Wythall Radio Club Newsletter Winter 2004

g1wac@wythallradioclub.co.uk
http://www.wythallradioclub.co.uk

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

Contents

Editorial	1	**Christmas Foxhunt Rules**	8
Contest News	2	**CQ World Wide — a view**	9
Contest Calendar	2	**Rudolf**	14
Contests Entered	5	**Rally Update**	15
Contest Results	5	**Radio Glossary**	16
Chairman's Report	6	**AGM Report**	18
Christmas Contest Rules	7	**Members List**	20

Editorial

OK so I survived another AGM and am still editor — never mind, better luck next year.

A number of club members had fun on the CQWW DX contest as Callum's mammoth article shows. I unfortunately didn't have my antennas ready in time.

The club as a whole is doing well with a Foundation Licence course and plenty of active members. With a new chairman, a number of other areas are being given a "spring clean". The web site is undergoing a slight redesign with the improvement of the live chat and forum areas. New email addresses for some of the committee posts have been added to make contacting the committee easier. These include

chairman@wythallradioclub.co.uk
contests@wythallradioclub.co.uk
newsletter@wythallradioclub.co.uk

A mechanism has also been added to distribute the newsletter electronically. If you would prefer to receive the newsletter this way, please drop me an email.

Alban G7UGC

Editor: Alban Fellows, G7UGC
'Richeldis', 343, Wake Green Road, Moseley, Birmingham, B13 0BH
Tel. 0121 7771120 Email: newsletter@wythallradioclub.co.uk
The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor or the committee.

Contest News

It's been a fairly quiet period for contesting for the club, except for Lee, G0MTN, who has been as busy as ever. The CQWWDX SSB contest was the most popular with 7 members taking part.

It's Wythall Radio Club Christmas Contest time again. With 28 members taking part last year it was quite lively, so let's hear you all on air again this year; the rules are printed in this Newsletter.

Another Christmas event is the Fox Hunt. Last year there were only 3 teams. It was fun, but it would have been better if more teams had entered. It's a good social event, usually ending up in a pub for a drink and a meal. Again, the rules are in this Newsletter.

The 80m Club Championship contests start again in January and continue until July. The Club finished an excellent 7th out of 62 last year and, if a few more members enter this year, we could do even better, so at least have a go at the SSB and Data sessions. We could do with more CW entries as well, so get practising.

With the Committee meetings moving to the second Tuesday in the month next year, there's a chance for those not at the club on the first Tuesday to enter the 144MHz Club Championship contest. The more entries there are, the better the Club will do.

There are plenty of interesting contests coming up in the next few months, covering all bands and modes, so make a New Year's resolution to dust off the rig, sort out the antennas and have a go at some of them. If you need any help or advice, please ask.

When the shack has been sorted out we can put in some multi-op entries in the bigger contests and also demonstrate operating and logging to those new to contesting.

The Contest Calendars for 2005 aren't completed yet, (November), so some of the dates below might be wrong. They will be updated in the monthly Contest Reports.

Good contesting,

Pete M0COP

Contest Calendar

Rules & Info

HF:	www.rsgbhfcc.org/
	www.sk3bg.se/contest/
VHF:	www.blacksheep.org/vhfcc/

Activity nights each month

First Tuesday:	144MHz
Second Tuesday:	432MHz
Third Tuesday:	UHF
Fourth Tuesday:	50MHz
Fifth Tuesday:	70MHz

Also, the 144MHz Club Championship contest takes place on the first Tuesday of every month.

[Ed. Note because of the above contests, committee meetings have been moved to the second Tuesday of each month from January.]

December

Wythall Christmas Contest: 24 Dec 20:00 — 1 Jan 20:00, all bands, all modes.

HF

4	Sat 0000-2400	TARA RTTY Mêlée — RTTY
11-12	Sat 0000-Sun 2400	ARRL 10 meter Contest — CW/SSB
17	Fri 2100-2300	Russian 160 Meter Contest — CW/SSB
18-19	Sat 0000-Sun 2400	MDXA PSK-31 DeathMatch — PSK-31
18	Sat 0000-2400	OK DX RTTY Contest — RTTY
18	Sat 0000-2359	RAC Canada Winter Contest — CW/SSB
18-19	Sat 1400-Sun 1400	Croatian CW Contest — CW
18-19	Sat 1500-Sun 1500	Stew Perry Topband Distance Challenge — CW
26	Sun 0830-1059	DARC Christmas Contest — CW/SSB

