



Mid Sussex Amateur Radio Society

NEWSLETTER

Nov 2020

Mid Sussex Matters



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Meetings are held on Friday evenings starting 7.45pm at the rear of
Cyprus Hall, Millfield Suite, Cyprus Road, Burgess Hill,

West Sussex

Visitors are always Welcome

Please note that Cyprus Hall is currently closed due to the Pandemic



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From the Chairman

As most of you are aware we have experienced a lot of problems with the email system we have been using for many years, which meant many of you did not receive mail being sent to you the members.

After many attempts to rectify the problems, it seems that a new solution needed to be found. Mike G1TDL has sorted one for us to use and you should have had a invitation to it (If not please contact Mike G8KMP to check we have your correct Email address on file.

Apologies to Bernie M0XYC for apparently duplicating one you have already set up, but due to the previous problems many members never had any knowledge that you had done it.

I have heard a lot of remarks that it appears we cannot send Emails to another member. I think the clue maybe in the systems name 'Groups.io.' However, I think this is being looked into, but may incur costs, which would cause financial problems. So please bear with us.

Spoke to Sara Voice who told me Millfield Suite had been flooded, however the Radio Shack was OK. Apparently there was a blockage across the car park which caused a back up of water which the waterboard cleared.

However, now might be the time for us to consider finding a temporary home for the radio equipment until we return, so if you think you can offer a warm dry home, please contact me.

Unfortunately we have had 2 further committee members resigning firstly:
Dennis M0YDC for personal reasons.
Chris 2E0GZZ who is hoping to move back to Basingstoke to be near his Father. We wish both all the best for the future, and thanks for all the help you have given over the years to our Society.

As you can see we now have a very depleted committee. We will carry on until the next AGM, then we will need many of you to seriously consider standing for all the posts, as now is the time to let some of the newer members, with new thinking in the way forward, to a new beginning for our society. Please consider this seriously.

Just a reminder that we would like you to join the nets whenever you can, then we will know you are ok.

Hope you are coping with the situation we all find ourselves in at the moment.

Till next time
Russell M Nelson G7TMR
Hon Chairman
MSARS.



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This year's JOTA and the return of the phone patch - By John Berry, GM8JBJ

Many members will remember the phone patch - the forerunner of mobile phones.

In one example, ships at sea would call Portishead Radio on HF and ask to be connected to a landline number. Once the landline subscriber answered, the ships radio service operator would flick a switch and a husband would talk to his wife, or captain would talk to his or her port agent. It was an essential service.

In another, an Aircall, Securicor or BT - mobile user would selcall their service operator. On answering, the mobile user would request connection to a landline. When the landline subscriber answered, the operator would flick a switch and connect the two. Aircall and Securicor were simplex. BT was duplex and a forerunner of our present mobile networks.

Now, fast forward to today.

In a pre-CoVid world, Scouts could talk to other Scouts via amateur radio on the third weekend in October each year. Jamboree On The Air is an ad-hoc event that stems from cooperation between local Scouts and radio amateurs. During JOTA, amateur operators set up calls and pass the mic to a Beaver, Cub, Scout or Explorer. Those Scouts pass 'greetings messages' to other Scouts elsewhere in the UK or worldwide.

Then came CoVid.

Jamboree-on-the-Air this year was held from Friday 16th to Sunday 18th October. At the time, and in most areas, Scouts were at what they refer to as Readiness Level Yellow. Small scale face-to-face activities were allowed, but everyone attending had to be socially distanced. These constraints precluded traditional JOTA operation with the amateur operator sitting beside the Scout. New methods of operation needed to be found.

So, Scouts and their radio amateur partners perhaps needed to take a leaf from the days of phone patch. Here's the solution using the likes of Zoom that Borders District Scouts used at the special event station GB2SBS run by John, GM8JBJ and Sue, MM3SLB.

The connection between Zoom and HF is made using an XGGcomms digital interface containing a C-Media CM108 chipset sound card for digital-to-analogue conversion. The interface links the USB socket of a Raspberry Pi running a Zoom session to the HF transceiver 13-pin facilities socket. Normally digital interfaces use a sub-carrier VOX to key the transmitter. An interface was introduced to disable the VOX and add a manual PTT and this box is shown (light grey) in the adjacent picture.

