

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.

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Honorary Company Secretary:
Rupert Thorogood, G3KKT
Honorary Treasurer:
Dr R Dingle, G0OCB

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J Smith, M10AEX
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A Vinters, G0WFG
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G Keegan, G6DGK - Region 10
P Helliwell, G7SME - Region 11
P Brooks, G4NZQ - Region 12
J Stevenson, G0EJQ - Region 13

Details of the Society's volunteer officers can be found in
the RSGB Yearbook 2008

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Website:
www.rsgb.org
WebPlus: Members-only website
www.rsgb.org/membersonly Use your callsign in lower
case as the user name, and your membership number (see
RadCom address label) as the password.

RSGB President Visits

The President of the Radio Society of Great Britain, Colin Thomas, G3PSM, took part in the annual HF Picnic held in the New Forest organised by the local Waterside New Forest Radio Club. Colin lives locally, and he is a member of the Waterside New Forest Club.

The radio station was set up on Yew Tree Heath by Tim Williams, G4YVY, Gordon Stevens, G1ZEC and Tony Butler, G6MNL. Many other club members arrived during the day and helped to make the event a success. The traditional HF Picnic is notionally a radio event but, in practice, it also provides an opportunity for radio amateurs and their families to meet socially and discuss more than purely technical matters, though the latter were also the subject of many conversations during the day. Everyone expressed the view that it had been a most pleasant day, and well worth the effort.



In September the President visited North Wakefield Radio Club. Colin showed them an RSGB presentation and then took a questions and answer session where many topics concerning the hobby were discussed in a lively debate. It was an evening enjoyed by all.

The young operators at Silcoates School ARC



Silcoates School ARC.

were delighted when Colin dropped in to join them for a school lunch followed by some operating in the MXOSSW shack.

Colin Thomas and Anthony Vinters, G0WFG, the RSGB director of education, took the opportunity to meet the school's new Headmaster, Darryl Wideman to tell him about the educational benefits of the hobby. Mr Wideman had attended the school club's entry to the 'Transmission' for the British Wireless Find for the Blind event on the previous Saturday. He was very interested to see the operators in action, saying that he expects the club to go from strength to strength.



North Wakefield Radio Club.

Meeting of Past Presidents



Joan, G4CHH and Peter, G4EJP at the Hornsea Amateur Radio Society.

On Wednesday 24 September, accompanied by RSGB General Manager Peter Kirby, GOTWW, Life Vice President and former President of the RSGB, Peter Sheppard, G4EJP visited his mother club, the Hornsea Amateur Radio Society for the first time in seven years. Peter, G4EJP who was RSGB President in 1996, suffered a serious head injury following a motor cycle accident in 2001. This restricted his movements but he is now on the road to recovery and very keen to come back into the amateur radio fold. During the visit, he was able to catch up with another former president, Joan Heathershaw, G4CHH. Joan has the distinction of being the first lady president of the RSGB and also the distinction of serving two terms of office, in 1985 and 1987.

I've been into radio since childhood – have seen it through the 1970s and now, I've had a think about our situation and what could be done – it was written a while back but updated recently.

THE PROBLEM AS I SEE IT. The world has moved on. The thrill to young people of communicating around the world has evaporated and the internet makes it an everyday activity. People are either more techno-aware or plain frightened of it. Technical training just isn't, in press terms, 'sexy'. Grabbing that intense interest of a young person is ever more problematic these days in the world of paranoia and being told they cannot concentrate for more than a few minutes at anytime. We're seen as 'anoraks' – since Victorian times technical knowledge was respected, now, people don't care. Those interested are perceived as plain boring.

WHAT I THINK CAN BE DONE. Amateur radio's technical side is perfect for the modern world – technical things are leaders for social change these days – Blogs, Pods, phone-cams, webcams, PDAs, cellphone masts and so much more re-align peoples perceptions of what they can or can't do and what is important in their life.

We need to find out how to re-align amateur radio in a society that has changed – to think about how we can do this – DIY technology is not something manufacturers like these days, but human interest in re-purposing things is natural in the types of people who mostly become radio amateurs over the years. We need something that sits alongside all the other interests that young people have and keeps their peers respect should they choose to take it up.

At a national level – perhaps with the aid of a good quality promotions company, meet and re-align the public perception of amateur radio in modern society. Any hint of this interest being too 'uncool' and instantly we lose people who are not directly related or known to hams. Perhaps the RSGB could take a lead in education of clubs to show them how to keep local media interested and covering activities of the clubs – this is essential – one hint of a 'anorak' and that outlet can be lost.

Keep amateur radio in the press – not all of the time or they will learn to ignore, but educated feed of properly contextual stories relevant to modern society. Use all means necessary to get a quality story about amateur radio into a glossy Sunday magazine. Help plant the true technical conceptual idea of what amateur radio is.

SOME POSSIBILITIES. Schools net – Amateurs in school across the country using an online chat room before being licensed and helping each other get to use radio – perhaps link a chat room for licensed ops to a repeater. Get really techno-aware and look at what things kids 'do' with technology.

Get a government funded (or volunteer funded) weather network going - A weather station at each and every school, college and

Guest Editorial – Dave Harris, G0CER: A Personal View

university – connected by packet radio or the net – present it as a major resource for science study at all ages (we would need to look at study requirements all ages to fit it in). Use radio wherever possible. Screen-scrape the data of the 'web pages' these weather stations generate and have UK-wide school-amateur-radio weather system in place. Imagine that! Wonderful PR and a persistent flow of new young people experiencing positive/useful things about the hobby. Get more radio-space related stories out there.

Re-name RAYNET and get them some PR support. Something like the American's have – get them out there on television – don't miss a chance to be covered when working with the agencies on practises or real events. They NEED to LOSE that pseudo-4th line of defence image or they'll stay where they are forever. Perhaps a few disasters will shape them up and get them appreciated – but it would be good to get them shaped up previously. I don't knock their tech skills and determination, but the yellow jackets say "I'm IMPORTANT" and that drives potential support into the weeds.