VHF

5	Sun 0900-1700	RSGB 144 MHz AFS
26-29	Sun 1400-Wed 1600	RSGB 50/70/144/432 MHz Christmas Cumulative.

January

HF

1	Sat 0800-1100	SARTG New Year RTTY Contest
1	Sat 0900-1200	AGCW Happy New Year Contest
1-2	Sat 1500-Sun 1500	Original QRP Contest
3	Mon 2000-2130	80m Club Championships CW
8-9	Sat 1800-Sun	ARRL RTTY Roundup
9	Sun 0900-1059	DARC 10-Meter Contest
9	Sun 1400-1800	Affiliated Societies Team Contest 3510-3590kHz, RST+ Serial CW
12	Wed 2000-2130	80m Club Championships SSB
15	Sat 1400-1800	Affiliated Societies Team Contest 3600-3750kHz, RS+ Serial. SSB
15	Sat 1200-2000	LZ Open Contest
15-16	Sat 1200-Sun 1200	Hungarian DX Contest
20	Thu 2000-2130	80m Club Championships Data
22-23	Sat 1200-Sun 1200	BARTG RTTY Sprint
29-30	Sat 0000-Sun 2359	CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW
29-30	Sat 0600-Sun 1800	REF Contest, CW
29-30	Sat 1200-Sun 1200	UK DX Contest, RTTY
29-30	Sat 1300-Sun 1300	UBA DX Contest, SSB

VHF

9	Sun 1000-1200	70 MHz Cumulative
23	Sun 1000-1200	70 MHz Cumulative

February

HF

5-6	Sat 1800-Sun 1759	Mexico RTTY International Contest
7	Mon 2000-2130	80m Club Championships SSB
12-13	Sat 2100-Sun 0100.	1st 1.8Mhz Contest, 1820-1870kHz, RST+ Serial + District.
12-13	Sat 0000-Sun 2359	CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest
12-13	Sat 1000- Sun 1000	SARL Field Day Contest
12-13	Sat 1200-Sun 1200	Dutch PACC Contest
12-13	Sat 2100-Sun 0100	RSGB 1st 1.8 MHz Contest, CW
16	Wed 2000-2130.	80m Club Championships Data
19-20	Sat 0000-Sun 2400	ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW
24	Thu 2000-2130	80m Club Championships CW
25-26	Fri 2100-Sat 2100	Russian PSK WW Contest
26-27	Sat 0000-Sun 2359	CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB
26-27	Sat 0600-Sun 1800	REF Contest, SSB
26-27	Sat 1300-Sun 1300	UBA DX Contest, CW

VHF

1	Sun 0900-1500	432 MHz AFS
3	Tue 2000-2230	144 MHz Club Championship
8	Sun 1000-1200	70 MHz Cumulative
22	Sun 1000-1200	70 MHz Cumulative

March

HF

7	Mon 2000-2130	80m Club Championships — DATA
5-6	Sat 0000-Sun 2400	ARRL International DX Contest — SSB
5-6	Sat 2200-Sun 0159	Open Ukraine RTTY Championship Low band
6	Sun 0800-Sun 1159	Open Ukraine RTTY Championship High band
6	Sun 1100-1700	DARC 10m Digital Contest "Corona" — DIGI
12-13	Sat 1000-Sun1000	Commonwealth Contest 3.5-28MHz, RST+ Serial.
12-13	Sat 1000-Sun 1000	RSGB Commonwealth Contest — CW
13	Sun 0700-1100 UBA	Spring Contest — CW
16	Wed 2000-2130 80m	Club Championships CW
19-20	Sat 0200-Mon 0200	BARTG HF RTTY Contest — RTTY
19-20	Sat 1200-Sun 1200	DARC SSTV Contest — SSTV
19-20	Sat 1200-Sun 1200	Russian DX Contest — CW/SSB
24	Thu 2000-2130 80m	Club Championships — SSB
26-27	Sat 0000-Sun 2359	CQ WW WPX Contest — SSB

VHF

5-6	Sat 1400-Sun 1400	144/432 MHz. 24hr or 6hr sections
13	Sun 1000-1200	70 MHz Cumulative

Contests Entered

September

CQ/RJ WW RTTY		M0COP	15m	123 Q	
		G0MTN		1099 Q	
SSB Field Day		G0MTN	(at G3WAS/P)		
Worked All Europe SSB		G0MTN		369 Q	
SAC CW		G0MTN		259 Q	

October

ON	SSB	G0MTN		15 Q	
	CW	G0MTN		23 Q	
RSGB 21/28	SSB	G0MTN		19 Q	
	CW	G0MTN		12 Q	
Worked All Germany		G0MTN		237 Q	
EU Sprint SSB		G0MTN		186 Q	
		M0COP		40 Q	
EU Sprint CW		G0MTN		196 Q	
CQWW DX SSB		G0MTN	SOABLP	1524 Q	1,208,070 pts
		M0COP	SOABLP	281 Q	116,200 pts
		G1VDP	SO28LP	178 Q	30,240 pts
		G0EYO	SO21LP	238 Q	34,775 pts
		MW5HOC	SO7LP	320 Q	25,389 pts
		M0MCX	SO7LP	386 Q	20,496 pts
		G6KMQ	SO?LP	25 Q	506 pts

