

CDXC

The UK DX Foundation

DIGEST

Summer 2023
Issue 259

Journal of CDXC

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Front cover – Villa Grifone, The Marconi family home.

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Editorial Policy: The views expressed in the *Digest* are those of the respective authors and may or may not represent CDXC policy.

The Editorial deadline for contributions for the Autumn (November) *Digest* is 21st October 2023.

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EDITORIAL

PETER CHADWICK, G3RZP



At one stage recently, I was wondering how to find enough material for a complete Digest issue – and then suddenly the problem is now appearing of being able to edit contributions down to be able to fit in the right number of pages – which has to be a multiple of four. At least, there's no temptation to forget about it and sit in the sun – the 'summer' so far here has been noticeably absent, with the central heating turning on in the middle of July! Unlike those around the Mediterranean, where it is to be hoped that the wildfires have not adversely affected our radio amateur friends.

Ofcom have launched a consultation on changes to the amateur licence, which seem to me akin to the famous curate's egg – good in parts! The making of the regional designator in the callsign optional seems somewhat ridiculous, especially considering the struggles to get those designators many years ago. Some of us can remember when the Channel Islands were GC for all of them and some might even remember when they were all straight G callsigns. As the Bailiwicks of Jersey and Guernsey are separate legal entities, separate DXCC status made sense, and they are definitely NOT England or any of the other British Isles! There is also the possibility if interference is caused to other services outside the UK by a portable station, it adds a layer of difficulty to Ofcom's attempts to track the interfeerer. The re-issue of relinquished callsigns after only two years is very liable to cause confusion, and in some cases, distress if QSL cards or post are delivered to the address of an SK – 5 years seems more reasonable. The increase in power from 400 watts PEP to 1 kW PEP may well help in raising the distant received Signal-to-Noise ratio in these days of major electronic 'smog' from the multiplicity of non-compliant digital devices. It may even (Tell it not in Garth, whisper it not in the streets of Askalon) make some operators compliant with licence requirements! On the other hand, high duty cycle modes such as SSTV, RTTY and FT8 (and maybe AM bearing in mind the long overs that were common on that mode!) already stress some transmitters even at the 100 watt PEP level, so for those modes at 1 kW transmitters (and power supplies!) will need to be rated for Continuous Commercial Service (CCS) rather than Intermittent Commercial and Amateur Service (ICAS). We have obviously come a long way from 1936 when the late Eric Martin, G6MN, applied for a 25 watt DC input licence and received a 250 watt licence with demand for another half guinea (52.5 pence) as he hadn't sent enough! CDXC may be submitting a response and note that these comments are all personal editorial opinion. CDXC Members are encouraged to make their own inputs to Ofcom, especially as the number of different comments carry more weight than a single opinion from a society regardless of how many members it represents.

The regular column on 'The Other Man's Station' this month features Don G3BJ, who to me will always be G3OZF because I've known him for well over sixty years – right back to spending Sunday afternoons with him in the mid-1960s acting as the hidden station for the 160m D/F hunts of the Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society. It is now 'The Other Operator's Station' to reflect modern susceptibilities.

TRANSMISSION LINES

CHRIS DUCKLING, G3SVL



It seems a long while back that we gathered in Loughborough for the CDXC AGM and DX Convention. It was a great day with four excellent presentations (videos will be uploaded to our YouTube channel shortly) and plenty of time to mingle with DXers. There's a write up on the event elsewhere in this edition, but I wanted to say a big thank you to our two retiring committee members: Ian, G3YBY and Tony, G4LDL and a welcome to our two new committee members: Lee, 2EOLMA and Pete, G4RRM. The list of the new Committee is shown on the second page of this edition. I'd like to thank members for putting their trust in us as your Committee for the coming year.

Probably the biggest news for UK members right now is OFCOM's release of a consultation on our license conditions. It's the first time in a decade that anything major has been suggested by our licensing authority and this one contains some useful benefits not least of which is increased power levels. There are a few potentially controversial points too. The one that might concern us in the DX community is the proposal to make the Regional Secondary Locators (RSLs) optional. This would mean stations in GM, GW, GI, GD, GU and GJ would be able use plain 'G' or 'M' and thus not be identified with the country they are in. I can't see any reason why they would ever choose to do that – just how many dB's is, for example, a GJ call worth in a pile up? It would pose logistical problems with Club Log, multiplier contests and perhaps interference tracking too. On the other hand, it might be possible to gain more RSLs if they were optional. I will definitely respond to all 17 questions in the consultation with additional comments as necessary and would plead with all members who hold a UK callsign to do the same. The deadline for responses is 4th September but why not do it now so you don't forget. The document is available at:

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/consultations-and-statements/category-2/updating-amateur-radio-licensing-framework>

While I was at Visalia earlier in the year, I was tipped off that NCDXF were going to announce an initiative to track down DQRM. To quote from the NCDXF website:

"The Northern California DX Foundation recognizes the negative aspect deliberate QRMers are having on our hobby. We believe this is a problem that can be mitigated by applying amateur operators' vast knowledge and receiving tools to good use. In order to spur research into solving the problem the NCDXF Board of Director's at their latest Board meeting allocated \$100,000 to help develop solutions. NCDXF will entertain grant proposals from individuals and/or groups that specifically outline their approach to identify bad actors...."

This is a very worthwhile initiative and a credit to NCDXF for putting up money for it. Details of the bidding criteria will be published soon.

