

June 1980.

Next Meeting.

June is here again and that means money in the form of a prize in the annual Constructors Competition. One very important aspect of amateur radio is construction, and to encourage this, your committee has arranged for prizes of £6, £4 and £2 for first, second and third.

The rules are simple, something related to amateur radio and to have been constructed (or built) yourself. Past winners have included a D.F.set, a 25 Amp. 12V power supply, a digital counter/timer, a SWR bridge, an aerial rotation system, a battery lifting device, an I.C. tester and linears and transceivers of various bands and powers. As you can see this covers many different aspects so there is plenty of scope (has anyone built one of these - (pun) - groan). The judges and fellow constructors would like to see a card with a brief description of the gear, and also to hear a short talk about the equipment and any problems encountered in construction. So put the finishing touches to that piece of gear, and enter the competition. Venue as usual Marconi College, Arbour Lane, 7.30 p.m. Tuesday 3rd June.

Committee Meeting.

Wheatsheaf, New Street, Wednesday 11th June, 7.30 p.m. All welcome - beer available.

Last Months Meeting.

At last months meeting there was a sudden change of plan as Carl was suddenly called to an oil rig a couple of days before the meeting. So at very short notice Les G4CUT gave a lecture on his TS820S Transceiver, and TV502 Transverter. Les was able to demonstrate that if you have very little time there is some very nice equipment available. The rig had digital readout and 200 watts PEP on those bands allowed. The 2 metre side was augmented with a nice home assembled 75 watt linear from a kit from America. The cost of the linear was about £70 - anyone interested should contact Les or a committee member for possible bulk purchase from the States. Thanks Les for a super talk at such short notice.

HF NFD 7th and 8th June, by John G3KRZ.

1. We plan to run to NFD stations, one on 80m and the other on the remaining bands. However, sufficient resources are only available to run the 80m station at present.
2. The following items are required to enable us to run the "other" station:-
  - 2.1 A transceiver - G4DAN had kindly offered the use of his virtually new KW2000E but it needs modification to operate within the terms of the licence on 160m and also to improve the keying characteristics. Both modifications are believed to be standard ones. Any offers ?

- 2.2 A tent.
- 2.3 A table.
- 2.4 Two chairs.

All other services and facilities are available - Aerials, power, masts, call signs, transport, etc., etc.

- 3. Several recently licensed amateurs have expressed a desire to operate the "other" station; it does seem a pity that for the sake of a few items of hardware we cannot run a suitable station - what about it ?
- 4. Notwithstanding the above we still require 2 tables for the 80m station !
- 5. General information :-
  - 5.1 The site is Howlett's Farm, NGR TL617018.
  - 5.2 Site operations will start about 1200 clock time on Saturday, 7th June and the event proper will run from 1800 clock time 7th June to 1800 clock time 8th June.
  - 5.3 Anyone wishing to operate please contact Arthur, G3KPJ, at the next meeting, by Telephone (400238), S20 on the way to work etc. Newly licensed amateurs will be more than welcome to operate the 80m station if we cannot manage a station dedicated to their use.
  - 5.4 The interface for phones and keys will be  $\frac{1}{4}$ " jack sockets on the transceiver. Phones to be high impedance, - supply your own transformer if necessary.

#### D.F.

Owing to holidays and other events on the same day, there were only two competitors for last months event. Results were as follows :-

Andrew	G8KQE	1505
Dave	G8SZN	1540

Thanks to Geoff G4JJH for operating the hidden station in a ditch (dry) about a mile east of Little Waltham.

This months event is on June 20th starting at 2.0'clock on Galleywood Common behind the Church, and the Colchester event is on June 22nd, starting at Fordham Heath.

Also this month the Club is joint host with the Colchester Club to the R.S.G.B Qualifying round on June 15th. The map to be used is 168 Colchester and Blackwater. Starting at Layer Breton, Grid.Ref. NGR 944188 at 1300 for 1320, those competing are asked to contact Ian G4HKC on 0206 860724 or Dick G3WHR to confirm the number of teas required after the event.