Contest Results

RoPoCo2 2004		G0MTN	4/52
Russian PSK WW		M0COP	37/79
NFD Results Open Section:			
	Overall	Wythall CG	11/13
	50MHz	G0WRC/P	12/15
	70MHz	G4WAC/P	10/10
	144MHz	G1WAC/P	12/16
	432MHz	G7WAC/P	8/11
Stew Perry 2003		G0MTN	119/180
RSGB 144MHz May 2004		GB2ME	9/9 Section M
EU Sprint Spring 2004	SSB	G0MTN	19/101
	CW	G0MTN	17/112
EU Sprint Autumn 2004	SSB	G0MTN	14/102
		M0COP	81/102
2m Club Champs		Wythall ARC	5/11

Chairman's Report

As the new chairman of the club, I would like to start my first report by taking this opportunity of thanking the outgoing chairman for his sterling efforts with the club over the last few years. Chris Pettit and his committee team managed to build upon the club's reputation for friendliness to all visitors and new members alike. They collectively, along with members, have achieved a thriving radio and social portfolio, resulting in an ever-increasing club membership. I would very much like to carry on where Chris left off, by continuing to enhance the club's stature within the amateur radio community, along with providing even more for our members and families. An important mission I wish to undertake is to build upon our status within the Wythall Community association and the Wythall community as a whole.

Having been just a few weeks into the rôle as the chairman, a few issues do face the club for resolution. These include, but are not limited to, the ongoing problems with the shack flooring, overall refurbishment of the shack, some antenna construction and the organisation of our annual rally being held on 13th March 2005. Radio contesting has taken an upswing during October with many club members getting involved with CQWW. This proving that we have the members who wish to expand their radio operation. Once the refurbished shack is again available for use we can build on this, and introduce some of our newer members to the fun of club radio operation and encourage the ham radio spirit. We do have 3 students on the foundation course at the moment, and I would like us all to help and encourage them to feel welcome in the amateur radio community. Perhaps once they see how welcome they are they will join our fold once they pass the foundation exams.

Several social activities undertaken by club members over the last three months have included the shooting (only clay pigeons) won by Simon Bant for the prestigious Lord Pettit Shooting trophy, the night at Hall Green dog racing, where sadly the dogs seemed to win more than any of our members. Both of these events were extremely well supported by club members, proving that we can, as a club, be successful both in our radio operations and socially. The next big social gathering will be for the Christmas social on 3rd December, this being a skittles evening, broken with a fun quiz. I look forward to welcoming all of you to this fun evening where the raffle and the odd drink flows freely and the spirit of Christmas can shine through.

Finally, I would like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and fantastic New Year. Let us as a club make 2005 a year in which WARC can achieve new heights.

Chris Meadows
g6kmq@g6kmq.me.uk

Postage Stamps

If you have any old postage stamps, Reg G7OJO is collecting them for Guide Dogs for the Blind. The money raised is put towards the training needed for these working animals.



Wythall Radio Club Christmas Contest 2004 Rules

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.

Dates and times

Start: 2000Z 24th December 2004
End: 2000Z 1st January 2005

Bands

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

Exchange

Signal report + QSO number.

Scoring / multipliers

Contact other members of Wythall Radio Club as listed in the club members' list at the end of the newsletter. You can use any mode and any band. You score 1 point per QSO for each club member 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! So 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 day's QSOs, multiplied by the number of different club members worked over the whole contest. For example, if Les M0COK works 35 stations in his best 5 days + 10 different club members during the contest, his score is 350. If Alban G7UGC 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.

Logs

Logs in any format to me, Pete M0COP (e-mail to contest@wythallradioclub), as soon as possible (28 Jan 2005 at latest). If you cannot calculate your score please send me your log and I will score for you.

When submitting a log, it helps if it has contacts for all days rather than just the best 5 as the automatic log checker will determine which days have the most contacts. Also low scoring logs are still useful as checklogs.

Awards

The winner will receive the Wythall Radio Club Christmas Contest Cup (retained for one year). The winner, the second and third placed entrant will receive certificates of merit — thanks to Alban G7UGC 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.

Cheers, enjoy yourselves,

Pete, M0COP

Wythall Radio Club Christmas Foxhunt
Monday 27th December at 10 am

Meet in the Henley Golf and Country Club entrance (A3400 north of Henley).

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 to be used will be decided on the day.

Please drive sensibly and have fun!

The Multimap below shows the location of Henley Golf Club:

Pete, M0COP



CQ World Wide

A self-indulgent view from Callum, M0MCX

The last weekend of each October sports a famous radio contest, CQ World Wide, sponsored by a US magazine of the same name. Last year (2003) had me competing on the 40 meter band with the most pathetic antenna that could be used by a newbie competitor — a half-G5RV at about 12 feet in the air. But since nobody from England had ever been that stupid to do 48 hours as an "assisted" entry on low power on 40 meters — in the history of the contest, I might be guaranteed the "all time high" just by entering! Well, I did achieve an all time high but with a teeny-weeny score of just under 6,000 points!

