Wythall Radio Club Newsletter Winter 2002

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Wythall Radio Club meets from 8pm every Tuesday evening at Wythall House, Wythall Park, Silver Street, Wythall near Birmingham. Visitors are very welcome.
Club callsigns: G1WAC, G4WAC, G7WAC, G0WRC and M5W
Wythall Radio Club is affiliated to the Radio Society of Great Britain

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Editorial

Thanks to the Wythall Radio Club AGM (details later in this issue), I am now in my second year as Newsletter Editor.

I must thank everyone who has contributed to the newsletter. Without you I would have to write all the articles myself. But it does seem to be mainly the same ones. So get your pens out and scribble something.

As always photos of things you or the club has been up to are always welcome. Any budding cartoonists hiding in our ranks could do a few humourous space fillers.

I look forward to working some of you on the Christmas contest.

Merry Christmas.

Alban M5UGC

Newsletter Editor: Alban Fellows M5UGC.

Contest News

The number of members entering contests is still low but perhaps the colder weather will persuade more people to stay in and switch on their rigs for the contests this winter. If you are new to contesting and don't know where to start, ask any of the regular contesters for advice.

Again, Lee, G0MTN, was the keenest contester and was rewarded with some excellent results.

The most popular contest recently was the CQWW DX SSB with seven members entering, including Vaughan, M3ANB, who is the first club M3 to enter a contest with his own call.

The contest didn't go too smoothly for some though; Darren, MW5HOC, lost his antenna in the gales; Lee wasn't feeling too well; Les, M0COK, had RFI problems; and Chris, G0EYO, gave up on his mini-beam and went back to his vertical; but some reasonable scores were recorded. We'll have to wait and see if Darren has beaten his previous Welsh record.

The RTTY and PSK31 contests seem to be growing in popularity and now that the digital mode programs have been installed on the club computers, it's a good time to learn all about them.

There are a few RSGB AFS and Club Call contests coming up in the next couple of months and it would be great if the club could put in a good team effort for them. The dates are given below, please make a note of them in your diary. Of course, the event that involves the most club members is the Wythall Radio Club Christmas Contest. 17 members took part last year with Colin, G6ZDQ, winning in a close finish. If more members entered it would liven up the daily nets and possibly give the odd rare "DX", so listen out over Christmas and give us a call.

The Christmas Foxhunt is scheduled for Friday the 27th of December at 10am. It makes a nice break in the fresh air after the Christmas excesses, and it would be great to see more than the 5 teams that competed last year.

The rules for the Christmas contest and the Foxhunt are printed elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Pete M0COP

Contest Diary

VHF Activity Nights

Every 1st Tuesday	2000-2230 LOCAL	144 MHz
Every 2nd Tuesday	2000-2230 LOCAL	432 MHz
Every 3rd Tuesday	2000-2230 LOCAL	1.3 GHz / 2.3 GHz
Every 4th Tuesday	2000-2230 LOCAL	50 MHz

24th Dec 20:00 – 1st Jan 20:00 Wythall Christmas Contest (mostly 145.225)
27th Dec 10:00 Wythall Radio Club Foxhunt

December

HF

6-8 Fri 2200 - Sun 1600	ARRL 160 Meter Contest — CW
7-8 Sat 1800 - Sun 0200	10th Annual TARA RTTY Sprint — RTTY
14-15 Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	ARRL 10 meter Contest — CW/SSB
21 Sat 0000 - 2400	OK DX RTTY Contest — RTTY
21-22 Sat 1400 - Sun 1400	Croatian CW Contest — CW
21-22 Sat 1600 - Sun 1600	International Naval Activity — CW/SSB
26 Thu 0830 - 1059	DARC XMAS-Contest — CW/SSB
28 Sat 0000 - 2359	RAC Canada Winter Contest — CW/SSB
28-29 Sat 1500 - Sun 1500	Stew Perry Topband Distance Challenge — CW

VHF

★ ★ ★ **1st Dec 0900-1700 144 MHz AFS** ★ ★ ★

26th/27th/28th/29th Dec 1400-1600 50/70/144/432 MHz Christmas Cumulatives.

