

HORSHAM AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

HARCNEWS

Coming Shortly

Mar 6th Club Evening JUNK SALE

Apr 3rd Club Evening Rebecca by Brian Kendell G3GDU

Apr 17th Social Evening The Plough at Coldharbour

March 2003

Sponsored by:

February Meeting: Vintage Wireless, by John Narborough

The Club enjoyed another fascinating talk by John. This time, it was about one of his hobbies, viz. collecting old wireless sets. His collection dates from the 1920's onwards, and some of these sets still work even though they are a bit temperamental.

The correct term is wireless, which comes originally from wireless telegraphy. Once upon a time, telegraphy was done with wires which had to be up to thousands of miles long. When speech was first transmitted, it was referred to as wireless telephony. The word 'radio' is an Americanism of unknown entymology; if anyone can enlighten us, we would welcome an entry in this organ.

Many early wireless experimenters had learnt about radios in the Great War. Building sets from kits became popular and the public wanted to listen to broadcasts.

An early crystal set was passed around the audience so they could see the so-called cat's whisker detector. It had a small knob on the top to rotate the material, and a probe could be moved around until a rectifying action was found. This procedure was very difficult and any unwanted vibration could stop the receiver from working.

We heard that experimenters had tried two cat's whiskers simultaneously and discovered amplification, but the 'experts' said this was obviously nonsense. It wasn't for another twenty years that the point contact transistor was re-invented.

The first valves were called bright emitters, because they were almost light bulbs with three electrodes added. John demonstrated one of his valves. It was said at the time you could read a newspaper while listening to the wireless, because of the light output. However I don't

think it would do the reader's eyesight much good, long term. A valve would cost, in today's equivalent money, about £100.

Receivers became more advanced and the single valve was able to perform amplification at both rf and audio frequencies. A positive feedback called regeneration was another technique used to obtain the most from very limited resources. Unfortunately a regen set can oscillate and radiate from the aerial, thus stopping one's neighbours from listening to the same frequency. It was considered very anti-social to be 'an oscillator'!

Top of the range models had more valves, and so that more than one person could listen at a time, loudspeakers were developed. Invented is not the right word for this, as the first speakers were simply a large headphone coupled to the same horn as used on a gramophone. John demonstrated his oldest speaker, with some typical programme material of the day which was surprisingly good.

John met Marcus Scroggie, who had published many articles in *Wireless World* for many years using a pseudonym Cathode

Ray. His first article was on a generator/dynamo to produce higher voltages from the 100V DC mains. Scroggie was the second amateur in Edinburgh to build a valve transmitter and second to contact across the pond. He moved to London and became chief designer at Burndept. One of his receivers was on display.

The largest receiver was made for the Co-op. It had motorised tuning with pre-set channels and was multi-band with long wave, medium wave, short wave and short short wave. One preset was for television. 30 line Baird Televisor signals were transmitted after hours on an experimental basis. John demonstrated the Amberley Museum's copy of a Televisor. The picture was remarkably good for only 30 vertical lines.

John informed us about some of the latest exhibits at the Museum, of which a BT building is well worth a visit. When he gets the time, he intends to take the Foundation course and obtain an M3 licence. We wish him good luck and thank him for an excellent talk.







HARC Membership List

The HARC committee have been asked to produce an up to date membership list for publication in the HARC News Letter, as it has been a few years since the last. To this end I am writing to advise you, the membership, that we shall be publishing a membership list with the July newsletter (to allow for late payment of this years subs!)

I have been asked to respect some members requests not to have certain details published. Details that normally appear are: name, call sign, address and telephone number. It has been suggested that an e-mail address (if you have one) could also be included. If you require that

some, or all of your details are **NOT** published, or that you would like to have your e-mail included, please notify either myself G4LRP or Gavin G7DFV by writing or e-mail (contact details can be found at the front of this newsletter) prior to the **May meeting**.

If we don't receive any notification from you, we will assume that you do not have any objections to your details being published. Please note that the membership list will only be produced on paper, and that it will not be published on the HARC web site. Adrian G4LRP

FOXHUNT RESULTS

The HARC Winter Foxhunt was held on the morning of Sunday 16th February starting at 10:00 from the QTH of Robin, G3OGP. Considering the bitterly cold morning, it was very encouraging to see a total of 8 teams taking part.

A cold Northerly wind and a few flakes of snow gave true meaning to the winter hunt scene.

In order of arrival, the positions and times are as follows.

1st	G4LRP	1Hr 15mins
2nd	G7DFV	1Hr 42mins
3rd	G3OGP & PAT	1Hr 48mins
4th	M3MCO, Ian, M0DEY, 2E1IGA	1Hr 51mins
5th	G7EYL & Jan	2Hr 09mins

G3SWC, G3ZBU and G4TMC were unfortunately beaten into submission by the Fox and forced to open the envelope.

For once, I tried very hard to make the location difficult to find without being devious. In this respect it seems to have worked! The Fox was located at South Stoke, near Arundel and lunch was taken in the Black Rabbit at Offam. I would like to thank

all those that turned out to take part in what was another pleasant morning out. Special thanks to Robin and Pat for letting us start from The Haven.

73 John G3WZT



First home G4LRP



Last Home G7EYL & Jan