



## THE NOVEMBER MEETING

One of our regular features is about to take place with the redistribution of surplus equipment around Chelmsford, in other words The Annual Junk Sale.

Auctioneer Colin, GØTRM ably assisted by Treasurer Brian, G3CVI and runners Dick, G3WHR and Chris, GØIPU will guide us through the evening and persuade us to part with money in exchange for valuable items to adorn our shacks.

This year we will endeavour to have a preview period and to this end will vendors please arrive at 7.00pm so that items can be displayed prior to the auction which will begin at approx 7.50pm.

Unless items are wholly donated towards club funds, please label items with your name and if required a reserve price. Sales will be subject to the customary 10% levy towards club funds, Brian says "starting bids should not be less than 20p with increments not smaller than 10p". Announcements will begin at 7.30pm in the Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford; we hope there will be a "good turnout" this year towards club funds.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 4 Nov. CLUB MEETING - Annual Junk Sale.
- 8 Nov. RSGB HQ Christmas Shopping Saturday.
- 15/16 Nov. LONDON RADIO & COMPUTER RALLY.
- 2 Dec. CLUB MEETING - Propagation - Les Barclay, G3HTF.

## MEMBERS NEWS

This month we extend a welcome to Robert Eley, a S.W.L.

Congratulations to Chris, GØIPU, who got a mention in the local paper for his sterling work in running a JOTA station. Chris was capturing video pictures of the lads and then transmitting selected frames on SSTV, so that the lads could be identified when they spoke on the air. Well done Chris.

Congratulations to Dick, G3WHR on his Direction finding skill and speed in climbing trees which won him the Mid-Essex Trophy.

## "Flying Business Class in the 'Thirties'...." by Charles GØGJS

Members who attended the second "History of Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society will recall that James Watt G6ZC provided clarification to Geoff G7KLV by retelling his highly amusing account of a pilot flying from pre-war Croydon Airport who courted near disaster when, with a performing orchestra on board, he omitted their piano (an 'upright' not a 'grand' Geoff!) from his aircraft load calculations. The following correspondence has taken place.

**GØGJS to James G6ZC:** ".....Incidentally, concerning the piano, my company (Cossor) a few years ago contracted for ground secondary radar antennas with the German company that built the Zeppelins. In the foyer stood an aluminium grand piano that was once an airborne furnishing....."

**G6ZC to Charles, GØGJS:** "I was most interested in your remarks about the aluminium grand piano in the foyer of the Zeppelin works at Friederikshaven. About 1937 a small group of Marconi development engineers, of whom I was easily the most junior, was told by a senior "outside" installations engineer of a recent trip he had made to South America. He had flown from Berlin to Rio de Janeiro in the Graf Zeppelin! If this was not enough, he commented on how smooth and quiet it was and proceeded to tell us that there was a grand piano in the Passenger Saloon. At this point my mouth may have dropped open.

A similar piano in the Hindenberg (ed. sister airship) could not have been recovered, but the Graf Zeppelin was dismantled for scrap after the loss of the Hindenberg. My guess is that there would seem to be a probability that the aluminium piano now in the Zeppelin Company's foyer is the same one seen and heard in Graf Zeppelin by our old colleague Mr Caspard over the South Atlantic."

## THE CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

Forget what we said about this event in the last newsletter, the price increased to £19, so it was cancelled. A new venue has been found namely The Beehive, Gt. Waltham, with a realistic price of £12.00 per person plus £1.25 for a glass of wine. Unfortunately space is limited to 36 people, so places must be on a first come, first served basis and those who showed interest at the AGM must move fast.

We will meet on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30p.m. for dinner at 8.00p.m. The choice of Menu is:-

### MENU

Fruit Cocktail.

Smooth Brussels Pate with toast and salad.

Creamy Mushroom Pancakes with a salad garnish.

Soft Herring Roes fried in Butter with hot buttered toast.

Spiced Vegetable Samosas with yogurt and mint dressing.

Home made cream of Lentil Soup with a hot roll and butter.

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Roast Turkey, chipolata, bacon roll and stuffing,

Served with a selection of Seasonal Vegetables.

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Glass of Red or White Wine

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Christmas Pudding, Brandy Butter and Custard.