Get the perception of a radio amateur to be seen as a modern 'teccy' who can take up this as an extension of their 'teccy' interests - got a 'Pod, now you can chat with mates in other places live via internet repeater linking. Key things like regular features on programs like The Gadget Show [1] – but only in a well-thought out context. Again any thought it being specialist or clever/anorak interest only then it's fallow ground.

Learn from what young technically aware people know – include them. Align the QSL system with organisations that handle online QSLs – find ways to include them, not lock them out.

Get a Sport-Radio organisation to voluntarily co-ordinate the various contests that happen in the UK. Provide help and support to people doing contests – get people into contests. Carry out a campaign with the health authorities (they may fund it?) to get people out in the countryside with their radios. Then do PR outside ham radio on how great this was/it/will be.

Provide results of all contests possible on the RSGB web – people love to see their name/call – print full sets of results as inserts if costs too high for RadCom pages.

Have an associated-type membership of RSGB that runs entirely online – a free-signup or very cheap that receives less than full membership but takes views and discussion off all radio amateurs. Get as much of the current population involved in inputting as possible.

I feel that the most important thing is the perception we give these days, if we're written off as obscure tech anoraks we've lost. To repeat – I'm not suggesting dumping the past or the present – we must show that the stuff we do can still be a thrill – if kids are enthused by iPods or Messenger – imagine if we could give them the control radio operators get.

[1] <http://gadgetsnow.five.tv/jsp/5gsmain.jsp?lnk=400>

A LITTLE ABOUT ME. My name is David Harris and hold G0CER (and recently 9H3DH holiday call, TF/G0CER W4/G0CER OZ/G0CER). I was RS38891 and now RS193605 and also ISWL in the past as G15900. I have followed my way through this hobby a more classic way – began in 1970s as a short wave listener, joined a local radio club (G3ZME) in '75-ish gained support and help from the older ops. I'm mainly on HF these days as my QTH is in a valley, enjoying HF and try to explain ham radio whenever possible.

This is a personal statement by G0CER and does not necessarily represent the views or policy of the RSGB.

Calcutta Key

The Calcutta Key is awarded by the Board in recognition of an outstanding contribution to international relations. This year, Mike Goddard OBE received the award for his support of Amateur Radio in his role as Head of the UK Delegation at ITU World Radio Conferences for over twenty years. The presentation was made at a recent RSGB/Ofcom Forum meeting at the headquarters of Ofcom in London by RSGB President Colin Thomas, G3PSM.



Power Line Adapters

The RSGB has recently received a reply from Ofcom in response to a PLT complaint made almost two years ago. The Society has, in turn, expressed its dismay at the contents of this letter and has responded accordingly with a letter from the President. The following edited extract will, hopefully, show that the Society is not about to roll over and accept what amounts to 'shoddy service' from the regulator -

"The Radio Society of Great Britain understands that as the product in question was declared compliant in Germany, Ofcom extended the usual courtesy of asking BNetzA to investigate as the home authority in the first instance. You say that BNetzA has investigated but decided not to take enforcement action but you have given no reasons. The implication is that you will not be taking any further action. However as the product is available from UK outlets we do request that you continue to investigate our complaint of non-compliance. You will know that if your investigations confirm the non-compliance, the fact that the German authorities have chosen not to take enforcement action is not a bar to the UK doing so under the principle of national subsidiary. The integrity of New Approach Directives is in fact dependent on Member States acting where non-compliance is found. The procedure under Article 10 of the EMC Directive or Article 9 of the RTE Directive provides the method by which Member States must notify the Commission of such independent action.

"The Society submitted a detailed complaint case nearly two years ago and is still awaiting positive action by the UK regulatory authorities. You will appreciate that there is considerable frustration among HF radio users about this matter, many of whom are members of the RSGB. This delay, attributed to restructuring, is frankly deplorable, unprofessional and certainly does not reflect well on the neutrality of the administration or the stated Statutory Duty of "Ensuring the optimal use of the electromagnetic spectrum". We believe the recent increase in reported incidents of interference received from licensed radio amateurs and short-wave broadcast listeners alike and attributed to units from various manufacturers represents only a small percentage of those suffering with this problem, with the majority not yet aware of what is causing the harmful interference to their reception.

"It is understood a number of sufferers have already written to their MPs and MEPs in respect to this problem and no doubt these letters will reach your desk in due course. In the meantime we look forward to hearing of the results of your investigations as referred to above and the pursuance of the "enforcement policy in line with stakeholders needs"."

ARDF World Championship

David Williams, M3WDD achieved the highest place ever by a British competitor at the 14th ARDF World Championships in Korea. Competing in the M40 class (men aged between 40 and 49) he came in sixth in the 144MHz

race with a time of 87min 44sec having found all his assigned transmitters. The winner of this race was Baktybek Sharshenov of the Russian Federation in a time of 65.20.

It was the usual eastern European domination of the medal table. With 54 individual medals awarded, just six went to countries outside the old Soviet bloc and only three went to countries outside IARU Region 1. These eastern European countries have a long tradition of competitive ARDF to the IARU rules and David's achievement needs to be seen from the standpoint of the UK that only started running competitions in 2002. A podium place at world level has still not been achieved for Great Britain but at least we are not totally outclassed.

The terrain in Korea came as a bit of a surprise to the UK participants. The 144 MHz race took place in an area of small steep hills covered in pretty dense vegetation and separated by agricultural land. In the UK and generally throughout Europe, running through growing crops is definitely taboo. Not so in Korea apparently (although the farmers did not seem too happy with 400 direction finding enthusiasts from 30 countries running across their paddy fields and cabbage patches).

The section of the map shows the terrain. The dark green areas are thick and almost impenetrable vegetation. Lighter green areas are less thick and the white areas (precious few of those) represent woodland in which it is easy to move around. The yellow/brown dotted areas are open fields - most of which were flooded rice

paddy - slow going! The woodland was generally so thick that the transmitters were placed adjacent to the edges or near the few strips of runnable forest. The edges of the fields were bounded by deep drainage ditches and a

band of thick vegetation. After the event, David said, "In Korea it seems that if it's flat, then you either grow rice or build a factory, and if it's steep you leave it alone and let the vegetation run wild. The terrain must have been a big surprise to the European teams who, unlike the Koreans, can pick and choose the best, open, runnable forests.