The WRTC (World Radio Team Championship) went off well in Bologna and several CDXC members were in the teams or acting as referees. CDXC and RSGB were joint sponsors of the Youth Team 2 tent who had the callsign I47B with operators Jamie, M0SDV and Philipp, DK6SP. You can read more elsewhere in this edition. The UK is hosting WRTC 2026, and I hope CDXC members will play a big part in providing volunteers when the time comes.

The bands are really humming of late with DXpeditions popping up regularly. The high SFI helps too. Requests for sponsorship are returning to pre-Covid levels and you can see those DXpeditions we sponsor by scrolling down on our homepage.

CDXC will have our usual stand in the Clubs area of the RSGB Convention in October and I hope to meet as many of you as possible there. Until then, enjoy the summer and may the DX gods be with you.

73 Chris, G3SVL

NEW MEMBERS

TONY BETTLEY, G4LDL AND CHRIS KIRBY G4FZN

CDXC offers a warm welcome to the following new or returned members:

Callsign	Name	QTH
M0AHN	Kevin Lancaster	Pewsey, Wilts
G3UKI	Barry Curnow	London E1
KN9W	Joseph Birchfield	Chattanooga
G4IUG	Dave Cawley	Dartmouth
M0HDX	James Dexter	Chaddesden, Derby
G8OLA	Ryan Elwood	Chichester
N6MG	Milton Garb	Rowland Heights
2E0GYI	Andrew Green	Barnsley
G8UHT	Philip Shaw	Nantwich
M0IMM	Shaun Imms	Rowley Regis
OM5ZW	L'ubomir Martišca	Slovak Republic
OM4AYL	Sylvia Martišca	Slovak Republic

We regret to record the passing of the following CDXC member
Stephen Gilbert, G3OAG
Our thoughts are with the family and loved ones

Any changes to your CDXC Membership details?

Have you, for example, changed your

- Postal address
- E-mail address
- Telephone number

Please advise Membership Secretary, Chris Kirby G4FZN –
memsec@cdxc.org.uk

AROUND THE BANDS

DON FIELD G3XTT



Since the last column I've been to Friedrichshafen and it was good to meet Thierry FT8WW, as well as catching up with many of those going to Swains, Clipperton and Guyana (among others) in the coming months. Good luck to all of them.

The club area was always busy, and it was great to meet so many DXers from far and wide, not least because a number had come in advance of WRTC – Champ E21EIC and friends, Jacky ZL3CW and Bernd VK2IA and many of our American friends too. Mind you, I will be challenged next year as visits to Visalia and Dayton (or wherever it is these days) are well overdue.

VP6A and its Implications

There have been more interesting DXpeditions since my last column, including VP6A, Ducie Island. This was another of AA7JV's RIB (Rig in a Box) efforts and seemed to prove the concept although there certainly seemed to be quite a lot of activity on the island itself, not only to refuel the generators and sort out antennas, but also to handle CW and SSB operations, at least at first, with remote operation only being possible using data modes (mainly FT8, of course).

There seem to me to be two quite separate issues here, which some have muddled when discussing the RIB concept. The first is whether we are happy with the idea of an unmanned station (usually on an island), being operated from a team offshore (though, as I said above, it's unlikely that the team can simply drive the RIB ashore remotely – decent antennas probably require more than a RIB itself can offer and no station can run without fuel, unless solar-powered and hence QRP).

The other issue is whether it is appropriate and/or acceptable for the station to be operated by operators scattered around the world. However, this is by no means limited to RIB operations and should be addressed separately. I'm reliably informed that this has happened on a number of more conventional DXpeditions (though not

with any CDXC/FSDXA ones!) and, of course, it happens all the time with various remote shacks – the HH2AA station being a case in point. I’m not talking here about the legal implications, which vary from country to country, but about whether we are happy with this situation from an awards point of view. Or we simply take our lead from whatever the DXCC Awards Committee deem to be appropriate and live with it (which is probably inevitable, as they will do what they feel appropriate unless there is a concerted outcry from the DX chasing community).

Personally, I don’t have strong feelings either way. As long as I know where the station is that I am working, I am reasonably happy. I also feel that developing the underlying technologies for remote operation is a great way for younger operators to learn systems integration skills, which are in high demand nowadays. More use than Morse, dare I say (wash my mouth out!).

DX is, of course, changing in other ways too. WSJT has certainly been a game changer – I found T31TT an easy catch on 12m FT4 for a new one, as was the VP6. I could probably have worked both on CW, but WSJT made it much easier (I note that fewer CW operators are claiming nowadays that CW is as good at low signal DXing as WSJT – it isn’t!).

Other Recent DX

Anyway, enough of that. Other recent operations have included 4W6RU by a group of Russians, 9Q by a team of Italians, plus KH8RRC from a location on top of the island (an unusual situation from KH8 and one that helped signals to EU). EZ/DL7ZM was a short-lived operation and confined to 10m but an interesting one, nevertheless. This is the same chap who was on last year from 7O (on 10 and 6m) where, again, no regular licences are issued at the moment. He seems to rely on arguing a case for limited propagation research and somehow managing to persuade the authorities to grant him a short-term operating permit.