January

HF

1 Wed 0800 - 1100	SARTG New Year Contest — RTTY
1-2 Wed 1200 - Thu 1200	CCCC Millennium Contest — Digital
4-5 Sat 1800 - Sun 2400	ARRL RTTY Roundup — Digital
12 Sun 0530 - 0730	NRAU-Baltic Contest — CW
12 Sun 0800 - 1000	NRAU-Baltic Contest — SSB
12 Sun 0900 - 1059	DARC 10m Contest — CW/SSB
12 Sun	RSGB Affiliated Societies — CW
18 Sat	RSGB Affiliated Societies — SSB
18 Sat 1200 - 2000	LZ Open Contest — CW
19 Sun 0000 - 2400	HA DX Contest — CW
25-26 Sat 0600 - Sun 1800	REF Contest — CW
25-26 Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	BARTG RTTY Sprint Contest — RTTY
25-26 Sat 1300 - Sun 1300	UBA DX Contest — SSB

VHF

13th/27th Jan 10th 1000-1200	70 MHz Cumulatives

February

HF

1-2 Sat 1800 - Sun 2400	Mexico International RTTY Contest — RTTY
8-9 Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	CQ World-Wide RTTY WPX Contest — RTTY
8-9 Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	PACC Contest — CW/SSB
8 Sat 1700 - 2100	FISTS Winter Sprint — CW
8-9 Sat 2100 - Sun 0100	RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest — CW
15-16 Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	ARRL International DX Contest — CW
21-23 Fri 2200 - Sun 1600	CQ WW 160-Meter Contest — SSB
22-23 Sat 0600 - Sun 1800	REF Contest — SSB
22-23 Sat 1300 - Sun 1300	UBA DX Contest — CW

VHF

3rd Feb 0900 - 1500	432 MHz AFS
24th Feb 17th Mar 1000-1200	70 MHz Cumulatives

Contest Results

CQWW SSB	G0MTN 2nd G Low Power
	MW5HOC 1st GW 40m LP (Welsh Record)
CQWW CW	G0MTN 2nd G Low Power
Dutch PACC	G0MTN 1st G Single Op
	M0COP 5th G Single Op
RSGB 144MHz Backpackers #2	M0COP 15/15
RSGB 50MHz Trophy	M0COP 5/8 SO Fixed 24hr
SAC SSB	G0MTN 14/174 in Europe, 1st G, SOLP
SAC CW	G0MTN 8/130 in Europe, 1st G, SOLP
ARRL DX CW 2002	G0MTN: 1st of 11 Gs (SOAB Low Power)
Wythall Radio Club Foxhunt	2 teams, 3 foxes, good lunch.
Stew Perry Top Distance Challenge 2001	G0MTN 114/125 LP
ARRL Rtty Roundup	G0MTN 4/8 LP, M0COP 7/8 LP
	M0AEJ 8/8 LP
ARRL 10m 2001	G0MTN 2/4 Mixed, LP
	M5W 1/1 Multi op, LP (G0EYO,G0MTN,M0COP)

Contests Entered

August:

RoPoCo	G0MTN 58 qsos
EU HF Champs.	G0MTN 648 qsos, M0COP 133 qsos
RSGB 50MHz Activity	M0COP/P 10 qsos (from IO70PP)
SARTG Rtty	G0MTN 101 qsos
SCC Rtty	G0MTN 580 qsos

September:

Scandinavian Activity Contest – CW	G0MTN: 412 qsos
Scandinavian Activity Contest – SSB	G0MTN: 293 qsos
CQ/RJ WW RTTY DX Contest	M0COP: 453 qsos, G0MTN: 502 qsos
SSB Field Day (Lichfield)	G0MTN: Lots of qsos

October:

TARA Rumble, PSK	M0COP 73 qsos
EU Autumn Sprint SSB	G0MTN
EU Autumn Sprint CW	G0MTN
RSGB 21/28	G0MTN, M5UGC
RSGB 50MHz	G0EYO 26 qsos, M0COP 36 qsos
CQ WW DX	G0MTN 1150 qsos
(Entries in by 1/12/02)	M5UGC 370 qsos, M0COK 101 qsos,
	MW5HOC 40m, G0EYO 301 qsos 15m
	G0ICJ 89 qsos, M3ANB 10 qsos

Contest calendars and rules:

HF: www.g4tsh.demon.co.uk/HFCC/index.htm
www.sk3bg.se/contest/c2002apr.htm
www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html

VHF: www.vhfcc.freeserve.co.uk
www.users.zetnet.co.uk/g1ntw/wab-cont.htm

CQ Worldwide Blues

Woke up this morning
My antenna had gone
Where there was wire
Now there is none
So the contest is over
16 hours too soon
So I am sat here lonely
In my quiet radio room

Because it's windy
W.I.N.D.Y.
And if this wind stops
To rebuild the antenna I'll try.