Fresh Pineapple with Schnapps.

Meringue Gateau Beatrice.

Fruit Crumble with Custard.

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Coffee and Mince Pies.

(Vegetarians can be catered for if known in advance)

In order to assist in catering will you please complete the slip for your reservation showing the choice of starters and deserts required, this will then be shown on your tickets.

Ela, G6HKM ☎ (01245)360545 will be pleased to take names and payments of £12.00 per person, plus £1.25 if wine is required.

## Report of the 1997 Annual General Meeting - Charles, G0GJS

The Minutes of the 1996 Annual General Meeting were read by the Chairman John, G8DET and their acceptance as a true record of events was approved.

The Chairman presented his report. John spoke of the excellent year that CARS had enjoyed and with some nostalgia he recalled that for 43 years Marconi College had been our venue and we had reached the end of an era. However, he was confident that the new MASC premises would enable the Society to continue to enjoy "state of the art lectures" and to maintain our very high standards. John spoke of the great pleasure that the office had given him during his term and was grateful for the excellent backup that he had received from the Club and the Committee. His particular thanks were to our President, Roy G3PMX and Ela G6HKM. He congratulated Roy on the excellent standard of the N/L that had been produced throughout the year. He praised the Committee as a whole for their sterling efforts in producing a first class series of meetings as well as professionally conducting the general affairs of the Society. As an example of innovative thinking, John highlighted Colin G0TRM's procurement of a striking banner to assist in publicising CARS at public events.

The Secretary reported on such details as the continuing association with the Chelmsford Industry and Science Museum, regrets at not entering NFD in 1997 due to a critical shortage of CW operators, the very successful Garden Party at G8DET's QTH, the help and assistance provided to others by many CARS members, the closure of Marconi College and the background to our new MASC venue, the SSTV net, D/F successes and a review of the past 1997 programme.

Our Treasurer, Brian G3CVI presented his report of Income and Expenditure and said that the Society was solvent. However he stressed the need to raise subscriptions in order to cover the increase in venue costs due to the move in January 1998 to MASC. Costs of £35/night could be accommodated by increasing the subscriptions to £7/£6 and adding a subsidy from the CARS reserve which had recently received an injection of £1400 from the sale of the Society's windfall shares. Further gradual increases in subs over the next 2/3 years, moderated by subsidy, plus monies from the raffle profits, should ensure the minimum impact on Members' pockets.

Ela G6HKM our Membership Secretary told us that our membership currently stood at 62 'A' Class, 22 'B' Class and 8 SWL - a total of 92 members and an outstanding achievement in view of the misfortunes of other local clubs. Unfortunately we had one silent key this year, Harry Lowe G2HPF, a highly valued member who was a first class CW operator and a staunch supporter of CARS.

Our President, Roy G3PMX, commenced his report by making some observations about the changes around us as we approached the Millennium, particularly in the application of digital technology to communications. He observed that in amateur radio one effect had been to reduce voice communication by introducing Packet. However, he made the point that in digital photography and digital recording he had personally derived great satisfaction from the new technologies. This brought him to the major change to CARS, namely the transfer of venue to MASC after 43 years at Marconi College, which we hope will also provide very fine accommodation for many years to come. The initial booking is for one year commencing January 1998. Roy then announced that after 20 years as President, he would stand down from heading the Society at the 1998 AGM and become an ordinary member, in view of reaching his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday and the need to be relieved of the attendant responsibilities including the production of the newsletter. Ela G6HKM, who in addition to her duties as Membership Secretary contributes so much to the running of CARS - the raffle (including purchase of prizes), a lot of input to the N/L including mailing and "behind the scenes" activities which ensure the smooth operation of CARS - will also be retiring to become an ordinary Member. Members were urged to reflect on the requirement for people to come forward and fill the gaps that these changes will create if CARS is to continue in the tradition that has been established.

The President then retired the Committee and thanked them for their services, saying that all members had expressed the wish to be re-elected should the Club so desire; he also invited further nominations to the Committee. Harry G5HF proposed a vote of thanks to the Committee and said that those wishing to stand again should be re-elected en bloc and without further ado - the motion was seconded by Geoff G3EDM and then passed unanimously.