If I was ever to do this again, I needed to have a reasonable QSO rate and some antennas that would actually work. So this year, my second CQWW and my second as an amateur, I started my preparations weeks before the contest, designing and testing wire antennas for my restricted QTH, finally settling for a horizontal delta loop for local stations and a vertical delta loop for DX. Like many plans, it all turned out differently.

With 10 days to go, I had built my computer sound-card interface to the FT1000MP, upgraded last years N1MM contest logging software and connected my new FT1000MP to the RS232 port. In tests, it worked very well. Time rushed by and with just 24 hours to go, I was recording my phrases for the voice-keyer. Making it sound "live" and enthusiastic was an impossibility! However I animatedly achieved some level of excitement and successfully recorded everything I needed including individual A to Z letters and 0 to 9 numbers to allow me to automate some of the more boring contest calls. Actually, doing this I also found both extremely funny and quite fascinating. And what happens if I ever completely lost my voice? Should I record everything now in case of such an event — and I could still contest? Interesting topic.

You would have thought the memories of last year would suffice but absolutely NOTHING prepares you for the utter claustrophobic crazy noise of 10 zillion mega watts on 50KHz of band. You have nowhere to hide, no quiet spot to run to. The whole band sits at an average of S9+10db and crazy as it sounds, there are stations every hertz, sometimes even tolerating being on top of each other, calmly ignoring the other station who is also calling CQ. Chances are that if you hear a station calling you back, it's for you anyway.

Darren and I worked through the night, slowly building the basis of a score. In the chatroom, Darren complains of the noise. He can't remember it being quite this mad. I agree with a smiley back, trying to keep my spirits up. I look through my log, only 11 QSOs for the first hour then KC1XX at exactly 61 minutes into the contest. At last, a bit of DX but my vertical loop is not working well. I work stations more easily on my standard horizontal loop at 16 feet above ground. Something is wrong.

Darren ducks out at 5:00am, "C U L8ter" I say and head back up the band. I generate only another heartbreaking 34 QSOs over the next 2 and a half hours and bail out at exactly 6:00am UTC after hitting UX210 who was loud all weekend.

Waking up at 10:30 on Saturday morning, I return to the chatroom. More people have joined. Chris, G0EYO, Lee, G0MTN, Chris, G1VDP, Pete, M0COP and later, Alban, G7UGC and Vaughan M0VRR drop by as does Chris, G6KMQ. I have missed the early start that day but all accounts are that

EYO on 15 meters and VDP on 10 meters are enjoying themselves.

Lee dials down through the 40meter band, our only club member doing a multi-band entry. He calls a station I have been calling for 2 minutes. Bang! First-call and he's "59 14 thank you" and off again. I dial down the band, keeping up with the stations he calls. Eventually I lose him as he probably dials down through 80, 160 and probably back up to 10 again.

I start a big day-time run of CQing on my NVIS loop with my automated voice keying. Great fun — and scoring hard with a QSO rate of around 40 QSOs per hour. This sounds bad, but for 40 meters this is building a decent low-power score. I multiple with most European countries and write 130 QSOs down in the log. The voice-keyer is wearing thin on my ears and I'm listening to my voice via the monitor button which finally sends me slightly crazy. The day starts to turn to evening and I bail out for dinner. Missing the wine on the table, I grab a 6-pack of Fanta Lemon and head back to the shack, ready for a long night and the opening of the extra 100Khz on the band. Darren, Lee and myself talk in the chatroom, deciding to stay up for the historic 100KHz opening at 1:00am local time.

From 9:00pm through to close at 2:00am, I run my best 40 meter DX ever, scoring with most of the Western Zones from Canada down through to the Caribbean, with my last logged call being to VP2E — a call-sign I wouldn't recognise had it not been for some fast-paced software! My score now sits at 6,000 points. I have beat last year with another 22 hours to go. My vertical delta loop is not working. Everything is worked on my 16 foot horizontal "Toblerone" (http://www.toblerone.com/). I fall asleep holding the main VFO. My head hits the desk mike and I wake to see Darrens chat, "Where are you Cal"? Last logged chat was 2.05am. The new 100KHz band is useless and full of broadcasters. I fall into bed.

I don't sleep well. "Whiskey Three, Lima Papa Lima" and "Radio Kilo Four, Florida Florida" ring in my ears. I wake up at 8:45 and hear loads of US stations on the new 100KHz part of the band. As the contest log starts to load, I call one, K8AZ. First call and I'm into Zone 4, a multiplier. I haven't even had a coffee yet, then five more into the East coast, one station says, "This is great working you guys, nice to have you on this part of the frequency". I hit all the US stations on the first call. "Great signal from the UK, Thanks M0MCX". Who are they kidding? I'm running the equivalent of a 6 inch nail and a 4 watt CB radio. I check the website of the station complimenting me. With red and white painted lattice towers to the ICAO aircraft specifications, his double stacked 4 element Yagis for 40 meters hangs like two giant spiders in an embrace just under the clouds. I could shout down a baked bean can and he'd hear me. Aren't they super operators though? Thanks fellas, you make us feel so special.