But the contest was lousy
The band so full of noise
I was getting splatter
From the Local big boys
So I turned up the mic
And I started to shout
But my signals got nowhere
They just couldn't get out.

And it's still windy
W.I.N.D.Y.
And if this wind stops
To rebuild the antenna I'll try.

But will I beat my record
Of the best score in Wales?
I think It's in doubt now
because of these gales.
I've put in a good effort
And I've given my best
But because of the weather
There's no more "CQ Contest"

Because it's windy
W.I.N.D.Y.
And if this wind stops
To rebuild the antenna I'll try.

Darren MW5HOC

Club Diary

December 27th 2002	10am	Wythall Radio Club Foxhunt
		Meet in the Henley Golf and Country Club entrance.
March 9th 2003		Wythall Radio Club Rally

Visit by Rob Mannion, Editor of Practical Wireless September 19th



About a year ago the club invited Rob Mannion, Editor of Practical Wireless, to come and give us a talk on PW: Past, Present and Future. Rob readily agreed and we arranged the talk for when he was to be in the Midlands at the Leicester Show. Rob is a larger than life character and has a reputation for entertaining his listeners. We were not to be disappointed. Rob arrived with Tex G1TEX, the Technical Projects Sub-Editor, PW Photographer and official minder. He started off by telling us something about his extra-ordinary life. A life which encompassed working on the railways, the Royal Navy, an accident in the Royal Fleet Air arm where he indeed lost part of his arm! Training as a doctor, medical journalism and eventually editor of Practical Wireless. He seemed to have crammed more than one lifetime into his past history.

Rob talked about the origins of PW under the editorship of the famous F.J. Camm when it was known as “Camms Comics” because of the many “how to” illustrations that his publications contained. Starting rather late in 1932, PW was published by George Newnes who had many advantages over its rivals. It had an enormous amount of relevant experience and had the skilled staff including F.J. Camm of course and when added to its secret ingredient it had an instant success waiting for it. The secret ingredient that PW had was the “tried and tested” core of projects and ideas wrapped around as much editorial content that could be obtained, from any source!

The tried and tested projects and kits were backed by famous names such as John Scott-Taggart, the almost god like designer who had many books published in the 1920’s and 30’s. Rob stated that radio in that period was like computers



are today. Everyone and every thing seemed affected and influenced by the new medium. At its height in 1940 PW was publishing 250,000 copies per week with a staff of hundreds. Now it publishes some 20,000 with a staff of seven.

Rob brought many examples of early issues and books written about the magazine and its contributors. He also showed us a tool kit that was a free gift presented to readers on the magazine's first birthday in 1933. The tool kit was complete and had been donated by a kind reader some years ago. Apparently they still come up at auctions and the last one sold for £50!



Rob entertained us till quite late then went off with Tex for a fish and chip supper before getting back to his digs for the Leicester show at around 2am. We had a raffle draw for his favourite charity, the Radio Amateur Invalid and Blind Club, and raised some £52 which we sent off on his behalf.

We look forward to inviting Rob back for more reminisces.

Chris G0EYO



Wythall Radio Club Xmas Social
Friday 6th Dec 8pm

IT'S RACE NIGHT AT THE BRITANNIA HALL

COME AND JOIN IN THE FUN, HAVE A FLUTTER AND SEE IF YOU CAN WIN A FEW BOB

£1 ENTRY PROGRAMME

WHICH INCLUDES TICKET TO RAFFLE
OUR CHANCE TO BE A WINNING OWNER
OR JOCKEY OR JUST A LUCKY PUNTER

FISH AND CHIP SUPPER
*
BAR TIL 11PM
*
RAFFLE

Why not bring your friends and family for a great WRC Xmas Social
*
ALL RACES SHOWN ON TV

FIRST RACE 8.15pm
*
Bring plenty of money and HAVE A GREAT TIME!!

