

Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society

Affiliated to the RSGB

President: Richard Brocks G3WHR

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Club Call Sign: G0MWT

Chairman: John Bowen G8DET

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June 2000

The June Meeting - The Constructors Competition.

Older Members will know that, by long standing tradition, we always hold a Constructors Competition in June. This is the time to bring along all those projects you've been working on during the long winter months and enter them in the competition. Yes, we know this is rather short notice for newer Members, but you've probably got something you have made in the past that is worthy of entering the competition. Even if it's not a winner it may prove of interest to someone else. It costs nothing to enter. The possible rewards, in the shape of monetary prizes, have been increased and are truly staggering! All we ask is that you provide a few sketches and notes giving the salient facts concerning your masterpiece. We would also like you to say a few words about your entry.

In the past our Chairman has headed a small team of judges. This year we are going to ask Members to do the judging for us. Slips of paper will be distributed on arrival for you to make your judgement, so please bring along something to write with. The results will be analysed during the tea break and the winners announced afterwards.

What are the rules, you might ask! All we are prepared to say is that they are quite flexible! They have never, actually, been formalised. We tend to make them up as we go along! If your entry has got something, however vaguely, to do with amateur radio that's fine, and if it hasn't, have a go anyway! You never know your luck!

In view of the recent kerfuffle caused by a computer virus **Murray G6 JYB** has agreed to give us some timely advice regarding these pests. He will be listing some useful do's and don'ts. The length of his presentation will depend on the number of competition entries, so we will have a busy evening!

Our **Chairman John G8DET** will be using his new gavel and will get us off to a very prompt start at **7-30pm. sharp on Tuesday 6th. June** at our usual venue, the MASC at Beehive Lane. Don't forget **Ela's** raffle, the prizes seem to get better each month!

Dates for Your Diary

June 6	CARS Club Meeting 7-30pm	See above.
June 14	CARS Committee Mtg. Ela's QTH	7-30pm..
June 25	Longleat Rally.	
July 2	Harlow & DARS	Mark Hall Sch. 1st Avenue. .

News Letter By Email.

Members will be aware of the mayhem caused by a computer virus recently which has caused all sorts of mayhem to governments and commerce alike.

We have installed the latest anti-virus software available and have taken other precautions as well. We have done the best we can to avoid spreading infection. If any Member feels that they would rather revert to PO-mail for the time being or permanently, please inform the Editors.

Members Miscellany.

We wish Patrick M0AQL a speedy recovery from his recent illness and hope he will be back to his boating activities very soon.

We hear that Don G0LLA is now in Orsett Hospital and making good progress and is allowed home at weekends. Our best wishes to him as well.

Club Net News.

By popular request the Tuesday 2030 nets are now as follows:

First Tuesday	No Net - Club meeting
Second Tuesday	2m
Third Tuesday	10m
Fourth Tuesday	2m
Fifth Tuesday	10m - When applicable.

Thursdays are SSTV days on 28.680 MHz or 144.725MHz at 2000 local time.

Last Month's Meeting.

A Small Street Organ by Arthur G3KPJ

After the parish notices were read out by our illustrious Chairman John G8DET, he introduced Arthur G3KPJ who entertained us for the evening. He gave us a lecture on one of his many interests, the construction and operation of a pipe organ. Those Club Members who had visited the well supported IMD at the Sandford Mill Museum would have heard the organ being operated and demonstrated. He collected just over £17 for the Cancer Research Fund.

Arthur explained that the title of the lecture was a pipe organ and its similarity to a CW transmitter. He gave the history of the design of organs which went back about two hundred years. Pictures of a man turning the handle of an organ with the monkey on top came to mind. The small pipe organs could be considered the QRP rig of the organ world.

A lucid account of the construction of the organ was given and in comparing it to the analogy of a transmitter the various component parts and their relevance became clear. Arthur also gave a demonstration between a long open circuit pipe and of a short circuit pipes, (closed at one end). Close pipes are used in the construction as they can be shorter for a given note. He also discussed the method of tuning the organ pipes using a "gizmo box" purchased from Dace's in the town.

It is very true that you learn something new each day and at last I learnt that the purpose of the teapot lids on top of the pipes of a church organ. Arthur discussed the methods of allowing the air to the pipes. The use of the paper cards I had seen at fair grounds became obvious, I always wondered how they operated.

The organ on display used electronics to operate solenoids which in turn open and shut the air supply to the organ

pipes. The obligatory integrated circuit marches on even into the designs of 200 years ago!

I appreciate but cannot read music, but I can see the difficulty of the task of the arranger in condensing the musical scale to just 20 tuned pipes. To me, that is some feat. Arthur also explained the various performing rights licence one should obtain so that that the composer obtains the royalties for his efforts.

We were then treated to a selection of tunes which demonstrated the versatility of the organ, and it sounded just like one of the street organs heard in the Dutch towns.

The evening once again demonstrated the amount of knowledge that is contained within CARS. Do you have an interest that you would be willing to share with others, if so please see the Committee.

Thank you Arthur for a most interesting talk.

Report by Carl G3PEM.

International Marconi Day and Open Day.