The US gradually fades out and I start the voice-keyer and get down to some serious European CQing, making sure I even use F5 to repeat each caller's callsign with the auto-key feature. I sit giggling as I repeat callsigns automatically like a repeater does on echolink. I send them a "59 14, OK?" (F2) report and "QSL Thank you!" (F3) — all automatically as I stuff myself with biscuits. "QRZ M0MCX" (F7), then I get bored and start hitting the "Again" key as well (F8) to callers and they repeat their callsigns on command. It leaves me time to review the webchat which is like living in a parallel universe.

The boys comparing sizes
08:49:10 [supertaff] 13,416 pts
08:50:20 [g0eyo] 16240 pts
08:50:53 [supertaff] that's good for 15M
08:51:24 [g0eyo] i am ahead of last year
08:51:48 [supertaff] I'm miles behind... Need more mults
08:52:40 [g0eyo] i only search and pounce so hard to find ones not already worked

Darren spots me
08:58:46 [supertaff] callum is on air
09:02:41 [m0mcx] Just woke up and worked all the US stations in the new band
09:05:08 [supertaff] heard u working Ei9E
09:09:06 [m0mcx] 10584, 261, 40, 9
09:10:45 [supertaff] 13,988 207Qs 43Cs 9z
09:12:16 [g0eyo] you guys are doing great I only like to work office hours on contests

It's like a coffee morning
09:20:18 g6kmq2 enters this room
09:20:30 [supertaff] morning Chris
09:20:31 [m0mcx] Morning Chris
09:20:50 [g6kmq2] Mornin Folks

I get no points for working an English station but Darren does
09:53:32 [m0mcx] Bloody Gs keep working me for a clogged up logbook...
09:53:52 [supertaff] I LOVE G's
09:54:09 [m0mcx] Next year, I'll go /p in Wales and kick your a55!
09:54:37 [supertaff] you'd better not!!!!!

Pirates
10:05:18 [Chrisg1vdp] 28260.... Russian pirates on FM!!!!!
10:06:21 [m0mcx] call "break"

Relief
10:14:48 [m0mcx] I have a pee bucket. I might as well not bother because if someone called when the voice keyer was going, I couldn't do anything!
10:25:20 [supertaff] There's a hole in my bucket.....
10:25:37 [g0mtn] i hope not
10:56:36 [Chrisg1vdp] Now the Italians have woken up and put on their wide amplifiers!!!!
10:57:00 [g0mtn] pizza ovens

Gaelic News
11:35:09 [supertaff] GB2RS in Gaelic i think 7.068
11:35:30 [m0mcx] gaelic? sick :)
11:36:48 [supertaff] he kicked me off the freq to read the news that about 3 people can listen to
11:37:46 [supertaff] when he's finished he's switching to Klingon

11:38:25 [m0mcx] I would have ignored him. He can find a freq like the rest of us.

[I go off and tear down the vertical delta loop and convert it to a ¼ wave vertical]

14:27:18 [m0mcx] i'm back. Full 1/4 wave up at 15 meters!
15:02:29 [Chrisg1vdp] How are you doing on points now?
15:04:32 [m0mcx] erm.. 13,719 because I changed the sails - that took 90 minutes. I felt like a sailor, mid tack, changing the jib!

15:33:18 g0eyo enters this room
15:35:11 [Chrisg1vdp] Hello Chris.... how was lunch?
15:36:25 [g0eyo] lunch was excellent you guys seem to have done well in my absence

Alban ready to start now
16:33:57 [g7ugc] Well I have just finished reconnecting everything - bit late to start now
16:34:41 [m0mcx] it's a nightmare. I forgot how awful this is... Nobody will ever try this again!
16:37:24 [g7ugc] sounds like you lot are having fun
16:38:25 [Chrisg1vdp] More like torture for the guys on 40M

Chris, EYO loses the plot of life J
16:52:36 [g0eyo] just worked galapogos new country, this is better than sex!
16:56:07 [g0eyo] now guadalope , oh heaven

Clocks change
16:56:03 [g0mtn] wow - going dark early now clocks put back
16:57:25 [Chrisg1vdp] Yes, now is the time it gets late early!

