  
23 AGM, QRP convention briefing  
26 QRP Convention  
30 Committee meeting & station on the air

**12 EAST & EAST ANGLIA**

REGIONAL REP: PHILLIP BROOKS,  
G4NZQ, G4NZQ@RSGB.ORG.UK

**BITTERN DX GROUP**

Keith, G0GFQ, 01263 588 506,  
info@bittern-dxers.org.uk,  
www.bittern-dxers.org.uk

30 GB20H Oxburgh Hall advanced  
planning

**BRAINTREE & DARS**

John, M5AJB, 01787 460 947

6 3rd construction evening  
20 Construction Contest

**CHELMSFORD ARS**

Martyn, G1EFL, 01245 469 008

7 Military Communications by G8MOB  
25 Sandford Mill International Marconi Day

**DOVER RC**

Brian, G4SAU, g4sau@darco.org.uk

1 Operating and Natter Night  
8 Net on GB3KS 19.30  
15 Nosh and natter night at the Mayfly,  
Hawkinge  
22 Contest group discussion evening,  
Declan, MOTMX  
29 Operating and Natter Night

**HARWICH AR INTEREST GROUP**

James, M0ZZO, 01255 242 748,  
james@mcginty.net

8 Home Automation by Jonathan Shaw

**HUNTINGDONSHIRE ARS**

Gerald, G8AKL, 01487 740794,  
www.hunts-hams.co.uk

9 AGM  
23 Informal Evening

**KING'S LYNN ARC**

Ray, G3RSV, ral-g3rsv@supanet.com,  
www.klarc.org.uk

2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Club night and 2m  
club net

**LEISTON ARC**

Dave, G4HUP, 01473 737 717,  
g4hup@btinternet.com

7 CW evening - Sizewell Sports & Social  
Centre

**NORFOLK ARC**

Mark Taylor, GOLGJ, 01362 691099,  
narc@golgj.co.uk

1 AGM, Construction Competition Judging  
8 The Joy of Six with Robin, M1DUD  
15 Informal / Construction / Workshop  
(RSGB CC)  
22 Getting your first HF award GOKYA  
29 Table Top Sale / Construction /  
Workshop / Bright Sparks

**PETERBOROUGH & DARC**

David Howlett, MOVGT,  
padarc@tesco.net

22 Bring & Buy Sale

**SOUTH ESSEX ARS**

southessex.ars@btinternet.com,  
www.southessex.ars.btinternet.co.uk

8 Rally Report; sun spot activity by Ken,  
GOBBN

**HELPLINES****IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Members are reminded that Helplines is a free service that can be used to ask other members for help on amateur radio related matters. Items for inclusion can be sent by post to RSGB HQ or preferably by e-mail to radcom@rsgb.org.uk.

**13 EAST MIDLANDS**

REGIONAL REP: JIM STEVENSON,  
GOEJQ, GOEJQ@RSGB.ORG.UK

**DERBY & DARS**

Richard Buckley, radio@dadars.org.uk  
7 Junk Sale  
14 Committee Meeting

**EAGLE RG**

Terry, G0SWS, 01507 478590

14 Auction & Table Top Sale. - Montalt  
Arms, George Street, Mablethorpe.  
7.30pm

**HUCKNALL ROLLS ROYCE ARC**

Dave Wilde, G1YAI,  
webmaster@hrrarc.com

1 Advanced Exam in the clubroom at  
6.30pm  
2 ARDF - First HRRARC League Fox  
Hunt  
3 General Club Meeting  
10 General Club Meeting  
17 Member's Club Forum  
18 World Amateur Radio Day  
24 Holding a Quiz Night  
25 International Marconi Day

**LINCOLN SHORT-WAVE CLUB**

John, G1TSL, 01526 323 153

8 Junk Sale  
15 Natter Night and Shack Activity  
22 Natter Night and Shack Activity  
29 Coast to Coast - Clive, G1BSN

**LOUGHBOROUGH & DARC**

Chris, G1ETZ, 01509 504 319

3 'The Lost Thatch of Old Sheephead' by  
Michael Wortley  
7 Video evening - Espionage  
14 Old & new receivers - How do they  
compare?  
21 Open Forum - Home construction,  
hints, tips and ideas.  
28 Practical evening

**MELTON MOWBRAY ARS**

Geoff, G3STG, 01664 480 733,  
g3stg@btinternet.com

17 VHF/UHF DF antennas by G4YSP

**SOUTH NORMANTON ALFRETON  
& DARC**

A J Highton, 2E1GWO, 01773 783658

6 AGM  
20 Junk Sale  
27 Night on the Air at Crich

**SOUTH NOTTS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

Terry, MORIA, www.radioclubs.net/snarc  
1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Construction Project  
G4EDX

**WELLAND VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO  
SOCIETY**

Simon G8PAN, 07977 266643,  
swd@phasor-design.uk.com,  
www.wvars.com

20 AGM and construction presentations