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**The Journal of**

**Horsham Amateur Radio Club**

February 2009

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Members on the air (attached separately)

**Cover photo: A frosty morning in Horsham**

# Editorial

We now have a new web site with many interesting features run by Alan King 2E0BTO. There is a member's only section, software, maps of the various pub venues and links to other sites. Now go and have a browse. For those who don't have access to the web I suggest you could visit the library.

There are also Internet Cafes where you surf the net whilst enjoying a cup of coffee! Don't forget the 80m Club Championship Contests and this magazine includes the first round of results thanks to Bryn G3SWC.

[www.harc.org.uk](http://www.harc.org.uk)

David G4JHI

## HARC Subscriptions

A reminder that subscriptions are now due for this years club membership.

Please forward £15 to the Treasurer which can be paid by cash or a cheque payable to H.A.R.C. Alternatively payment direct to Paul Barnett, 8 Parsonage Road, Horsham, RH12 4AR.

Copy deadline for March edition 17th February

For items sent by email please send to this address:

[harc.news@g4jhi.co.uk](mailto:harc.news@g4jhi.co.uk)

# ATTENTION ALL FOXES

The next HARC 2 Metre RDF "Foxhunt" to be renamed "Vixen Hunt" will take place on Sunday February 22nd. So tweak your antenna, tune up your receiver, twiddle your attenuator and make sure the date is firmly set in your diary. The Vixens have found their lair and hope there will be a pack of foxes ready to hunt them down.

The starting point will be the same as usual at Mannings Heath common NGR TQ 206 290

Start time will be 10:00 AM with transmissions every 10 minutes for a period of 2 minutes. The last transmission will be at 12:00 PM, so this should give everyone a fighting chance of finding us.

Transmissions will be on the "club channel" 144.725 MHz FM using the club call G4HRS/P. The map you need is 1:50 000, Ordnance Survey sheet 198 Brighton Lewes & The Downs.

73's Marilyn G7EYL & Jan G3WZT-XYL



P.S. If anyone would like to join John G3WZT on the hunt please Email or phone him (Contact Editor or Treasurer for details)

# How I started Radio

## Brian Kendal, G3GDU

With the diamond anniversary of the issue of my first licence due later this year, my mind went back to my earliest days and how I started in the first place. To understand this, you must picture a typical summer's day in a South Yorkshire town in 1944. The sky was yellow with pollution and the rain was coming down in stair rods.

A small boy (me) was in his bedroom doing nothing in particular when he heard the strident voice of his mother: "Stop whatever you are doing and come down and do something". The boy obediently went downstairs where he was confronted with. If you don't know what to do – go to the library".

Such orders cannot be ignored so, without hesitation, he went outside into the maelstrom, for we all know that 13 y-o boys are waterproof, and climbed on to his bike. Five minutes later and a mile further on, he deposited his bike on the library steps and walked through into the "Lending Dept", leaving a trail of rainwater behind him, much to the disgust and distain of the librarians.

He wandered haphazardly around the shelves until he chanced upon Dewey section 683 in which he found Newnes Short Wave Manual by the legendary F.J.Camm. Looking inside, he found instructions for making a one valve wireless receiver. Now the boy knew that wireless receivers normally used four or five valves, so to do it with one was magical.

He grabbed the book, checked it out, pushed it down his shirt and pedalled home at top speed. Arriving, he immediately made for the loft where he knew existed a box of radio

parts left over from the time that his grandfather made wirelesses in the 1920s. Recovering these, he immediately set to work to construct a one valve receiver.

A couple of hours later it was complete – even if some components used did not quite match the circuit diagram and the problem arose as to where to find the HT voltage. By purloining every battery in the house, he managed to get around 30 volts and these were quickly put into service.

He threw a length of wire out of the window to use as an aerial and put on the headphones. It took a few minutes to get the hang of operating the reaction condenser, but he started to recognise stations and eventually one was identified – the signal came from South America. At that point, the boy was condemned to a life as a Radio Person.

The interest quickly became a serious malady, his thoughts were always on the next station he would hear or a way of improving his receiver. Amplifiers were added the aerial improved, always the quest for better reception. Late nights were common and he often went to school, hardly able to keep his eyes open from late nights surfing the bands.

This continued for many months until his friends, fearing for his health, frog-marched him to a local youth club. There the circumstances dictated that, in future, wireless should not take such a dominant role in his life – he met a blue eyed, honey blonde, with a penchant for plunging necklines – but that is another story.

Postscript: That teenage romance only lasted a year or so – but the interest in radio has continued unabated to the present day. I met another blue eyed blonde some ten years later, and after 54 years we are still together, and many of you know her. The diamond anniversary of the issue of G3GDU is on November 26th this year.