After a few moments panic in the starting corridor (the 144MHz transmitter frequency having been changed from that used on the training day... "I can't hear any transmitters!"), I realised that for this World

Championship I was going to have to navigate using the map as well as my receiver. I

concentrated on finding good tracks through the terrain and bridges over the streams and carefully picking where I was going to be when each transmitter came on the air. To the surprise of the marshals and waiting competitors this meant me turning round and running straight back through the starting area five minutes after I had left. My only regret is that if I had realised that everyone else was finding it difficult, then I would have run a bit harder at the end of the course."

The Korean Post office issued a commemorative postage stamp depicting

the event. One to add to the postage stamps with an Amateur Radio theme that have appeared over the years.

Full results can be found at www.2008ardf.org.



David Williams M3WDD powering into the finish of the 3.5 MHz race at the 14th ARDF World Championships in Korea.



Part of the map used for the 144MHz race. The contour interval is 5m and the red circle is 750m from the start triangle. The colours are explained in the text.

Ladies to the Falklands

Worldwide YLs have been invited to use the stations of Jannet, VP9AIB and Bob, VP8LP in the Falklands in January 2009 as part of a special Ladies' DX trip. Callsigns for the visit will be unique to each lady and in the series VP8YL_a, VP8YL_b, VP8YL_d and so on. The callsign VP8YLC has been reserved for the Falkland YL group who will also be active. Activity will be on multiple bands from more than one station (mainly SSB). Listen out during between 17 and 31 January 2009.

Liz Jones, MOACL and Nick Marriott, M5YLO will be representing BYLARA amongst the other international YL organisations also attending. For further information see www.radioclubs.net/aa_vp8yl/_m0acl&m5yl0.

Churches on the Air



Churches on the Air is organised by the World Association of Christian Radio Amateurs and Listeners and took place over the weekend of 13/14 September. Many groups put their local churches or cathedrals on the air. The photograph shows Mike, G4SMB operating GB4S_{JH} from outside St John's Church, Harpham in East Yorkshire.

Over 25 churches took part in CHOTA, most with GB calls. Activity was mainly on 80m SSB. It is intended to run CHOTA next year on Saturday 12 September. See www.wacral.org for the latest information.

WinRadio in art

If you are visiting London before the middle of January next year, you may like to call in to a free art exhibition at the Barbican Arts Centre in the Curve area. A piece called Frequency and Volume, designed by Lozano-Hemmer, a Mexican borne artist, uses twelve WinRadio G305 receivers, ten DAB receivers (supplied by Nevada) and thirty Freeview receivers. The audience, using just their shadow, is able to tune and adjust the volume of receivers by a complex back projection shadow system.

You can find out more about this project and how the viewer's shadow changes the frequency of the radios at: www.lozano-hemmer.com/eprojecto.html.

GB4FUN mk II



The new GB4FUN mk II trailer will be a great resource when it is fully fitted out with radio gear.

The RSGB have taken delivery of the new GB4FUN trailer and it is being fitted out with a wide range of amateur equipment. GB4FUN coordinator Carlos Eavis, GOAKI, said, "This purpose-designed trailer is a fantastic piece of engineering and is streets ahead of the original GB4FUN vehicle. Its facilities will provide a wonderful resource to bring amateur radio into the lives of many more young people." It will be on show at the Leicester Amateur Radio Show on 24 and 25 October.

Pic-a-STAR Project



To mark the successful end of the Pic-a-STAR project (*RadCom* August 2002 to March 2004), a party was held on 30 August to celebrate the achievements of designer Peter Rhodes, G3XJP. People travelled from the USA, Europe and the Far East to attend, including Harold Johnson, W4ZCB and Bill Carver, W7AAZ.

Peter Rhodes not only produced this supremely successful HF transceiver of which more than eighty are now on the air, but has also contributed a number of other innovative projects to *RadCom* over the years, including Pic'N Mix, PicATune and Pic-A-Switch. <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/picaproject/>.

Homebrew Party

On 16 November, there is a contest for those who use either homebrew or older pieces of amateur radio equipment. The 21st Homebrew & Oldtime Equipment Party takes place between 1300 and 1500 on 7.010 – 7.040MHz and 1500 – 1700 on 3.510 and 3.560MHz all CW with power less than 100W. There are several classes to enter is you have homebrew or equipment that is more than 30 years old. The call to listen out for is 'CQ HOT'. It's organised by the QRP Contest Community and full details can be found at www.qrpcc.de.

Winter Lecture Series

Bletchley Park Trust has a series of lectures planned for the winter season from October 2008 through to April 2009. All the lectures will be held in the Bletchley Park Mansion, which is steeped in history and provides an atmospheric setting.

13 November: The Warsaw Uprising 1944: German Policy by Dr Joanna Hanson, a Senior Research Officer at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office.

8 January 2009: Code & Cypher Machines by John Alexander, who is a well known collector of code and cypher machines.

12 February: Personality Clashes & Power Struggles in the Early History of Radar by Phil Judkin.

12 March: General Anders & Demobilisation of the Polish 2nd Corps by Michael Hope.

9 April: Bletchley Park and the Double Cross Agents of World War II by Peter Wescombe.

Lectures start at 7.30pm and the Mansion is open from 6.30pm. The ticket price includes a glass of wine, orange juice or coffee after the lecture. Admission charges are £10 for a single lecture. Advance booking is strongly advised. Please contact Victoria Pether on 01908 640404 or e-mail info@bletchleypark.org.uk.

Donation



The RSGB recently donated a number of bound volumes of old *RadCom* to the Orkney Wireless Museum in Kirkwall. The photo shows RM Denny Morrison, GM1BAN on the left and DRM David Wishart, MM5DWW on the right presenting the *RadCom* to Sandy Firth, GM6WOF who is a trustee of the museum.