The 'DATA' position connects the digital interface for digi-modes use and is the pass-through state. The 'PATCH' position interrupts the VOX and enables the 'TX KEY'. The TX KEY connects Zoom to HF — the 'patch' state— and keys the transmitter. The interface uses two two-pole on-on switches and a lead and some wiring. On receive, the audio is routed through the interface to the Raspberry Pi audio and on to Zoom. John, GM8JBJ, was radio operator while Sue, MM3SLB, acted as 'Zoom' controller. In fact, GoToMeeting was used (rather than Zoom), but the solution is common to all online meeting platforms. The voice quality of 'Zoom' participants was excellent in both directions.

Continued Overleaf



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This year's JOTA and the return of the phone patch - By John Berry, GM8JBJ - Continued...



For anyone wanting to set such a system up for JOTA, there are some points to note.

The radio operator must join the Zoom meeting using the PC with the interface. In my case, I used a Raspberry Pi with a camera pointing at the rig so that the young people on Zoom would be able to see the rig and its settings.

Part of JOTA is also generally to work on, and complete, the Communicator Activity Badge when the young people must log 25 stations. Several must therefore be on the Zoom call simultaneously, listening to on-air proceedings for a few hours.

The radio operator must also join the Zoom meeting with a separate PC with headset and mic so that they can talk to the Zoom controller. The Zoom controller can then also hear the on-air proceedings, and hence they know when to tell the young person to go ahead. If this link is missing, the Zoom operator is working blind.

Having three independent on line meeting connections over one broadband circuit does tax the broadband capability, though!

Continued Overleaf



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And radio and Zoom operators must of course be in separate rooms to avoid howl round.

Then Scouts join the Zoom call as normal and talk over HF in turn.

Simples! And it worked perfectly.

And the results?

26 QSOs with stations in 18 countries over 10 hours. 10 Scouts participated for about 4 hours each. Another 10 or so stations were heard and logged, including V55JOTA, in Namibia, though conditions faded before contact could be made. Our Scouts passed 15 'greetings messages' or patches. And since all had completed a training session beforehand, all will now get their Communicator Activity Badge. The training session was effectively a slimmed down Foundation Course.

The best DX was KA8OFC, Michigan with second place to VY2GF, Prince Edward Island. Best QSO was LX9S, Scouts World Bureau, in Luxembourg.

And the icing on the cake for one of our Scouts was when CR7ARW videoed her greetings message being received and sent us the recording.

JOTA this year was a much-muted affair. Sole operators lamented that they were unable to have any participation with their Scouts. Unfortunately, GB2BS seemed to be the only station who could put Scouts 'on-air'. We were the only station who thought ahead to use the phone patch concept.

Perhaps more radio amateurs will make connection possible next year.

John Berry, GM8JBJ





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On the Buses

Car DH402 is an all - Leyland PD2 built in 1951 and identical to car 729 (No.2). It is seen at the Maidstone & District depot in Brook Street, Hastings, now the site of part of the Priory Meadow Shopping Centre. It has come off long distance, and long standing, service 5, that crossed the whole of Kent and much of East Sussex from Gillingham and Maidstone. The picture would have been taken between 1966 and 1969 when this route was extended even further, beyond Hastings Town Centre to St. Helens.





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On the Buses

Car 341 is an all - Leyland PD2/1 built in 1948 and is seen here at Pool Valley Bus Station in Brighton. Service 114 started on 11/05/1958 running half - hourly, to serve new housing estates in Woodingdean. The advert on the outside of the Bus was advertising: BRIGHTON TELE-RADIO SERVICES LTD. BTS had its showroom in London Road Brighton.



Car DH488 is a Park Royal bodied AEC Regent V Built in 1956. It is seen, around 1968, at the former Maidstone and District depot (a former tram shed) at halfway on the approach to Sheerness. It is dressed for service 63A, which ran across the Isle of Sheppey to Warden.





