

OLDHAM AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



G1ORC

G4ORC

**The Journal of the Oldham Amateur Radio Club
July 2008**



RSGB Affiliated Society

ARDF

Witton Country Park is 480 acres of mixed woodland, parkland and farmland situated to the west of Blackburn. And it was here that we hosted our second major ARDF event. In the weeks preceding the event several visits to the site were made by Phil Ellis M0GIE and Geoff Oliver G0BJR to decide on the positioning of the transmitters to provide a challenging course for the experienced competitors and an easier course for newcomers. Test sites were evaluated by planting transmitters in various places not only to verify reception quality over the area but also to check accessibility for the contestants. The final 80 metre course was measured at 4.5km and the 2 metre was 4.0km.

On the day before the event Phil and Geoff tramped through the park erecting the 80 metre antennae and counterpoises and concealing them. Then early the following morning the transmitters were synchronised, connected to the antennae and buried. The 2 metre transmitter packs were erected as well. One 2 metre site had to be changed at the last minute due to a group of youngsters having set up a camp site under the preferred tree.



The registration point was set up by Geoff G0BJR in the car park adjacent to the main entrance and although registration was not due to open until 10:00, competitors were arriving from as early as 09:20 some having travelled a considerable distance. In total 15 contestants took part in the 80 metre event and 13 in the 2 metre. This is generally considered to be a good turnout.

The Start/Finish line was administered by Sue Burgess G0RKE, Alan Burgess G4GLV and Peter Rushton G7PMZ. The event proper began at 10:30 and they dispatched the first contestant round the 80 metre course on time. After that each competitor was set off at 5 minute intervals.

By the time all the entrants had left the start some were already returning after completing the course. And after a short breather and some refreshment they set off again on the 2 metre course. In particular Michael Dunbar completed the 80 metre course in just 50 minutes having located all his allocated transmitters plus an extra one. Just 5 minutes behind was Stuart Tyler who had found all his allocated sites. Our only



female entrant, April Jones arrived just 30 minutes later, well within the time limit, having beaten her husband Neil by just 2 minutes.

One of the recognised problems with 2 metre ARDF is unwanted reflections. Sometimes a course can be planned in such a way that reflections occur to cause some confusion when locating the transmitters. Phil and Geoff did not particularly want this confusion because the course was already quite extensive but this phenomenon occurred anyway quite by chance. A severe reflection from one transmitter gave the impression that it was located at the opposite end of the site and a few contestants were found in this area. This cost them precious time before they realised what was happening.



Despite this some good times were logged. First home was Bob Titterington G3ORY who completed the course in just 54 minutes. Just 10 minutes behind him was David Williams who located all his sites plus an extra one. April Jones arrived in 7th place whilst husband Neil crossed the line in 8th place logging the same time but only one control point.

Eventually all made it to the finish and logged their times. The results can be seen below.

80 metre result

	Name	Time	Class	Control Points	Club
1	Michael Dunbar	0.50	M40	1,2,3,4,5	SN
2	Stuart Tyler	0.55	M40	1,2, . 4,5	LADARS
3	Bob Titterington	1.11	M60	., ., 3,4,5	DMUARS
4	David Williams	1.13	M40	1,2,3,4,5	HOC
5	April Jones	1.20	W35	., ., 3, ..	WARS
6	Neil Jones	1.22	M50	., 2, ., .,5	WARS
7	Robert Vickers	1.24	M60	., ., 3,4,5	Stourbridge
8	Tom & Jimmy Read	1.27	B	.,2, ., ., .	MDRS
9	Stuart Cartlidge	1.29	M60	., ., ., ., 5	SARC
10	David Cossar	1.30	M60	., ., 3, ., .	RSGB
11	Keith Mahood	1.32	M40	., 2, ., ., 5	SARS
12	Tom Mitchell	1.36	M60	., ., 3,4,5	Solway
13	Tim & Sarah Raven	1.59	M50	., 2,3,4,5	DMUARS
14	John Martin	2.12	M50	., 2,3,4,5	MDOC
15	Les Fuller	2.19	B	., 2,3,4, .	Scouts



April Jones



Bob Titterington



David Williams



Tom Mitchell



David Cossar



Tom & Jimmy Read



John Martin



John Martin

2 metre result

	Name	Time	Class	Control Points	Club
1	Bob Titterington	0.54	M60	., 2, ., .,5	DMUARS
2	David Williams	1.04	M40	1,2,3,4,5	HOC
3	Tom Mitchell	1.15	M60	., ., 3, 4,5	Solway
4	Michael Dunbar	1.18	M40	1,2,3,4,5	SN
5	Stuart Cartlidge	1.20	M60	., ., ., 4, .	SARC
6	David Cossar	1.22	M60	., ., 3, .,5	RSGB
7	April Jones	1.26	W35	., 2,3, .,5	WARS
8	Neil Jones	1.26	M50	., ., .,4, .	WARS
9	Stuart Tyler	1.29	M40	1,2,,, 4,5	LADARS
10	Robert Vickers	1.29	M60	., .,3, .,5	Stourbridge
11	John Martin	1.30	M50	., 2,3,4,5	MDOC
12	Keith Mahood	1.33	M40	1, ., 3,4, .	SARC
13	Tim Raven	1.53	M50	., ., ., ., .	DMUARS

Thankfully the weather was kind on the day, it was dry and cool.