I have to mention MM0UKI too, of course. Well done to Nobby and Emil for pulling off this difficult operation. They made it look relatively easy but clearly there was some luck involved with the weather, as evinced by the fact that Cam had to be airlifted off the rock before he had completed his planned record-breaking attempt. And what was hoped to be a second attempt at activating Rockall, in the course of collecting equipment that Cam had left behind, also appears to have been abandoned due to unsuitable weather conditions.

Upcoming DX

There’s not a lot of rare DX happening during the northern summer, as you’d expect, but there should be plenty to look forward to in the autumn. As a flavour: 3B9GJ (by W7GJ) focused on 6m, W8S (Swains) mid-October, T2C (looks like a big one, October), H40WA (another big one) Oct/Nov, 4W8X (yet another big one) November. And Clipperton from mid-January. Plus plenty of others. Do watch the main sources. DX World website, 425 DX News (weekly, free), The Daily DX and more. I am always amazed at some of the basic questions asked on the CDXC email reflector – I would have thought all members would have made use of one or more of these various excellent resources.

WRTC

As well as attending Friedrichshafen, just over a week later it was off to Bologna for WRTC 2022. I'd volunteered as a referee, a job I had last done in Brazil in 2006, having then been a Judge in Moscow and New England, and missed the 2018 event in Germany. I have to say, 17 years on, I found it much harder staying awake for 24 hours than I had previously! This year's although billed WRTC 2022, was a year late due to Covid and had also been impacted by the Russia/Ukraine war and by recent flooding in the Emilia-Romagna area of Italy, rendering some of the planned operating sites unusable. So, all credit to the Italians that they managed to pull off a successful WRTC.

The event was fun, and you should be able to read John G4IRN's account elsewhere in this Digest. I particularly enjoyed the pre-contest excursion to Villa Griffone, the Marconi family home where young Guglielmo conducted his experiments in the attic room that had previously been used for breeding silkworms. It really brought home what a unique individual he was, despite shunning a formal university education. Yes, others contributed to the exploration and development of wireless communications, but it was Marconi who brought together all the various pieces, made some significant developments in aerial technology (not that they really understood how aersals worked at the time) and, of course,



Villa Griffone's Antennas

then went on to successfully commercialise the technology with particular reference to equipping ships at sea and training operators to man the equipment. Villa Griffone is also nowadays home to the IY4FGM Marconi Memorial Station, with some impressive antennas.

In the afternoon we visited Museo Pelagalli, an intimate (read 'crowded'!) museum of communications in downtown Bologna. Absolutely fascinating with everything from old gramophones to early personal computers and much, much more. A visit to be remembered!

The big WRTC news for UK amateurs is, of course, that we in the UK have volunteered to run the next event, in 2026. This is a big challenge and no doubt the organisers will be looking for all the help they can get, leading up to and during the contest. Not just testers, of course, but any willing helpers as station managers, IT support, whatever. The effort is being led by our old friend Mark Haynes MODXR but already with a heavyweight team by way of an Organising Committee and Advisors.

HF Convention

No Newark (or equivalent) this year unfortunately. So, the next chance for a meet up will be the RSGB Convention in October. I look forward to seeing many of you there if you can tear yourselves away from the radio!

73 Don Field G3XTT

RTTY REVIEW

ROGER COOKE, G3LDI



I do have a piece of really good news from Swardeston! My main tower is back up in the air and I now have my 4-el Ultrabeam sitting at 110ft with a 2m collinear at the top. I have the crossbar for dipoles sitting just below the head unit and will be adding some inverted V dipoles when the summer arrives – if it ever does! Wettest July for decades here and not very warm either!

However, I am more than chuffed with the tower, so I hope to work some DX once again. There is still the 40m beam on the other 80ft tower with the VHF/UHF beams to get fixed and then

finally the Rhombic. I just hope we can get all that done before autumn. If anybody is interested in looking at a series of photos showing the day's work, go to: <https://imageshack.com/a/sbFW7/1>



**Tower
now back
up.**



RTTY TIPS FOR THE CWWW RTTY DX TEST

This contest is one of the largest RTTY tests of the year.

September 23 - 24, 2023

Starts: 0000 UTC Saturday

Ends: 2359 UTC Sunday

These hints were produced by Claude VE2FK for last year really but the same applies for 2023.

The following operating tips are from the very best operators. This information has been collected from several RTTY sites in order to standardize contest operations on the air.

- Be prepared, don't wait day before to check your system and have your macros well done.
- Message buffers should have a carriage return (ENTER) at the beginning and only a space at the end. Following this practice really helps pick out sent information such as a call sign or the contest exchange.
- Start your CQ with the contest name and end it with CQ ex: (CQWW N1MM N1MM CQ). This way, a station tuning in midway of your CQ will know you are not calling another station, but CQ'ing. CQ and QRZ are not the same!!!
- Use spaces to separate your numbers, ex: 599 QC 05
- Do not add more space in between info in your macros to make the line longer. There is no real reason to use hyphens.
- Do not use periods, commas, slant bars. In RTTY it is preferable to send the 2 digits, it's easier to click on 05 than 5. DX will be only transmitting RST plus CQ Zone, ex: 599 14. Some may decide to send zone twice in poor propagation.
- Do not use 5NN in RTTY, use numbers, ex. 599. RST is sent only once and not repeated if exchange is sent again.
- Do not use abbreviation like: PSE, IN, UR, NR, PLEASE COPY, RSQ, RST, BK, KN, PSE, CFM, QSL?, SK etc. Keep the transmission short and limited to just the essential information needed for the contest exchange.
- It is important to have macros to ask for (or repeat) specific information instead of asking for an entire repeat or sending an entire repeat of an exchange. Repeating the entire exchange when only one piece of information is needed is a waste of time. Also, have macros ready for special situation, ex: SRI QRG QRL, SRI NO QSY, SRI NO COPY CUL, ZONE? etc.
- If you are in RUN mode (CQing), reply with (Hiscall) the exchange and (Hiscall). If there are many callers or QRM, it is important to confirm to whom you have sent the exchange. ex:(VE2XAA 599 QC 05 VE2XAA). Then, confirm with ex:(TU VE2FK CQ) to continue.
- If you are in the S&P (Search and Pounce) mode, never send your exchange to the CQ'ing station until he has acknowledged your call and sent his exchange first! Don't send Hiscall but only Mycall, ex: (VE2FK VE2FK), then reply with only your exchange, ex: (TU 599 QC 05). (TU says it all: QSL, TU, 73)

