Wythall Radio Club Newsletter Winter 2005

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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

I was hoping to get this issue out for the Christmas Social, but didn't quite make it, but I hope it's worth the wait. Inside this action-packed issue we have articles about some of the big contests in which the club tries its hand. In particular the RSGB Affiliated Societies contest where we have 15 stations on air.

This leads nicely into the Wythall Radio Club Christmas contest, which I hope will be as hard fought as in previous years. Once again I shall not be available for all days, so those multipliers really count. Full rules can be found inside this issue.

There is a planned DXpedition to the Cook Islands in 2009 which may involve some members of the club. Look out for more details in forthcoming issues.

Finally may I wish all our members and their families a Merry Christmas and Radiotastic New Year.

Alban G7UGC

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The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor or the committee.

Contest Report

A warm welcome from a new contest club chairman. Thanks to Pete M0COP for his great efforts in organising the Wythall masses over the last few years. I hope I can continue in a similar vein. The last few months have not seen so much VHF portable contesting from club members, a firm favourite with many, as autumn and winter have slowly appeared.

HF conditions have also been variable – for example working some USA stations on 28 MHz at the end of October for CQ WW SSB, but almost not hearing anything at all just a month later for CQ WW CW.

Some good news is that the large project to refit the shack is nearing completion. After the new flooring and construction of the new table tops, the radios have been reconnected, with the antenna switches and pre-amps wired back in. The final stage will be to get the desktop PCs connected, so we can hopefully make better use of the shack for contests. I hope we can have increased participation in next year's Tuesday night UKAC contests on the VHF/UHF bands.

On the HF side, the long wire ATU has also been fitted, which should make us much more competitive on HF for all band contests, and gives us better opportunity to do well in 160m contests like the popular Club Calls event.

The big 'team' club events between December and February are the AFS series – 144 MHz, 432 MHz, and the two 80m contests. I hope I am successful in persuading you to take part from home, or helping out at the club shack.

If all goes well, the Newsletter will be distributed at the Christmas Party, and should reach everyone before Christmas. The great annual Wythall Christmas Contest will be run as usual. You can find the rules later in the Newsletter. Happy Holidays and see you in 2006.

Lee G0MTN

Rules & Info:

HF: http://www.rsgbhfcc.org
http://www.sk3be.se/contest

VHF: http://www.vhfcc.org

Activity nights each month:
First Tuesday: 144 MHz, Second Tuesday: 432 MHz, Third Tuesday: UHF
Fourth Tuesday: 50 MHz, Fifth Tuesday: 70 MHz

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

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.



Contest Calendar

January

HF

1	Sun 0800 – 1100	SARTG New Year Contest – RTTY
7-8	Sat 1800 – Sun 2400	ARRL RTTY Roundup – RTTY
8	Sun 0900 – 1059	DARC 10m Contest
8	Sun 1400 – 1800	80m AFS – CW
14	Sat 1400 – 1800	80m AFS – SSB
21-22	Sat 1200 – Sun 1200	Hungarian DX Contest – CW/SSB
21-22	Sat 1200 – Sun 1200	UK DX RTTY Contest - RTTY
28-29	Sat 0000 – Sun 2400	CQ 160 CW - CW
28-29	Sat 1200 – Sun 1200	BARTG RTTY Sprint Contest – RTTY
28-29	Sat 1300 – Sun 1300	UBA DX Contest – SSB

February

HF

6	Mon 2000 – 2130	80m Club Championships - SSB
11-12	Sat 0000 – Sun 2400	CQ WPX RTTY – RTTY
11-12	Sat 1200 – Sun 1200	PACC – SSB/CW
11-12	Sat 2100 – Sun 0100	RSGB 1.8 MHz – CW
15	Wed 2000 – 2130	80m Club Championships - Data
23	Thu 2000 – 2130	80m Club Championships - CW
18-19	Sat 0000 – Sun 0000	ARRL Int'l DX - CW
25-26	Sat 1300 – Sun 1300	UBA DX Contest – CW
25-26	Sat 0600 – Sun 1800	REF – SSB

VHF

5	Sun 0900 – 1300	432 MHz AFS

March

HF

4-5	Sat 0000 – Sun 2400	ARRL Int'l DX - SSB
6	Mon 2000 – 2130	80m Club Championships - Data
15	Wed 2000 – 2130	80m Club Championships – CW
18-19	Sat 0200 – Sun 0200	BARTG Spring RTTY Contest
23	Thu 2000 – 2130	80m Club Championships – SSB
25-26	Sat 0000 – Sun 2400	CQ WPX Contest – SSB

