



# SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

**FEBRUARY 2005** — No: 749

CLUB NET 1.905 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  
 9 Aultone Way  
 SUTTON  
 Surrey SM1 3LD  
 (020) 8644 7589  
 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**

Normally AT THE T.S. TERRA NOVA, 34 THE WALDRONS, SOUTH CROYDON, CR0 4AZ

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**"A" MEETING 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 2005 German Radios of WWII with Brian Cannon G8DIU**

**"B" MEETING 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 2005 FIX-IT, ADVICE, CHIN-WAG, CLUB STATION + "MOVE-IT-ON"**

Chairman	G4XAT Gareth Evans	020-8462 2837
Vice-Chairman	G4WAY Roger Holyoake	020-8689 7089
Treasurer, Liaison & Equipment	G4DDY Maurice Fagg	020-8669 1480
Secretary, Membership & Communications	G4FFY Ray Howells	020-8644 7589
VHF Co-ordinator (Co-Opted)	G8IYS John Simkins	020-8657 0454
Publicity & HF Co-ordinator	M1MRS Robert Shepperley	020-8687 0811
Club Meetings	G4FDN Pat McGuinness	020-8643 0491
Members	G3RJW Graham Marshall	020-8669 8722
	G8TB Bernie Wynn	020-8660 7517

## Dear Members & Friends

Hello and welcome to the February 2005 Newsletter which I have started to write on Monday evening after a very busy January and, yes, did manage to submit my tax form by 31<sup>st</sup> Jan!!

For the "A" meeting on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February we have a return visit from Brian Cannon for a talk on German Radios during WWII. Details are given below but we would appreciate a great turnout – thank you. The "B" meeting is being held as usual on 21<sup>st</sup> February.

### **NEXT "A" MEETING: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 2005 German Radios of WWII: Brian Cannon G8DIU**

On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February we welcome back Brian G8DIU for another of his entertaining and enlightening talks. He will be presenting a talk covering two German radios widely used during WWII, how he obtained them, and how they work. I understand that one is a Telefunken 9-valve MweC MF Receiver (found: <http://home.online.no/~la8ak/24b.htm>), and the other a VHF man-pack transceiver - Feld FunkSprecher 'C' (haven't yet found a website for this one!!).

This meeting is also the annual Sid Morley G3FWR Memorial lecture and we look forward to your support for a large turnout – thank you.

### **NEXT "B" MEETING: Monday 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 2005 FIX-IT, Advice, Chin-Wag & "MOVE-IT-ON"**

The "B" meeting on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February will be the regular "Fix-It" and advice evening with the extra twist. If you have a radio item or anything else 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 10th Jan 2005 "The Flying Flea" - David Foster G3KQR**

For the first meeting of 2005 we welcomed back Dr David Foster G3KQR who gave us a presentation about Henri Mignet and his "Flying Flea".

Due to work commitments I missed this entertaining and informative evening but I have been supplied with 6-sides of David's notes for the evening.

I read that Henry Mignet invented and constructed a very small aeroplane in the middle 1930's. He wrote a book about it, in very florid French. In his book he described how the aeroplane could be constructed by anybody who could nail the top onto a packing case. This caught the imagination of people all over the world. In the UK many started to build them, quite a number completed and flew them and of those who flew them a number of them crashed and were killed. The appropriate authority of the UK Government withdrew the "Permits to Fly" they had issued.

David's lecture was about this aeroplane, but also included a biography of Henry Mignet and his wife Annette to add to the interest.

David gave an understanding as to why Henry's design was faulty with a short introduction on aerofoils, and the use of curved surfaces to give greater lift.

David also included a description of “Wind stalling” and the impact of angle of attack; plus “The best speed to fly” and “Induced Drag”. I note that an aeroplane must be equipped with control in Pitch, Yaw and Roll. Now Mignet’s Pu de Ciel was a staggered Biplane and David explained that it did not have full control in pitch, yaw and roll.

At this point David spoke about the fatal flaw in the Flying Flea. If the pilot stuck the nose down into a dive of greater than 10%, then the dive was irrecoverable and the prang would be fatal.

One of the things that Mignet boasted about in regards to his Flying Flea was that if you let the power off it just sat there in the same position and went down like a parachute. This aircraft was we are told the fourteenth that Mignet had designed and made. He was self taught and had no formal training in aeronautics and David has no evidence that he had access to any other experimentation other than trundling around in fields by himself or with his wife sitting in a corner of the field.



David concluded his talk with something about the man himself, and a little bit about his wife, Annette. Henri was born in 1893 (*according to a web-site I found*) and was a

radio-telephonist during the 1<sup>st</sup> World War but appears to have been invalided out of the army. By 1933 he had got up to aircraft HM13.