Wythall Radio Club AGM 2002

A miserable wet night in October resulted in only 20 members of the radio club attending the AGM. This was down on previous years. In Vic's absence, Alan, G0HBC, offered to take the minutes. The following is a summary of the evening's discussions.

I got to read my report of the year's events and looking back over the past twelve months it is my opinion that the club has had a good year, although saddened by the death of two members, Charlie Hawkins in March and Ken Bassett in July. My objectives when taking on the rôle of Chairman was to get some commitment back into the club from the membership by doing more things. As a minimum I was committed to us solving the RFI problem, re-furbishing the shack, finding somewhere to store the contest equipment, running a successful rally and VHF NFD. Well we did not get as far on the shack as I would have hoped, although we have started, but by working together we have done a great deal more than I could have hoped for.

The club year got off to a good start with the RFI being solved enabling us to transmit once more from the shack. We had an excellent Xmas Social and the Xmas Club contest was as well supported and closely fought as ever. The Xmas fox hunt was great fun and we ended up in a pub for a meal afterwards. We ran the Bring and Buys at our own rally and those for MARS at Kings Heath and Drayton and Telford. The club got some banners to publicise itself at Bring and Buys and Special Event stations. Talking of which we did the Tolkien station, GB2ME, in May and the Jubilee one GQ4WAC in June. Martin did an excellent job organising the rally which was well-supported by the membership. We had a well supported skittles evening in June, and the Rob Mannion talk in September made for a fascinating evening. Unfortunately neither of those events were well supported by other clubs although South Birmingham did turn out for the Skittles, but that did not spoil the fun for those who did attend.

Again we supported the Association's carnival in August by looking after the car parking and this year we put on a demonstration station as well. We are still a bit short of volunteers for this annual event. The club replaced its hf and vhf/uhf rigs this year and these got good use at NFD where for the first time we went high power on 2m. We had a great time and got some good scores. I think it will be QRO on all bands next year. We got through some well needed maintenance on the main mast and the trailer and we have replaced two of the computers in the shack with faster machines. Lee gave a talk on his experiences as a referee at the World Radiosport Team Championship in Finland. Alban has been doing a fine job on producing the newsletter throughout the year and between them Darren and lately Vaughan have been keeping the club's name alive on the internet. The Wythall Contest committee has been regularly supporting the contest scene and wishes more members would have a go.

I think you will agree with me that the above list of activities is evidence of a good year. Ascribing duties to the posts of the committee has been helpful and I think we should continue the practise if others agree. As Chairman it is my duty

and pleasure to thank the officers for their support, David as Secretary and Tracey as Treasurer. The committee, which has supported all the club's activities, and particularly Peter and Anita who have been at the forefront of all of our activities, only missing one event and even scheduling their holiday to start after the Carnival. That is what I call commitment!

We have a new year to look forward to and I hope it will be no less busy than the current one. I wish to stand again as Chairman and play my part in pushing the club to even greater things.

David, G0ICJ, gave his Secretary's report and reminded us of the sad loss of Charles Hawkins, who was a founder member, and Ken Bassett who has been a member of this club for many years. Both were gentlemen and a credit to the club and will be sadly missed. David had organised the Rob Mannion evening, which was well attended by some 30 or so members and the raffle raised £53.00, which has been sent to RAIBC as a donation in recognition of the visit. David also reported on the issues with the shack fire exit and floor. Discussions with the house continue but at last week's General Committee meeting David raised the questions and was assured that the House & Park sub committee will be sorting out the fire exit shortly. Alan Griffin is obtaining advice and estimates to repair and re-surface the floor to prevent ingress of more water, which is the basic cause of the damage which has occurred so far. As soon as more is known David will report to the committee.

David indicated that he would be standing down from the position of Club Secretary with immediate effect, so please let's have lots of willing volunteers and some new blood.

I then read the Treasurer's report on behalf of Tracey who unfortunately could not attend and sent her apologies.

Tracey said that the club had had a spending type of year, therefore the bank balance decreased by approximately £2,500.00, but this had been spent wisely and had updated the equipment for the club.