April can be a particularly capricious month. The weather in the week leading up to IMD had not been all that good. However, the forecast for the 29th looked hopeful. Remembering the monumental cock up at Silverstone, emergency plans had been drawn up for car parking!

Saturday began bright and promising and turned out to be a lovely, pleasantly warm day, all day. Just the sort of day to set off Sandford Mill to best advantage!

Following the injection of Lottery Funds into the Museum's activities, this was the first of a series of Open Days to be held throughout the year. The theme was Communications and CARS had been invited to participate and celebrate IMD there.

Chelmsford SCARF (Scouts Amateur Radio Fellowship) was also invited. Arthur G3KPJ was on hand to provide musical entertainment and the other guest was Louise Weymouth with a sampler of the GEC/Marconi archives.

Our main station, as usual, was set up in the Writtle Hut with the Club equipment and went on air at 0100hrs. GMT. We started off with distant contacts because the 'layers' were all at their highest above the earth and the time difference brings in the western areas profusely. The skip was obviously favourable to DX working.

Some of the interesting QSO's are listed here: YV2NY 0118 GMT 40m, CO8TW 0148 GMT 20m, YV5NF 0257 GMT 20m. Then came a group of VK's; VK2WS, VK2SB, VK5AKY, and VK2CLB between 0646 and 0800 GMT on 20m, except CLB which was on 17m. W4CTG at 0237 GMT from Boston Mass. was pushing out 1300watts into four quarter wave verticals on a square plot, phased to give 90deg. beam heading on 80m! He was 5/9+30 and he gave us 5/9 with 75watts on our doublet at 25m over water!

Later in the morning the skip distance shortened very noticeably and the Europeans began to swarm in. We worked 350 stations.

Upstairs in the 20m room the contacts came thick and fast as can be seen by examining the log for QSO's when John M0CKQ had to be prised off the mike. He was swamped by Japanese stations literally queuing up to work him. The CW 'boys' also had a most successful time on 20m and impressed many of the visitors with their deft operation of the key!

The Scouts were not so lucky with propagation on 2m and 70cms but nevertheless notched up about fifty local contacts. They came prepared with their own spacious tent and two wind up aerials, one for each band. Their team work setting up 'camp' and getting their stations up and running was most impressive! They were very ably led by Chris G0IPU, assisted by Martyn G1EFL, and Nigel G6ZVV of Raynet fame. When praised for

their slick organisation, they modestly remarked 'We've had plenty of practise with the 'JOTA rallies'. JOTA or not, it was certainly a lesson to us all!

Chris was also in the Hut demonstrating the reception of SSTV with pictures taken by one of the Scouts on a digital camera and then transmitted from their tent. Geoff G7KLV had a table with the 123 Spy Set and an R1475 RX which had been designed and developed in the Writtle Hut. Colin G0TRM had set up a selection of Morse keys and an undulator. Tony G4YTG came prepared for kite flying. As there was not enough wind he concentrated on demonstrations of his Morse reader. A selection of Marconi Memorabilia from the Museum collection was also on display. Caroline was keeping the youngsters amused with her educational displays and projects.

We hope the 350 visitors enjoyed the day, we certainly did.!

Our thanks to our host Dr. Geoff Bowles of CMS.

Report by Brian G3CVI and Geoff G7KLV

A Word From Our IMD Manager.

Once again IMD has come and gone but this time it was something special. Our very good friends at the Chelmsford Industrial Museum combined their "Communications" day with ours and produced a memorable event. The audience was considerably larger than was planned so we were all very pleased especially because many "old" friends and acquaintances attended representing much of the professional radio skills of years gone by.

I personally wish to thank all those who gave of their time and considerable physical effort to get the site up and working. For the first time for a number of years we were able to hoist the aerial system almost single handed due to the long overdue removal of THAT BUSH which has caused so much trouble of late and the helpful demise of the power line. Although I commenced to attack the bush it was obvious some help was needed and soon KLV and KPJ came to my assistance and the thing disappeared before my very eyes. The rest of the hoisting "ceremony" passed off well enough even though I got the halyards a bit askew up the tower and had to be rescued by Tony before the whole thing became 'A bit dodgy-like if the wind blows'.

The operators roster worked quite well although due to circumstances beyond our control one unfortunate Member was unable to locate the establishment and spent much time quizzing the locals as to our whereabouts...sorry Fred ..we did not know you were in trouble and would not have had it happen at any price. VMJ and I did the graveyard watch and got off to a good start with quite nice DX contacts on 40 metres until the sun reappeared when the skip changed and the early-rising Europeans began to come up. During the rest of the event several "new" ops enjoyed themselves with many reports of "You are the strongest signal on the band"....truly music to the operator's ears. So, well done everybody.

Lessons to be learned? Of course there are always things we could have done better....the gate bell was not audible in the hut until its lead was extended and the operators' chairs were a trifle chilly in the "wee sma' 'ours" but these things can be easily rectified in future. Generally, our hosts were delighted with the entire event and specially mentioned the folk who acted as hosts during the open hours....again THANK YOU ALL....
.de Brian G3CVI.

Joint Editors

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Deadline for the next N/L is Wednesday 14th. June.