Sue Burgess G0RKE at the Start/Finish point

Then after all the excitement Phil, Geoff and Chris Mackay M0TVL trudged wearily round both courses retrieving all the transmitters and antennae.

These past few ARDF events in the North of England have sparked interest in other radio clubs. The Wirral Club have publicised their interests in ARDF in both Practical Wireless and Radcom, Southport ARS have sent two members to these events and are trying to build up interest in their club and we understand that a Scottish Club now have six 80m Transmitters built plus a beacon so we might be seeing the first Scottish event quite soon.

Photographs by Alan Burgess G4GLV and Chris Mackay M0TVL

By Geoff Oliver G0BJR

ERRATA

The April edition of Old Hams News stated that club member Graham Wood had passed away. This was incorrect and I'm delighted to say that Graham is very much alive. I apologise both to Graham and all members for this mistake and for any distress or confusion it may have caused.

Geoff Oliver G0BJR
Editor, Old Hams News

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are due to Graham Wood who has passed the Foundation Course and Examination. Graham now has one of the new callsigns M6GRA.

FRED LEES MEMORIAL TROPHY

On Thursday 27th March members and invited guests gathered at the ATC to take part in the annual Fred Lees Memorial Trophy presentation evening where a member is chosen to receive the award for having been deemed to have given exceptional service to the club over the previous 12 months.

Due to prior engagements neither John Lees G3PD (Fred's son) nor Steve Crane G0KUY our normal master of ceremonies for this prestigious event could not attend so our President Geoff Oliver G0BJR stood in as host.



The evening began with part one of the usual two part quiz. This section consisted of 20 general knowledge questions and was won by Judith Feay G1KFG.

Then as the potato pie supper, organised by Sue Burgess G0RKE, had arrived a break was taken to enjoy this. Immediately afterwards the previous years holder of the trophy Stuart Wilson G7MFK was presented with a certificate as a permanent record of his having been awarded the trophy.

Stuart then made the presentation of the trophy to this years recipient. He explained that it had been a difficult choice as several members had been nominated indicating that much good work had been done on the club's behalf but as there could be only one recipient he had to make a decision. This years recipient was Phil Ellis M0GIE who chosen because of his work in the field of Amateur Radio Direction Finding. He had built a number of 80 metre QRP transmitters and acquired suitable receivers. He had also organised and run a major ARDF event which attracted





competitors from across the country. This had generated much publicity for the club with articles appearing in Radcom, Practical Wireless and RadioUser magazines (see front page photograph).

The second part of the quiz was then run which was a series of music questions including sporting theme tunes and the best and worst of american TV programme theme tunes. The winner of this section was Ellen Wilson. She was presented with the trophy for the second time as she was also last years winner in this section.

The evening wound up after the drawing of the raffle for which many prizes had been donated by members.

Photographs by Chris Mackay M0TVL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2008

The Annual General Meeting of the Oldham Amateur Radio Club for 2008 will take place at Royton ATC, Park Lane, Royton, on Thursday 21st August 2008 commencing at 20:30. This article is a formal invitation to all members to attend the meeting to elect club members as officers and ordinary committee members who will run our club for the next 12 months.

To comply with our Constitution a certain number of members must be present on the night to form a quorum otherwise the meeting cannot proceed. For this reason it is important that as many members as possible attend. If you cannot attend please send your completed proxy voting slips to the secretary Chris Cunliffe G7OOD before the meeting. Or you could nominate another member to vote on your behalf. All these proxies will count towards the total number of members attending.

Your nominations for Officers and Ordinary Committee members' posts are also required and to assist with your deliberations the following members have indicated that they will accept nominations for the following positions. Our present Chairman Ian Moth G8ZHC cannot accept nominations due to pressures of work.

Chairman – Ian Firby G7VCG
Secretary – Chris Cunliffe G7OOD Treasurer – Peter Rushton G7PMZ

Ordinary Committee Members
Stuart Wilson G7MFK Sue Burgess G0RKE
Alan Burgess G4GLV plus 2 vacancies.

The above list is for guidance only and could change and/or be added to without further notice in writing. Nominations can be accepted right up to the start of the meeting.

If you wish to nominate a member(s) for an officers or committee position please make certain that he/she is willing to accept the post before submitting the nomination slip. This will prevent any unnecessary embarrassment on the night.

Nomination and voting forms can be found attached to the back of this edition. All should be sent to the Secretary Chris Cunliffe G7OOD.

The Agenda for the forthcoming meeting will be as follows.