Do not use (NAME) while in S&P mode. In RUN MODE, it's your choice to use it or not.
- Be on frequency, know how and when to use AFC and NET options in your software or don't use them.

If you are new to contesting, remember that the top guns are out to make as many QSOs per minute as possible. Following the above hints will not slow them down. They will be anxious to work you on another band and in the next contest.

One of the best WEB Sites to get info is: www.rttycontesting.com. It is also a good idea to be a member of the RTTY reflector.

Good luck in the RTTY contests!

Last Updated (Sept 05, 2008), Claude Du Berger ve2fk@arrl.net

The RTTY Scores Table

For separating modes on Logger32 try downloading a utility by JA1NLX:

<http://ja1nlx.blog109.fc2.com/blog-entry-4144.html>

This should separate out the various Data modes in Logger32.

Anybody else who runs Logger32 would be advised to use this utility and then let me have their scores please.

Updates this time:

John G7SSE had an increase of 1 and a new one in 4W1A.

John is the only one to send any info for the Summer edition. I did update all those that sent scores in the Spring edition.

Hopefully DX-peditions will become more regular with the recovery from the Covid situation and also the improving propagation.

Nostalgia.

Call	Name	Worked	Confirmed
PA3FQA	Dick	335	335
GM4FDM	Tom	325	324
MW0CRI	Dai	318	312
GW4SKA	John	307	307
G3SVD	Andy	306	306
G3LDI	Roger	293	260
G3YYD	David	276	253
G4OBK	Phil	263	237
G0HDB	Martin	246	227
G7SSE	John	224	213
M0VAA	Gerry	227	211
G4RRM	Pete	176	159
G6NHU	Keith	172	161
M0NKR	Andy	175	150
G4NBS	Tony	137	127



Arthur Owen, G2FUD and Bill Brennan G3CQE
in G2FUD Radio Room

I came across this picture the other day when looking for some Creed related material. Fig 3 I think it probably dates back to the early 1960s. Bill was a BBC engineer and one of my Elmers. He taught me my theory in 1955/6 which ended with a 3 hour mock written exam prior to the RAE a month later. He became infatuated by RTTY and authored a column in RTTY Journal. Obviously, he helped encourage me onto RTTY too! Both Bill and Arthur are SK now.

Harking back to the days of the Green Keys that all teleprinters had, I

wonder if there are still any mechanical teleprinter users out there? I doubt very much if there are many these days, but it would be nice to know. Please send a picture if you still use a real teleprinter. There is a group dedicated to the Green Key users too: <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/greenkeys>.

I have done my share of contesting with a teleprinter, but I hate to think what the shack would look like after a 12 or 24 hour contest these days, paper thrown across the floor and hopefully ear plugs in use!

Contests coming up.

SARTG DX	Aug 19-20, 2023
CQ SCRY /RTTYops WW RTTY	Aug 25-27, 2023
Russian WW	Sep 2, 2023
NCJ NA Sprint	Sep 17, 2023
BARTG Sprint75	Sep 17, 2023
CQ WW RTTY	Sep 23-24, 2023
Makrothen	Oct 14-15, 2023
JARTS	Oct 21-22, 2023
WAEDC RTTY	Nov 11-12, 2022
OK DX RTTY	Dec 16, 2023

DX

I have not heard any real DX on RTTY since getting my tower back up again but will try a few more calls on the DX bands in the hope that there are still some who like to chat. I use MMTTY for general DX and chat use. It is a good user friendly program to use with a number of macros for those that are slow typists!

It's a short column this time due to my PC problem, now solved, so I look forward to more updates and information for the next edition.

See you on the Green Keys! Please send reports and pictures to roger@g3ldi.co.uk.
73 de Roger, G3LDI



Do you have something to tell us?

There must be many of you who are busy doing things that would interest other members.

Why not think about telling the rest of us about it?

Need some help in doing it? Contact us at ed@cdxc.org.uk.

THE FT COLUMN

EVA TELENIOUS-LOWE, PJ4EVA



August is here and it's the first anniversary of me joining CDXC, when I was asked almost immediately if I would like to write a column about the FT modes in the Digest. The first issue was published a few months later in November 2022. How time flies!

One common question I have received during this past year from contributors is 'when is your deadline?' and I would like to explain this here so that those of you who are not on the reflector (where I do post reminders) are also aware.

The deadline for the FT Column is always ONE WEEK PRIOR to the Editor's deadline for contributions to the *Digest* (usually found on page 2 of the magazine). The email address for contributions is evapj4eva@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you!