VHF

4-5	Sat 1400 – Sun 1400	144 / 432 MHz

Contests Entered

August

RSGB 144MHz CC/Activity night	G1WAC 30 Q
RSGB 432MHz Activity night	G1WAC 4 Q
RSGB 432MHz LP	G1WAC 4 Q
SSA Activity Contest 28 MHZ	G0MTN 7 Q
European HF Champs	G0MTN 553Q
RSGB 144MHz LP	G0MTN 10 Q
RoPoCo2	G0MTN 43 Q
Worked All Europe CW	G0MTN 42 Q

September

Russian RTTY	G0MTN 32Q
RSGB 144MHz Trophy	G0MTN 9Q
RSGB SSB Field Day	G0MTN 45Q
RSGB 144MHz UKAC	G1WAC 46Q (G0MTN)
WAE SSB	G0MTN 8Q
SAC CW	G0MTN 125Q
SAC SSB	G0MTN 68Q
CQ WW DX RTTY	G0MTN 850Q

October

EUSprint SSB	G0MTN 21Q
ON Contest SSB	G0MTN 10Q
21/28 SSB	G0MTN 10Q
EUSprint CW	G0MTN 18Q
ON Contest CW	G0MTN 7Q
Makrothen	G0MTN 80Q
432 UKAC	G1WAC 1Q (G0MTN)
JARTS RTTY	G0MTN 356Q
WAG	G0MTN 108Q
21/28 CW	G0MTN 11Q
CIS	G0MTN 64Q
CQ WW SSB	G0MTN 1047Q / SOABLP
	GW7HOC 313Q / SO40LP(A)
	M0MCX 396Q / SO40LP
	G0EYO / SO10LP
	G1VDP / SO10LP
	G7UGC 80Q / SOABLP

November

Ukraine DX	G0MTN 148Q
High Speed Contest	G0MTN 65Q
Club Calls	G0MTN 20Q
	M0COP 7Q
CQ WW DX CW	G0MTN 1755Q
2nd 1.8 MHz	G0MTN 31Q
Worked All Europe RTTY	G0MTN 324Q
OK/OM Contest	G0MTN 73Q
LZ DX Contest	G0MTN 319Q

Contest Results

RSGB 144MHz Backpackers #4 Sec 3S		M0COK/P	11/13
RSGB 144 CC/UKAC August			
	Club:	Wythall ARC	7/15
	Sec. SF	M0COK	12/15
	Sec. O	G1WAC	5/6
Ropoco 2, 2005		G0MTN	2/40
9A CW 2004		G0MTN	1st G SOAB
UBA DX SSB		G0MTN	2nd G & 44/228 (World) SOAB
RSGB 144 CC/UKAC September		G1WAC	3/4 (O)
		Wythall ARC	6/15
144 MHz Trophy		G0MTN	13 / 14 (SF)
ARI 2005		G0MTN	2 / 7 (Mix)
		M0MCX	4 / 7 (Mix)

VHF NFD	Wythall Radio Club	7/11 Mix and Match
	G1WAC/P	13 / 17 144 MHz Open
	G7WAC/P	14 / 18 432 MHz Restricted
	G4WAC/P	7 / 7 1296 MHz Low Power
	G0WRC/P	8 / 20 50 MHz Restricted
432 MHz Low Power	G1WAC	15 / 18 SF
144 MHz Trophy	G1WAC	13 / 14 SF
DARC Field Day	G0MTN	18 / 23 (fixed stns(!))
ANARTS RTTY	G0MTN	179 / 426 (1st G)
	M0COP	355 / 426
5th 144 MHz Backpackers	M0COK/P	12 / 18
144 MHz Backpackers C'Ship	M0COK/P	35 / 69

Wythall Christmas Contest 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. N.B. A certain club member will be in Poland (guess who) and will be QRV on HF, as our some other out-of-town club members.

2. Dates and times:
Starts: 2000Z 24th December 2005
Ends: 2000Z 1st January 2006

3. Bands:
Any amateur band may be used. Cross mode and cross band contacts are allowed. Packet radio and repeater QSOs are allowed. Echolink QSOs are allowed — the only rule is that a real radio must be used by each party — but they are allowed to both access Internet linked repeaters like GB3DX.

