



Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society

Affiliated to the RSGB
President: Harry Heap G5HF
Secretary: David Bradley M0BQC

Club Call Sign: G0MWT
Chairman: John Bowen G8DET
Treasurer: Brian Thwaites G3CVI

Web Address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

Newsletter No. 441

October 2002

The October Meeting.

The CARS Annual General Meeting. Tuesday 1st. October, 7-30pm, MASC.

By very long standing tradition the Annual General Meeting is in October. It is the time when we sit back and take stock of our affairs. It is also the time when the Membership can show their satisfaction, or more importantly, their dis-satisfaction with the conduct of our affairs. Over the last year our Membership has increased enormously and we are very anxious to retain all our new Members. We hope you will all come along for this important event. Although there is a structured procedure it is always a very light hearted affair.

Our Senior Officers will deliver their reports. As usual our Chairman John G8DET will have a few words of wisdom for us. Brian G3CVI our Treasurer will be explaining his accounts to us. They are quite transparent and his methods are an example to such organisations as Enron to follow! He usually rounds off his presentation with a story which will, we hope, be quite suitable for all ages and genders! Our Secretary David M0BQC has included his report in this Newsletter which he exorts you to read. It is on the back page. It all saves time at the meeting.

Our Hon. President Harry G5HF will carry out his complicated Presidential duties and probably give us a few thought provoking observations on a matter of his choice.

Each Member of the Committee has expressed his readiness for re-election, if that is the wish of the Membership. The Membership may also propose candidates for the Committee. It is all very democratic and we urge you to exercise your vote!

Following the formal business of the evening we have a presentation entitled

CARS M3 Foundation Courses, An Overview.

Trevor M5AKA will be running the raffle this month. Your support is vital to maintain our solvency!

Dates For Your Diary.

Tuesday October 1 CARS Annual General Meeting, 7-30pm. MASC
Wednesday. October 9 CARS Committee Meeting. Danbury Village Hall. 7-30pm

Annual Merit Awards.

Our Vice Chairman, Carl G3 PEM wishes to thank all those Members who voted for the Amateur of the Year Award. The winner will be announced at the AGM and we can reveal that it was a very close run race, which bears testimony to the Members prepared to give up their time to further the interests of amateur radio generally and the Club in particular.

There is also another award which will be presented at the AGM. This is the Roy Martyr Award for Excellence in Amateur Radio. This award was presented to the Club by Ela in memory of her late husband Roy G3PMX who was Club President for many years. Roy was most meticulous in everything he did and the title of this award is most appropriate. The winner of this trophy is chosen by a group of very long standing Club Members known as the Club Elders!

We usually prevail upon Ela to make the presentation. For the benefit of newer Members we should point out that Ela was very involved in Club matters, assisting Roy as President. She has earned a well deserved rest from the day to day running of the Club. Ela was one of the top operators on the VHF bands, always near the top of the contest lists. She has now retired from serious operating, forced upon her by an altered and unsuitable location.

Last Month's Meeting. The Amateur Radio Observation Service by Barry Scarisbrick G4ACK.

Barry is the AROS Co-ordinator and introduced the lecture by stating that AROS are not there to police the bands but to observe and gather the facts on behalf the RA and RSGB. It is recognized that the RA does not have the resources to carry out the initial monitoring on amateur allocated frequencies. By employing AROS voluntary observers it keeps the amateur licence fee for all amateurs at a reasonable level

AROS was set up 25 years ago by David Pratt G3KEP in conjunction with the RSGB to encourage amateurs to put their own house in order and forestall other users of the HF spectrum laying claim on the amateur bands in an endeavor to increase their own frequency allocations. It was able to come into full operation before the WARC in 1979. It was recognized then, as it is today, that, in general, amateurs have a very high standard of operating. There does remain however a small minority whose operating practice or standard of transmission is somewhat lacking. The service started with 10 observers, and now has 61 observers spread fairly evenly across the UK.

He then explained that the RA is charged with frequency planning, assignment and licences, and keeping the spectrum clean. It is with this last item that AROS assists the RA. It should be noted that amateurs must operate their stations in accordance with BR68. Brian stated that AROS is not the Intruder Watch. Nor does it observe on repeaters; that is the responsibility of the Repeater Management Group.

AROS will only start observing when a written report of complaint of non compliance with BR68 is received via PO Box 113 Potters Bar. The received mail is collected by the RSGB and sent on to Barry who will then decide if he has enough information to allocate a group of observers to the task. To be effective he requires as much detail as possible; time, frequency, suspected non compliance, and also of course, a name and address so he can reply.

The observers will then gather the facts over a set period, compile reports and then send them to Barry. Depending upon the results he will either, take no action at all, extend the observation period, or drop a nice letter to the offending station informing them of their non compliance with BR68. If, however, the non compliance is serious then a package of information is passed to the RA Enforcement Branch who will then gather their own evidence before carrying out an action. This action could be to suspend, revoke the licence or take the person concerned to court.

The irregularities fall into one of two categories, technical and operating.

Technical discrepancies may include such faults as over-modulation, frequency instability harmonic radiation or other spurious emissions.