Daz can't put his headphones on
17:26:34 [supertaff] help!!!!!!!
17:26:54 [m0mcx] whatsup Daz?
17:28:07 [supertaff] i hate this
17:28:23 [supertaff] too much noise
17:28:30 [m0mcx] It's kind of "love / hate" :)
17:28:47 [g0mtn] more like hate / hate

Sleep in
18:01:59 [g0mtn] have you got to get up early tomorrow cal ?
18:02:45 [m0mcx] No.. sleeping in
18:03:45 [g0mtn] me too. we need a cq ww pact - nobody ring anyone up earlier
18:04:19 [g0eyo] my office hours are over 34725 pts 238 qso 16 zones 59 countries, been great fun a PB for me. 73 all

Newsletter
18:05:26 [g0mtn] of course, alban would like writeups of these personal successes for the newsletter
18:06:00 [supertaff] WILL HE PRINT SWEAR WORDS?
18:07:44 [g0mtn] CQ WW by Daz: "It was ******** hard. Lots of European ****** with

their ***** amps and ***** signals.
18:08:11 [g0mtn] And as for those *******
18:08:54 [g0mtn] G guys calling me, well ! Worst of all were the ******* Wythall members on the web chat

Chris VDP wins

18:12:19 [Chrisg1vdp] 30030 pts..... 177 QSO's..... 52 Countries..... 18 Zones..... YAHHHHHHHHHHHOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO
18:12:43 [supertaff] well done Chris!!!
18:12:57 [g0mtn] nice one!

Last 30 minutes

23:36:59 [m0mcx] Agh! Running out of time Daz
23:37:41 [supertaff] 200 POINTS IS ALL I WANT
23:43:04 [supertaff] P43P 7.012 NEW MULT !!!!!! Done it!!
23:43:53 [m0mcx] P43P? He'll do me for 20k – 7.012? Hang on..
23:47:04 [m0mcx] Bugger.. he got me and dumped me...
23:47:24 [supertaff] do it!
[Darren hears P43P calling me again]
23:47:36 [supertaff] YESSSS!!!!!!!!
[P43P confirms my call]
23:47:43 [supertaff] f******* great news!!!!!
[90 seconds go by as I repeat, time after time my callsign because he makes a mistake writing it down – I am losing him. He'll call QRZ any second]
23:49:10 [m0mcx] Yes! Korist!
[I get him]
23:49:11 [supertaff] with a little help from others
23:49:33 [m0mcx] Yeah, I heard too :) But still 20 miserable points short of 20k
23:49:54 [supertaff] did you hear the others SHOUTING M-C-X !
[10 minutes to end of contest - The rest of the world shouted at him and finally he put it in his log]
23:50:33 [supertaff] you are in his log OK
23:51:07 [m0mcx] Help! I think everything is a dupe for me now..... I'll shoot up the band and check..
[seconds later]
23:52:01 [supertaff] Cal, try CQ9k 7.020.9!
23:52:03 [m0mcx] Really? Wait..
23:52:11 [supertaff] You got him?
23:52:16 [m0mcx] Yup! 1st call on the new vertical! Thanks Daz. 600 points!
23:58:05 [supertaff] 2 mins
00:00:33 [supertaff] quiet…
00:01:00 [m0mcx] Yeah, it's over buddy
00:01:16 [supertaff] how was it for you?
00:01:34 [m0mcx] Me? F.A.B.
00:04:59 [supertaff] Night night

00:05:12 [m0mcx] Night!
00:05:14 supertaff exits from this room
00:05:15 [m0mcx] I'm qrt

Conclusion

I had a great time and the chatroom really helped with the camaraderie we had as a team. I wonder if we can use this for the 80 meter club championships?

As regards to the problems with my vertical delta loop — I tore it down on Sunday afternoon and replaced it with a "dirty" ¼ wave wire vertical for 40 which took a couple of hours — but was worth it later in the contest. I was gutted about the vertical delta loop but on inspection, the PL259 and SO259 connector that I used to build it was sopping wet and indeed, the ground part of the PL259 wasn't touching the ground on the SO259. I still have faith in delta loops and I know it did work the night before the contest because I broke 2 pile-ups with it and received extremely complimentary reports. I shall build another and do some more tests next year and keep you informed.

Callum McCormick M0MCX

Rudolph

Ruldolph's got a license,
He's got a new M3,
He got it cos he's missing
His old friends from CB.

He had to fit in studying
With test driving the sleigh,
But Chris and Callum put him right,
They soon showed him the way.

So now he has a licence,
But of course he needs a rig,
Something not too expensive,
And something not too big!

He thought an 817
would be the perfect fit,
But with an 857,
He could up the power a bit!

His next thought was antennas,
But he couldn't find a way
To stick a dual bander
On the rear of Santa's sleigh.

And then he had a brainwave,
His antlers, they should do,
And when he checked his SWR,
it read 1:1.2!

But now he has a problem,
Interference is his blight,
Everytime he keys his mic
His nose glows twice as bright!

So listen round on Christmas Eve,
You don't know who you'll copy,
You might just catch old Rudolph,
As he pulls Santa's jalopy.