Subscriptions

The club has had 2 new members, so at the end of the year there are 32 full paying members, 8 OAP members, 4 Honorary members, and 6 Overseas members. The subscriptions were increased last year to £9.00 and £4.50 respectively.

Rally

The overall net income of the rally went down this year, compared to last year, by a total of £440.39.

Bring and Buys

Telford Rally and Drayton Rally were up to the normal standard of fun, but unfortunately, as in the past couple of years, the trend seems to be a reduction in the amount of monies taken on each of the days.

Equipment

The club this year has had a bit of a spending spree with 2 new computers, 2 banners to promote the club, and 2 new rigs. In total the club spent £3490.28 on updating the existing and buying new equipment.

Rent & Insurance

The Insurance has remained at the same cost as last year. The Shack rent has increased by £6.00 and then there is the additional cost for the Store room, which costs £25.00.per annum.

NFD/BBQ
Unlike last year, this year's NFD was able to take place, and the money was well spent on feeding the hungry folks over the weekend.

Conclusion
Tracey reported that this year we have improved the quality of the equipment of the club by buying new equipment, and bought banners to promote the club at rallies, so this is money well spent. Now we need to increase membership with this new promotion and drive the club forward.

This year, without sounding tight, we must try to work out a budget of what we are going to spend for the forthcoming year. We need to clear approx £600, to cover rent, call signs, and everything that keeps Wythall Radio club on the air.

Finally, Tracey reminded us that this is the last year of the previous years' increases and the subscriptions would be due at the end of the night. For full paying members the fee will be £10.00 and for reduced rate members will be £5.00.

Officers and the committee
The following were voted in as officers and committee members of the club

Chairman	Chris G0EYO
Treasurer	David G0ICJ
Secretary (and Social Secretary)	Anita
Vice Chairman (and QSL Manager)	Peter M0COP
Rally Organiser	Martin G8VXX
Newsletter Editor	Alban M5UGC
Webmaster	Vaughan M1EOQ
Special Events	Lee G0MTN
Quartermaster	Chris M3KMQ
Antenna Maintenance	Peter M5DUO
Logistics	Colin G6ZDQ

Martin and Lee were again appointed as Auditors.

Peter gave a report on the activities of the Wythall Contest Group, which is included elsewhere in the Newsletter.

We then had a discussion on the future activities of the Radio Club and some of the ideas raised included: putting on a foundation course; more special event stations; a WRC dining club; spending money on refurbishing the caravan; articles on the club for local newspapers; and setting up Slow Scan TV. It was thought the proxy voting system which was used for the first time at this AGM had worked well and should be incorporated into the club's constitution. All of these topics will be raised at the forthcoming committee meetings.

There was a lively and good natured discussion on where to hold the Rally, with good arguments for both keeping it at Wythall Park and relocating it to Kings Heath School. In the event a free vote went significantly in favour of the Park but with the proviso that we need to make more money than last year and that if we can't then we will discuss it again at the next AGM.

Finally the evening rounded off with a discussion on the Christmas party which will be held in Britannia Hall on Friday December 6th. This may take the form of a horse racing event if we can organise it in time. See the newsletter for details.

The Christmas fox hunt was agreed to be on 27th December at 10am.

Chris G0EYO (Chairman)

Wythall Contest Group AGM — Chairman's Report

With the RFI problems resolved, contesting from the club resumed with two HF and four VHF multi-op contests being entered.

The club calls didn't get a great deal of airing this year, even in the Tuesday night RSGB Activity sessions, which don't seem to interest many members. Let's hope the new rigs and computers with logging software will generate a bit more interest. Perhaps a demonstration on the use of the equipment is needed, and maybe when the shack is a bit tidier more members may want to use the facilities.

The NFD results are not yet known but it was a very successful event from the club's point of view. A good team effort produced an enjoyable weekend, the high power 2m station being very popular. Thanks to everyone concerned.

What are we going to do next year? All high power has been suggested!

As well as NFD, mention must be made of the club efforts in multi-op entries for the following contests: ARRL 10m and ARRL International DX as M5W and the RSGB 432 AFS MHz as G1WAC; also Club entries in the RSGB 144MHz AFS with 7 members making up 2 teams which finished 6th & 19th out of 19; and in the RSGB 80m AFS SSB with 6 members, the 2 teams finishing 16th & 54th of 84.

