

# OLDHAM AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



**G1ORC**

**G4ORC**

## **OLD HAMS NEWS**

The Journal of the Oldham Amateur Radio Club  
**April 2007**



**RSGB Affiliated Society**

## **GEORGE STEAD G0GSQ**

It is with regret and sadness that I announce the passing of Club Life Member George Stead G0GSQ.

George was a long time member of our club and indeed was made its first Life Member some 9 years ago.

George was born on 12<sup>th</sup> December 1917 and grew up in Rochdale. I could write a lot about George but perhaps I should use George's own words to describe him as he was a prolific writer and chronicled his life's events in the pages of Old Hams News on two separate occasions. The tales of his exploits ran to many pages and were serialised over several editions before the whole story emerged. He describes the early part of his life below.

*First I must go back to the early days of the war as regards my hobbies. I enjoyed fishing and radio. I fished during the summer and spent the winters building radios. I had the help and encouragement of a good mate who was in that line of work. He worked at the Local Radio shop and had planned to join the RAF as a radio operator and his interest in Morse was just my cup of tea. We got on very well - making bells and buzzers for practice. But the whole thing came to a stop after he had crash in his works van and lost a leg. I also used to attend Morse classes at the local Air Training Corps and also had instruction with the Aldis Lamp. So by Jan 21<sup>st</sup> 1942 I was doing 10 words/min in both sound and light. I did try for a "Sparker" but at the age of 25 I was too long in the tooth. They wanted young lads - boy seamen.*

Other hobbies not mentioned above were Archery and Gardening. But soon he had joined the Royal Navy and did his basic training in Tobermory, Scotland. After that he joined HMS Dart and it was his experiences and adventures aboard the Dart during World War II that made up the bulk of his memoirs.

In 2003 he revised and augmented his experiences with a series of articles called "Ignorance is Bliss" which was also serialised in Old Hams News.

He was a very keen Radio Amateur and kept in touch with Navy Pals via the RANARS nets and the Royal Naval Association as he explains below.



*Now that I'm in my old age I had the pleasure of meeting a great friend who joined up as a boy telegrapher and shared the same interest of Amateur Radio. I met him through the Royal Naval Amateur Radio Society and many great shipmates of yesteryear who still keep up the comradeship even after all this time. The other fraternity is the Royal Naval Association. Sad to say I couldn't attend a lot of the meetings or the Remembrance Day Services. I didn't take much interest in Naval life when I came home. I was too occupied with a new job and a daughter who was "the love of my life" as I told my old mum at the time. She said, "It takes a man to get a girl but it takes a son to look after his mum". Sometimes it doesn't work out that way, but blood will out.*

When George came to our club meetings he always had a little, correction – “large” tot of Rum with him which he would generously top up his pals drinks with and I can't remember an occasion when he wasn't cheerful and good company.

In his latter years he was transferred to a Nursing Home after he tumbled down the stairs. His radio operating was somewhat restricted there but he made good use of the repeater network and his hand held transceiver. George died peacefully in the Home on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2007. He leaves his wife 'Elsie', and daughter 'Elaine'. He was also a Granddad and Great Granddad. He will be sorely missed by them and many friends and radio amateurs both local and national.

His funeral was held at Rochdale Crematorium on 15<sup>th</sup> February and several club members attended. The cortege was preceded by a Standard Bearer from the Royal Naval Association and the service was officiated by the Reverend George Dobbs G3RJV. In his eulogy he accurately described George as “a lovely man”.

One of the final paragraphs of George's writings is shown below as he sums up his memoirs.

*These events did happen and although I'm long past my sell by date, thanks to good shipmates I can express myself via the world of the PC - the mind boggles. I can say I was lucky and came home. There were many who didn't, and I drink to absent shipmates.*

It is our turn to drink to you George.

By Geoff Oliver G0BJR

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations are due to the Club members listed below.

Andy Laister has successfully passed the Foundation Course and Examination and now has the callsign M3TMZ.

Philip Ellis 2E0PUS has passed the Advanced Radio Amateurs Examination and now has the callsign MOGIE.