DX on FT

Amazing isn't it; just when you have explained how difficult the path is to a certain DXCC area from your home QTH (see the FT Column in the Spring *Digest*), magically (no, I am not talking about 6m!) openings are there and you are able to make not just one but two QSOs to ATNOs in a matter of days! The first one was a blast from the past, in the form of Rahman Hassan, V85RH, in Brunei. Steve and I visited Brunei several times during our years in 9M6 (sometimes on our way to



9M8) and met Rahman and his wife Ernie. Our favourite place to stay in Brunei was the spectacular, in every way, hotel and country club 'The Empire'.

The second ATNO from a very elusive DXCC was DX0NE, Spratly. Steve, PJ4DX, wrote on the reflector about our efforts in putting DX0NE in our logs: *"Spratly is THE most difficult part of the world to work from PJ4."*

The Empire Hotel and Country Club
I had never even HEARD any of the Spratly operations during the last 9+ years I've been QRV from PJ4... I called around 500Hz and eventually completed after about an hour of calling - a PJ4 ATNO, DXCC number 318. Immediately after I worked him, Eva called, using exactly the same tone frequencies I had used - and he replied to her after her second call - just one minute and in the log! (Why is it never that easy for me?!)"

H44MS, Solomon Islands, who was on the air in April was also a blast from the past and very nice to work. This year it will be 32 years since I celebrated Christmas in the



Solomon Islands, a fascinating place for anyone, like me, who is interested in history. Steve and I spent a week or so exploring the main island, Guadalcanal, which is littered with remnants from the Guadalcanal Campaign during WWII. The memorial of *HMAS Canberra* in the photo I took was sadly destroyed in the recent troubles there but has since been restored and relocated to the capital, Honiara.

HMAS Canberra Memorial at Vilu Military Museum

Other great DX worked since the last FT Column: VK9WX Willis Island, 5X2I Uganda, 5UA99WS Niger, V63WJR Micronesia, V7/N7XR Marshall Islands, 4W6RU Timor-Leste, 9Q1ZZ Dem Rep of the Congo, HK0/PY7XC San Andres and Providencia, who gave me a new DXCC on 6m, as did SV5DKL Dodecanese and 7X2RF Algeria. It was lovely to work YL Meralda, VP6MW, a 7th generation Bounty descendant on Pitcairn Island, who gave me a new one on 15m FT.

There were two DXpeditions that I missed when I was on holiday in Europe in June; T31TT Kanton Island, and VP6A Ducie Island. I hope you were able to put them both in your log!

I mentioned Phill, C21TS, in the previous column and he will be back in Nauru from late July. I hope to see him on the air again later this summer when time and work commitments allow.

Lots of wonderful DX for us all to look forward to in late summer and during the autumn: T22T Tuvalu, for two weeks in August (the Rebel DX Group), W8S Swains Island, T2C Funafuti (Tuvalu), H40WA Temotu Province (Solomon Islands), and V6SX Chuuk Island (Micronesia), all in October.

Contributions

My first contribution came from **Henrik Weiss, OZ1ING**, who commented on the 'Timing' I wrote in the last column: *"Enjoyed reading your last column. Since there was mention of various way to sync with DT I thought I'd also let you know there is an excellent app called JTSync which I use. One point to remember is when you have worked the DX station to sync back to the real PC clock."* Many thanks for the tip Henrik!

Another early contribution came from **Mike Mather, ZL2CC**, in May when he wrote to me about working FT8 on 60m from ZL: *"The 60m band in New Zealand (ZL) is based upon the IARU and WRC-15 allocation recommendations and is for a power output of 15 watts EIRP. This poses quite a problem for chasing DX from way down here at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean. On top of this is the problem that our winter is the Northern Hemisphere summer so mid-summer / winter the propagation is very short..."*

“During this initial allocation we formed a friendship with a handful of European hams and one of them, Henk, PA2S, was interested in investigating 60m propagation between ZL and PA by using FT8.

“As we were restricted to 15W EIRP this set a constant transmit power for Henk to compare each day / time with. Plus FT8 gives a signal strength reading automatically in dB. Four of us, ZL4OL, ZL4TT, ZL2BH and myself ZL2CC became the main ZL stations that Henk monitored for his investigations from the beginning of 2018. We made sure our power remained at 15W EIRP even though I suspect some ZL’s power meters are a little inaccurate. Since 2018 the four of us have constantly been on every day around our sunset. We have occasionally been on our sunrise but the Chinese radar causes too much interference for decent DX contacts.

“We have found that it is possible to work Europe consistently almost every day using FT8 but we have also contacted Europe with CW and SSB when conditions are good. G8CVS often works us with just 1 watt when conditions are good via FT8.

“Our antennas have mainly been variations of verticals although I for one started with a dipole at 15m AGL, changed to an inverted-L and then to a purpose-built quarter-wave vertical, initially with elevated radials but now with buried radials. It seems a vertical, especially mine, is more consistent to Europe / UK. At present due to weather damage and moving house, there are two verticals, an inverted-V and an inverted-L between us. We are always willing to work anyone so please give us a call. We like being the first 60m contact or the first ZL 60m contact. Just remember we will be weak to you with just 15W.”