ARRL QST Cover Plaque Award



Steve Telenius-Lowe, G4JVG/9M6DXX was voted the winner of the QST Cover Plaque Award for June. The award is given to the author or authors of the best article in each issue as voted for by ARRL members. Steve's award was for his article The FSDXA 3B7C St Brandon DXpedition. Many readers will know Steve as a previous editor of *RadCom* and from his ongoing contributions to our magazine.

New Receiver

The IC-RX7 is a new handheld receiver from Icom. It has wide band reception of 150kHz – 1.3GHz, which gives access to everything from AM broadcast to UHF TV audio. The IC-RX7 features a water-

resistant construction allowing it to be used outside in wet conditions and it has a menu driven user interface allowing the user to scan and manage their favourite frequencies.

The IC-RX7 comes complete with BC-07 UK battery charger, BP-244 Lithium Ion battery, antenna, belt clip, handstrap and a handbook. For full details, including price, check out www.icomuk.co.uk



Talk Through

The RSGB and the Network are pleased to announce that, with immediate effect, Ofcom has agreed that RAYNET Talk Through units, for which permits have been issued, no longer need to be manned provided that the unit can be closed down within a maximum of 15 minutes. Permit holders will be responsible for ensuring that the unit operates within the terms of the amateur licence at all times. Shutdown arrangements must ensure that the unit can be closed down within the required time in case of malfunction whether by attending the site or by remote switch off.

Amateur Radio Learning

A new site has been set up to help people learn about amateur radio. It has been designed to centralise all the current available learning sites in one place. Links are available to Ofcom documents and everything needed to learn about amateur radio in the UK.

Although there are sections for all three licence classes, the site is also available for self training by any amateur. It may well be that you want to learn more about learning Morse code or data modes for example, even though you may have been licensed for many years.

There is a forum where anyone can ask questions and registered tutors are on hand to answer. No question is considered to be a stupid one.

The site designers would be happy to receive information about the courses that other clubs are running and these can be added to the event calendar. Should you wish to help by answering questions, they would be very happy to have help from other registered instructors.

Once registered, a member gets additional benefits such as a whole section of mini-lessons, designed to be quick to read and small enough to be assimilated easily. These are being developed continually and can be read and re-read as required. The site is located at www.amateurradiotraining.org and registration is free.

Prize Winner



In the August issue of *RadCom*, there was a competition to win an Alinco DJ-V17, kindly donated by Nevada. The winner was 10-year-old Laura Pearson, M3JRQ. She received her prize recently from RSGB Region 4 Manager Harold Scrivens

Laura is now studying for the Intermediate Licence at Pontefract & District Amateur Radio Club where she is an active member. She is keen to learn Morse along with her best friend Catreena, M6CHF, also aged 10, and other members of the club under the instructions of Reg, G4KMW.

Laura gives a big thank you to all concerned at Nevada and the RSGB and she's proud to be the owner of a super radio. We wish her all the best with her progress in amateur radio.

News in Brief

- The Eton FR140 Microlink is a solar-powered, wind-up AM/FM/Short wave radio with torch and mobile phone charger. Just turn the hand crank to power the Microlink, or capture the sun's energy and run it on solar power. Costing £29.95 more details can be found at www.etoncorp.co.uk.

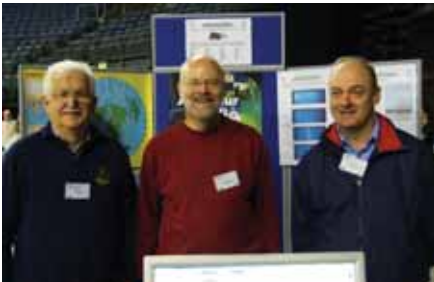
- At 1100hrs (AEST) on 22 September, Sydney radio amateurs and members of the local community gathered at the Fisk Memorial outside the former house of Sir Ernest Fisk, at Wahroonga in Sydney, to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the first directed wireless messages from the UK to Australia. In 1935, the Fisk Memorial was raised by the local community to commemorate the event and this week's celebrations were conducted by the Wahroonga Historical Radio Association, the Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club and the Ku-ring-gai Historical Radio Society. The event was well attended by radio amateurs and members of the local community, with a number of passing pedestrians stopping to ask questions and taking a copy of the informative pamphlet.

- The Black-Box is a VHF air traffic monitor covering the VHF (civil) air band. It continuously monitors the airband but, because it does not have any radiating oscillators, it can be used in aircraft cabins too. It comes ready built and retails for £79.95 inc VAT. More details from www.wsplc.com.

- The SBS-1e Pocket Radar is said to offer better performance resulting in an increase of over 20% more aircraft viewable on the screen of this virtual radar equipment. It measures 130 x 95 x 25mm and has an Ethernet connection fitted and an RS-232 port for receiver control. ML&S expect to be able to chip these new models during October, although the price is yet to be confirmed as we went to press.

- Harold James, G3MCN was born on 23 May 1928 in Wavertree Liverpool. When he left school, he went to work at Meccano, where his brother David had worked. Harold was called up to do National Service in December 1945 and was posted to various bases in Lincolnshire and also to Cardington. Harry then joined Plessey as a wireman working on telephone exchange switchgear. He spent several years in Holland installing new telephone equipment for the company. In 1966 Harry, with a partner, started Stephens-James Ltd, an Amateur Radio Emporium. The radio business was initially in Liverpool, and later moved to a shop in Leigh, he worked there until his retirement in 1993. Harold's greatest interest was amateur radio, being licensed as G3MCN in the 1950's and became known worldwide as a prolific DXer. He has a collection of upwards of 50,000 QSL and hundreds of special awards. He was secretary of the Liverpool Radio Society for over 20 years and was made an honorary member. Chester & District Radio Society also bestowed Honorary Membership for his services to them. Harry died on 8 September 2008.

Low Power PSK31



Bill, G14AAM, Richard, G14DOH and Merrill, G16JGB who demonstrated PSK31 at the Seagate Young Innovators of the Year 2008.

Bangor & District Amateur Radio Society mounted a demonstration of PSK31 at the Seagate Young Innovators of the Year 2008 event for schoolchildren, which took place in the Odyssey Centre, Belfast on 19 June. The purpose of this conference was to get children interested in all branches of Science and Engineering.