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 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 days' 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.

6. Logs
Logs in any format to me, Lee G0MTN, as soon as possible (31 Jan 2006 at latest), if you cannot calculate your score please send me your log and I will score for you. Full logs are better as the adjudication software will calculate the best 5 days and can cross check multiple logs.

7. 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. Special awards e.g. Leading Foundation entrant, leading SWL, may also be awarded.
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. So there.

Lee, G0MTN

144 MHz Affiliated Societies 2005

Each year over the winter time the RSGB holds 4 Affiliated Society Contests, on 144 MHz, 432 MHz, and two on 3.5 MHz (CW and SSB). These are open to all members of an Affiliated Society, whether their members are members of the RSGB personally or not. The other key part of the AFS contests is that as well as the individual tables, teams of 3 or 5 entrants are grouped together to make an 'AFS score'.

On Sunday 4th December at 9.00am a sleepy 2m band sprang into life. I was very pleased with the amount of support from club members for this one — I'm sure that we will have been the most active club in the country. Having full teams does help us out with the points, but not quite as much as being able to work lots of PA and DL stations — but it's the taking part that counts.

In recent years there have been a few modifications to the rules e.g. portable operation (in freezing December!) is now allowed, as well as "timesharing" — where two or more operators can share the same physical station, using their own callsigns and signing /P. We used this to good effect this year.

Pete M0COP/P went out portable on the Long Mynd, and was a cracking signal back into Birmingham, and far beyond by the way his serial numbers ramped up. In a similar vein, Vaughan M0VRR/P was out dog walking on a hilltop in Birmingham, and was also on the air. Both Mark G4LCH and Callum M0MCX put up antennas at home especially for the contest. From the newly refurbished club shack, Les operated as M0COK/P, and I operated "timeshare" along with Chris G1VDP using the G1WAC club call. To keep us motivated, and to minimise the risk of missing some stations, we swapped callsigns every 15 minutes. The club Internet chat room was also quite lively with up to 7 people listening in. Also were a couple of veritable "Wythall pileups" when a new member appeared — it sounded just like the closing stages of the Christmas contest for a time!

Thanks to everyone else who came on air. The roll-call of operators is: G1WAC (G0MTN / G1VDP), M0COK/P, G0EYO, G6ZDQ, M0MCX, G6KMQ, G7UGC, G4LCH, M0AEJ, M0VRR/P, G6UEU, G0NES and M3SDE. Thanks also to Darren GW7HOC for trying to reach us from Cardiff. Look out for the results in a few months time.

73, Lee G0MTN



All logs gratefully received

80 Meters RSGB Contest starts January

I'm delighted to announce that under my own rules, I won the Wythall Radio Club 80 Meters contest in 2005! I was lucky enough to be able to enter every one of the contests, however taking only the best 5 or 6 sessions, the race is a lot closer.

12 club stations took part last year which I think is brilliant — and I positively encourage anyone that can load a piece of wire up for 90 minutes during a weekday evening to have a play. At the time of writing, I don't have the dates for 2006 yet, however I'm sure Lee will announce for us.

Well done John for entering on 10 watts and sticking to it for four of the sessions. I see that Vaughan and Steve popped on for a show in May, in fact our best turn-out month. For June and July, Darren knocked up two mobile whips on a dipole centre, total wingspan of 15 feet and managed 29 and 40 QSOs respectively — quite amazing! Chris, G0EYO joined us in January and February but I believe got involved in something nasty called work which precluded his entry for the rest of the season. Vic did a terrific job on 10 watts too, scoring 27 QSOs in the last session. Keep it up Vic. Chris G6KMQ dropped in and out of the contest with his long wire, with a personal best of 49 in May. In 4th and 5th place, Alban and David shot it out, both improving scores during the summer season scoring personal bests of 51 for David and 52 for Alban. I remember in 2004, Alban scoring an amazing 120 one session. I was gutted! The rest is history with the die-hards Lee, Pete and myself fighting it out for 3rd, 2nd and 1st place.

Some records then: Highest single personal QSO month was Lee with 131. Best score for the club was July with 590 QSOs between us (all in 90 minutes too!). Best newcomer; John on 39. (Hats off to him for scoring 5 points in January and February and sticking the pace through the summer on 10 watts.) Best turnout was May with 10 members for 521 QSOs.

