



# SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

JANUARY 2002 — No: 712

CLUB NET 29.111 MHz Sunday 9:30am  
 CLUB NET 144.325 MHz Friday 8:30pm  
 CLUB NET 145.500 MHz and Down Thursday 7.00pm

CLUB Internet WEB Site:  
<http://www.g3src.org.uk>

Hon. Sec. Ray Howells G4FFY  
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 SUTTON  
 Surrey SM1 3LD  
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E-Mail: [secretary@g3src.org.uk](mailto:secretary@g3src.org.uk)

MONTHLY MEETINGS 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> MONDAYS 7.45 FOR 8pm  
 AT THE T.S. TERRA NOVA, 34 THE WALDRONS, SOUTH CROYDON  
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**"A" MEETING 7<sup>th</sup> Jan 2002 RSGB Organisation & The Future – Paul M0CJX DRRM**  
**"B" MEETING 21<sup>st</sup> Jan 2002 FIX-IT, ADVICE, CHIN-WAG, CLUB STATION + "MOVE-IT-ON"**

Chairman	GOPAR David How	020-8761 2954
Vice-Chairman	G3ZPB Peter Burton	01737-551413
Treasurer, Liaison & Equipment	G4DDY Maurice Fagg	020-8669 1480
Secretary, Membership & Communications	G4FFY Ray Howells	020-8644 7589
VHF Co-ordinator	G8TB Bernard Wynn	020-8660 7517
Publicity & HF Co-ordinator	G4WAY Roger Holyoake	020-8689 7089
Members	G4XAT Gareth Evans	020-8462 2837
	G3RJW Graham Marshall	020-8669 8722
Co-opted	M1MRS Robert Shepperley	020-8640 5166

## Dear Members

Hello and welcome to the January 2002 newsletter, the first for 2002. We wish all our members and friends a Happy New Year. Hopefully you all put in your new diaries that the first meeting of the SRCC is actually next Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2002. Unfortunately this Newsletter was delayed by the Christmas holiday and having to rebuild the computer – aren't PCs fun!!

For this month's "A" meeting on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January we are please to welcome Paul Berkeley M0CJX, the Deputy RSGB Regional Manager for Surrey and South London, for an RSGB presentation; the "B" meeting on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January will be the regular "Fix-it" evening.

This will be the first of two talks to be given by Paul, as next month he will be presenting The Picatune.

## Next "A" Meeting Mon 7<sup>th</sup> Jan 2002 RSGB Organisation & The Future with Paul Berkeley M0CJX - DRRM

Paul M0CJX is the Deputy RSGB Regional Manager (DRRM) for Surrey and South London. As our local representative, he is happy to try and resolve any issues or problems that we may have by acting as a pro-active interface into the Society.

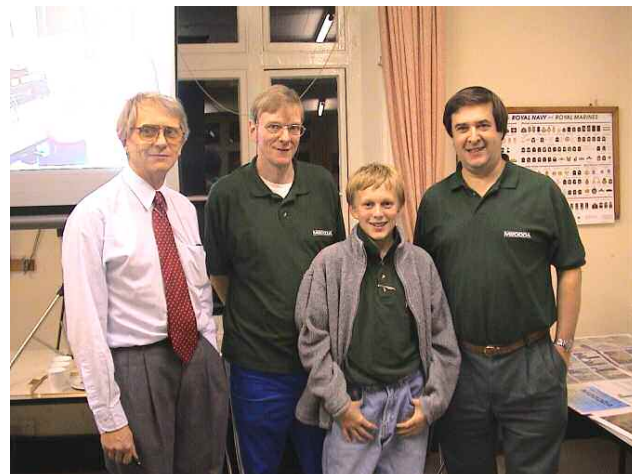
Paul on Monday night will be giving a presentation on the current organisation and the future shape of things to come. The talk is aimed at bringing the Society closer to the membership and will be informative and entertaining.