Mike sent me this short update in July: *“FT activity June / July 23 from ZL2CC... I have managed 9Q1ZZ on 20m FT8 with a wire antenna. My rotator is stuck at 130° so was no help as Africa is 25° SP. An ATNO for me so I’m a happy camper. Now to fill in some band slots.”*

In his contribution, **Martin Davies, G0HDB**, wants to add some additional material on two subjects I raised in the last *Digest* with the headings 'Timing' and 'Working DXpeditions': *“Although I have no personal experience of either of the apps mentioned by Peter, G8BCG, and Gordon, G3PXT, I think a word of caution might be worthwhile. Many of the popular clock-adjusting apps, including the very widely-used Dimension 4 app, make use of a protocol called Simple NTP (SNTP) rather than the full NTP protocol which is the universal standard for clock-adjusting. One of the drawbacks of SNTP is that it can make stepped adjustments, either forward or backward, to a PC's clock - the full NTP app does not do this but instead smoothly slews the PC's clock towards the correct time. As explained in 2020 by the late Bill Somerville, G4WJS, who was a member of the core WSJT-X development team, a step-change in the PC's clock during a receive period can, and almost inevitably will, cause a discontinuity in the audio stream that is presented to the WSJT-X decoder, the discontinuity may in turn disrupt all decoding for that period. I would therefore venture to suggest that for optimum FT-mode performance a clock-adjusting app that uses SNTP should be avoided and that an implementation of the full NTP protocol, such as the NTP client program provided by Meinberg (and recommended by the WSJT-X developers), should be used instead. Furthermore, if more people (ideally everyone!) used a 'proper' NTP-based clock-adjusting app then there would be significantly less need for apps that 'nudge' a PC's*

clock onto the incorrect time that some stations exhibit.” Steve and I found this to be the case: we changed from Dimension 4 to Meinburg a few months ago and this improved our decoding enormously.

Martin continued: “‘Working DXpeditions’ included some advice supplied by Mike, MOAGP, who in turn had received the guidance from an anonymous ‘expert’. The final piece of advice is never to use TX2 when calling a station using a multi-stream capability; in my experience this advice is incorrect. If a station is using a multi-stream mode such as that provided by the MSHV ‘fork’ program then it’s entirely permissible and acceptable to call that station using your TX2 message, which will be in the form ‘<DX station> mycall -12’. There’s absolutely no need whatsoever to call using your TX1 message, ie ‘<DX station> mycall IO82’, especially if you’ve already previously worked the DX station and they already know your grid locator. Watching the traffic coming from a DX station using a multi-stream mode should soon reveal if the station is responding to TX2 callers - in such cases the response from the DX station will be in the form ‘mycall <DX station> R-10’. Indeed, if this format is ever observed, on either a standard or a non-standard frequency, then this is an absolutely rock-solid indication that the DX station is NOT using the genuine WSJT-X Fox mode - the WSJT-X software simply does not permit the sending of that message format. I have successfully worked numerous DX stations that have been using a multi-stream mode (other than the genuine WSJT-X Fox mode) by initially calling using my TX2 message.”

Dave Gould, G3UEG, wrote: *“Slightly less busy period for this report, but still some good DXpeditions to chase and the occasional new DXCC popping up on the bands. Highlights: I managed to work VU7W, VP6A and 5UA99WS on the five top bands and added a few slots with Z66X, OJ0 and 5A. The nice ATNO (digi) surprises that came out of the blue when just sitting in the shack doing other things, but monitoring in the background, were HV5PUL (Vatican City) on 17m, and VP2M (Montserrat) for three slots on 10, 12 and 15m. It makes it very much easier when you can call before the hoards arrive.*

“Still no success yet with Alaska on 10m to complete my WAS on 10m. I have had a few alerts from HamAlert of some very limited activity into various parts of the EU, but nothing into UK or anything near. As I write this (end of June) I am just about to go on holiday for a week, I bet I get lots of alerts while I am away!”

I received this contribution from **Col McGowan, MM0NDX**, of [DX-World.net](#) fame: *“I’ve been licensed for 20 years and it’s taken until now to have a proper go at 6m. Whatever the doubters say, FTx has opened up the Magic Band in a way we have not seen before, even if propagation / Sporadic E has been the worst in 20 years (from those who know because I asked around).*