Let us not forget the RTTY and CW legs. I entered one RTTY and I was petrified. However, like all these things, with practice it does work. Lee came 2nd out of 142 in the RTTY leg and 9th out of 193 on the CW leg. Pete came in 18th out of 145 in the RTTY and had some remarkably first class entries through the season. So well done to the "non-SSB" chaps. Together though, these CW and RTTY entries hauled up our club score to allow us to come 13th out of a total of 73 clubs that entered the whole event. Thanks Lee and Pete.

It's all very well entering these events but I think we ought to thank Pete who chased us all for our logs and checked them before sending them all off to the contest committee people. Pete, you made a super Contest Chairman, I look forward to working you in 2006 — on every session please!

Of course, I could report this all again but with the scores as shown on the RSGB website where the top scoring station gets 100 points and stations are awarded points as a percentage of the top scorer. This balances out good and bad propagation months as well as 100 watt and QRP stations, but who wants percentages — give me a real score!

First session:

SSB, 20:30-22:00hrs, Monday Feb 5th.

See you in February.

Callum, M0MCX

Results of the 2005 80 Meter SSB Club Championships (Wythall)

By Number of QSOs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Total
M0MCX	59	17	117	126	121	97	117	**654**
M0COP	91	30	125	116	81		113	**556**
G0MTN		63	115	108	125		131	**538**
G7UGC	14			52	46	43	46	**201**
G0ICJ	7	6			47	44	51	**155**
G6KMQ	19	17			49		45	**130**
MW5HOC	5					29	40	**74**
M0AEJ (QRP)	3		10	9	5		27	**54**
M3UKX (QRP)	2	3			14		20	**39**
G0EYO	22	14						**36**
M0VRR					35			**35**
M0KQU					2			**2**

Auld Lang Syne... Er, Not Quite.

Should older Yaesus be forgot
And never brought to mind?
Should older Yaesus be forgot
For the sake of modern times?

For modern times, my dear
For modern times
These rigs will take some beating yet
Even in modern times

And sure you'll miss those glowing valves
I know that I miss mine
I know you'll miss those glowing valves
That's the cost of modern times.

For modern times, my dear
For modern times
These rigs will take some beating yet
Even in modern times

Just take the FT-101
It was a fine old line
I'm yet to find a nicer rig
Even in modern times

For modern times, my dear
For modern times
These rigs will take some beating yet
Even in modern times

I paid the price with HT burns
The pain shot down my spine
You don't get that with modern rigs
In these very modern times.

For modern times, my dear
For modern times
These rigs will take some beating yet
Even in modern times

Darren GW7HOC

KGB at Work in Woking?

The following was in the Mail on Sunday a month or two back.

> *"Why was this innocent radio ham locked up by police simply for discussing Islamic terrorism?"*

There then followed a full page news report concerning Melvyn Bangle, a G4 from Ottershaw in Surrey, licensed for thirty years. It seems shortly after the July terrorist attacks in London he was in QSO with a group which includes a VK ham.

The Australian, named Roger, told him that after the Al Quaida linked terrorist attack in Bali, people in Sydney had defaced mosques with paint and pig carcasses. A silent listener to this conversation rang the police to complain. Mr Bangle was tracked down through a website which gives contact details of licensed amateur radio operators. He said — "The informant told the police that I was suggesting we also do something with pigs, which is grossly untrue. The police turned up, seized my equipment and took me to Woking police station where I was put in a cell for nearly two hours before being released on bail." "The officers came back to my house and went through everything. They found no evidence of any racist intent. These are Gestapo tactics."

He said that, shortly after his release he had been phoned "out of the blue" by Chris Shead, Acting Superintendent at Woking police. "He asked how I was and if I had all my equipment back OK. I said no I wasn't OK. I was bloody furious". Roger the VK ham told the newspaper that the conversation had not been racist. He said that he had told Mr Bangle that Australians were in full support of the English people killed in a "senseless act".

Shami Chacrabati, Director of the human rights group *Liberty*, described Mr Bangle's case as troubling. "It is really worrying that we have people running around reporting comments that they have overheard" she said. "It shows what happens if a climate of fear is allowed to develop — people walk on eggshells, watching what they say. It turns every neighbour into a suspect."

A spokeswoman for Surrey police said "We follow up on any complaint made which could give rise to a race-hate crime being committed. We will not tolerate any form of hate or discrimination. The allegations were of an offensive nature towards Muslims. The broadcast could have been heard by anybody listening to the frequency."