Two very low power stations were set up, capable of sending PSK31 signals over a short distance (2 metres!). The children seemed very impressed by this demonstration.

It is to be hoped that this initiative by the Society will be the precursor of many further displays at such events.

The Scarecrow Trail



Biggles flies again... well, almost. Braintree & District Amateur Radio Society again participated in the Gosfield village 'Scarecrow Trail'. Villagers and guests construct scarecrows and display them in their gardens to raise money for charity. This year, the radio club took the theme of 'Biggles' in honour of the 90th anniversary of the RAF.

Melvin, GOEMK, one of the club members, constructed a replica biplane with the scarecrow at the controls. The club also ran a special event station both on VHF and HF with callsign GX3XG/A. Contacts were logged and visitors were asked to guess the furthest station worked over the period of the weekend. A small donation for each entry went to the charities supported by the event, the nearest 'guess' won a prize of a small portable radio. Despite the weather being absolutely awful, the event was well attended, and many visitors were interested to see a radio station in operation.

Railways on the Air



Members of the South Cheshire ARS on the steps of the Advanced Passenger Train that held their special event station.

Members of the South Cheshire Amateur Radio Society, which is based in Crewe, took part in the National Railways on the Air weekend in association with the Crewe Heritage Centre. The weekend had been organised to celebrate the anniversary of the first steam powered passenger railway journey that took place on 27 September 1825. The South Cheshire Club set up GB4CHC and their equipment on board the APT (Advanced Passenger Train) and contacted almost 150 other amateur stations throughout Great Britain and Europe. Most of all, everyone involved had a really good time and enjoyed the fantastic weather. If you contacted or heard the station, the QSL manager is Paul Zobrok, GOUZP. The weekend was organised by John Dalgliesh, MOJCD.

South Cheshire Amateur Radio society meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at the Sea Cadets HQ, Training Ship Ambuscade, Queen Street, Crewe. Anyone with an interest in radio is welcome to attend.

Silver Anniversary



South Bristol Amateur Radio Club celebrated its 25th anniversary by treating all members to a dinner at The Nelson Arms, Churchill, Somerset. Douglas Stephenson, G3KUL, their most senior member and Club President can be seen in the foreground. He was a marine radio officer during the war and has a 'fast fist' that is envied by all club members.

Within a week the club was congratulating the Foundation tutor Peter Hill, GODRX on having a 100% pass rate. Intermediate and Advanced examinations are to follow shortly.

Tea Comes First!



Keith Bird, G4JED and Colin Wooff, G3SPJ had their own ideas as to what came first when Cray Valley Radio Society members started to 'pitch up' their operating and sleeping tents for the RSGB HF SSB Field Day 2008. Tea came first!

Whilst other members erected the HF operating tent, tower and sleeping tents, Keith and Colin set up an impromptu tea stall. As can be seen, the weather was simply rain, rain and showers! As soon as the kettle boiled, there was a mad rush to grab a mug of tea or coffee and shelter for a few moments in the large 'social' tent that had just been erected beside them.

Cycle for Life



On 14 September, members of Essex Raynet assisted the British Red Cross with checkpoint/safety communications for the Farleigh Hospice 'Cycle for Life'. Around 700 people of all ages took to their bicycles for the 50km ride around the Essex countryside.

Raynet operators were located at numerous locations including the start / finish line, checkpoints and marshal points. Control for the event was from the emergency planning room at County Hall Chelmsford using 144.650MHz.

At the time of writing, the final sum raised is not known, however, at the 'Walk for Life' in May earlier this year, in excess of £160,000 was raised. A worthwhile charity helped by volunteer radio amateurs.

For information on Essex Raynet please visit www.essexraynet.co.uk.

More Exam Success



PHOTO BY G4LUG

Following hot on the tail of their July Advanced Exam passes, Pontefract and District Amateur Radio Society saw its three Foundation candidates pass on Saturday, 13 September. This was their first four-session Foundation course (they've previously worked towards the exam on the sixth session) and, although there were several no-shows when the course started, the small group enjoyed themselves. Most important of all, all three passed!

The photo shows (left to right) David Johnston of Hemsworth, now M6DWJ; Caroline Davies of Castleford (white stick operator) and Liam Simmons of Ferrybridge, now M6IAM.

David has been an active SWL for many years and recently decided it is time to get on the air. He's keen to progress and begins an Intermediate course in the next few weeks. David is also a keen antenna experimenter and, at last count, was on his third HF aerial since bagging M6DWJ.

The club would like to thank John James at RSGB HQ for the help and assistance that's always courteous and efficient, Reg, G4KMW the exam secretary and lead invigilator and all the other members of the club who make the courses possible. There should be a special mention for John, G4PIR who read for Caroline in the exam and wrote out her Morse.

CHOTA



On 13 September, Tamworth Amateur Radio Society took part in Churches and Chapels on the air. The station, callsign GB0HPT (Historic Parish of Tamworth), was situated in St. Francis' Church Tamworth, which is the club's HQ. It is the intention over the coming years to activate every church in the parish, hence the generic callsign.

Sea Shanty



On 6 and 7 September, Hull & District Amateur Radio Society was active at the Hull Sea Shanty on all bands from 80m to 70cm using the callsigns GX3AMW and GX8GBY. Ray, 2EORWP, Keith, M3SHW, Alex, M300Q, Bob, G0WVP and Marie, M3RIE set up the station. They used a G5RV for the HF side and a Watson 2000 on a 20ft mast for the VHF/UHF set. On HF, the stations worked were mainly in Europe as well as plenty of G stations bands, thanks to the efforts of Marie, Julian, M6JMR and Ray. On VHF/UHF, some stations were even worked on the local repeaters as well as direct with Keith, Alex and John behind the mic. David, M0DDJ spent his time showing parents and children how to do Morse. The children did very well at learning to send their own names.

GB617SQN



There will be a special event station to commemorate the sinking of the German Battleship the Turpiz on the air throughout the month of November. It is being run by The Thorpe Camp Museum Amateur Radio Group.

The raid that sunk the Turpiz was conducted by planes from 617 (Dambuster) Squadron and 9 Squadron using Tallboy bombs from a height of 12,000 feet.