Operating violations include out of band operation, deliberate interference, not transmitting callsigns correctly. Operating problems can consist of the following;

Direct threats to the person - a police matter.

Piracy - usually a single occurrence.

Bad language. Hard to get a conviction these days, a sign of the times! School playground language is tolerated!

Unlicensed operation by amateurs

Racial remarks - the courts come down on this very hard. Another sign of the times!

Lack of callsigns.

He showed us a number of letters he had received which almost beggar belief! He also showed a typical warning letter that he sends out which are very delicately phrased. In many cases this is often enough to cure the problem!

He also left some RA documents, and a photostat of RadCom articles from 1976/77 which I have used in compiling this report. Thank you Barry for an interesting and informative presentation.

Tony G4YTG and Ralph G3NAA ran a most successful raffle helping to pay our rent! Barry rounded off the proceedings by presenting the Chelmsford Award certificate to Ron Ingate M3CAM. Congratulations Ron!

Report by Carl G3PEM.

The Chelmsford Award.

Martyn M3VAM's brainchild is proving very popular locally and, believe it or not, on the other side of the 'Pond' as well!

Designed to raise funds for the Essex Air Ambulance it has been awarded so far to the following:

'Big' Jim Beatwell M3GUA

Pat O'Riordan G0SBQ

John Peters G3VMJ

Ron Ingate M3CAM

Ron Keefe G4SIS

Peter Geir M1CKA

Helio Carlota PY2DBV

and, of course, Martyn himself who did one on Hf and another on 2m.

Jamboree On The Air (JOTA).

The Chelmsford Scout Amateur Radio Fellowship will be taking part in JOTA on the 19th and 20th of October, using the call sign GB4CDS (*Chelmsford District Scouts*) on all bands from 80M to 70cm. They will be on 20M around 14.290MHz using SSB, and on 2M around 145.500MHz FM. The aim of the event is to get the Scouts to pass greetings messages to each other all over the world, and also to help them get their "Communications Badge".

The Chelmsford Scout Amateur Radio Fellowship will also try to get the "Chelmsford Award" using their own call sign M5CDS (*Chelmsford District Scouts*) over the weekend.

If you would like to arrange a sked, call Chris G0IPU on 07960 796441 at any time over the weekend and he will point you to the active bands in use at the station.

There is also a parallel event on called Jamboree On The Internet (JOTI). This will also be running from the 2nd Chelmsford Scout Centre. To send a message visit:

"<http://www.chelmsford-scarf.co.uk/jota>" and follow the link.

CARS Fashions.

Not just content with devising awards, Martyn M3VAM has also introduced a range of CARS clothing. This has proved quite popular and is competitively priced. It has been widely advertised and there will be a further chance to place an order at the AGM. There will be flyers on the seats giving sizes and prices. Buy your winter woolies now!

Bargains Galore!

For Sale

Single phase 250volt Mains electric Arc Welding Transformer 30-140 Amp. Welds 1.5 - 4mm steel. Complete with Welding Headpiece & rods. Manufactured by SIP, Model 140DV. Never used to make a weld - Offers to John, G8DET. 01245 224677. E-Mail:- john@g0mwt.idps.co.uk

For Sale

Aluminium poles, two 10ft and one 6ft. £20 the lot. VHF Weather sat. RX, software and antenna. £65. Weather sat. Rx, 1m dish, software and rig book £80. Contact 'Big' Jim M3GUA on 01245 35639.

Marconi CR200 Receiver by Geoff G7KLV.

The things hidden away in people's lofts and garages never cease to amaze me. Wearing my Museum hat I was put in touch recently with a man who had a CR200 he wanted to be rid of! If he couldn't find a good home for it he was going to bin it. I was round there like a shot!

At Sandford Mill we have CR100's, CR150's and a brace of CR300's. I was always hoping a CR200 would turn up, completing the Marconi range of CR, Commercial Receivers! At last my dream had come true!

Apart from seeing one at a rally a few years ago it was the first time I had seen one for at least fifty years! They are not very common. The CR200 is

described in the MWT catalogue as a 'LF Receiver' and covers the range 15 to 560 kc/s (long before we were lumbered with those ridiculous).

On CW it operates as a superhet with an IF of 1kc/s. The oscillator tracks the signal frequency with a difference of 1kc/s. There are two stages of signal frequency amplification followed by a triode hexode frequency changer valve. The triode acts as the oscillator. The IF is obviously 1kc/s.

Two stages of AF amplification follow. There is provision for an external speaker, phones and line output.

With modulated signals, ie. speech, the receiver operates as a straight receiver, being designated as a 2-V-2, there being two RF stages followed by a detector and two stages of AF amplification. The oscillator is disabled and the hexode acts as a 'leaky grid detector'.

Precautions have been taken to eliminate heterodyne ambiguity of the frequency change oscillator and a heterodyne vernier has been fitted and is calibrated in degrees, 0 to 360 degrees. I have to confess that I don't understand this!

There is a 1kc/s audio narrow band pass filter which can be selected if required. There are three aerial inputs; Vertical aerial, 80ohm feeder and directional aeriels. There is a built in power supply with plug-in electrolytics and two chokes.