## NEXT "B" MEETING: Monday 21<sup>st</sup> Jan 2002 FIX-IT and "MOVE-IT-ON" Evening

The "B" meeting on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> Jan will be the regular "Fix-It" and advice evening with the extra twist. If you have a radio item that you just wish to clear out then bring it along - you never know it may be just what another member is looking for!

The Fix-It section has proved very interesting and successful so please bring along that item that has been giving you grief - the collective heads at the meeting usually come up with something.

## Last "A" Meeting Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 2001 M2000A - Millennium Station



The M2000A Millennium Station presentation was a thoroughly enjoyable evening given by the team, photographed above, of Paul G3SXE, Bob RS32525, Simon BRS177448 and Dave G4BUO. It was a shame it was only attended by 13 members but the inclement weather may have had something to do with it.

My notes of the evening run to some 8 A4-pages and I noted that we were the 11<sup>th</sup> talk they had given.

The evening started with an introduction by Paul G3SXE, and I recorded the following highlights:

- 20 months of planning for this prestigious station;
- Ranger's House is on the Zero meridian;
- Excellent co-operation from English Heritage and own employers
- Licences obtained
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Party licences from other countries, some 20-30 countries allowed 3<sup>rd</sup> party traffic;
- Sponsorship
- Equipment safety checked;
- Displays;
- Awful lot of work.

Bob BRS32525 then continued detailing the structure of the talk to cover:

- Background
- Setting-up
- Launch and first day's QSO's (with Brian Rix)
- Schools
- Publicity and Dignitaries
- Facts & Figures + Closedown

#### *Milestones:*

On conception of the idea the project was named "ECHO" – Eltham Contacting Hams Overseas. It was then "sold" to the local council and followed by presentation to English Heritage. Application for money resulted in grants from the Millennium Fund and Greenwich Celebration.

Planning permission was sought for towers: 2 x 70ft and 1 x 40ft (62 days temporary permission granted). Also 3 licence variations for M2000A (a single variation is 28-days max).

Creation of the Gang of 3 (4).

#### *Support:*

Temporary membership gave permission to operate M2000A. 1 person joined, made one contact and said that's it, had achieved what he set out to do.

RSGB – this was the main amateur station in the UK celebrating the Millennium.

RA – supported the special callsign M2000A

#### *Sponsorship:*

Needed equipment, towers, aerials, rigs, champagne, tables, chairs, balloons, computers, 25,000 QSL cards, video, etc. Fortunately Bob's persuasion succeeded in getting help from such people as Icom, SMC, Sainsbury's, Maplins, Strumec, etc.

#### *Ready for the OFF!!*

11am 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 1999 until 29<sup>th</sup> Feb 2000. 4 rooms set-up with displays including old valves, Morse code, archive radios, RSGB book sales.

#### *Setting up the Station:*

Noting daily hrs of operation agreed as 8am till 7pm & over 100 operators involved it had to be "bomb" proof.

There were 3 HF stations using simple interlocks to prevent problems from "knob-twiddlers":

**HF1** – 20, 15, 10 with TH5 up 70ft (80m optional). IC746 + PW-1 400W.

**HF2** – 30, 17 12 with A3WS (also used in D68C very sharp beam). IC756PRO 100W. This station worked the first QSO by Brian Rix to ZL6A at 11am (12 midnight in ZL)

**HF3** – IC775 200W. 80, 40, 15, 10. 80M dipole up 60ft; 40M 2-ele up 70ft; 15M 4-ele up 40ft fixed NE; 10M 3-ele up 40ft fixed W.

For VHF/UHF it was:

**VHF1** – 6M 6-ele up 40ft using IC706. Lots of G's but poor conditions.

**VHF2** – 2M 10-ele up 45ft using IC746

**UHF** – Packet Cluster; Turbolog network (G3WGB programme).

So it was 5-stations linked to a central server (TNC) to provide live log information via computers.

