



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

MAY 2005 — No: 752

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

MONTHLY MEETINGS 1ST AND 3RD MONDAYS 7.45 FOR 8pm

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

"A" MEETING 9th May 2005 CONSTRUCTING EVENING – The DART (Model Aircraft)

"B" MEETING 23rd May 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 May 2005 newsletter which was prepared after the May Day Bank Holiday.

Another year in the Club has gone by finalised by the April AGM. The committee was re-elected with the posts remaining as before and detailed above. A report of the meeting appears overleaf.

The SRCC meetings this month will be held a week later due to the May Day Bank Holiday with the Construction Evening on Monday 9th May, and the "B" meeting on Monday 23rd May. Prior to all of these is a demonstration station at Sutton Model Engineering Club on Sunday afternoon 8th May when the club call will aired – GX3SRC.

NEXT "A" MEETING: Monday 9th May 2005 CONSTRUCTING EVENING - The DART

"And now for something completely different...a constructional project that will fly by!!

In the absence of a small repeatable electronic project for this years construction evening we are going to try our hands at some home built aircraft, albeit small balsa and tissue ones powered by a measly elastic band. Given the wide range of interests and backgrounds that club members have, it may well that you have dabbled with aero modelling in some shape or form in the past. This small craft, the BMFA (British Model Flying Association) 'DART' flies really well and is suitable for beginners upwards. The complete kit will be provided with tools, building board and glue for the sum of £2.00. The build can be completed in an evening though generally excessive amounts of glue will lengthen

the time taken before takeoff but the building boards can be taken away for you to finish for 'homework'. 12 kits available, one already reserved, first come first served on the evening.

BMFA website: (<http://www.bmfa.org/index.html>) describes the BMFA Dart as a simple rubber powered aircraft with a wingspan of 30cm. It is derived from an American design. Millions have been successfully built and flown, in a sports hall or outdoors on a calm dry day. This model is the cornerstone of the Education Programme. It can be built by nine year olds (under supervision) and upwards.. (to ninety, which just about covers our membership range!)

Gareth G4XAT"

NEXT "B" MEETING: Monday 23rd May 2005 FIX-IT, Advice, Chin-Wag & "MOVE-IT-ON"

The "B" meeting on Monday 23rd May is 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.

NEXT ACTIVITY STATION: Sunday 8th May Sutton Model Engineering Club - GX3SRC

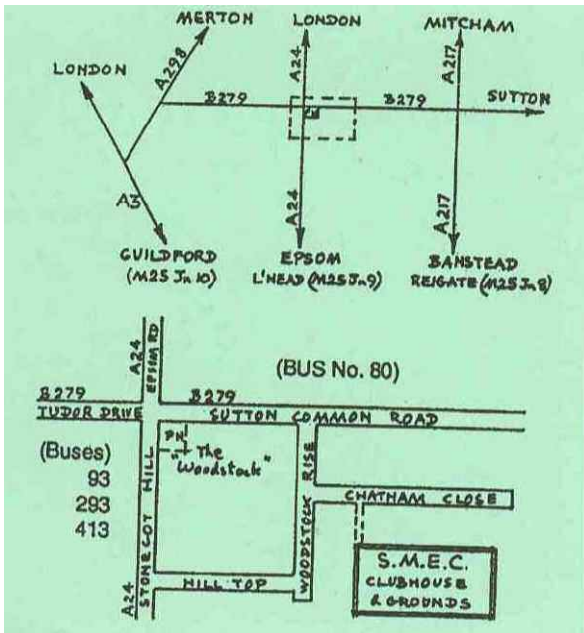
"In 1935 our club SRCC was formed in Croydon by a group of enthusiasts. At the same time a group of enthusiasts interested in steam were forming a club based in Sutton and known as the Sutton Model Engineering Club.

For the past 70 Years we have both met regularly, furthering our separate interests. As the years have rolled by a number of radio club members have joined the model Engineers.

On Sunday the 8th of May at 2pm in North Cheam at the Sutton Model Engineering Club ground we are joining forces to celebrate our 70 years at the annual open day with an exhibition of members work, a special event radio station and trains in model gauges. There will be refreshments, train rides, lots of exhibits, Raffle entertainment for all.

Come and join us for an interesting and enjoyable afternoon from 2pm to 5pm. Sutton Model Engineering club is at the rear of No1 Chatham Close Sutton Surrey SM3 9JF.