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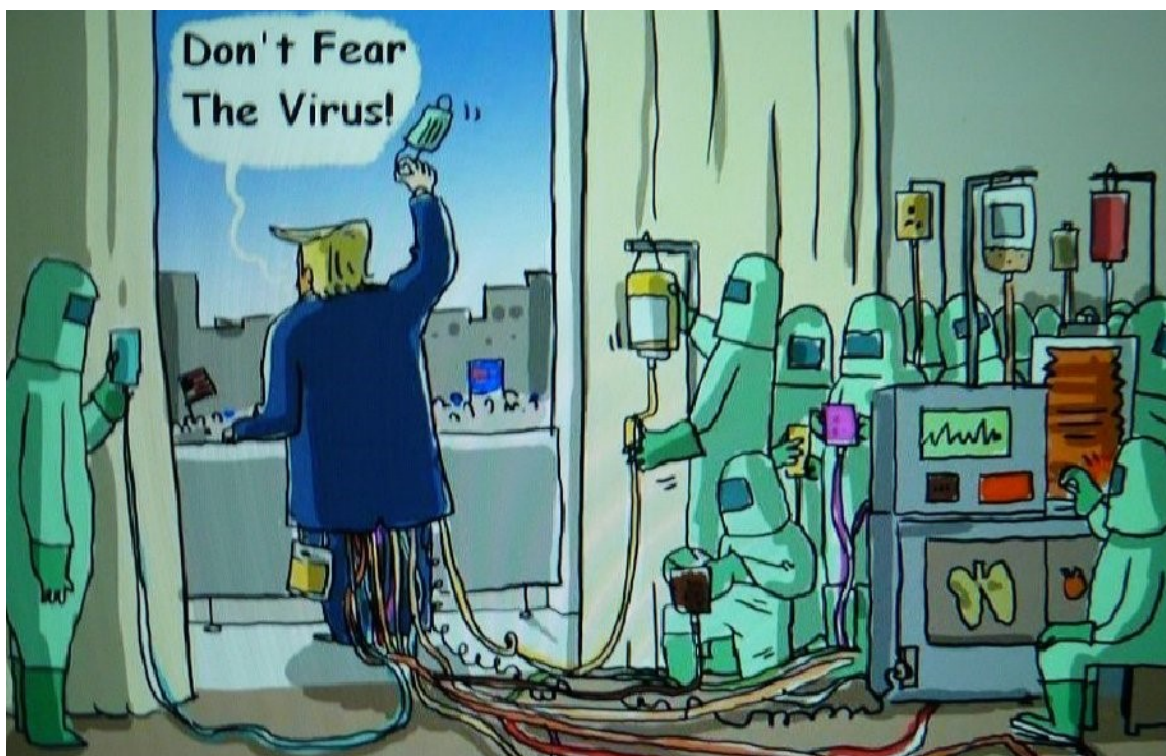
On the Buses

Car 729 is an all - Leyland PD2/12 built in 1951 and Southdown's first batch with platform doors. It is seen at Carlton Terrace, Portslade in September, 1963. Service 9 was the hourly inland (A27) route from Brighton to Worthing and on to Littlehampton. It did in fact, continue to Arundel, but this wouldn't have been shown until it got near to Littlehampton, because sister route, the hourly service 10 followed the direct (A27) route from Worthing to Arundel.



Write up by Peter Dann

Images John Blissett



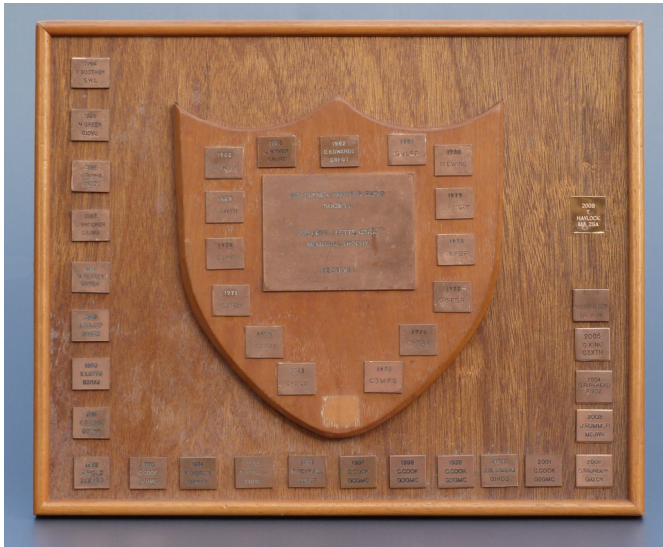


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Club Trophies



Construction Section 1



Construction Section 2



Boule Trophy Base

[More Trophies overleaf](#)

With grateful thanks to Mike G8KMP



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Club Trophies Cont...



G3JGR Memorial Trophy



THE MSARS Quiz Cup Base

Presented by Gavin Keegan G6GDK

With grateful thanks to Mike G8KMP



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On the way to Field Day?



How about this for a shack...





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Newsletter Articles Required.

Dear Members,

I think you will agree that we have had many excellent Article's in the Newsletter this year.

However to keep the club Newsletter alive, we are now in need of more copy from you.

The article can be a short piece, or a multi page one if you wish. I do hope you will be able to help.

My Contact details are as follows:

E mail: tonyfinch5@outlook.com

Tel 01444 254511 or 07519 374 575

Many Thanks

Tony G3XQM

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Home of the Mid Sussex Amateur Radio Society

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