The moral of the story of course, is be careful what you say on air, you never know who is listening (or what they are recording). Avoid religion and politics and offensive language. But really what is this country coming to.

Chris G0EYO

Club Diary

Christmas Foxhunt	Tuesday, December 27th, 2005
Wythall Radio Rally	Sunday, March 12th, 2006
Tolkien Weekend 2006	Sat / Sun, May 13 / 14, 2006

Lord Pettitt's Shooting Trophy – September 2005.

On Sunday, the 18th of September, a very mixed bunch of radio club members, family and friends, assembled at the Hereford and Worcester Shooting Ground, Brockhill, near Redditch to do battle once again for the honour of being the custodian of the Lord Pettitt Shooting Trophy for another year. It was a fine crisp morning and Ian Butler, the shooting ground owner, introduced us to our two guardians for the morning, Dave and Colin. There were 15 of us and we split into two teams. I had one team of eight and Martin G8VXX had the other team with seven. We had a few newcomers this year. My son-in-law Stewart (watched by his better half Imogen), Peter G7KNP, Pete EI4JR, Andrew M3UOK, and Ian G8PWE had his daughter Victoria stand in for him as he was on call from work.



Last year's winner, Simon, remembered to bring the trophy with him from home and after a cup of tea we all went off to frighten the local wildlife (and hopefully hit a few clays at the same time). From each trap we each had four shots and in all we had 30 shots. Everyone had a great time and the weather was kind to us. The table shows the scores:



'A' Team	Score out of 30
Colin G6ZDQ	24
Stewart	23
Pete M5DUO	24
Jonathon	21
Michael	24
Lawson G7DCM	18
Simon	19
Chris G0EYO	22

'B' Team	Score out of 30
Martin G8VXX	24
Peter KNP	18
Pete EI4JR	22
Andrew	18
Victoria	19
Alban G7UGC	22
Mark G4LCH	19



We had 4 people on equal 1st with 24 points so we gave Martin a 2 score handicap because of his previous experience clay pigeon shooting and then chose the winner on the basis of the longest running number of hits. By a very narrow margin Colin G6ZDQ was declared the winner. Well done Colin. The drinks are on him at the Xmas Party!! After another cup of tea we had our photograph taken by the club's official photographer, Alban G7UGC. It has been suggested we do the same again in the Spring as well as the Autumn. Well if there is enough support anything is possible

Chris G0EYO

Chairman's Report

Well another three months have elapsed since my last write up, so what has been happening to make Wythall Radio Club hit the headlines this time? We started quite favourably with the AGM. This, it has to be said, was the easiest I have ever done (might be because it was the first). However, suffice to say I am here for a second term, ably assisted by Chris and David in the day-to-day running, and of course all the committee members that help make the club work.

With Chris's assistance and many others, various projects undertaken in the last term are now finally nearing completion. The shack is now usable again, the long wire ATU is now up and even the mast has been serviced. Of course none of this would be possible without the volunteers that made this happen. I and the other club members would like to thank you all for your efforts.

On the social side we had the ten pin bowling evening, a success as far as those that attended were concerned, although the planned after-bowling meal was somewhat spoilt by the closure ten minutes earlier of the eating establishments on site. (See Alban's write up on this.)

I would also like to thank M3SDE and G1VPD for the excellent talk on the upcoming DX expedition to the Cook Islands in 2009. I am sure we as a club hope this comes to fruition and the thought of our club's name getting mentioned in dispatches, and perhaps even some of us being further involved, is further excitement for us all.

So what does the future hold? Several members have now got together to form the rally committee and work is already underway to make this another great club success. We also will have had, by the time of publication, the Christmas bash over in the Brittania Hall at the club. A skittle evening along with the American supper theme. My thanks go to Chris for organising this at quite short notice, as sadly I am unable to attend due to work commitments. Also coming up is the Christmas contest and if it's anything like last year, I shall have my work cut out to keep hold of the tropy. Good luck to all taking part. Then on December 27th we have the fox hunt starting at 10am over at Henley-in-Arden. The initial interest shown indicates this should be yet another great day out for the club. Find out all those HB9CVs and hand held radios and come join the fun.