In 1934 he published his book “Le sport de l’air” inspired by his making and flying of HM14 designated “Pou-de-Ceil”. This is literally “Louse of Sky” but after the British newspapers had got hold of it, it changed to “The flying flea”, there is a deal of difference between Lice and Fleas!

After the fatal accidents in the UK, the last being a RAF Squadron Leader in 1936 (so could no longer blame pilot incompetence) HM14 flying was banned – apparently some 80 permits had been issued. In 1937 Mignet went to America.

There is a dreadful mystery in that on 10<sup>th</sup> December 1944 Madame Annette Mignet was assassinated by Communist partisans – no more is known.

In 1947 Mignet went to Argentina, and later in 1952 went to Brazil. 1954 saw him in Japan and in Morocco in 1955. He returned to France in 1958 and died there of cancer in 1965.

Thanks David for taking the time to present this talk to the SRCC. Trust my summary of your notes captures the essential parts. The book translation is on this Web Site:

[http://www.flyingflea.org/docs/hm\\_14.htm](http://www.flyingflea.org/docs/hm_14.htm)

**PS:** David is giving a talk at the Sutton Library Computer Club on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February entitled “DIY Computer Assembly”. Meetings are now held from 8pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at the Thomas Wall Centre, 52 Benhill Avenue, SUTTON SM1 4DP – [www.venus.co.uk/comms/slcc/images/twall.pdf](http://www.venus.co.uk/comms/slcc/images/twall.pdf)

## CHAIRMAN THOUGHT of the MONTH – February 2005

Last meeting provided an interesting insight into the obscure history of the Flying Flea, courtesy of David



Foster G3KQR. As is common with David’s talks, we were treated to a number of interesting anecdotes - thanks you David for taking the time to prepare and present your talk.

I have previously mentioned a rather nice little bit of kit I bought at the last Epsom rally, paying just £20 for a complete Racal Mosfet HF linear. Partial dismantling at home provided a pair of push-pull power mosfet amps (up to 300 Watts each pair), a switched and tuneable filter unit and the biggest switched mode psu I have ever seen - 48 volts at 30 amps! It didn’t appear to work when I removed it so it went on the ‘pending’ pile.

Last weekend I had a look at it, I recalled being told by a club member (possibly Bernard, G8TB, font of technical know-how!) that it would need the sense wires connecting. So I did just that, together with a suitable mains power lead. Bingo! 48 volts out! Like many quality power supplies, this one has an ‘adjust’ control too, so logically I adjusted it..... 50 volts down to 25, now that’s what I call versatile! It also means that all those exotic linears that need 28 volts suddenly become possible and although linear psu solutions exist, you can see why ‘switchers’ are so popular. With the brand name of TDK on the box, its own cooling fans, multi-voltage input and, if I add a panel mounted control, easy variable voltage too, it was a bit of a bargain! And I still have the pa section! Although having no reasons to suspect any faults with this unit, I suspect the chances of making it work as-is are slim, but at least I have 4 of the devices (Philips BLU) and a pre-driver stage to, all with splitters and re-combiners.

On the electric car front we are part way through our service and modification plans. The gearbox has been returned serviced and checked (as new apparently which is good news) and a large amount of polystyrene foam normally used for roof insulation has been purchased to make nose and tail cones from. An ex-pupil of mine has supplied drawings for us to use as guidance and even the University of Southampton has joined in on the act, offering aerodynamic advice about Greenpower cars on its website:

<http://www.soton.ac.uk/Racing/Greenpower/AerodynamicDesign/>

It’s quite complimentary about our car, showing that we have made a number of correct design decisions, mostly derived from good old ‘S.O.P’ calculations (Seat of Pants!!). However, as we approach the limit of available power for the 6 hour race, we really do have to optimise down to the last little bit if we are to beat last year’s winner. We have at least got superb motor cooling arrangements to keep our motor alive under the duress it is bound to receive this year!

On the radio front we hope to increase the reliability of our comms with battery pack analysis (remember they need to last 6 hours with a lot of TX) and some driver training to resort to conventional means should it all ‘go quiet’! The on-board ATV should work better too as I have shortened both the TX coax and the RX coax to the point that there isn’t any, sma sockets (thanks to Brian G6ODE and Maurice G4DDY) connecting directly to the base of small rubber ducks. Not the best, but the simplest to use in the hands of beginners. Thanks to the wonders of eBay I was also able to purchase a 1310 MHz video transmitter (commercial spec, 1/4 watt output) together with an inevitably deaf tuneable satellite type RX. This will increase our signal on 23 sufficient we hope to get decent picture from much of the course. The forthcoming half term is going to see some extensive progress I hope.