All the inductors have adjustable ferrite cores and measure approx. 1.5in. diam and 1.7 in. high. I think the main application was as a low frequency marine receiver with facilities for DF. It covered the marine distress frequency. It is very heavy and weighs in at nearly three quarters of a hundredweight!

Sandford Mill Open Day.

The Industrial Museum is holding a Science Discovery Day on Sunday 29th September. We have been invited to operate our station. We are hoping some of the newer and less experienced Members will come along and operate our new FT847 under the guidance of our more mature operators. This is a unique opportunity for our M3's to hve a go with 100watts. Come along and join us, you will be very welcome. The day starts at 10am and finishes at 5pm. Light refreshments are available and there are plenty of hands on science exhibits for all the family. Contact Brian CVI on 01245-471919.

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Deadline for the November N/L is Wed. 10th. October.

CHELMSFORD AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Marconi Sports and Social Club on 2nd October 2001.

The meeting was declared open by the Chairman John G8DET at 1945hrs. The agenda was displayed by overhead projector. Apologies were received from Tony G4YTG.

The minutes of the 2000 Annual General Meeting, written by David M0BQC had been distributed with the newsletter and were approved by the meeting following proposal by Carl G3PEM, seconded by Ken G7RFT.

Chairman John G8DET gave his report. John said what an excellent year it had been for the Club. The future of the Marconi Athletics and Social Club was then raised by John: he has received a letter stating that BAe Systems are planning to sell the site for domestic house building. The planning stage could take two years and the Club may even move to the new Marconi Club premises in Hanningfield Road. John thanked the Club for the flowers sent to his wife after her hospital stay. John thanked Dr. Bowles for all his help to the Club. John thanked the Committee for their work during the year and mentioned that he understood Bob M0CSV's reasons for resigning from the Committee. John then gave details of contributions by each member.

The Secretary David M0BQC mentioned that there had been 11 Committee meetings during the year with an average attendance of 12. There were five speakers from outside the Club including Don Beattie and six meetings provided by Club Members. Mr Sidebottom was mentioned in connection with the Christmas Dinner at the White Horse Pleshey and thanks conveyed to Jill for her contribution. The newsletter was praised and thanks given to Geoff G7KLV and Colin G0TRM. The International Marconi Day at Sandford Mill was a great success and thanks were expressed to Brian G3CVI and Dr Geoff Bowles and the Club Members who supported this event so well. The webpage prepared by John G8DET has given the Club world wide publicity and John was thanked for his excellent work. The need for extra support from Members was stressed in two areas, newsletter copy and participation in Club nets. The important contribution to Club finances from the raffle, Junk sale and Tabletop sale was highlighted. Another successful year thanks to the interest, hard work and support of Members.

Brian told us first about the membership status. There are 75 Members at present which is a drop of 8 from last year. The average age is creeping up so there is a need to encourage younger new Members. The new licence regulations may help. Brian then presented the Treasurers report by discussing the Incoming and Expenditure Account, (copies distributed at the meeting and with newsletter). We have purchased the Louis Varney Trophy.

Expenses have increased on the hire of the Marconi Club. The affiliation fee to the RSGB has increased as it now includes public liability insurance. We received a credit from the ARIS. Brian recommended an increase in subscriptions of £1 on each class. Trevor M5AKA asked why we needed to increase subs when we have £3500 in the bank. Brian replied that the Club might buy a VHF transceiver. Ela G6HKM responded by saying there is not much activity on VHF. Colin G0TRM wondered if £80 per year extra income would make any difference. Brian suggested that a small increase is better than waiting several years and then facing a large increase. Acceptance of the increase from £7 to £8 for concessions and £8 to £9 for full members was proposed by Carl G3PEM and seconded by Ela G6HKM. The proposal was passed by a large majority.

Harry G5HF, our President, addressed the meeting. Harry's concern is for the future retention of our amateur frequencies. In earlier times morse and our ability to communicate worldwide provided our special status, but things have changed and there are many commercial interests who want to buy our frequencies. How can we justify our special status? Harry focused on power supplies. How can we carry on communicating when the mains are out? The challenge was thrown down to experiment with alternative methods of power generation for emergency use.

The President then retired the Committee. Bob M0CSV did not wish to serve but the remainder were willing to continue. The President asked that those Members wishing to continue serving should be re-elected en bloc. Fred G6FXM proposed this motion and Arthur G3KPJ seconded and it was passed unanimously. Trevor M5AKA was proposed as a new Committee Member by Carl G3PEM, seconded by John G8DET and accepted by the floor.

Any Other Business:

John G8DET announced the following awards:

Geoff Bowles was made an honorary Club member for his help to the Club at Sandford Mill.

Amateur of the Year Award to Geoff Bowles - presented by Harry G5HF.

The Roy Martyr Trophy for Excellence in Amateur Radio to John Palmer who was not present Jim agreed to take the Trophy to him.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2050 hours.

A light hearted quiz was then chaired by John DET.

Minutes prepared by David M0BQC Secretary.