In total the above equated to 6 HF antennas, 2 VHF antennas, 5 Transceivers, 8 12v PSUs, 7 Computers (5 stations + 1 server + 1 read-only for the public). 8 TNCs, 8 UHF radios, 3 rotators, 5 headsets, third of a mile of coax, 500ft rotator cable, 3 amplifier/speakers for the public to hear the QSOs, and 18 relays.

For the tower guying instead of stakes, concrete blocks were used – no they were steel !! It took 3-days to set-up and on the first day it was –6C and it snowed.

#### *Launch:*

The launch was on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 1999 with a high profile official opening. Bob contacted Lord Rix (Brain Rix) who agreed providing he was given a lift there and back, and MENCAP was a part of the day.

Also involved was the Mayor of Greenwich, Deputy mayor, Leader of the Council, Director of English Heritage, Don Beattie RSGB President 2000, Hilary Clayton-Smith RSGB President 1999, Millennium Office, SMC Colin Thomas, ICOM UK (who provided lots of publicity in Japan).

Following the champagne breakfast and speeches at 10:30am they went across to operating room at 11:00am for Brian Rix to work ZL6A including a third party message from a disabled child. At midday a sked was completed with 9G0ARS in Tenma (Africa) between the Mayor of Greenwich and Mayor of Tenma (Chief Executive). Between 11 and 12 it was difficult to keep people off so at 11:20 it was "go on then" and worked many stations including amongst the first was Ron G6LX.

#### *First Day Contacts:*

- Special Millennium contacts – worked 53 stations in their respective midnights
- Best QSO – ZD7 on 80M 1<sup>st</sup> night
- Competitive element – worked 3443 contacts on 1<sup>st</sup> day of operation
- Average of 200 QSO's / hour.

#### *Schools:*

- Average age of Radio Amateur is now 52
- Brought amateur radio to the younger element
- Tied it in with the National Curriculum
- Council wrote to 100 schools
- 15 schools visited – a lot of them passed greetings messages
- 400 school children in total – "sowed a seed for later in life?"

#### *Publicity & Dignitaries*

- Web site [www.qsl.net/m2000a](http://www.qsl.net/m2000a)
- Local papers
- National paper – The Times
- International – ZL, Japan
- TV & Radio – LBC Gyles Brandreth, GMTV, 97.3 News Direct
- Dignitaries – Charlton Athletic (Eddie)

#### *Achievements*

- 47,752 QSO's
- 202 DXCC Entities
- WAS, WOZ, IOTA (100 Islands)
- Contest Activity
- 1200 visitors
- 200 licensed amateurs/SWLs
- More members for CVRS
- £853 turnover on book sales and merchandise

#### *Closedown*

Last QSO was with KD1HN and it took half-a-day to "tear down". Enjoyed by all involved – it was their lives for a number of months.

Many thanks to Bob, Paul, Dave and Simon for an excellent evening whose enthusiasm for the event shone throughout the evening. We were treated to a professional presentation and also thanks to Peter G3ZPB for bringing the VGA projector.

For those of you who missed this talk I now have a copy of the video that was produced and perhaps could be shown at, say, a "B" meeting – watch this space.