Maurice G4DDY"



LAST "A" MEETING: Monday 4th Apr 2005 65th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The meeting was opened with 24 members present and apologies from a further three. The minutes of the last 64th AGM had already been circulated to members, and these were accepted

As is customary, the **Chairman** Gareth G4XAT gave his report on the past years' activities and thanked the committee and members for their support. The **Treasurer**, Maurice G4DDY, then gave his report concluding that the subs are remaining at their current levels and thanked all the surplus equipment contributors and supporters which help to keep the subs low.

The **Election** was a quiet affair as we had the same number of nominations as committee posts. Firstly, I was re-elected as Secretary (Ray G4FFY), and then Maurice G4DDY as Treasurer. For Chairman Gareth G4XAT was re-elected with Roger G4WAY re-elected as Vice-Chairman.

For the **Awards**, the Johnny Hayden Rose Bowl is to be presented to Ray Howells G4FFY at a later date; the SRCC Club Cup was presented to Pat McGuinness G4FDN and the Sutton Trophy (CW Cup) will shortly be presented to John Headland G3BFP as it has now been found!

AOB highlighted the forthcoming VHF NFD entry with John G8IYS seeking more volunteers; the joint 70th birthday celebrations of SRCC and Sutton Model Engineering Club (SMEC) with SMEC holding their annual Open Day on Sunday 8th May with SRCC running a demonstration station; and the forthcoming Construction

project of an elastic powered Dart model aircraft. Thanks also given to Robert M1MRS for all his efforts with the refreshments at club meetings creating a welcoming environment.

Formal minutes have now been written and have been sent as an attachment for those on E-Mail; those on snail mail will get them next year prior to the 66th AGM.

CHAIRMAN THOUGHT of the MONTH - May 2005



Well, it's been a busy month (well, 5 weeks really). We have burned more oil on our car project, (lots more), we won the season opener (despite some problems) and fought our way through another 6 hour race at the Goodwood Race of Champions where we came fourth - see:

<http://www.trinityschoolracing.co.uk/Race%20Report%20-%20Race%20of%20Champions,%20Goodwood%202005.htm>

and <http://www.trinityschoolracing.co.uk/Race%20Report%20-%20Crawley%20Opener%202005.htm>

(these written by me)

and also at:

<http://www.greenpower.co.uk/events05/roc3.htm>

and

<http://www.greenpower.co.uk/events05/crawley051.htm>

these written by someone...)

We might have managed second place but a combination of a failing battery pack and a greed for speed put the lid on that. However, we did break our all time distance record, up to 165.6 from 159 miles, top speed up from 36.4 to 39.9, fastest lap down from 4:34 to 4:09, second gear lap time down to 4:45 from 5:30 (pew!!) all as a result of a 5% gearing change (and subtle changes to the motor, cooling system, power supply arrangements, and not least the aerodynamics of the car). It is very nearly capable of catching the winner, but at the moment not capable of sustaining the pace for 6 hours. Our data logging system worked reliably for the whole 6 hours!! and has provided detailed data about our drivers performance, our batteries performance and how hot the motor got (it didn't). We also made a jump in terms of our on-car video, transmitting 1 watt on 13 cm instead of 1/2 watt on 23cm. Less drop-out, more stable pictures (colour) and coverage from pretty much 2/3rds of the 2.4 mile circuit. We are going back there this Sunday too, this time with our slower car, TSR-1, to conduct further tests with data logging and on-car footage. Our car to base coms are still a little 'flakey' so we are seeking sponsorship to equip our team with VX2E handhelds, team members will then either take their Foundation license and talk back or listen only.

A few months ago our beloved moggy ('Kitten' as she was known) died and the house has been a bit 'empty' since then. We have a 'loan cat' this weekend from a colleague at work (for the second time) and are all looking forward to further feline company!! We are looking to 'test' a Siamese or Burmese so if you or a friend have such a pet that needs care and attention whilst they are away then give me a call!

Son Reuben has been active on the aero modelling front and has recently completed a powered model. This has been test flown by members of Sevenoaks and District Model Aero Club who fly at Chelsham heights. In fact all three of us are learning (re-learning in my case) and are thoroughly enjoying cavorting around the sky. Quite how quickly they both learned (Joshua first, who them taught Reuben) is amazing, Joshua was flying inverted figure of 8's just the other day!!