1. Open Meeting
2. Apologies for absence
3. Approval of Minutes from 2007 AGM
4. Matters arising from Minutes of 2007 AGM
5. Chairman's report
6. Secretary's report
7. Treasurer's report
8. Election of Chairman
9. Election of Secretary
10. Election of Treasurer
11. Election of Ordinary Committee Members
12. Any Other Business
13. Close meeting

Please note that according to our Constitution, items for "Any Other Business" must be received in writing by the Club Secretary at least 21 days before the date of the AGM so that correct and proper answers can be prepared. Items for "Any Other Business" cannot be accepted 'On the Night'.

We look forward to seeing you there.

ATC INSPECTION

On the evening of Monday 9th June the 1855 Squadron Air Training Corps was inspected by a team from the RAF headed by Air Commodore Ian Stewart. This inspection was part of a national scheme to decide on the best ATC Squadron in the United Kingdom. By the time the Air Commodore and his staff had arrived at Royton ATC the main judging had been done in geographical areas and 1855 Squadron had already been assessed as the best in the area and one of only 6 Squadrons in the country selected for this final judgement. Already a remarkable achievement.



As OARC is located at 1855 Squadron we also were under the microscope and therefore Geoff Oliver G0BJR, Alan Burgess G4GLV, Peter Rushton G7PMZ and Ian Firby G7VCG attended the inspection to hopefully enhance the ATC's chances of a good result.

Air Commodore Stewart arrived punctually and in convoy with the

Major of Oldham in individually chauffeur driven vehicles and after being welcomed by Flight Lieutenant Mark Hamilton and initial introductions the inspection began.

The Cadets were on parade in the top field of the base and each one was introduced to the AC. This was followed by a march past and salute. The "Red Barrows" did their display followed closely by Archery, Field Craft and Gymnastic demonstrations. Then down on the main parade ground the Band went through its repertoire and formation marching display. Air Commodore Stewart then visited our premises and chatted at length with our members before visiting the rifle range and returning to the podium for final speeches and the lowering of the Flag ceremony.



After all the Pomp and Circumstance was concluded a splendid buffet was laid on by the wives of ATC staff members.

Whatever the result of the inspection turns out to be, overall the cadets put on an excellent and impressive demonstration which goes to show just what young people can achieve when given the opportunity and the right guidance. Good examples of this are the first cadets we guided through the Novice RAE some time ago. Ben Atkins is now a Pilot Officer and John Hendstock is an RAF Air Traffic Controller at Lyneham. Both maintain their Amateur Radio Licences. We wish them all every good fortune and success.

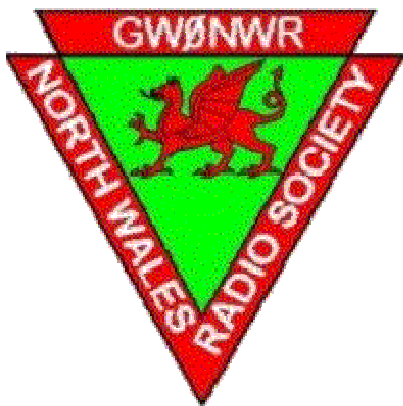
Photographs by Alan Burgess G4GLV.

LLANDUDNO RALLY REBORN

It was a great disappointment to many members when last year the North Wales Radio Society announced that they would not be holding their annual rally. This was mainly due to the venue having undergone substantial refurbishment which of course meant it would cost significantly more to hire.

Since then their rally committee have been working hard to relocate the event. They have obviously been successful in their endeavour as the announcement below has recently been released.

22nd North Wales Amateur Radio Show Saturday & Sunday, 1st & 2nd November 2008



The North Wales Radio Society are pleased to announce that the rally will run again this year at a new venue.

The new site is the brand new high school in Llandudno, Ysgol John Bright.

This has two large halls for the show and ample free parking on site. It is very conveniently located, when you come into Llandudno down the dual carriageway from the A55 you now turn left at the Links roundabout (instead of right for the old venue) and it is approx 1/2 mile down the road just after a mini roundabout.

Full maps and directions will be put on their website shortly. www.nwrs.org.uk

FT990 BREAKDOWN

Recently our Yaesu FT990 HF transceiver developed a fault where it would not transmit. There was no problem with the receiver side of things but there was no transmission on any band using any mode.

This was a big disappointment to many members who use the 990 in preference to our other HF rigs. Anyway Club member and Fred Lees Memorial Trophy holder Phil Ellis M0GIE came to the rescue by locating and repairing the fault.

Many Thanks Phil.

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 October 2008. Any contributions for this edition should be forwarded to the editor, Geoff Oliver G0BJR on or before Thursday 18th September 2008 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.

President – Geoff Oliver G0BJR
president@oarc.org.uk

Chairman – Ian Moth G8ZHC
chairman@oarc.org.uk

Secretary – Chris Cunliffe G7OOD
secretary@oarc.org.uk

Treasurer – Peter Rushton G7PMZ
treasurer@oarc.org.uk

Alan Burgess G4GLV Phil Ellis M0GIE
Stuart Wilson G7MFK Ian Firby G7VCG
Sue Burgess GORKE

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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