May I end by wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Chris Meadows
g6kmq@g6kmq.me.uk

CQ World Wide DX 2005

For the past 3 years I've spent the end of November somewhere in Africa, with the rest of the VooDoo Contest Group, as part of the CQ World Wide DX CW Contest. This year the team were going to activate Mali, using TZ5A, which would be a new country for them. Unfortunately the time required away from home had increased from being just under 2 weeks, to approximately 2 and a half weeks. With some recent changes in my social life, this year I didn't have the holiday time left to take from work — that was unless I wanted to miss Christmas completely. As well as being good fun, they can also be quite hard work, expensive, and on two of my three trips I've been decidedly "under the weather" for a while. I'll spare the full gruesome story in case anyone is reading this whilst trying to enjoy a festive mince pie! As the team had a full complement of new rookies to make up the numbers, I passed my apologies and prepared to operate from home.

As I did for the CQ WW SSB contest the previous month, I booked the Friday afternoon off work before the contest, and the whole Monday afterwards. I operated as Single Operator, All Band, Low Power. This means 100 watts, from 160m to 10m, and with no DXCluster or other assistance. I even made my own sandwiches.

On the Friday I raised my tower, propped up my windom centre with a new fibreglass mast, and raised my 160m inverted-L, and laid out some radials across the garden. It's a lot easier doing this in the daylight — hence I didn't wait until the night-time. I was lucky in that I managed to get a couple of hours sleep in before the event. Normally I'm too worked up to get any sleep, which causes problems. Imagine getting to the Saturday night of the contest, when there's at least 24 hours to go, and you've already been awake for about 40 hours! So I started off just after midnight with some determination.

The first 24 hours were great fun as there were very few dupes. I was able to call CQ and run people, and when things got tough, I could switch to searching and still manage a good rate. Over 1000 QSOs went in the log on the first day. 28 MHz was very poor — literally just a handful of contacts — and 21 MHz never opened to the USA like it does when the sunspots are more plentiful. However, the low bands were not too noisy and worked well. I was pleased to be called by K1ZZ on 160m. Of course, CQWW results in many expeditions and rare countries coming on air. I worked 114 different DXCC entities in 48 hours, but there were many more I missed.

Sunday was a lot more difficult. Searching resulted in finding lots of dupes, and my QSO rate fell. When calling CQ, there is the trade-off of calling CQ low in the band, where you will be lost in the QRM, and calling CQ high in the band, where it is quieter, but perhaps many people don't actually listen. At peak times on some bands there was up to 100 kHz of CW activity.

To do well in CQWW you need to do three things well — work lots of people, work lots of multipliers, and maximise the number of long distance contacts you make, which are worth more points. All weekend I had the leading low power 2004 UK score from GM4FAM in front of me,

and was consciously aware I was very low on multipliers. They were there to be found, after the event I found even UK QRP stations had managed to find and work more countries on 40m than I did. Something to think about for next time in terms of antennas and operating styles.

Cris GM4FAM was also active again this year, as was Gerry G0RTN who was also operating seriously in the same category, which kept me motivated. Having an active competitor with a similar callsign must have caused a few headaches. A couple of times I was told "QSO B4" but I was adamant they'd probably worked Gerry, but got his call wrong. I took a few hours sleep on the Sunday morning, and had a few small breaks for food and a shower, but overall I reckon I was in the operating chair for around 45 hours. I felt most tired just after I'd woken up on the Sunday morning. Once I did nod off momentarily with my finger on the space bar, CQ'ing blindly into space. Later I started to see things in my peripheral vision, and swore blind that a spider was running up the map of Europe I have behind my monitor. Later inspection revealed that the spider was in fact Malta!

One thing I did note is that CW is a lot less physically strenuous than a doing a lot of SSB. I was still relatively lucid helping Chris and Colin with the club shack installation on the following Monday afternoon. This year during the SSB contest I was using a fully integrated voice keyer — using Writelog and my PC's soundcard — so that meant I had to speak/shout a lot less. Even so, I felt more drained after the SSB event. My CW receiving ability did become severely impaired by the Sunday evening. Stations were calling me with perfectly sent CW, at a reasonable speed that normally I wouldn't have problems with, but I just couldn't get the whole calls fast enough and had to ask for a lot of repeats. There was one particular very high speed station that I just sat and listened to for a couple of minutes. I knew that he was in zone 33 (and so hence probably a new multiplier) but I failed to get the callsign right time and time again. Perhaps anyone currently starting to learn morse and struggling can get some satisfaction from my story!