## **FRED LEES MEMORIAL TROPHY PRESENTATION**

On Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March members gathered at the club to witness the annual presentation of the Fred Lees Memorial Trophy.



The evening began as in the past with a general knowledge quiz created and presented by Steve Crane G0KUY. The quiz was the usual stressful time for the little grey cells but everyone rose to the challenge. This year it was Ian Moth G8ZHC who was the most knowledgeable and Steve presented him with the coveted Quiz Trophy and a bottle of wine.

Then there was a change to the usual run of events. This year a potato pie supper had been organised and it was at this point



in the evening that this was dished up by Sue Burgess G0RKE with help from Stuart and Ellen Wilson. Sue had also baked a couple of cakes for afters which everyone made room for.



This was followed by the normal club announcements by Chairman Mike Crossley M1CVL then Steve announced the main event for the evening, the presentation ceremony.

John Lees G3PD first of all came forward to present last year's trophy holder, Peter Rushton G7PMZ with a Certificate confirming that he has held the trophy.

Peter as the previous trophy holder has the unenviable job of deciding who should be presented with the trophy based upon his own observations and nominations from members as having given exceptional service to our club over the past year.

Peter explained that he had received a number of nominations and he had decided that due to several weekends of work preparing and carrying out repairs to our cabin in order to keep the rain out that the trophy should be presented to Stuart Wilson G7MFK.

To say that Stuart was astonished would be an understatement. But despite his surprise he came forward to receive the trophy which was presented to him by John Lees' sister.



As a further departure to the usual presentation ceremony there was a second quiz. This time a music quiz created and presented by our President Geoff Oliver G0BJR. The topic of the quiz was Christmas and included musical excerpts from traditional, middle of the road, and pop music relating to Christmas.

Geoff presented the winner, Ellen Wilson with a new trophy and a bottle of wine. After this the evening was wound up.

Photographs by Chris Mackay M0TVL

## **CLUB ANTENNAE**

During the recent winter storms our antenna array was damaged. The first to suffer was our 2 metre beam, the 17 element Tonna. This snapped in half at the mast clamp and the front portion of the beam crashed to the ground. Also one of the sections of an element of our HF beam parted company with the rest of it. This was not disastrous and can be re attached without too much of a problem.



As we hold insurance to cover for this eventuality our officers put in a claim. This has been accepted by the insurance company who authorised a replacement for the Tonna. This was ordered from Waters & Stanton and collected at the Blackpool Rally.

In the intervening period it was suspected that there was a problem with the system which clamps the HF beam to the mast as the beam seemed to be shifting excessively in the wind. This has

been confirmed now because the antenna's supporting wires have snapped and the antenna is swinging round the mast.

It is planned to repair all these issues on Easter Sunday.

## **LETTER TO MEMBERS**

In a mild attempt to generate some recycled interest in amateur radio at club level I am offering the following suggestions.

It has occurred to me that Fox Hunting could be beefed up a bit to make it more interesting to outside groups such as the ATC, Scouts, Guides, and Army Cadets etc. The Fox could be people portrayed by a team who are lost putting out a feeble signal and requiring rescue. It is really a play on words, for ATC Cadets it could be a pilot down in enemy territory, Scouts and Guides could be seeking lost members out Hiking etc.

Whilst perusing a local map I counted a number of 'Trig Points'. These points could be manned by members equipped with Handhelds to see if contact could be made between them or from home or other locations. Perhaps a certificate could be created for working the most locations. A variation on this theme could be the various Pike & Monuments in the area.

These could be an evening or one day event during the Spring, Summer or Autumn Months.

Bertie Whitcher G7JUL

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The following items are in the clubs diary for the next few weeks.

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Special Event Station for the Scouts Activity Day  
Location – Clayton Playing Fields  
All members are invited

## GLOBAL QSL

- The Revolutionary technology of QSL card exchange!

It looks like *Azar 4X6MI* has a winner. A few months ago a preview of how the business of sending real QSL cards was being revolutionized was produced. Well now it has become reality.

To get started, one logs into [www.globalqsl.com](http://www.globalqsl.com). If you decide to register (a registered member can see his incoming cards from GlobalQsl even before he buys cards) you download the QSL card editor. I can say that a lot of work has gone into this, and after having been frustrated by the earlier beta version (one of the joys of being a beta tester!), the present version is a pure joy to use.