That's about it for this month, see you on Monday for an evening of construction - it should be fun!!

Gareth G4XAT

THE CALENDAR SECTION
SRCC and Local Club Meeting Dates:

6 th May	Crystal Palace: Hands On – Meters & Oscilloscopes @ All Saints Church Parish Rooms, Beulah Hill. 7:30 for 8pm. Bob G3OOU 01737 552170 (Meetings 1 st and 3 rd Fridays) http://members.aol.com/rfcburns
9 th May	Project Constructing Evening – DART Model Aircraft
9 th May	CATS – Hands On Rig Measurements - Meetings held @ St. Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Rd, Purley 8pm 2 nd Monday's. Contact: Dave G8VXB on 020-8546 5445 dyoung@photo-scan.com
10 th May	Dorking & District Radio Society – Meetings 2 nd & 4 th Tuesdays @ Friends Meeting House, Butterhill South Street, Dorking – opp. Spotted Dog. Details: John G3AEZ on 01306 631 236
13 th May	W&DARS – Surplus Equipment Sale @ St. Andrew's Church Hall, Herbert Road, Wimbledon – 7.30 for 8pm 2 nd & last Friday's Details: Jim M0CON on 020-8874 7456 http://www.wadars.thersgb.net
17 th May	Bromley & District – DF Construction and Antennas. Meetings on 3 rd Tuesday's @ Victory Social Club, Kechill Gardens, Hayes – 7.30 for 8. Alan G0TLK 020-8777 0420 www.bdars.org.uk
19 th May	Sutton & Cheam RS – AGM & Construction Contest. Meetings @ Vice Presidents Lounge, Sutton United Football Club, Gander Green Lane, Sutton – 7.30 for 8pm. Sec: John G0BWV 020-8644 9945 www.scrs.org.uk
23 rd May	Fix-It, Advice, Chin-Wag, Move-It-On
24 th May	Dorking & District Radio Society – Natter Night - Meetings 2 nd & 4 th Tuesdays @ Friends Meeting House, Butterhill South Street, Dorking – opp. Spotted Dog. Details: John G3AEZ on 01306 631 236
25 th May	Crawley ARC – The History and Development of RADAR with Derek G3GRO @ Hut 18, Tilgate Forest Recreational Centre, Tilgate Forest, Crawley – 7.30pm. Sec: Keith G8KZZ 01403 257788 www.carc.org.uk
25 th May	Mitcham & District ARS (Meetings normally last Wednesday of each month) @ ATC Headquarters, Commside West, Mitcham. Sec: Mike Knott G0WCR 020-8764 4716
27 th May	W&DARS – Club Projects & "On-Air" @ St. Andrew's Church Hall, Herbert Road, Wimbledon – 7.30 for 8pm 2 nd & last Friday's Details: Jim M0CON on 020-8874 7456 http://www.wadars.thersgb.net
6 th Jun	Construction Contest
13 th Jun	VHF NFD Group Meeting @ G8IYS QTH
4 th Jul	Summer BBQ @ QTH of G4XAT
1 st Aug	Defence of the UK from Enemy Bombers – John Downs
5 th Sep	TBA
3 rd Oct	Autumn Surplus Equipment Sale
29 th Oct	70th Anniversary Dinner – Details to follow

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

Rally Calendar, etc:

8 th May	DUNSTABLE DOWNS RC 22nd Amateur Radio Car Boot Sale – Stockwood Park, Luton. Access via M1 jcn 10. OT 9am, parking £2 per car. Details: Phil G8XTW, 01525 384 419, 07880 737 594.
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Members News

– Peter Sutton 2E0UYP

I should have mentioned before that Peter M3UYP is now the proud holder of 2E0UYP. He has now advised me he has now entered the world of broadband with an E-mail address of: richardpsutton@tiscali.co.uk

– Memories of Ron G3ODY by Rex G3KGA

I was pleased to receive a letter from Rex Morrison G3KGA back in January relating some fond memories regarding Ron G3ODY and I now (at long last!!) reproduce it below, apologies Rex for taking so long.