It was amusing when taking down the antennas on the Monday morning to be caught in the beginning of the November snow showers. I smiled when I thought that normally I'm taking antennas down in 40C sunshine, but this year was 0C and snow!

All in all — it was good fun, but I do need to improve if I'm ever going to get that #1 England certificate. The leading claimed score from England is 1.3 million. Maybe next year!

1755 QSOs / 310 Countries / 80 Zones / 114 different DXCC => 1,032,720 points.

Lee G0MTN

I have been in this business for nearly 45 years and I have only just found out what the word AVO (famous for multimeters etc) stands for: Amps Volts and Ohms.

Obvious really.

Chris G0EYO

Bowling Madness

In a slight change to the radio club's usual social events, a number of club members and partners spent an evening on Saturday October 15th, 10 pin bowling at Holywood Bowl, Great Park, Rubery.



There were slightly fewer people than expected because a number were not well enough. This gave us enough games to have two games on each of three lanes, two for playing and one for practicing. The lanes were computer controlled with automatic scoring and optional fences for the less skilled bowlers. The lighting over the lanes was rich in UV which made the florescent balls glow as they rolled down the lanes. Unfortunately that doesn't make for good photography.

Without the pressure of competing, some of the scores on the practice lane were actually better than the main lanes. It also allowed the selection of the most appropriate ball size and weight. Normally practice makes perfect, but it appears that in some cases the second game was worse than the first.



We were intending to have a meal after finishing, but by the time we had got through all the games, it was a little late and all the eating establishments were no longer serving food.

Name	First	Second	Total
Chris	90	85	175
Alban	66	124	190
Colin	57	86	143
Janet	93	81	174
Jackie	45	55	100
Anita	101	112	213
Mick	88	73	161
Helen	88	100	188
KT	105	94	199
John	115	103	218
Peter	55	72	127
Cheryl	90	132	222
Artin	111	89	200

I think everyone enjoyed the evening and another will probably be organised next year. We probably need to make earlier arangements to eat.

Alban G7UGC

Members List

Ian	Ashford	G8PWE
Colin	Baker	G6ZDQ
Lawson	Bant	G7DCM
Peter	Barnes	G7KNP
Roy	Bartlam	G0HDF
Tim	Beaumont	M3SDE
Frank	Breedon	G3MZU
Reg	Brown	G7OJO
Don	Bryant	G0NES
Graham	Bullen	G7NJW
Les	Champion	M0COK
Chris	Colclough	G1VDP
John	Cornish	M3UKX
David	Dawkes	G0ICJ
Ralph	Dutton	G6VRH
Alban	Fellows	G7UGC
Mark	Garton	M0CZE
Roger	Golsby	M0DOH
John	Goodman	MW3JNV
Peter	Green	G4LWF
Mark	Gregory	G4LCH
Betty	Hawkins	
Jack	Hawkins	M3JKZ
Marie	Hawkins	G7OKF
Simon	Hawkins	G4TVR
Ray	Heath	
David	Hesketh	G6MTB
David	Hillyer	G0RQO
Paul	Huband	2E0PPH
Andrew	Hughes	G4KOR
David	Johnson	G4DPZ
Peter	Jones	G4EQV
Callum	McCormick	M0MCX
Chris	Meadows	G6KMQ
Ken	Miller	M1DJG
David	Morgan	M3EUN
Martin	Moyes	G8VXX
David	Parsons	
Chris	Pettitt	G0EYO
Dryden	Phillipson	G4ISP
Matthew	Preston	M3LTH
Mick	Pugh	G4VPD
Vaughan	Ravenscroft	M0VRR
Geoffrey	Reid	G6UEU
Anita	Richards	
Peter	Richards	M5DUO
Nigel	Rollason	G4NRR
Alan	Rowley	G8MYK
Alan	Sammons	G0HBC
Richard	Speak	M1RJS
Kenneth	Stone	2E0KEG
Kev	Tatlow	G4XLO
Jim	Tonge	M3JPP
Vic	Trend	M0AEJ
Lee	Volante	G0MTN
Carol	Warburton	MWYKL
Darren	Warburton	GW7HOC
Pete	Wesley	M0COP
Lew	Williams	
Barry	Zarucki	M0DGQ
Craig	Zarucki	M3ZCR

Overseas Members

Dana	Colbert	
Peter	Homer	EI4JR
Steve	Homer	EI2GYB
Giorgio	Romanin	IV3-57306
Greg	Tuby	PE2GRT

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