Darren, GW7HOC

Rally update



After the AGM, Martin G8VXX, who had successfully organised our rallies for the past three years, had to resign as rally organiser due to pressure of work. The club has formed a sub-committee take over the organisation of the rally and we have begun the early preparation work to ensure that we have a successful rally next year (Sunday March 13th).

The committee comprises

Chris G6KMQ	Club Chairman
David G0ICJ	Bring and Buy and liaison with Sports Centre
Callum M0MCX	Traders
Chris G0EYO	Traders admin and layouts
Peter M0COP	Parking
Reg G7OJO and Anita	Catering

The committee will be looking for volunteers for other duties, such as managers for the two halls on the day, plus of course lots of volunteers on the day itself.

Chris G0EYO

Wythall Radio Club Christmas Party

Friday December 3rd 2004

Britannia Room, Wythall Park



Beer & Skittles

(and a pub quiz)

All are welcome

The fun starts at 8pm

Bring some food to share in the American Supper





Radio Glossary

As promised in the last issue, here are the rest of the definitions of radio and electronics terminology. Thanks to Matt GW0VNR for allowing us to use these, and David M3EUN for finding them.
If anyone feels like suggesting a few more I can keep this series going a bit longer.
Please email to Newsletter@wythallradioclub.co.uk

Alban G7UGC

APRS
A method of making 2m unusable for anyone in the local area by continuously transmitting the position of your house, which never moves.

Friend
Anyone who will talk to you for half an hour on 80m. Anyone who stays the distance longer than that is called a masochist.

RSGB
A book publisher who is trying desperately to become the training, licensing and controlling authority of all RF emmissions in the UK.

Insulation tester
A device which surprises visitors to the shack with a friendly jolt as they reach for the door handle.

Ladder line
The marks on the side of the house where your skin was removed from your hands as the ladder slid down the wall whilst trying to put up the latest aerial.

RadCom
Otherwise known as the Waters and Stanton catalogue.

Handheld Transceiver
A device for keeping your hands warm in winter.

Filter
The mental decision about whether to talk to someone calling CQ.

M3 filter
Any American station that has “had the privilege”.

Maritime mobile
What you are after being thrown overboard for wiping out Ch16 on the ferry with your 2m handheld.

Good DX
Australia on a yagi or the next street on a miracle whip.

FT-817
The radio equivalent of Methodone for an ex-CB M3.

Long wire
An expensive, flex weave perch for jackdaws.

Call-sign
Something for someone you never met to pretend to have earned when you shuffle off this mortal coil.

Call-book
The RSGB's marketing list.

VSWR
A magical property inversely related to certain lengths of coaxial cable.

Radio rally
A competition to see who can wear one change of clothes for the longest time before they rot away.

Licence
A document which has terms and conditions proportional to the number of people discussing it.

J-pole
The shape of most of the bits of your second-hand versatower.

Rotator
Someone who sits for hours twiddling the VFO knob but never transmitting.

Logbook
The various scraps of paper dotted around your shack which will be collated "one day".

Contest
A period of special rules where power is unlimited and you no longer have to ask if the frequency is in use.

Report on AGM 2004

The meeting held on 19th October was attended by 33 members. The main interest this year was the retirement of Chris G0EYO from the Chair and the appointment of a replacement. Chris Meadows G6KMQ was the only nominee and was elected unanimously. Callum M0MCX replaced Chris KMQ on the committee.

Chairman's and Secretary's Report

Chris G0EYO said that by any standards it had been a good year for the Club. Membership was at an all time high and there had been a full calendar of activities.

Social events had been a success including the Christmas party, a visit to Woolverton, the Greyhound races and The Lord Pettit Shooting Trophy event.

The big event was the Rally at Woodrush which turned out to be the best rally in 19 years. Thanks were due to Martin, the organiser of the event, for his persistence which resulted in the Club being much better off financially. A job very well done. The Bring and Buy team had been at the Telford Rally.

A talk and demonstration had been given to local Beavers. Several talks had been given at the Club including one by the GB3DX organisers, a talk by Lee G0MTN about his adventures in Niger with the Voodoo contest team and talks by Lew the President about his wartime experiences.

The Club had operated the GB2ME callsign at the Tolkien weekend. VHF NFD had been a good radio weekend. Wet weather at the Carnival had created real car parking problems such that a review of the format of the event was taking place.

Refurbishment of the Shack started in February with repainting of the Classroom. Repairs to the radio shack floor, following flooding, were likely to be expensive. The caravan refurbishment was going ahead.

Thanks to Chris G6KMQ and Callum a Foundation course was being run. This was a fine effort.

Chris closed by saying he was retiring as Chairman. He felt it was good to go out on a high. There were several reasons for retiring, not least his health which meant he could not take an active part in events. He would not be on the Club Committee but could still organise social events. He felt that the Club had encouraged various groups and despite the wide area of these interests it was an inclusive Club and he hoped the Club could avoid the dangers that factionalism can bring to clubs such as ours.