#### C.W.Classes.

These are doing exceedingly well, and two members have applied for their tests on Thursday 29th May. Good luck lads. Hopefully the club will soon have two more NFD and DF hidden station operators !

#### Band report.

Ken, G3LVP has been busy on 10m and here is an extract from his log of stations worked in April. ZS6AN, VK9NM (Norfolk Island) 5B4HY (ex G8DJE), AP2SA, VP8QG, 4S7KG (Sri Lanka) CE3ATR, CR9AK, VP8PP, VP9HX and VU2RAK.

### Ally Pally - by John G8DET.

10th May broke bright and fair and by 9.00 a.m. our coach was on its way from Writtle. We took a different route and soon were doing the rounds of the stalls. Entry was on a block basis so saving a long queue and our bus was parked at the rear for the opportunity of those to have a rest and deposit their purchases at dinner-time.

Most members having circumnavigated the stalls 3 times were beginning to wilt by 3.00 p.m. and a return was organised just after 4.30 and arrived at Writtle at 5.40. General impression was that the components were quite good but you don't buy from the first stall (unless it happens to be the cheapest in the end), second hand gear was dear and new seemed to be getting cheaper. Micro-processors and mini-computers were much in evidence except on the RTTY stand.

The club subsidised the trip and a good time was had by all - note there was some sort of competition going on at Wembley but we did not see anything of it.

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The club intends to run a coach to Woburn on 3rd August. Please advise John G8DET or me as soon as possible if you want to go. This trip is usually a good family outing as the wife and children can look round the Abbey or go round the Safari Park while you go round the stalls at the Rally.

### R.A.E.

The May exam was held on the 12th. Reports have been heard concerning the degree of difficulty. It seems there was the usual sprinkling of 'gift' questions, ranging through the average questions to the absolutely impossible questions, even for holders of HND (HNC) in Electronic Engineering. Good luck to all members concerned, and no doubt August will see a new batch of G8W.. and G4K.. call signs in the Chelmsford area.

### VHF Propagation.

The recent spell of hot weather, and high pressure has produced some interesting results on VHF. On certain days, there have been good paths to the Midlands, and on other days, continental stations have been very strong. For the mobile operator, the Bolougne repeater on R5 has been usable in this area, and also the repeater on R2 in Brugge has been heard in Mayland and Silver End. On 70 cms, mobile operators have found that they sometimes were working through a different repeater than they thought, due to the signals travelling much further than usual to another repeater on the same channel.

### Rad. Comms.

Owing to an industrial dispute (at Silver End !!) the publication of this months Radio Communication has been delayed. For up to date news, don't forget to listen to GB2RS on various frequencies on Sunday mornings.

New Members.

The club welcomes two new members this month,

Tom Gander G3EOF and Garry Clark G8TAM.

Calling all YL'S and XYL'S.

Two members of Colchester club (Pat G4JAA and Pat G4HKB) are starting a 2m YL net on Tuesdays at 8.00 p.m. on 144.18 MHz. SSB and hope all local YL'S and XYL'S will join them.

June Diary.

- 1st. DF Qualifying Round Rugby.
- 7-8th. HF NFD. See above for details of our entry.
- 15th. DF Qualifying Round Chelmsford/Colchester.
- 16th. Braintree Club - a demonstration of a P.O. T.V. Detector van.
- 20th. DF Chelmsford.
- 22nd. DF Colchester.

Finale.

Thats all for this month. Thanks to those members who have sent me reports and articles. I would still like to hear from any member with reports, circuits, or any article on any subject connected with Amateur Radio for inclusion in the Newsletter.

See you on Tuesday, get finishing those projects and don't forget the raffle.

73,

Andrew, G8KQE.

Braintree 23821 (Day)  
Silver End 83094 (Any other time)  
or GB3ER or 144.30 MHz.

9, Abrahams Drive,  
Silver End,  
Witham.