The Christmas Contest was again well supported and closely fought with 19 members on air. Colin G6ZDQ being the worthy winner.

The Foxhunts were enjoyed by those who turned out, the Christmas one being more popular with 5 teams entering, and only 2 teams for the summer one.

The backpacker series was poorly supported this year with only 2 sessions entered, the usual stalwarts being otherwise occupied and no one else interested.

Individually, Lee, as always, was the most prolific contester with excellent results in the IOTA, CQWW contests and many others, his expertise earning him selection as a referee in the World Championships in Finland.

And of course I must mention Darren's CQWW 40m Welsh record in the CQWW contest.

Each month the same call signs appear in the "contests entered" list; we should encourage those members new to HF to take part.

And finally, a reminder that members can use the M5W call from home in some of the major contests. Just ask Lee or myself for info.

Here is a list of contests entered by club members during the last 12 months:

HF

CQWW SSB, RSGB 21/28 SSB,
RSGB 21/28 CW, CQWW CW,
RSGB Club Calls 160m, ARRL 10m,
RAC Winter Marconi Centenary,
Stew Perry,
RSGB Club Calls 1.8MHz SSB,
RSGB 2nd 1.8MHz CW,
ARRL Rtty Roundup,
RSGB 80m AFS CW,
RSGB 80m AFS SSB, CQ 160m CW,
BARTG Rtty, UBA CW, REF CW,
RSGB 1.8 MHz, CQ WPX Rtty,
PACC SSB, PACC CW, Mexico Rtty,

ARRL Int DX SSB, Russian DX CW,
CQ WPX, EA Rtty, SP DX Rtty,
TARA PSK, EU Sprint CW,
EU Sprint SSB,
ON Spring, Helvetia,
Yuri GagarinVolta Rtty, Baltic,
CQ WPX, Russian DX SSB, IOTA,
RoPoCo, EU HF Champs, SARTG Rtty,
SCC Rtty, SAC CW, SAC SSB,
CQ WW Rtty, TARA Rumble,
EU Autumn Sprint

VHF

RSGB 50MHz,144MHz Cums,
432MHz Cums, RSGB 144MHz AFS,
WRC Foxhunt, WRC Xmas Contest
RSGB 432 MHz AFS, RSGB 144/432
50 MHz Trophy,
RSGB 144 MHz Backpackers,
RSGB VHF Field Day,
RSGB Activity Contests

60 contests were entered including 7 from club, 3 as M5W, 3 as G1WAC and of course, VHF Field Day.

The following 21 club members were involved in the contests entered:

GOMTN, MW5HOC, G0EYO, M0AEJ, M5DUO, M0COP, G0ICJ, M0COK, M5UGC, G4VPD, G7OJO, G0HBC, G6KMQ, G6ZDQ, G8MYK, G3XBY, M1EOQ, G4TVR, G0NES, G1KEA and G3MZU.

My apologies for anyone I have left out, including those who may have helped to man the radios on Field Day.

Thanks.

Pete, M0COP



Talk about being over-protective — Pete's car sheltering during VHF NFD

The following joke was found in a cracker at the Wythall Helpers Party

What's green and goes "Da-Dit Dah-Dah Dah-Dit"? — A Morse Toad!

Mast Erection Party at Chris G0EYO's

One Sunday early in October, Colin, Peter, Lee and Lawson kindly came around to help me install the HF mini-beam, the 5 element 6m yagi and the 11 element 2m yagi on my mast which I had installed with Lee and Peter's help earlier in the year.

The antennas were soon on the mast, although we got the HF upside down and had to take it off and put it the right way up. We also connected up the feeders and rotator cable. We took the decision to colour code each of the feeder cables so that we could readily identify them back at the shack. The feeders were run



alongside the fence and tie-wrapped to it. Back at the radio end we connected up the feeders but performance was very poor. So we sent Lee and Colin off to Vaughans to pick up the Antenna Analyser.

A number of problems were identified. First of all in writing down the feeder colour codes two were transcribed so we had the wrong feeder to the wrong antenna socket. Also a faulty connection was identified at the antenna end of the HF beam. Once these problems were sorted we had reasonable VSWR's and suddenly the radio came to life.