You simply design your own QSL card as YOU want it to be In my case I uploaded a photo I took of my antenna tower sporting the national flag and superimposed my call letters in white. On the flip side, I uploaded a self-portrait image, printed in my personal information along with my Holyland and Maidenhead Locator squares. You have a zillion fonts to choose from. A space is left blank where the QSO information will be added. You can also choose all kinds of symbols, flags and insignia to add. The sky is the limit.

Now, the beauty of this is that at any time you can change your QSL design, as the cards are printed only when they are needed to be sent.

You also upload designs for other callsigns you may happen to hold.

This is the time to kindle those latent artistic talents you have.



When the time comes to start "filling out" QSL cards, you have two options, manual and uploading of an electronic ADIF log. Your reporter is the old-time paper log type, so I logged into the Global QSL site, and started the manual process. It took a while to get the hang of it, yet after a few score entries, I found that I can now enter the

information just as easily (and much more legibly!) and fast as I can write 'em out by hand.

This should really shine with you electronic log whiz-kids, where you don't have to type in anything, just transfer your log entries. No matter what method you use, you review your entries to make sure that they're correct, authorize the affair, and there's nothing left to do. The good folks at Global QSL will send out your cards to the QSL bureaus,

You can select one of three options how to get your incoming cards, and for reasonable added fee you can get it direct to your private address.

How do the cards look? I personally haven't seen how my design came out in the real world yet. (And I'm rather full of anticipation, as I've sent myself a card via the bureau to find out!) I have seen other cards that have come from the shop of Azar 4X6MI, and I can say that they are truly first class - thick high-gloss stock with excellent full-color on both sides. I had suggested that he make a cheaper model available on thinner stock and in black and white only, yet at this time Azar wants to go only with the high-class product, so that's what you get!

There are all kinds of neat features built in and to be discovered, one is that if you have multiple QSOs with a station, say in a contest and on different bands, the system will automatically put up to five entries together on one QSL, so you'll be charged for one card, even though you're confirming five contacts. It sorts the cards by callsigns, and you can keep track of them from your desktop (also incoming cards from Global QSL). As well, you can manage up to ten secondary callsigns with different QSL designs.

The Global QSL service was just released a week before writing this (beta testing and fine-tuning has been going on since the summer). I was told that already over a hundred people from around the world have signed up, and it looks, if we can say so this early in the game, that the venture is headed for success.

I wish Azar and his team Godspeed with the project. It will be indeed interesting to see all the creative designs hams will be turning out. This should make QSLing a lot of fun.

***Ron Gang, 4X1MK***

<http://www.globalqsl.com/>

From the Southgate ARC Web Site at [www.southgatearc.org](http://www.southgatearc.org)

## OLD HAMS NEWS

The editor would like to thank all contributors to this edition of Old Hams News. The next edition is due to be issued in July 2007. Any contributions for this edition should be forwarded to the editor, Geoff Oliver G0BJR on or before Thursday 21st June 2007 to ensure inclusion.

Articles will be accepted on many formats, by email to "news@oarc.org.uk", by word of mouth, hand or type written notes, or as a .txt file on a CD ROM or 3½-inch floppy disc. Photographs, drawings, circuit diagrams and other graphics to enhance your article will also be most welcome.

An edited version of Old Hams News is available on the Internet at the following URL  
www.oarc.org.uk  
then click on the "Club Journal" hyperlink.

If you submit an article for inclusion in Old Hams News and you do not wish it to be included in the Internet edition you must state your wishes at the time of submission. Otherwise the editor reserves the right to include/exclude your article as he sees fit.

For reference the officers and committee members are listed below and will be happy to help with any enquiries you may have.

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N.B. Old Hams News is the official journal of the Oldham Amateur Radio Club. It is distributed free of charge to all fully paid up members of the club. Articles appearing herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor, the Officers and Committee, or the membership of Oldham Amateur Radio Club. Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of articles included, the editor is not responsible for any inaccuracy that may occur.

Written, edited and produced by Geoff Oliver G0BJR

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