## THE CALENDAR SECTION

### SRCC and Local Club Meeting Dates:

2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	Crystal Palace – No meeting @ Beechwood School, Leigham Court Road. Bob G3OOU 01737 552170
7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<b>RSGB DRRM for South London &amp; Surrey</b>
8 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Thames Valley ARTS – Open Forum & Propagation Update by G3ENI. 8pm Library Reading Room, Giggs Hill, Thames Ditton - Trevor MOCDB 01372-457674
9 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Crawley ARC – GB3WS with Mike G4EFO @ Hut 18, Tilgate Forest Recreational Centre, Tilgate Forest, Crawley – 7.30pm. Sec: Jerry G0FPI 01293-512932
11 <sup>th</sup> Jan	W&DARS – Meetings @ St. Andrew's Church Hall, Herbert Road, Wimbledon-8pm. Details: Jim G4WYJ 01737 356745
14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	CATS – A Practical Demonstration of PSK31 by Andy G0KZT - Contact: Andy G0KZT 01737-552139. Meetings normally @ St. Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Rd, Purley 8pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday's
15 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Bromley & District – <b>AGM</b> - Meetings 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday's @ Victory Social Club, Kechill Gardens, Hayes – 7.30 for 8pm. Sec: Alan G0TLK 020-8777 0420
17 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Sutton & Cheam RS – PW Past & Present with Rob Manion G3XFD @ Vice Presidents Lounge, Sutton United Football Club, Gander Green Lane, Sutton – 7.30 for 8pm. Sec: John G0BWV 020-8644 9945
18 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Crystal Palace – Receivers Evening @ All Saints Parish Rooms, Beulah Hill - 7.00 for 8pm. Further details from Sec: Bob G3OOU 01737 552170 or WEB Site: <a href="http://members.aol.com/rfcburns">http://members.aol.com/rfcburns</a>
21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	<b>Fix-It, Advice, Chin-Wag, "Move-It-On"</b>
22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	Dorking & District Radio Society – Meetings 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday's @ Friends Meeting House, Butterhill South Street, Dorking – opp. Spotted Dog. Details: Jon G0GNA 01306-883718
23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Crawley ARC – AGM @ Hut 18, Tilgate Forest Recreational Centre, Tilgate Forest, Crawley – 7.30pm. Sec: Jerry G0FPI 01293-512932
25 <sup>th</sup> Jan	W&DARS – Meetings @ St. Andrew's Church Hall, Herbert Road, Wimbledon-8pm. Details: Jim G4WYJ 01737 356745
4 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>Picatune with Paul Berkeley M0CJX</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> Mar	<b>Spring Surplus Equipment Sale</b>
16 <sup>th</sup> Mar	<b>SRCC Dinner @ Windmill Pub, Wallington</b>
8 <sup>th</sup> Apr	<b>AGM</b>
13 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Construction Evening</b>
10 <sup>th</sup> Jun	<b>Construction Contest</b>

SRCC Meetings indicated in **BOLD** with venue of Terra Nova unless otherwise stated.

### Rally Calendar, etc:

9 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2002	Crystal Palace Spring Fair, St John's Hall, Sylvan Road, London, SE19 – 10:30 to 13:00. Contact Bob Burns G3OOU - <a href="mailto:rfcburns@aol.com">rfcburns@aol.com</a>
13 <sup>th</sup> /14 <sup>th</sup> Apr	RSGB Spring Radio & Computer Show (incorporating RSGB National Convention). Info: Jan 0870 9047377
16 <sup>th</sup> June	Epsom Radio & Electronics Fair – Epsom Downs Racecourse Grandstand. Contact Paul Berkeley M0CJX - <a href="mailto:m0cjx@lineone.net">m0cjx@lineone.net</a>
14 <sup>th</sup> July	Sussex Amateur Radio & Computer Fair, Brighton Racecourse. Details Ron G8VEH <a href="mailto:ronbray5@aol.com">ronbray5@aol.com</a>

### CLUB ACTIVITY - GB100WT 12<sup>th</sup> Dec 2001

This took place on 12<sup>th</sup> December and whilst I'll await a full report I do have photos courtesy of Roger G4WAY (This is a sample as Roger took 9 in all – they will eventually appear on our WEB site when I get around to it!!):



GB100WT – 12<sup>th</sup> Dec 2001

### CLUB ACTIVITY - Affiliated Societies Contest

13<sup>th</sup> Jan – CW 80M 14:00-18:00

19<sup>th</sup> Jan – SSB 80M 14:00-18:00

A minimum of 5 club stations is required to enable an entry to be made – hopefully we can do it this year!!