"Dear Ray

I was sad to read in the latest newsletter that an old friend Ron Field G3ODY had died. Thinking of him revived memories of the early years of the RSGB VHF contest. Tony Naylor G3GHI and he were largely responsible for the two-metre station situated in East Sussex at the "Firle Beacon". Further west at about 10 miles the 70cm station of Ron Dabbs G2RD et al (including me) was setup at the "Ditchling Beacon", also a 'trig point'.

The SRCC won the first VHF Contest and to mark the occasion donated the "Surrey Cup" to be awarded to future winners. Sadly, despite near misses we never did quite make it and win our "own cup". Some clubs went to extraordinary efforts (and no doubt expense) and for a few years Jersey in the Channel Islands provided the winning site.

Eventually the rules were changes and the stations had to be within a one kilometre radius; they even sent inspectors round to measure it – amongst "other things". Ditchling however proved unsuitable for both stations – after all there is only one nipple on a breast and two is a crowd. So we moved to Kent.

I have three main memories of Ditchling which may ring some bells for our older members. Firstly, the car park and boundary for vehicles was considerably below the "summit" and much physical effort was needed, especially during the early days, when batteries were the power source. Secondly, one didn't get rained ON at the beacon but rained AT – it was horizontal – honestly.

Lastly, the views north when standing on the edge of the escapement were breath taking, especially over the Thames valley. I revisited the site some five years or so ago whilst testing my "Angina" medication and was shocked at the dilapidation. The 'trig-point' was still there but in a sorry state and the observation platform with brass direction lines set in the stone had disappeared.

It was said that in clear conditions and maybe with the aid of binoculars Windsor Castle (or was it Hampton Court?) could be seen. On a good day the climb to the top is well worthwhile and we did have some enjoyable times up there.

I hope you are able to get this in a newsletter and if the club is sending condolences to Ron's family please mentioned my name.

Best 73's to all at the Club

Rex Morrison G3KGA"

– Mikiko Shepperley

Mikiko had a successful operation recently at St. Georges Hospital, Tooting to remove kidney stones. Recovery has been slowed by some set backs but she is now well on the way to full health – we send you Mikiko our best wishes.

THE FUTURE of AMATEUR RADIO

Members will have seen the recent documents circulating in the Amateur radio world regarding the recent proposals from Ofcom about future licensing plans and also the robust responses from the RSGB detailing the potential problems that would arise from some of the proposals if implemented. The following article represents the latest proposals (at the time of this newsletter production) and is taken from their website – copyright and ownership of the article is acknowledged. The original web page is:

<http://www.ofcom.org.uk/radiocomms/ifi/licensing/consultations/amateur/forthcoming>

OFCOM: Forthcoming public consultation on amateur radio licensing

On 26 May Ofcom will publish new proposals to reduce the regulatory burden on the amateur radio community whilst retaining the necessary safeguards to ensure the integrity of this important use of the radio spectrum.

The proposals will be published for public consultation; and Ofcom believes it is very important that as many amateur radio users as possible are willing and able to share their views on the different options presented.

In order to receive an email notification as soon as this consultation document is published please register for Updates from Ofcom on radio spectrum matters.

Users can register at

<http://www.ofcom.org.uk/static/subscribe/radiospectrum.htm>

For clarity and transparency, below are the key points Ofcom wishes to set out in greater detail in the formal public consultation on 26 May.

Ofcom believes that:

- The amateur radio community is an important radio spectrum user group. Ofcom must continue to take the community's interests into account and ensure that the needs of the community are reflected in policymaking.
- Ofcom wishes to seek the least intrusive means of regulating wherever possible and is committed to reducing the regulatory burden (and therefore, costs) for all of its stakeholders. However, Ofcom will balance against that the need to retain all necessary safeguards to ensure the integrity of radio spectrum use, including use by the amateur radio community.
- Ofcom therefore believes that radio amateurs must hold a valid WT Act amateur radio licence and must hold a valid Radio Amateur Examination Pass Certificate in order to obtain a licence.

The public consultation document will propose two changes only:

1. To make amateur radio licences valid for life (they are currently renewable annually).
2. To make electronic licences (probably issued as Adobe PDF® documents) available online and free of charge.