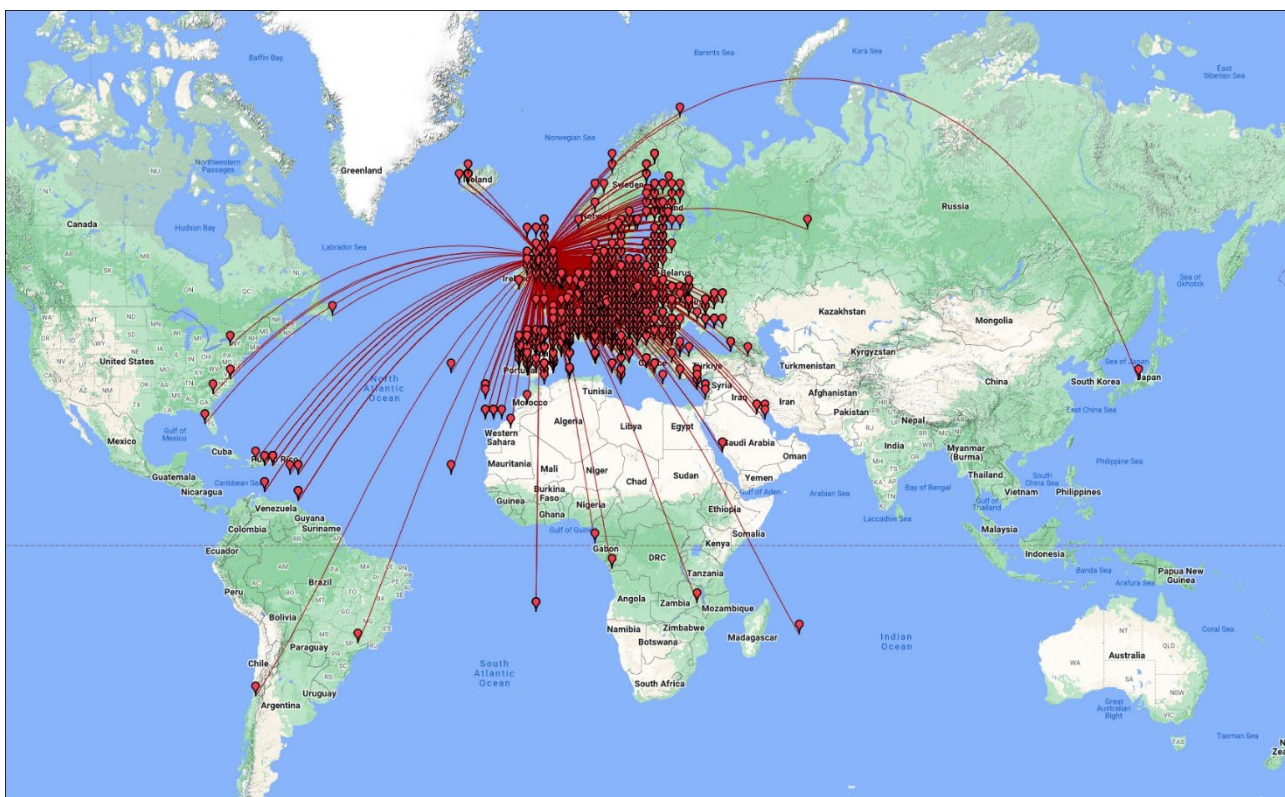
“For 6m I’m using an FTDX-10, 100W and a 2-ele portable quad at 35ft. It’s also my first time using a quad design antenna. Without doubt I’m impressed. In fact, without it I’d have worked considerably fewer stations on 6m.

“I have a decent take-off in all directions but looking at the QSO map you’d think I’m blocked to the west or north. Actually, those are probably my best directions and the sole reason for lack of QSOs to these parts is propagation. I have had one - just one - relatively short-lived opening to east coast NA at the start of June and nothing else. That’s definitely not Magic, that’s downright pathetic, all things considered! Equally, if

looking east, there's been only one opening to JA from here this year, another short-lived event that somehow saw a single JH5 make my log. Must make mention of using DX Maps and seeing stations just a few hundred miles south of here seemingly having wonderful propagation with regular hops to JA and NA!

“Nonetheless, some of the openings have yielded surprises, especially gems such as ZD7, 3B8, TR, CE, 7Q. At almost 12,000km distance, CE3SX has been the best ODX this year. Sure, there's a little more time remaining in the Sporadic E season, but it's hard to say if I will better that.

“As things stand, since April 23 I have worked 85 DXCC on 50MHz. My initial aim of working 100 DXCC in one season looks unreachable now, but will keep plugging away. Maybe I set the bar too high, but I am chuffed with the 84. Like your QRZ profile says, I too am not a robot and have worked quite hard to get some of these countries, again dismissing what the FT haters say :)”



Another contribution about 6m came from **Mike Weber, M0AGP**. Mike wrote: “Not a ton of digital mode operating since the last update, but a few memorable ones: VU7W, 4W1A, E51CIK, 5X2I, DX0NE, 5UA99WS, V51WW (6m), VK8AW (6m), ZS6NK (6m), T31TT, VP6A, 4W6RU, FH4VVK, FP/KV1J, CE0YHO, 9Q1ZZ, CX1VH (6m).

“Previously I said my absolute favourite digital QSO was with Bob E51BQ. But I think my 6m QSO with VK8AQ has to be a competitor for that title! I don’t have a 6m antenna but have been using my 30m dipole as a 5/2-wave dipole on 6m since mid 2021. The thing seems to work fairly well on 6m! I am pretty sure this is because it has a few lucky 'gain lobes' in just the right direction. As at 10 July I have worked 94 DXCCs on 6m with 74 confirmed. I would love to put up a beam but the neighbour situation makes that untenable.” The graphic shows Mike's incredible 6m contact and he has written up a

full account of the QSO with VK8AW for the UK Six Metre Group's journal, *Six News* <https://uksmg.org/landing.php>.