### MEMBERSHIP NEWS:

#### E-Mail Address updates:

Roger Holyoake G4WAY: [rholyoake@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:rholyoake@tiscali.co.uk)

John Horner G3BZW: [catswhisker62@hotmail.com](mailto:catswhisker62@hotmail.com)

### SEA CADETS TERRA NOVA

The request in the last newsletter for a member to instruct cadets in communications lead to a second volunteer of Pat G4FDN. Pat joins Robert M1MRS in volunteering their help – thank you both. I have received the following E-mail from Pat G4FDN:

"This is an update on what is happening with the Sea Cadet's request for help in radio communications instruction -some of which you may want to include in the club newsletter. Like Robert Shepperley I had also volunteered to help out the cadets. I have been along to see their C.O. Graham Peach and inspect their shack, and also spoken twice with their Area Comms officer Norman Norris. The first visit to see Graham revealed the shack was very poorly equipped and that he didn't have a detailed syllabus. Norman Norris wasn't able to make a scheduled meeting for the 4th December to discuss in detail how we are going to move this forward and I'm currently awaiting confirmation from him for a proposed meeting on either the 8th or 10th January. The aim of this meeting will be to plan the sequence of instruction against the syllabus (and get a copy of it!) and identify how and when we will be able to help getting their shack organised.

At the last club 'B' meeting I discussed this with Robert M1MRS and we have both agreed to offer one evening a month - probably on separate evenings but not yet discussed in detail.

Norman also revealed to me he that is currently studying the RAE with the Crawley club and asked about the possibility of offering the cadets Foundation Licence instruction in parallel with their own syllabus. I said I would look into it and I've made tentative enquiries to Bob Whelan G3PJT, and he has referred me to Fiorina Sinapi at RSGB HQ, but he advised that "that a club can only register as a club where Foundation Courses could be given. The actual registration is personal for Lead Instructors". Obviously this is a topic that the club committee would need to discuss before taking it any further.

For getting the cadets on the air on one of their SSB frequencies around 6.99MHz Maurice G4DDY has kindly offered to loan a Yaesu FT101 and assist in getting a suitable antenna erected. It would also be useful to have a CW enthusiast to take on the Morse instruction. Anyone who is able to help in anyway would be most welcome.

So that's it for now. 73, Pat G4FDN"

## AMATEUR INFO:

I have the first of "information snippets" that members may find useful:

The final examination dates for the RAE are 12th May and 1st December 2003 and the final dates for the Novice exam are 9th September and 9th December 2002.

Anyone taking the December exams should remember there will be no final re-sit examinations; unsuccessful candidates will need to qualify under the new arrangements coming into force the following year.

## INTERNET LINKING:

The following was sent by Andy G0KZT:

### New I-LINK Access on 2 Metres

Terry Giles G4CDY approached me at the Bazaar and told me about a new Internet gateway he has set up at his QTH in Purley. Access is on 145.2875 and requires DTMF tones to dial up other voice Internet repeaters in the UK and around the world.

Deviation should be kept down to +/-2.5KHz, which should give an optimum level to the Internet. In the same way you may find that the audio from the link is rather quiet- *you may have to turn your volume control up!*

The power of the link transmitter is kept low (about 1W) so that if you can hear it OK, it will hear you.

*Important:* Don't forget to use normal callsign procedures but leave plenty of time between overs. There is no point in transmitting if there is still carrier coming from the link!

*Tip:* Even if you don't hear anything from the link it is worth giving a quick call just in case there is a link that has not been cleared.

*Obvious point.* The link will not help you hear any other stations on 2m; the audio always comes via the Internet.

### Simple Operation Without a DTMF Microphone

The system relies on a link being established between somebody on the internet connecting with G4CDY-L., the somebody could be an individual, another link or full blown repeater.