There is to be a limited edition QSL card with a run of 2000 for the first 2000 contacts. These have been sponsored by LAM Communications in Barnsley. The station will be on 20 metres on phone and there will be CW contacts on other bands. The special event station will be held in the accommodation block for the 617 Dambusters squadron, which is part of the old RAF Woodhall Spa. When the station is on the air they will welcome visitors.

SSB Field Day



Members of the South Cheshire Amateur Radio Society took part in the RSGB SSB Field Day 2008. They operated from a caravan at High Farm near Crewe. During the course of the weekend, four RSGB officials visited the club contest site: Dave Wilson, M00BW (Board Member), Kath Wilson, M1CNY (Region 3 Rep), Jim Stevenson, G0EJQ (Region 13 Rep) and (not shown in the photograph) Peter Lowrie, M15JYK (Region 8 Rep).

News in Brief

- Southgate Amateur Radio Club has a new venue at the Hazelwood Lawn Tennis and Squash Club, Ridge Avenue, Winchmore Hill, London N21. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month starting at 7:30pm for 8:00pm. The club is open to both young and old for anyone with an interest in radio or electronics and who would wish to become a licensed radio amateur at Foundation, Intermediate or Advanced level. Visitors are always welcome. www.southgatearc.org.

- Tamworth Amateur Radio Society is starting a Foundation Course. Enrolment is on 30 October and the course takes place on 8 and 15 November from 9am to 4pm. The exam is on 22 November also between 9am and 4pm.

Further details from Colin. G4ZPJ on 01827 700893 or e-mail colin.marks2@ntlworld.com.

- Bangor and District ARS is holding their next Foundation licence course on 29 and 30 November. Full details are on their website www.bdars.com or from Mike, G14XSF on 028 4277 2383.

- The annual test of the flood warning sirens in Essex was carried out on 6 September by the County Council ably assisted by Essex Raynet. In a time when other councils are rejecting the sirens in preference of using SMS alerts from the Environment Agency, Essex continues to maintain the former air raid sirens in operational order.

Two VHF simplex nets were utilised to communicate from County Hall in Chelmsford with the outlying stations. In all, 25 of the coastal locations from Harwich in the north to Canvey Island in the south were manned by members of Essex Raynet. Within 5 minutes of the test completing all stations had reported back their operability, with only one siren failure.

For information regarding Essex Raynet visit www.essexraynet.co.uk.

1 Scotland South & Western Isles

Regional Rep: Gordon Hunter,
GM3ULP, gm3ulp@rsgb.org.uk

COCKENZIE & PORT SETON ARC
Bob, GM4UYZ, 01875 811 723

- 7 Normal Club Night
- 14 Routers in a network by Bob GM4UYZ

FALKIRK & DARS
David, MMORAM,
FDARS@blueyonder.co.uk

Junk and surplus equipment sale,
Lodge Zetland Masonic Hall, Grangemouth

PAISLEY (YMCA) ARC
Bill Anderson, 2M0BZZ, 01505 613633,
bill@3bis.co.uk

- 12 Practical Morse GMOPYM
- 26 VHF Aerial Construction GM3UWX

WEST OF SCOTLAND ARS
Fred Coombes, 2m0bin, 01415715512,
fred.coombes1@ntlworld.com
www.wosars.org

- 7 Equipment/Operation Tech. discussions
- 14 Digital TV Switchover
- 21 Club night/Tech. forum
- 28 IRLP (Developments in Repeater linking)

2 Scotland North & Northern Isles

Regional Rep: Denny Morrison,
GM1BAN, gm1ban@rsgb.org.uk

ABERDEEN ARS
Lewis, GM4AJR, 01224 575 663,
www.aars.freereserve.co.uk

- 6 Junk Sale
- 13 Construction Night
- 20 AGM
- 27 On the Air

MORAY FIRTH ARS
Jim, MMOSMD, 01340 820 134

- 6 Construction Evening

3 North West

Regional Rep: Kath Wilson,
M1CNY, m1cny@rsgb.org.uk

BOLTON WIRELESS CLUB
info@boltonwireless.org.uk

- 10 A Question Time discussion evening
- 24 Talk on transverters, PMR conversions and homebrew radios

MACCLESFIELD & DRS
Tom, M1EYP, 01625 612 916

- 3 Social Evening
- 10 4m on air Experimentation Evening
- 17 IRLP Primer and Demonstration
- 24 Club Night

SOUTH MANCHESTER R & CC
Ron, G3SFW, 0161 969 3999

- 7 Middle East Travels by Peter G0BHP
- 14 Transistor Testing by Ged G8RSI
- 21 AMSAT by Peter G0BHP
- 24 Monthly Technical Forum
- 28 Precision Audio Oscillators by Ged, G8RSI

THORNTON CLEVELEYS ARS
John Webb, G8RDP/M3RAE, 01253
876313, e-mail mail@tcars.org.uk

- 3 Natter Night
- 10 My time on computers by Ted G3WBB
- 17 SOTA by Brian Nuttall
- 24 Flight Testing & Telemetry by Dennis Morley from BAE

WARRINGTON ARC
Roger, MODWQ 07868 000 705,
modwq@warc.org.uk

- 4 Testing an Icom 7700 Rig by George G3OGQ
- 11 Demonstration and Talk on a Homebrew Paraset by Paul, 2E0DRD

4 North East

Regional Rep: Harold Scrivens,
G0UGE, g0uge@rsgb.org.uk

NORTH WAKEFIELD RC
Richard, MORBG, 07976 220 126,
m0rbg@talktalk.net

- 6 Flamborough Lighthouse 'The Movie' - the story of GB2FL/GB2FCL by Richard, MORBG
- 13 Introduction to CW for beginners
- 20 Club Night/pie and pea supper
- 27 HADRC DxXpedition by Geoff Spurr, G0PFH

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

- 1 Intermediate Course 6 of 6 12h00 until 15h00
- 4, 11 Chinese Whispers
- 18 Chinese Whispers Grand Final