To Anita and David G0ICJ he offered his special thanks for their support over the years. He also thanked the committee and membership for their support.

Treasurer's Report

A membership of 53 was probably the highest in the Club's history. Subscriptions raised £370 and the Rally £1,530. It is the income from the Rally which keeps the Club afloat and Martin should feel proud to have achieved such a figure. Social events contributed £111 and the B&B group £245, which included the G7RRK silent key sale. David thanked all involved. Equipment sales raised £23.

The main items of expenditure were Insurance £318, Rent £264, and storeroom rental of £26. There was no reason to raise subscriptions this year as there was a healthy balance of £2,847. He advised the Club not to keep a large balance too long for fear of tax implications. He thanked Lee

and Martin for auditing the accounts.

The President took the Chair for a few minutes for the election of the new Chairman He called upon the members to show their appreciation for all that Chris G0EYO had done for the Club.

Wythall Radio Club Committee 2005

Chris	G6KMQ	Chairman
David	G0ICJ	Treasurer
Anita		Secretary
Martin	G8VXX	Rally
Alban	G7UGC	Newsletter
Vaughan	M0VRR	Website
Lee	G0MTN	Special Events
Callum	M0MCX	Quartermaster and Shackmaster
Peter	M0COP	Contests and QSL Manager
Colin	G6ZDQ	Logistics
Peter	M5DUO	Antenna Maintenance
Reg	G7OJO	Special Event Catering

Wythall Contest Group AGM

Chairman's Report

Peter M0COP reported that it had been a good contesting year. Ninety contests entered, 30% up on last year. The increase was mainly due to monthly RSGB Club Championship contests on 2m and 80m, the latter contests proving popular with as many as 8 members entering SSB events. The Club had finished 7th out of 62 in the 80m contest. An excellent result.

Nineteen members had entered at least 1 contest. Lee G0MTN had entered over 70 contests with excellent results including winning a Trophy in the IOTA contest. There had been no Backpacker entries or even portable entries in any other contests.

The Club had been well represented in the Club Calls, Affiliated Societies contests and, of course, the VHF National Field Day. Results on NFD were not so good but it had been a great Club event.

The Christmas contest had been won by Mike G4VPD. A record 28 members took part. The Foxhunt would need more support if it was to continue.

Peter concluded by saying that he hoped that the proposed contest logging and software demos, and perhaps some CW and Data operating tuition and a refurbished shack, would encourage more to take part and also renew interest in multi-operator entries in the bigger contests.

G0MTN, M0AEJ, M0MCX and G7UGC were elected to the Contest Group Committee with M0COP as Chairman.

Any Other Business

Martin G8VXX appealed for a team to help with the Rally. Several members volunteered. Vaughan M0VRR reminded the Club of the advent of Broadband next year in January.

Vic, M0AEJ

Members List

Colin	Baker	G6ZDQ	Callum	McCormick	M3MCX
Lawson	Bant	G7DCM	Chris	Meadows	G6KMQ
Roy	Bartlam	G0HDF	Ken	Miller	M1DJG
Frank	Breedon	G3MZU	David	Morgan	M3EUN
Reg	Brown	G7OJO	Martin	Moyes	G8VXX
Don	Bryant	G0NES	Chris	Pettitt	G0EYO
Graham	Bullen	G7NJW	Dryden	Phillipson	G4ISP
Chris	Colclough	G1VPD	Mick	Pugh	G4VPD
David	Dawkes	G0ICJ	Vaughan	Ravenscroft	M0VRR
Ralph	Dutton	G6VRH	Geoffrey	Reid	G6UEU
Alban	Fellows	G7UGC	Anita	Richards	
Mark	Garton	G8WJY	Peter	Richards	M5DUO
Golsby	Roger		Alan	Rowley	G8MYK
Peter	Green	G4LWF	Alan	Sammons	G0HBC
Mark	Gregory	G4LCH	Richard	Speak	M1RJS
Betty	Hawkins		Kenneth	Stone	2E0KEG
Jack	Hawkins	M3JKZ	Vic	Trend	M0AEJ
Marie	Hawkins	G7OKF	Lee	Volante	G0MTN
Simon	Hawkins	G4TVR	Carol	Warburton	
Ray	Heath		Darren	Warburton	GW7HOC
David	Hesketh	G6MTB	Pete	Wesley	M0COP
David	Hillyer	G0RQO	Lew	Williams	
Chris	Holmes	G0SAW			
Peter	Homer	G4KQU	**Overseas Members**		
Paul	Huband	2E0PPH	Dana	Colbert	
Andrew	Hughes	G4KOR	Giorgio	Romanin	IV3-57306
Peter	Jones	G4EQV	Greg	Tuby	PE2GRT

Next issue: March 1st, 2005
Material to the editor by: February 15th, 2005