As previously recommended by the Treasurer the subscriptions for 1998 will be £7 and £6 (concessionary).

The Amateur of the Year Award was won by Geoff Mills G3EDM for his outstanding performance in the field of HF communications. Using SSB and Digimodes, Geoff has achieved QSOs with some 2,360 different VK stations.

The Jackpot Raffle was won by Ela G6HKM and she will receive the prize of a Year's free membership.

Fred G2HNF proposed that the posting of the N/L should be discontinued in order to save postage, i.e. it could be handed to Members at the monthly meetings. It was felt by a large majority of Members that the receipt at home of the N/L provided continuity between meetings and the motion was not carried.

Following the tea break there was a short technical forum to answer members questions. Subjects included "Antennas and The MFJ Antenna Analyser"

## THE DF SILVER ROSEBOWL REMAINS OURS

### Report by Andrew, G4KQE

In the December 1996 Newsletter I was delighted to describe how, after four years of chasing, we had won the Bert Simmonds Memorial Rosebowl which is awarded to the competitor who has gained the most points over the year on the National DF hunts. To recap, points are awarded on a grand prix basis, 9 points for the winner, 6 for second, 4 for third and so on.

This year's season did not start particularly well for us, coming 8<sup>th</sup> at Coventry and 9<sup>th</sup> at South Manchester. On those two events Andy Collett, another Chelmsford Club member, and a competitor from Mid-Thames each had a 1<sup>st</sup> and a 2<sup>nd</sup>, giving them 15 points each after two events to our nil.

A visit to Devon in June (see July newsletter for the story on our swim after the DF) gave us second place, and our first 6 points, but Andy won the Devon event, making his total 24.

Our luck had changed for the better, because we then went on to get another second at Mid-Thames, followed by a win at the joint Chelmsford/Colchester event and another win at Salisbury, putting us 6 points in the lead with 30 points.

Hoping that luck would continue, and perhaps get a hat-trick at Ripon in Yorkshire, we unfortunately seriously blew out, coming last. We just could not locate our first station on the top of a steeply sided ravine in the pouring rain until 3.30pm, which was far too late. Andy was however really pleased with his win, putting him 3 points ahead of us.

The pressure was therefore really on us for the last event at Echelford in West London as we had to come at least fourth to retain the Rosebowl from last year.

We found the first hidden station fairly quickly, in fact we were the first to find any transmitter that afternoon, but the second station gave us a bit of trouble. Not hearing a random transmission, for a long time, we thought that he might be back towards the start on low power, so we set off in that direction, but when he did come up the bearing took us back down the map from where we had come from. Also when we did get on site, there were 2 woods either side of the road, with overhead power lines crossing the road at 90°. We ran into the wood on the wrong side of the road, and were pulled in by a pylon, as the signal had coupled in to the power lines. When we did eventually get into the other wood, it was obvious that we were not far from the transmitter, and we soon found him.

But by then it was 4.18 and we thought that there was no way that we would come anywhere near the points. Little did we know that lots of other competitors who had done it the other way round were having just as much trouble at the other station with many clocking in at 4.27, and some completely running out of time.

At the tea the results were announced. We had come in 4<sup>th</sup>, giving us 3 points, and Andy had had a bad day, as we had at Ripon. We had tied, with 33 points each.

There has never been a draw situation before in the 20 years that the Rosebowl has been awarded, so the adjudicators were in a bit of a quandary. It was however decided that the fairest thing to do, in view of the closeness of the competition was to put both names on the trophy, and for Andy and myself to retain the silverware for 6 months each.

The Rosebowl therefore stays with Chelmsford club members for another year, and I will bring it to the next meeting for you all to see.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Yes, it's subscription renewal time, as you will see from the AGM report there has been an increase for this year, the Full Rate is £7 and the Concessionary rate is £6. If you have already paid, thank you very much; to those who have yet to pay I will be happy to take your money at the next meeting or you may wish to send by post to me at the address below.

Please make cheques payable to "Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society".

## COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November, in the Marconi College, you are welcome to join us.

73 from Roy & Ela Martyr,  
G3PMX & G6HKM

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Deadline for the next NewsLetter is Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November.