Since the installation I have found it easy to pump up the mast when I want to use it. So far I have only taken it up to 30ft and it takes about 5 minutes. Lowering it is even easier and takes about 2 minutes. In the stowed position the 2m beam is at about 14ft height.

This project has been about 4 years in the making, starting with my application for planning permission in February 1999 and going through various re-jections, a successful appeal and the search for a 40ft heavy duty pump-up mast.

Thanks to everyone who helped. Getting support from the radio club only seems to cost a few bacon sandwiches!!

Chris G0EYO



Wythall Radio Club Christmas Foxhunt

The annual Christmas Radio Foxhunt takes place on Friday December 27th. Meet in the Henley Golf and Country Club entrance.

Rules

The objective of the game is to use amateur radio-direction finding to detect a hidden station (the fox), which is located somewhere inside the shaded boundaries of the supplied map.

Each fox must hide on publicly accessible land, and must be obviously visible from the roadside. The main purpose of the foxhunt is to use our direction finding skills to track our target over several miles — when the trackers are within 100 feet of the target the fox should be easily found!

Each fox must hide within the bound area of the map, and not move after the first transmission.

Each fox will transmit for 2 minutes every ten minutes e.g. 1000 to 1002, then 1010 to 1012 etc. using an omni-directional antenna and with the same power output.

During each hunt, as long as all stations agree, the fox may reduce power to help detection, choose to give cryptic clues of its whereabouts and if after 3 or 4 transmissions the fox has not been found, the fox may declare its position and a new hunt started.

The winner of each hunt is the first person / team to find the fox — that team should then become the fox for the next round.

The final fox should hide in the vicinity of a public house where the teams can then assemble for food and drinks.

The frequency used should be 145.225 provisionally.

Please drive sensibly and have fun!

Pete M0COP

Here are the pictures which should have been published last issue with the article on Alan, G0HBC's Bruton SRP Radio. Thanks to Reg M3/G7OJO for getting these to me.

Alban M5UGC, Editor





Wythall Christmas Contest 2002 Rules

1. Objective
The objective of the contest is to promote amateur radio activity amongst members of Wythall Radio Club, and to gain some 'on-air' publicity for the club. The contest is open to members of Wythall Radio Club.

It is a social affair — no need to take it too seriously! Most of the activity takes place on 2m FM — usually from a CQ Wythall Radio Club call on S20, and most contacts end up on 145.225 MHz.

2. Dates and times
Starts: 2000Z 24 December 2002 Ends: 2000Z 1 January 2003.

3. Bands
Any amateur band may be used. Cross mode and cross band contacts are allowed. Packet radio and repeater QSOs are allowed.

4. Exchange
Signal report + QSO number.

5. Scoring / multipliers
Contact other members of Wythall Radio Club as listed in the club members list at the end of this newsletter. You can use any mode and any band. There is 1 point per QSO for club members worked each day.

In previous years some entrants were disadvantaged by not being able to be on air for a few days due to family or work commitments. Then they just could not catch up with the leaders!

As last year, only the best 5 daily QSO totals will count for the final score.

Each Wythall Club Member worked over the contest counts as a multiplier.

The total score for the contest is the total of the best 5 days QSOs, multiplied by the number of different club members worked over the whole contest.

e.g. If Les M0COK works 35 stations in his best 5 days + 10 different club members, his score is 350.

If Alban M5UGC claims only 30 stations, but 15 different club members, his score is 450.

The multiplier total is the number of different club members worked over the entire contest — not just those worked in the best 5 days.

6. Logs
Logs in any format to Pete, M0COP, as soon as possible (31 Jan 2003 at latest). If you cannot calculate your score please send me your log and I will score for you.

7. Awards
The winner will receive the Wythall Radio Club Christmas Contest Cup (retained for one year).

The winner, and the second and third placed entrant will receive certificates of merit — thanks to Alban M5UGC for this.

The results will be published in the Wythall Radio Club Newsletter following adjudication.

Disputes will be settled by the contest committee, whose decision is final.

8. Portable Working (DXpeditions)
Portable working is welcomed for anybody brave enough to climb a mountain, but to keep things simple no additional points or multipliers will be awarded this year.

Any comments will be appreciated.

Pete M0COP
Contest Committee Chairman