

CHELMSFORD AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No.237

November 1985

NEXT MEETING - "MARCONI: HIS LIFE AND WORK"

Firstly, an apology is in order for the last-minute change of programme for this coming meeting. John Donnithorne, G8MKX, was to have given us a live demonstration of Direct Satellite Television Broadcasting. But, as fate would have it, he is unable to present it to us, due to business commitments. This item will definitely be presented at a future meeting.

This month, at short notice, Mr J.S. Wood, of Marconi Communication Systems Limited will present the first of a series of lectures on the history of radio, particularly that of Marconi and the companies that now bear his name. Some of these lectures have already been presented to other radio clubs in the area, and they have proved to be very popular. Mr Wood will illustrate his material with slides of photographs taken at the time. We can all look forward to a very interesting evening, starting at 7:30pm in the Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford on Tuesday, 5 November 1985.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

5 Nov. - Marconi: His life and work
3 Dec. - Mobile Radio, G3YTE
7 Jan. - Film Evening

NEW MEMBERS

The Society extends a warm welcome to the following new members, Murray J. Niwan, G6JYB, S. W. Reeve, G1HME, D. Leaver, G1NKP, John Miller, G1OBM and Philip R. Green, G1PBG.

LAST MEETING - AGM - Ian, G4BYR.

What a busy evening we had on 1 October. Have we established a record by whizzing through the Annual General Meeting in just one hour, to the minute?

Thirty members attended to listen to reports from the Chairman, Dick G3WHR, the Secretary, Ian G4BYR, the Treasurer, Bill G4JUW, the Membership Secretary, Ela G6HKM, and the President, Roy G3PMX; to elect the Committee for the coming year; and to take part in the transmitter test session after the close of formal business and tea.

The Committee now consists of:

G3PMX	Roy Martyr	President
G3KRZ	John Greenwood	Vice-President
G4CUT	Les Turner	Vice-President
G3WHR	Dick Brocks	Chairman
G4JUW	Bill Cole	Treasurer
G8DET	John Bowen	Asst. Treasurer
G4KQE	Andrew Mead	Secretary
G6HKM	Ela Martyr	Membership Sec.
G4BYR	Ian Maslen	Newsletter Ed.
G0BDS	Brian Scroggs	
G3CVI	Brian Thwaites	
G3KPJ	Arthur Butcher	
G4FKH	Gwyn Williams	
G8MKX	John Donnithorne	

The other main business of the evening was to set the subscription rate for the coming year. This is now £3-00 per annum, reduced to £1-50 for students and "senior citizens". The only discussion about this increase centred on the question, "Was it enough?".

After the AGM, there was the usual very welcome cup of tea and biscuits provided by Chris Cole, and time for a "chin-wag" before starting the transmitter test session.

Roy had arranged for the loan of about £26,000 worth of sophisticated test-gear to be at the meeting so allow members to see what their transmitters were doing.

The most impressive piece of equipment there was the new Radio Communications Test Set 2955 from Marconi Instruments, about £6k just by itself! In one box, all computer controlled, this provided an RF signal generator covering 400kHz to 1GHz in 1Hz steps, modulated with AM, FM, or PM, at levels up to 0dBm. It contained a frequency counter, power meter and load up to 30W (or 100 intermittently), audio signal generator, distortion factor meter, ... need I go on... about the only things not in the box were a spectrum analyser and the person to drive it, even though it did contain its own manual - just push the HELP button and all was explained.

The IC2E owners all seem to have gone away happy with their rigs! One comment Roy had about such meetings is, "Bring your rigs with their batteries fully charged!".

SUBSCRIPTIONS

As you can see above, the subscription for this year is now due and should be paid before the end of this year - £3-00 for adult members, £1-50 for students and members on a pension. Please see Ela at one of the next few meetings to collect your new membership card in return for a small amount of cash... If you cannot make it to the meetings, please send your sub's to Ela.

DF NEWS - Dick, G3WHR.

This report comes in two parts: one for the July event, and another for September. However, before all that, I am pleased to congratulate Paul and Anne Clark on the arrival of their daughter, Rachel Anne, a sister for Matthew, on 13 October.

July Event. Paul Clark had his eagerly awaited opportunity to turn the tables on all those station operators who had frustrated and taunted him in the past.

I remember this event as the occasion when the exhaust fell off my car on the way to the start. Whilst the others took their first bearing, I was busy trying to stop what was left of the silencers from dragging along the road.

Paul had hidden G0BTH/P in a wood near Frating. He had arranged two aerials, one passive, and the other with several earthing points to give an unusual near-field. Several teams investigated a particular bush which radiated a strong signal, but found no transmitter - just an earth rod and tee-in to the aerial.

Results:

1	Mike Hawkins	8:22	5	Ian Butson	8:49
2	Jeff Herbert	8:43	6	Peter LARBALESTIER	8:49.5
3	Pat Cranmer	8:46	7	Dick Brocks	8:50
4	Alan Williams	8:48	8	Roy Emery	8:56

September Event. Frank Pearson provided G4JVM/P, hidden in a large bush near Severalls Hall, north of Colchester. A dummy aerial, run along a nearby path, fooled nearly everybody. It rapidly became a night-event. Torches were essential.

Results:

1	Mike Hawkins	8:31	6	Peter LARBALESTIER	8:52
2	Ian Butson	8:32	7	Pat Cranmer	8:57
3	Alan Williams	8:48	8	Paul Clark	9:03
4	Dick Brocks	8:49	9	Pete & Karen	9:10
5	Roy Emery	8:49.5			

A report on the Mid-Essex Trophy will appear next month. The final event of 1985 will be run at Colchester on 8 November, starting from Fordham Heath at 7:30pm.

INTERFERENCE - Brian, G3CVI.

Included with this Newsletter is a special report and questionair prepared by Brian for the benefit of all members.

HELP WANTED - Ian, G4BYR.

I have been contacted by a retired gentleman wishing to resume his short-wave listening now that he has moved to the Galleywood area from Newport (Gwent). He explained that he first became involved with radio while in the Forces during the Great War, but he did not take it up as a hobby until he retired. He passed the RAE but never took up his licence, although he continued to listen. When he left Newport he donated his Eddystone receiver to a local school, as it was too big and heavy to bring to Chelmsford.

Now, he wants to start listening again, but he is not familiar with receivers currently on the market. He wants something reasonably small and light-weight.

Is anyone in the area able to get in touch to advise him? Please call Mr William Edmonds on Chelmsford 51118.

COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Committee Meeting will be held in the bar of the Marconi College at 7:30pm on Wednesday, 13 November 1985.

73 from Ian, G4BYR.

Harlow 441244 (ex.307) (day)
(0279) 33049 (any other time)

40 Great Leylands,
Harlow, CM18 6HR.

MEMBERS ADVERTISEMENTS

COLOUR TV, Ultra 'Bermuda' complete with service manual and 100% spares also all associated T-Vision magazines. Set not working (tube OK), space needed for computer! £5.00 o.n.o. John Bowen, G8DET, Tel: Danbury 4677.

TEST EQUIPMENT (Plus), Oscilloscope, Tektronix 545B (with spare CRT), Plug-in's CA, 1A1 & 1M4 (4 channel), Signal Generator, M.I. TF144H (late version), Signal Generator, M.I. TF1066, Antenna, 2 metre, 10 element 'Beam', Antenna, 70 cm, 10 element 'Parabeam', Transceiver Pye PF5, (not working but good condition). Reasonable offers will be considered for any item. Dave Barber, G80QW, Tel: Chelmsford 260874 or 56461.