Don’t forget to sign up for the club dinner, as always I’ll make my speech as short as possible!!

Gareth G4XAT

**THE CALENDAR SECTION**  
**SRCC and Local Club Meeting Dates:**

4 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Crystal Palace – AGM & Construction Contest @ All Saints Church Parish Rooms, Beulah Hill. 7:30 for 8pm. Bob G3OUU 01737 552170 (Meetings 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fridays) <a href="http://members.aol.com/rfcburns">http://members.aol.com/rfcburns</a>
7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>“German WW2 Radios” with Brian G8DIU</b>
8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Dorking & District Radio Society – Meetings 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesdays @ Friends Meeting House, Butterhill South Street, Dorking – opp. Spotted Dog. Details: John G3AEZ on 01306 631 236
11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	W&DARS – Operating above UHF with Jim G4WYJ @ St. Andrew’s Church Hall, Herbert Road, Wimbledon – 7.30 for 8pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> & last Friday’s Details: Jim M0CON on 020-8874 7456 <a href="http://www.wadars.thersgb.net">http://www.wadars.thersgb.net</a>
14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	CATS – HF Antennas - Meetings held @ St. Swithun’s Church Hall, Grovelands Rd, Purley 8pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday’s. Contact: Dave G8VXB on 020-8546 5445 <a href="mailto:dyoung@photo-scan.com">dyoung@photo-scan.com</a>
15 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Bromley & District – TBC. Meetings on 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday’s @ Victory Social Club, Kechill Gardens, Hayes – 7.30 for 8. Alan G0TLK 020-8777 0420 <a href="http://www.bdars.org.uk">www.bdars.org.uk</a>
16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Crawley ARC – From Power Station to Consumer – John Narborough of Amberley Working Museum. Meetings normally held @ Hut 18, Tilgate Forest Recreational Centre, Tilgate Forest, Crawley – 7.30pm. Sec: Keith G8KZZ 01403 257788 <a href="http://www.carc.org.uk">www.carc.org.uk</a>
17 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Sutton & Cheam RS – WAB with John G8XTJ. Meetings @ Vice Presidents Lounge, Sutton United Football Club, Gander Green Lane, Sutton – 7.30 for 8pm. Sec: John G0BWV 020-8644 9945 <a href="http://www.scrs.org.uk">www.scrs.org.uk</a>
21 <sup>st</sup> Feb	<b>Fix-It, Advice, Chin-Wag, Move-It-On</b>
22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	Dorking & District Radio Society – Meetings 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesdays @ Friends Meeting House, Butterhill South Street, Dorking – opp. Spotted Dog. Details: John G3AEZ on 01306 631 236
23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	Mitcham & District ARS (Meetings normally last Wednesday of each month) @ ATC Headquarters, Commonside West, Mitcham. Sec: Mike Knott G0WCR 020-8764 4716
25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	W&DARS – “Picatune” construction & “On-Air” @ St. Andrew’s Church Hall, Herbert Road, Wimbledon – 7.30 for 8pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> & last Friday’s Details: Jim M0CON on 020-8874 7456 <a href="http://www.wadars.thersgb.net">http://www.wadars.thersgb.net</a>
7 <sup>th</sup> Mar	<b>Spring Surplus Equipment Sale</b>
14 <sup>th</sup> Mar	<b>VHF NFD Group Meeting @ G8IYS QTH</b>
19 <sup>th</sup> Mar	<b>SRCC Dinner – Mitcham Park Place – contact Ray G4FFY to book your place</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> Apr	<b>AGM</b>
9 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Project Constructing Evening</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> Jun	<b>Construction Contest</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> Jul	<b>Summer BBQ @ QTH of G4XAT</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Aug	<b>TBA</b>

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

**Rally Calendar, etc:**

6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	South Essex ARS Mobile Rally, Paddocks Community Centre, Long Road, Canvey Island, Essex: Brian G7IIO Tel: 01268 756331 E-Mail: <a href="mailto:braing7iio@yahoo.com">braing7iio@yahoo.com</a> Web: <a href="http://www.southessex.ars.btinternet.co.uk/">www.southessex.ars.btinternet.co.uk/</a>
5 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Crystal Palace Radio & Electronics Club Spring Fair at St. John’s Hall, Sylvan Road, London SE19. 10:30am to 1:00pm - see notice at end of Newsletter
24 <sup>th</sup> Apr	West London Radio & Electronics Show, Kempton Park Racecourse. Doors open by 10:15 Entrance still £3.50 Web: <a href="http://www.radiofairs.co.uk/">http://www.radiofairs.co.uk/</a>

**Contests:**

6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	70cm AFS SSB Contest – 0900-1300 Contact G8IYS for more info and if you intend to operate
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**CLUB ACTIVITY: 80m AFS 2005**

Well we tried but unfortunately this is turning out to be a poorly supported contest in our Club these days so no entry is being made. The CW event was on Sun 9th Jan whilst the SSB event was Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Jan.

