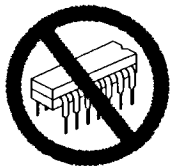
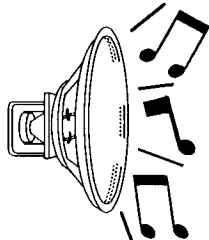
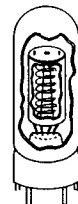




NEXT MEETING



Although the silicon chip now controls most of our daily activity, there still appears to be a following for the trusty thermionic valve. Currently in shops and sales catalogues there is a revival in audio amplifiers using valves which for some of us incites a feeling of nostalgia with memories of building the 'Williamson' amplifier and even the 'Mullard 5-10' circuits.



For our December Meeting we are privileged to welcome Dr. McMahon of Cambridge University, and his colleague, to describe and demonstrate audio amplifiers and support his theory that **"Hi-Fi does it better with valves"**.

The meeting opens at 7.30pm on Tuesday 6th December, in the Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford. Included in the tea-break will be the traditional Mince Pies, provided by the ladies of the committee.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

6 Dec. CLUB MEETING - Hi-Fi with Valves - Dr. McMahon.
11 Dec. VERULAM ARC RALLY - note the New Venue.
17th December - CHRISTMAS DINNER - 7.30 for 8.00pm.
3 Jan. CLUB MEETING - Annual Film/Video Show.

LAST MONTHS MEETING

Annual Junk Sale - Geoff G7KLV

For me there's always a sticky moment at Committee Meetings when "next months meeting" is being discussed; it's when the Chairman calls for "a volunteer to do the write up". Am I the only one to try and avoid his evil eye, as it circles the table, and sink lower in my chair hoping that someone else will do the decent thing? I expect I am, but not at the last one.

This goody-two-shoes got in quick, almost before the Chairman had made his usual plea for a volunteer! The rest of the assembled gathering probably saw right through my ploy to win brownie points. But at least it was one of the less technical write-ups and I'm OK for the next meeting - Please Mr. Chairman not me, I did the last one! So there you have it.

There's always a mood of expectancy at the start of the annual re-distribution of junk evening as members proudly bring in their bulging carrier bags while others struggle in with box after box full of exotic goodies. The master of the latter must surely be Dick G3WHR - together with a promising apprentice in Colin G0TRM - who has refined it to a veritable art form, having diligently collected all the unloved and unwanted bits and bobs from a small well known local firm. All legal and above board, I'll have you understand. No sleaze here Prime Minister, believe me.

After an interesting but tragically sad discourse about wires and poles Chairman John, G8DET introduced the star performer of the evening, a chubby little chappie from the Land of Our Fathers across that great divide, the Severn Bridge. He probably wasn't known to our new members and visitors as he only appears on rare occasions. He waved a piece of paper at us assuring us that it was his membership card. Ela G6HKM later confirmed it was kosher. To the rest of us, it was a great pleasure to welcome Gwyn G4FKH back again, complete with auctioneers hammer. We knew that we were going to have an entertaining evening with his fluent command of his adopted tongue and Celtic sense of humour; we were not disappointed.

His enthusiasm had to be restrained at one point when he nearly accepted a bid of ten new pence for the DF trophy. This had been accepted by Dick on behalf of Phillip Cunningham who was not

able to collect it in person. Our congratulations to Phillip.

For most of the time bidding was brisk and keenly competitive, particularly for plastic goody bags. All good useful stuff individually bagged but not to be mistaken for those sold at rallies. One I bought had a bandoleer 10 ft. long of 12 megohm resistors! One member has confessed to me that he had just found a plastic bag in his garage unopened, would you believe, from last years junk sale. Nice chap but he sometimes has forty winks at the video evening-and he was supposed to be doing the write up!

There was a very wide range of goods on offer ranging from electric toasters, hi-fi gear, cable, die cast boxes, power units, transformers, solder stations, speakers, valves, Eddystone receivers, wartime receivers and a complete Commodore computer with all accessories (no takers). An amazing box of cameras and lenses was snapped up by the camera buffs at very low prices; there were lots of other things too numerous to mention.

I must not forget to mention the 'runners'. This year Chris G0IPU was getting plenty of exercise after his recent foot trouble and Pat G0SBQ certainly had no finger trouble collecting the money and delivering the goods. Thank you both.

Quietly sitting at the front our Treasurer was doing a rather tedious job keeping a meticulous record of the financial transactions, and picking up the odd photographic bargain. He tells me that the total profit for the evening was £112.34 which was roughly half last years profit. Our thanks to Brian G3CVI.

Our thanks must also go to everyone who brought stuff along for sale, to those who spent some money for the benefit of club funds and to everyone else who helped to give us all a jolly good evening.

One final thought. How many of us were glad the meeting closed rather late, thinking we would be able to smuggle all our bargains in quietly without being seen by the XYL? And did they all seem such bargains the next morning? Me, I'm already looking forward to next years junk sale!

Editors Note:- subsequent to the meeting, many members and the committee have expressed the opinion that the starting bid for many items was too low, both from the viewpoint of the goods value and sellers wishing to recover funds!

NEW MEMBER

This month the Society extends a welcome to Steve Emmett, G7RGG who joined at the last meeting. Steve has recently moved to this area and is active on 2M FM.

COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 14th December, in Telford Lodge, you are welcome to join us.

ALMOST OURS - Andrew, G4KQE

Since my report in August, Phil and I have taken part in the rest of the National Qualifying D.F. events. Late July took us to Manchester. No, it doesn't always rain in Manchester, it positively pours, we got soaked, but we came third, so I suppose it was worth it. In August we were off to Banbury, we made very good time on the first transmitter, but unfortunately lost time on the second and came 9th out of 15.

Each year, points are awarded on a Grand Prix basis for each event. The winner gets 9 points, second gets 6, third gets 4, and so on. These points accumulate and at the National Final a Silver Rosebowl is awarded to the competitor with the highest number of points.

After Banbury, the points accumulated were such that only two people could win the Rosebowl, Alan Simmonds of Mid-Thames club, and Phil. To achieve the Rosebowl, we had to win the last event in Torbay, Devon, and Alan had to come 7th or worse, but at least it was statistically possible so we decided to give of our best.

Once we had plotted the start bearings, the map indicated that the first transmitter could be in one of three places, so we positioned ourselves strategically for the next transmission. Our two bearings crossed on the edge of Kennick Reservoir on Dartmoor, and a third bearing en route confirmed this. We pulled into the car park by the reservoir and saw the operator's car, but no-one else's!, so we knew we were first on site. The transmitter came up and the D.F. set pointed to the top end of a nearby wood. We ran into the wood and after only a minute or so of hunting I spotted the operator, and we signed-in. It was only 2.36 p.m. and although we didn't know it then, we were half an hour ahead of the rest of the competitors.

Fired with this early success, we set off again. A couple of bearings later we had identified the next transmitter as being in Fernworthy Forest (part of Dartmoor), on arriving we parked up alongside two other competitor's cars. The forest was a good mile from the road, so we had to hike it across the moor, which essentially is thick heather interspersed with wet bog, not at all easy going when you are in a hurry.

As we ran towards the forest, we saw the other teams running back to their cars; this would be their first transmitter, and we were on the way to our second, so we realised that we were in with a chance!

We ran into the forest, down a track, and at half past three, an hour before the contest ends, we found some aerial wire strung up across some pine trees. **THE ROSEBOWL WAS OURS!!!**

Unfortunately, that Master of cunning, Paul Clark, had designed the aerial system and erected it the day before - there was wire everywhere! There were tee-ins, earth stakes, the lot. The D.F. set was confused by all the wire and earth stakes and took us all over the place, but not to the transmitter. The forest where we were was a Christmas Tree plantation and they were so thick that you couldn't walk through them, only crawl underneath. We searched high and low, ran up and down the track, followed wires as far as we could see them, but to no avail. We had earlier seen other life forms in the wood also searching and at the 4.30 deadline we realised that our initial good lead had been lost; the teams we saw running out of the forest must have been able to get to the first transmitter before the end. Dejectedly we made our way back to the car tea site.

Everybody had expected us to win, as we were known to have made such good time initially, and that we were seen running to our second station at 3.15 p.m. The results confirmed our worst fears, we had come 7th out of 9, and Alan Simmonds had come 6th. If only we had been able to locate the second transmitter within 35 minutes of finding the aerial we would have won the Silver Rosebowl.

We were obviously very disappointed, having been to all of the qualifying events and set our hearts on the Rosebowl. Perhaps next year we will clinch the trophy, which at 3.30 p.m. on the last qualifying event was almost ours!

NEW BOOK FOR LIBRARY

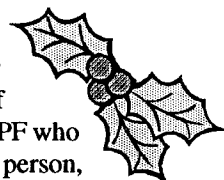
Our overseas member, Peter, DK7SP has kindly donated (via a Eurocard order to Waters and Stanton) a new book, recently published from ARRL, entitled "Antennas and Techniques for Low-Band DXing" by John Devoldere, ON4UN.

Peter said on the Sunday evening Backnang net "that his copy had proved most useful for his understanding of HF propagation and in the construction of antennas", he added "I expect some bigger and better Antennas to appear in Chelmsford in due course".

On behalf of the Club we say "thank you Peter for this excellent book" and feel sure that many members will benefit from its contents.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

There is still time to make a booking for our Annual Christmas Dinner on December 17th, if you have not already booked, see Harry, G2HPF who will be pleased to take names and £12.50, per person, (family and friends welcome). The closing date is December 3rd. (next meeting) and it is regretted that after this date refunds are not possible. On the evening we meet at 7.30pm for 8.00pm dinner, we look forward to seeing you there.



73 from Roy & Ela Martyr,
G3PMX & G6HKM

☎ (01245)360545

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Essex, CM3 1EL.

MEMBERS ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE

DRAGON 64 Computer c/w HANTAREX Video monitor, CUMANA 5¼" Disk Drive + DOS, all leads and a quantity of 5¼" DD Floppy Disks. Contact Brian, G3CVI, ☎ (01245)471919.

HELP!

An appeal to all our trusty scribes with word processors or even pens and paper; Ela and I are desperate for newsletter articles, especially short gap fillers. The template for the next edition (which must be produced before Christmas) looks pretty thin at the moment with acres of white space . . . please help!



Merry Christmas