END



(Above) Brian G3GDU and son Mark (G4MKD) receiving the Silver Medal of the Royal Institute of Navigation from the Duke of Edinburgh in 2006.

This was the pinnacle of Brian's career in radio that started in the manner described in his article.

# Diary

Feb 2nd, 80m SSB Club Championship 20:00 - 21:30

Feb 5th, Club Night: Nuclear Power Generation - John Narborough

Feb 8th, Harwell Radio and Computing Rally - Didcot Leisure Centre 10:30

Feb 11th, 80m Data Club Championship 20:00 - 21:30

Feb 12th, Committee Meeting - QTH of G3ZBU

Feb 19th, 80m CW Club Championship 20:00 - 21:30

Feb 22nd, Sunday Morning Fox Hunt 10:00

Feb 26th, Social Evening - Red Lyon - Slinfold

Mar 2nd, 80m Data Club Championship

Mar 5th, Club Night: Junk Sale

All above times are UTC

Committee/Club Meetings and Socials start at 8pm

# Club Champs 2009 - Horsham Club Scores

Issue: 25th Jan Rev: A

CURRENT/PREVIOUS PARTICIPANTS	JANUARY			FEBRUARY			MARCH			APRIL			MAY			JUNE			JULY			TOTAL POINTS	%	MODE TOTALS		
	SSB	Data	CW	SSB	Data	CW	SSB	Data	CW	SSB	Data	CW	SSB	Data	CW	SSB	Data	CW	SSB	Data	CW					
G3LET Pete			377																		377	14.0	0	0	377	
G3NPF Tony			0																		0	0.0	0	0	0	
G3OGP Robin			488																		488	18.1	0	0	488	
G3PYC Ron			0																		0	0.0	0	0	0	
G3SWC Bryn			617																		617	22.9	0	0	617	
G3VQO Les			572																		572	21.2	0	0	572	
G3ZBU Alister			319																		319	11.8	0	0	319	
G4LRP Adrian			0																		0	0.0	0	0	0	
G4TPO Steve			0																		0	0.0	0	0	0	
M0FRH Ian			0																		0	0.0	0	0	0	
M0GJH Andrew			323																		323	12.0	0	0	323	

Contest dates 14th 22nd 5th 2nd 11th 19th 19th 2nd 11th 15th 23rd 6th 4th 13th 21st 18th 1st 10th 15th 23rd 6th Start times are all 2000 clock time, ending 2130 local

HARC total points 2696

Club position 8th

FIRST reported leader table posn!

SSB entry to be sent to [cccw.logs@rsgbhfcc.org](mailto:cccw.logs@rsgbhfcc.org)  
 Data entry to be sent to [ccdata.logs@rsgbhfcc.org](mailto:ccdata.logs@rsgbhfcc.org)  
 CW entry to be sent to [cccw.logs@rsgbhfcc.org](mailto:cccw.logs@rsgbhfcc.org)

Latest results and info from RSGB: <http://www.vhfcc.org/hfcc/results/2009/80mcc2009.shtml>  
 Contest rules: <http://www.vhfcc.org/hfcc/rules/2009/r80mcc.shtml>

The first report of the year & a good start. It is good to see no less than 6 participants in the Jan CW. Thanks to Pete/LET for coming on after just getting back from NY and contributing to the last 30mins. The SSB & Data for January has been reasonably well attended but we could do with MORE participants especially in data. Conditions generally have been very poor with long skip and very poor inter-G. The Jan SSB & data results are yet to appear on the RSGB web site.

Please note that the rules regarding the data contest have changed this year - different scoring arrangement and an extended frequency band. Please read the rules before participating.

I have included previous participants as well as new ones in the table. If there is no initial activity from any participant over a two month period then I'll remove them from the table. New participants are most welcome and can be added to the table at any time.

THE TOP TWELVE CLUBS - out of approx 60 participating (data courtesy of RSGB website)						
Pos	Club Name	Total	SSB	DATA	CW	
1	Newbury & DARS	6093			6093	
2	Grimsby ARS	5907			5907	
3	Bristol CG	5049			5049	
4	De Montford Univ	4179			4179	
5	Three 'A's CG	4092			4092	
6	Norfolk ARC	3477			3477	
7	RAF Waddington	3113			3113	
8	<b>Horsham ARC</b>	2696			<b>2696</b>	
9	Chelmsford ARS	2315			2315	
10	Torbay ARS	2236			2236	
11	Reading & Dist	2191			2191	
12	Lichfield ARS	1971			1971	