SHEFFIELD ARC
www.sheffieldarc.org.uk

- 3 Fireworks and BBQ confirmed by SYPTE
- 10 Video evening
- 17 Open day for Scouts
- 24 Discussion on SARC 2009 programme

TYNEMOUTH RADIO CLUB
Tony, G8YFA, mail@g0nwm.com,
www.g0nwm.com

- 7, 21 Operating Night and Morse Classes
- 14 Pie & Peas (MOGAE)
- 28 PSK Workshop (G0SBN)

5 West Midlands

Regional Rep:
Trevor Bailey, M0KMB,
m0kmb@trevorbailey.plus.com

COVENTRY ARS
John, G8SEQ, 02476 273 190

- 7 Bangers & Mash Night
- 14 Great Egg Race
- 21 Skittles Night
- 28 Committee Forum

GLOUCESTER AR & ES
Anne, 2E1GKY, 01452 548478, daytime,
www.g4aym.org.uk

- 3 A Street Car named Desire (Trams) by Malcolm G6UGW
- 10, 24 Informal Evening
- 17 Operating Club Equipment

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, 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 November issue it was 1 October), while for GB2RS it's 10am on the Tuesday for the week of broadcast.

MID-WARWICKSHIRE ARS
Bernard, M1AUK, 01926 420 913

- 11 Video Evening
- 25 Meeting-on-the-air 2m FM at 2000 local time

SANDWELL ARC
Dave, G4JSR, 0121 552 1820,
david.stocker@tesco.net

- 3 A demonstration of Amateur TV by Dave G4JSR
- 10, 24 Natter Night
- 17 Visit by RSGB Representative

TAMWORTH ARS
Colin Marks, G4ZPJ, 01827 700 893,
colin.marks2@ntlworld.com

- 6 Fault Finding
- 13 Shack Night
- 20 Talk
- 27 Tamworth Repeater Group AGM

TELFORD & DARS
Mike, G3JKX, 01952 299 677,
m1streetg3jkk@blueyonder.co.uk

- 5 Open House/On the air/Committee
- 12 New project launch
- 19 Surplus Sale.
- 26 Skills evening led by MOTAW

WYTHALL RC
Chris, G0EYO, 07710 412 819

- 4 D-Star repeaters by Ian G8PWE (provisional) & Club 2m Contest
- 7, 14 Intermediate Course
- 11 Committee Meeting
- 18 Intermediate exam
- 21 WRC Xmas Party, Britannia Room 7.30pm onwards

6 North Wales

Regional Rep:
Mark Harper, MW1MDH,
mw1mdh@rsgb.org.uk

CONWY VALLEY ARC
Wynne, GW6PMC, 01745 855 068

- 5 Manufacture of Explosive Propellant by Les Hayward MW0SEC

WREXHAM ARS
Glyn MW0BNB www.qsl.net/wars/

- 4 Junk Sale

7 South Wales

Regional Rep: Gareth Price,
GW3MPP, gw3mpp@rsgb.org.uk

CWMBRAN & DARS
www.mc0yad.co.uk

- 13 Talk by the local Raynet

8 Northern Ireland

Regional Rep: Peter Lowrie,
MI5JYK, mi5jyk@rsgb.org.uk

BANGOR & DARC
Mike, G14XS, 028 4277 2 383

- 6 Annual Surplus Sale

9 London and Thames Valley

Regional Rep: Alison Johnston,
G8ROG, g8rog@rsgb.org.uk

AYLESBURY VALE RS
Roger, G3MEH, 01442 826 651,
roger@g3meh.com

- 12 Quiz with Chesham club, competing for the G6NB trophy

BURNHAM BEECHES RC
Dave, G4XDU, 01628 625 720

- 3 Natter Night
- 20 LF 160m by John, G3PQA

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

- 5 General Meeting
- 12 Quiz Evening with members of Aylesbury Radio Club
- 19 Apple Mac for Beginners with Clive, M1EQO
- 26 Night on the Air

COULSDON ATS
Andy, G8JAC, g8jac@btinternet.com

- 10 CATS Quiz hosted by Frank G3ZMF
- 16 Coulsdon ATS Annual CATS Radio & Electronics Bazaar

HOME COUNTIES ATV CLUB
Dave, M0SAT, m0sat@gb3hv.com,
www.gb3hv.com

- 25 Repeater networking review & planning

NEWBURY & DARS
Richard, G3ZGC, 01635 46241,
richard.jolliffe@vodafone.com

- 26 Raynet with Dennis Pibworth, G4KWT

READING & DARC
Pete, G8FRC, 01189 695 697

- 13 Autumn Junk Sale
- 27 RAYNET by Cathy Clark, G1GQJ, Chairman of the Committee of Management.

SHEFFORD & DARS
David, G8UOD, 01234 742 757

- 6 Fibre Optics A talk by David, G8UOD
- 13 Quiz night
- 20 Waters & Stanton visit by Mark Francis
- 27 Test Gear For Amateurs

SOUTHGATE ARC

David Sharp MOXDS. E-mail david.sharp1@tesco.net.

12 D Star talk by Gavin Nesbitt
STEVENAGE & DARS
John McCutcheon, 01462 459254, www.sadars.org

4 VHF Operating - 144MHz
UK Activity Contest.
11 Talk
18 HF Operating.
25 VHF Operating - 50MHz
UK Activity Contest.
29 CQWW CW HF Contest Weekend

SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

Ray, G4FFY, 020 8644 7589

3 Remote Rig Control by Martin, G4FKK

SUTTON & CHEAM RS

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

20 Series of Mini-Talks by Bob Burns, G300U

VERULAM RC

Ralph, G1BSZ, 01923 265572, g1bsz@aol.com

8 Club calls Contest 160m
18 Lecture on Moon Bounce and Meteor Trails (tbc)

WEY VALLEY ARG

www.weyvalleyarg.org.uk

7 Radio Photo Quiz by Adrian Boyd, G4LRP
21 Construction Evening

WIMBLEDON & DARS

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

14 On Air and Construction
28 Surplus Equipment Sale

10 South & South East

Regional Rep: Gavin Keegan, G6DGK, g6dgk@rsgb.org.uk

BISHOP AUCKLAND RAC

Mark, G0GFG, 01388 745353, www.barac.m0php.net/

4 Raynet at Bishop Auckland Bonfire
30 Radio Rally, Spennymoor

BREDE STEAM ARS

Steve, 0142 720815, m0nuc@aol.com

1 Operating from the bunker

HORNDEAN & DARC

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

4 Natter Night/social evening
25 Talk by local historian, Madeleine Selby, on The historic village of Southwick

HORSHAM ARC

www.harc.org.uk

6 Software Defined Radio by Olof Lundberg, G0CKV
16 Sunday Morning 2m Fox Hunt
20 Social - The Greets Inn, Warnham

ITCHEN VALLEY ARC

Quintin, M1ENU 023 8078799, qq2@soton.ac.uk

14 Wireless Multimedia Communications - Prof Lajos Hanzo, University of Southampton

28 Antennas YOU can build by Brian, GOUKB

MID-SUSSEX ARS

Sue, G6YPY, 01273 845 103, sue@figgerit.co.uk

7 TBA
14 Radio Night
21 Radio Night and Table Top Sale
28 TBA

SWINDON & DARC

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

6 ZL Bits by Tony, G4LDL
13, 27 Natter Night
20 Talk

TROWBRIDGE & DARC

Ian, G0GRI, 01225 864 698, E/W

5 25th Anniversary Dinner
19 Natter Night

WORTHING & DARC

Roy, G4GPX, 01903 753 893

12 Talk by Jon Weller giving a brief history of recorded sound
19 DVD evening
26 GX3WOR on the air evening

11 South West & Channel Islands

Regional Rep: Pam Helliwell, G7SME, g7sme@rsgb.org.uk

APPLEDORE & DARC

Brian Jewell, MOBRB, 01237 473251, brian.jewell@ic24.net

17 Bring and Buy Auction

CORNISH RADIO AMATEUR CLUB

Ian, 01872 561 058

3 Committee meeting
5 Main Meeting and Surplus Sale
10 Talk by Alex G4DEO on Making Greetings Cards using Photoshop.

EXETER ARS

Paul, 2EOEXR, pchesh-29@hotmail.co.uk

4 On The Air Night
10 Linear Amplifiers by Alan, G4TKV
24 On the Air Night

EXMOUTH ARC

Mike, G1GZG, 01395 274172

5 Barbecue And Fireworks
19 Operating And Natter Night

GUERNSEY ARS

Phil, GUOSUP

7 AGM

SOUTH BRISTOL ARC

Len, G4RZY, 01275 834 282

5 Club Evening DX Challenge
12 Start of Christmas raffle
19 AGM
26 OTA

TAUNTON & DARC

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

5 RSGB HFC review by Peter Robinson, G0EYR
12 Operating Club Station & Morse class
19 TBA
26 Operating Club Station & Morse class

THORNBURY & SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARC

Tony, GOWMB, tonytsgarc@sky.com

5 On the Air Night
12 Computer Workshop with Garry, G7NVZ
19 Video Night
26 On the Air Night

TORBAY ARS

Dave, G6FSP, g6fsp@tars.org.uk

7, 21 Operating Night
14 Natter Night
28 Data Comms by Derrick, G3LHJ

YEovil ARC

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

6 Preparation for VP8 Dxpediton M5YLO
13 Software Defined Radio G0BBL
20 Journey to Antarctica GORVM
27 Committee meeting & station on the air

12 East and East Anglia

Regional Rep: Phillip Brooks, G4NZQ, g4nzq@rsgb.org.uk

BITTERN DX GROUP

Keith, G0GFK, 01263 588 506, info@bittern-dxers.org.uk, www.bittern-dxers.org.uk

27 Bittern DX Chaser Cup selection

BRAINTREE & DARS

John, M5AJB, 01787 460 947

3 Junk Sale
17 Possible talk by Mr & Mrs Jiggins or Aerial matching by G3PEN

CAMBRIDGE & DARC

David Leary, G8JKV on 01223 355254

7 Informal Evening
14 Cambridge Repeater Group AGM
21 Informal Evening
28 TBA

CHELMSFORD ARS

Marty, G1EFL, 01245 469 008

4 Titanic Talk by Terry White

DOVER RC

Brian, G4SAU, g4sau@darco.org.uk

5 TBA
12 Operating & Natter Night
19 Presentation on APRS / UIVIEW by Matt, M1CMN
26 Operating & Natter Night

FELIXSTOWE & DARS

Paul, G4YQC, paul.whiting@bt.com

10 Talk by Microwave Round Table speaker
24 Junk Sale

GORLESTON ARS

David, G3OEP, QTHR, 01493 662 323

29 Lunch time meeting at the Short Blue Public House

NORFOLK ARC

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

5 My Other Hobby is Group involvement
12 Micro-DXpeditioning Roger, G3SXW
19 Q&A ask the panel, your questions answered
26 Bright Sparks / Informal



SOUTH ESSEX ARS
southessex.ars@btinternet.com, www.southessex.ars.btinternet.co.uk

12 AGM

13 East Midlands

Regional Rep: Jim Stevenson, G0EIQ, g0ejq@rsgb.org.uk

DERBY & DARS

Martin, G3SZJ, 01332 556 875

4 Junk Sale
11 Committee Meeting

EAGLE RG

Terry, G0SWS, 01507 478590

11 Quiz session by Nevil G3VDV

LOUGHBOROUGH & DARC

Chris, G1ETZ, 01509 504 319

4 Analogue versus Digital SSTV demonstration
11 Visit: Carillon Hospital Radio, Loughborough Hospital, 7.30pm prompt
18 Computer help night
25 Practical Evening

SOUTH NORMANTON ALFRETON & DARC

A J Highton, 2E1GWO, 01773 783658

3 Island On The Air - DXpedition to Labrador by Ken Frankcom, G3OCA
10 Winter Construction Project - Mike Jeffs, MORMJ
17 Junk Sale
24 Data Modes Night on The Air

WELLAND VALLEY MATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

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

17 Talk by Max Corney (TBC)