**VHF NFD 2004 and 2005**

The eagled eye amongst you would have spotted some glaring errors in last month’s published table, I’m still not sure how I got it wrong but hopefully here is the correct version of our 2004 entry:

	Claimed	Actual	% Lost	Position
<b>50MHz</b>	8833	8093	8%	11 <sup>th</sup> (16 <sup>th</sup> )
<b>144MHz</b>	63669	59248	7%	1 <sup>st</sup> (2 <sup>nd</sup> )
<b>432MHz</b>	16506	14695	11%	1 <sup>st</sup> (2 <sup>nd</sup> )
<b>1296MHz</b>	3248	2773	15%	4 <sup>th</sup> (3 <sup>rd</sup> )

At the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> Jan 2005 it was agreed to enter this years’ contest and we have set the next meeting of the group as 14<sup>th</sup> Mar 2005 from 8pm at John’s G8IYS QTH of 18 Riding Hill, Sanderstead, CR2 9LN. Please advise John of your intention to attend either on 020-8657 0454 or [johns@connectnet.org.uk](mailto:johns@connectnet.org.uk)

**SCIENCE WEEK beginning 11<sup>th</sup> Mar 2005**

The RSGB is once again supporting the “British Association for the Advancement of Science” during “Science Week 2005”. Last year many clubs participated and they reported an overwhelmingly positive response with 1000’s of people turning out and seeing amateur radio being demonstrated. National Science week is from 11<sup>th</sup> March until the 20<sup>th</sup> March. Clubs can organise anything from a simple talk at the club or school visit through to some of the huge events that were run last year. Why not visit [www.rsgb.org/scienceweek](http://www.rsgb.org/scienceweek) for more details and see some of the successful events of 2004

**Members News**

- **John G3MCX**

Further to the news I published in the November 2004 Newsletter, John G3MCX (not M3MCX as published in Nov) rang me the other night to advise that it is planned for him to be admitted to Guy’s this Thursday (4<sup>th</sup>) as he will be having a kidney removed on Friday. We wish you well John and a speedy recovery.

**- SRCC Club Dinner: 19<sup>th</sup> Mar 2005**

The last committee agreed that we should hold another Dinner at the Beefeater Park Place in Mitcham where we have had successful dinners over the past few years. I shall be pleased to take your bookings on a first come first served basis – [secretary@g3src.org.uk](mailto:secretary@g3src.org.uk) or 07949 533839

**SIGNING OFF:**

I think that is it for this month, if I have missed anything I give my apologies and hopefully remember it next month. By the way our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary is on 29<sup>th</sup> Oct 2005. For our main meeting on Monday Feb 7<sup>th</sup> we welcome Brian Cannon G8DIU for his talk on German Radios of WWII and look forward to seeing you all then.

73 and 88 *Ray G4FFY*

Posted: 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2005

WEST LONDON RADIO & ELECTRONICS SHOW  
*A PREMIER RALLY FOR THE SOUTH OF  
ENGLAND*

*KEMPTON PARK RACECOURSE*

*SUNDAY 24th APRIL 2005*

*Doors open 10:15 - £3.50 entrance  
(under 16's free)*

*RadioFairs*

Some of the Show supporters are listed below, and for more  
[show](#) info click on the logo above. . .



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Listen to the Future



# Crystal Palace Radio & Electronics Club

G2LW

Web site: <http://www.members.aol.com/rfcburns>

## SPRING RADIO & ELECTRONICS SALE

Amateur Radio, Electronics, Computing, Tools etc.

Saturday 05 March 2005  
10:30am to 1:00pm

At St John's Hall, Sylvan Road, London, SE19

Tables for sellers (access at 8:30am):

Booked and paid in advance	£6.00 each
On the day (if any available)	£8.00 each

Admission (includes one free drink)	£1.00 each
Children free (under 16 years old)	

Refreshments available

Contact Bob on 01737 552170 or by email to [rfcburns@aol.com](mailto:rfcburns@aol.com)  
if you wish to hire a table or require more information

Location of hall:



### Public Transport:

- Free local parking.
- Buses: 410 along Sylvan Rd., 468, 196, 249 on nearby roads.
- BR Stations: Crystal Palace and Norwood Junction.