If there is an active link, i.e. you can hear someone call CQ or chatting; when their carrier goes off, you can transmit and they will hear you. (Just like a simplex QSO)

### You don't need any DTMF or other tones

### Operation With a DTMF Microphone

If you can send DTMF over the air you can control and set-up the Internet links (you always wondered why your rig had a DTMF encoder- this is the reason!). Effectively you can send a 4-digit number to select any station, link or repeater on the network absolutely anywhere in the world.

The first thing you need is a list of stations that are active along with their 4-digit index. You can get this from this from [link](http://213.120.146.246/update.htm). (<http://213.120.146.246/update.htm>)

For convenience here is a list of stations that are normally on the system 24 hours a day.

CALL	LOCATION	INDEX
WB2REM-L	Trenton N Jersey	1471
VK2RMB-L	Sydney	3133
GB3PZ-R	Manchester	2591
M0CSH-L	North Kent	1001
G4CDY-L	Purley	3073

Most rigs need you to press and hold down the PTT, then key in the DTMF digits releasing the PTT directly after the last digit. Some rigs like the Yaesu VX5R have an auto dialler which allow you the pre-program your favourite links and call them up with only one key press. This is very neat and fast - dig out those old instructions!

To test if the gateway is working and not connected, send the \* tones. If the repeater is feeling OK and not connected it will reply with a voice message giving its status. If there is no reply it is either switched off or already connected.

To connect to the Internet send a relevant 4-digit code. The gateway will reply with "connecting" after a few seconds and you are in luck it will say "connected" and then you will hear a voice ident from the connected station (some stations don't have this ident) If you are out of luck it will say "busy or off line". In this case try another 4-digit index.

At the end of your contact please send a # to disconnect the link. It will reply with a "disconnected" message.

### TIPS:

1. Be patient, allow plenty of time between overs to allow for remote links to change over
2. Be persistent; call CQ several time and as often as possible to encourage activity.

I have tried the link and spoken to stations in New York State and Sydney Australia, all from my 2 metre handheld in the shack. The I-Link location is ideal for most club members.

Further information is available at [www.g4cdy.co.uk](http://www.g4cdy.co.uk) and will link to other sites giving lists of other available sites. You can also download the I-Link software to use on your computer.

Members may recall my previous exploits using the computer (See page 7 of May's CATS Whispers). However, references to I-Phone software should now be ignored as this software has now been superseded by I-LINK. See December's RadCom Page 89 for details.

Incidentally, I-Link was written by Graeme Barnes M0CSH and is specifically for Amateur repeater linking. Graeme also has a website which can be found using a search engine.

Terry is keen for the I-Link to be used and is the first Internet repeater in this area of London as far as I am aware.

73 de Andy G0KZT"

## SRCC DINNER - 16<sup>th</sup> Mar 2002

We are currently finalising arrangements for this year's Club Dinner. We are back at the Windmill Pub in Wallington where we have the use of the private function room, which makes it nice and convivial. A Saturday evening has been booked for March 16<sup>th</sup> and if you are interested please let me know to reserve yourself and your partners' places.

## SIGNING OFF:

That's it for this month, though have held over some articles and letters till next month. Please come along to the RSGB presentation on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan with Paul M0CJX and support his efforts for what will be a very interesting evening and an opportunity to ask questions.

Many apologies for the lateness of this Newsletter - I have had the fun of re-building my PC when I started to get problems with Windows Shutdown, and then the Scanner, and so it went on with random lockups. I still find that with Windows ME I don't always get a clean shutdown but at least it is now reliable with the Scanner & no longer randomly locks-up (I hope so - time will tell).

Finally, may I wish everyone a Happy New Year and let's hope it's a better year than the last.

Ray G4FFY

73 and 88

Posted: 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 2002

PS - Don't forget to enter the Affiliated Societies Contest on 13<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Jan - thanks.

PPS - Trust the print was readable - keeps it on 4 sides!!