Specifically, Ofcom believes the following would NOT change if these two proposals were put into effect:

- Existing standards would be maintained.
- There would still be a legal requirement for radio amateurs to hold a valid WT Act amateur radio licence.
- The licensee would retain the responsibility for ensuring that licence details are amended as and when necessary (upon a change of address for example).
- Ofcom would retain the power to revoke the licence should the radio amateur breach the terms of the licence.
- It would still be a requirement to hold a valid Radio Amateur Examination Pass Certificate in order to obtain a licence.
- For radio amateurs who wish to operate overseas, there would still be a licence document available for inspection by foreign administrations.
- Ofcom would continue to hold a database of the names and addresses of all licensed radio amateurs.
- Every amateur would continue to hold their own unique call-sign(s).
- Ofcom would continue to notify amateur radio licence holders of changes to their licence terms and conditions.
- It would still be possible for radio amateurs to apply for a Notice of variation to the licence if required.
- It would still be possible to operate amateur radio repeaters.
- It would still be possible to operate packet radio.
- Current spectrum access rights would be maintained. Ofcom's spectrum management and enforcement activities are not determined according to the level of the licence fee.
- All licensed radio amateurs would automatically receive a 'licence for life'. No action would be required on their part unless their licence had lapsed at the point when 'licences for life' were introduced.
- Ofcom, or its agents, would continue to provide a postal service for applicants who do not have access to the internet or who prefer not to use the internet.

For the avoidance of doubt, whilst the formal public consultation will put forward a number of other options for the future, those options are explicitly not recommended by Ofcom. Specifically, Ofcom will not recommend any options to make the amateur radio service WT Act licence-exempt; however, for transparency and completeness, this will be put forward as an option in the public consultation in order to gather the community's views.

RSGB Response

On their website OFCOM have published a document entitled - [Forthcoming public consultation on amateur radio licensing](#). This is in advance of the public consultation document due on 26 th May 2005.

Whilst the RSGB welcomes Ofcom's statement that they are not considering deregulation of Amateur Radio at this time, we remain concerned that the option to deregulate in the future remains on their agenda and that the deregulation option remains part of the consultation. Ofcom's preferred and 'proposed' option is a "Life time licence"

We do not support this.

Following a number of meetings and discussions with OFCOM, the position of the RSGB is very clear.

1. It is our opinion that 'Licence for Life' will make it easier for OFCOM to achieve what we believe to be their ultimate aim - deregulation.
2. It is our opinion, and the opinion of key interested parties such as the Ministry of Defence, that Licence for Life will result in the UK licensing database quickly becoming flawed and out of date; make it difficult for close down procedures to be maintained; increase the risk of interference
3. The overall stated aim of OFCOM is to save costs and avoid unnecessary regulatory burdens. We believe that Licence for Life would not significantly reduce costs any more than a 5 or 10 year licence renewal period. Nor would a 5 or 10 year licence mean an unnecessary regulatory burden on the radio amateur.
4. A 5 or 10 year licence renewal period would, in our opinion,
 - Maintain the status and credibility of amateur radio and radio amateurs, ensuring that existing standards are retained
 - Ensure that the responsibility for providing amended licence details would NOT ONLY fall on the shoulders of the licensees, but would be effectively monitored
 - Ensure that the responsibility for maintaining a vital and valid database would NOT ONLY fall on the shoulders of the licensees, rather than being a shared national and international responsibility.

The Consultation period on the OFCOM document will run for 10 weeks following publication on the 26th May 2005. The RSGB will continue to actively lobby for a 5 year licence renewal period. We believe that this is the most appropriate renewal period to ensure that we retain high standards and credibility for amateur radio in the future. We will shortly be posting papers on our website which will enable you to help us in this important action.

Editor comment: The RSGB, whom we should all be supporting in their endeavours to defend our privileges and our hobby, has published an important statement which is to be found at: <http://www.rsgb.org.uk/news/sigbrief.pdf> I have a hard copy of this which will be made available at club meetings. I understand that we should expect a visit from our Regional Manager, Paul M0CJX, to brief us, etc. This follows the important talk given at Kempton by Peter Kirby G0TWW, General Manager RSGB.

SIGNING OFF:

That's it for this month - if I have missed anything I give my apologies and hopefully remember it next time.

Anyway in closing I hope that many of you will attend next Monday's Construction Evening and take part in the Dart project for which we are indebted to Gareth G4XAT.

And don't forget this coming weekend's activity at Sutton Model Engineering Club on Sunday afternoon 8th May - come up and visit or look out for GX3SRC on the HF bands.

Ray G4FFY

73 and 88

Posted: 5th May 2005