I must admit that I have become quite addicted to 6m myself. The beginning of the Sporadic E season this year was - for me - a little like 'blink and you miss it'. On 19 May the first wide-spread and long-lasting opening gave me and Steve a

105600	Tx	2513	~	VK8AW	M0AGP	-11	
105615	-11	0.2	2416	~	M0AGP	VK8AW	R-15
105630	Tx	2513	~	VK8AW	M0AGP	RR73	Australia
105645	-14	0.2	2415	~	M0AGP	VK8AW	R-15
105700	Tx	2513	~	VK8AW	M0AGP	RR73	
105715	-14	0.2	2415	~	G4ZFJ	VK8AW	R-11
105730	Tx	2513	~	VK8AW	M0AGP	RR73	
105745	-15	0.2	2415	~	G4ZFJ	VK8AW	73
105800	Tx	2513	~	VK8AW	M0AGP	RR73	Australia
105815	-12	0.2	2415	~	DL8BDU	VK8AW	R-13
105830	Tx	2513	~	VK8AW	M0AGP	RR73	
105835	Tx	2513	~	VK8AW	M0AGP	-12	
105845	-15	-0.0	2415	~	M0AGP	VK8AW	73
							Australia

M0AGP working VK8AW on 6m

chance to work stations from the Azores to Kuwait but nothing from northern Europe. It was then five days until it opened up again, including to the UK and northern Europe. We were away on holiday for the whole of June and probably missed a lot of activity but a week or so after we returned home an extremely brief (10 minutes or so) opening to JA on 10 July made up for it! It was the first opening to JA we have had so we are both very happy indeed to be able to put a few JAs in the log! It was also a milestone for me, I now have 100 DXCC confirmed on eight bands, 6m to 40m.

Phil Catterall, G4OBK, wrote about working a very lucky band-slot on 60m: *"I picked up a few FT8 new ones this quarter for DXCC Data and a very lucky new band slot on 60m! The other night after my wife had her car serviced and MOTd, her car alarm went off twice around 0200z. I haven't been getting up much these days for nocturnal DX sessions as I used to, however, on this occasion I needed to attend to the car alarm to stop it happening again. After resetting the alarm I decided to go into the shack. Soon after, 9Q1ZZ was spotted by an Italian station on 5356kHz using FT8 which was a godsend, as earlier in the week they had been operating F/H on 5357kHz which meant I would have been in breach of the licence by transmitting above 5358kHz, so I never called then. I called them on 5357.5kHz and they came back within a few calls to give me a new one on 60m to complete 9Q on 10 bands 160m - 10m. I haven't been fortunate to see them on 6m yet, but I guess there is still a chance we may get some TEP into UK before they finish.*

"I don't tend to chase DXpeditions unless it's a new mode or band slot. Although it was so easy chasing 9Q1ZZ on FT8 the other day I got three FT8 QSOs on 15, 17 and 20m in 30 minutes. The Italian guys always put on a great show!

"Otherwise using FT8 I've worked five ATNOs on data - T30UN on 12 / 15m, E51CIK on 20m, VU7W on 12m, VP6A on 20m, 9Q1ZZ 15 / 17 / 20m. I picked up three band slot new ones using FT8 on 6m: CX6VM, V51WW and D2UY. The only other new band slot that was on FT8 was CP6CL in early May. Latest scores via the JA1NLX summary app. Thank you again for writing the column."

With his update for the FT Table, **Mike Eccles, GM3PPE**, added a positive comment on the benefits using FT which I agree with 100%: *"This past period I was pleased to work T31TT and 9Q1ZZ for two new 'FT countries'. The great thing about FT4/8 is because it is fairly new, there are many DXCC entities that are still to be activated on*

these digital modes. For example the upcoming Swains DXpedition. Good luck with the column. I enjoyed the last one very much.”

FT Support Groups

I saw this post from Martin Davies, G0HDB, on the reflector about a new FT support group. Martin said: “Users of the FT/JT and other WS modes may be aware that a groups.io group, titled 'WSJTX' has existed for several years; the group is described as: 'An active forum for communication among users of WSJT-X and WSJT software.' In the past this group - which was not operated or administered by anyone in the WSJT-X Core Development Group (K1JT, K9AN et al) - was a useful source of information about the configuration and use of the WSJT-X software, but the rules imposed on the members of the group by its moderator mean that any reference whatsoever by name to a 'derivative' program such as MSHV is strictly and absolutely prohibited - anyone posting a message to the group that mentions a derivative program by name, even if the name is only in the message title, is likely to have their message rejected by the moderator. Furthermore, anyone who the moderator felt was a 'repeat offender' in this respect was likely to have their membership of the group terminated; this has happened to several members of the group (including me!) who in the past have provided what they felt was helpful and useful information about a variety of topics relevant to the installation, configuration and use of the WSJT-X software.

“In light of the apparently-increasing 'moderation' issues with the existing WSJTX group, a member of the Core WSJT Development Group - Uwe Risse, DG2YCB - has [recently] established a new group titled 'WSJTGROUP'.

Martin continues: “Unlike the existing WSJTX group, the new group will permit mention of and discussion about all the various Weak Signal programs, so there will be no sanctioning or expulsion from the group of any member who has the temerity to mention MSHV, JTDX or whatever by name in either a message title or in the body of the message!

“If anyone wants to join the new group then a search of groups.io should easily find it; alternatively its URL is <https://groups.io/g/wsjtgroup> .”

FT DXCC Table

Callsign	FT Worked	FT Confirmed	Callsign	FT Worked	FT Confirmed
PA3FQA	294	280	G7SSE	242	234
G0HDB	286	274	2E0LMA	239	213
GM3PPE	278	277	OZ1ING	236	213
M0NKR	278	260	G4NBS	231	225
PJ4DX	278	255	GM4FDM	225	225
PJ4EVA	273	244	GW4SKA	222	219
M0AGP	269	251	G6NHU	221	218
G3UEG	264	263	G7IRN	219	191
G3PXT	263	245	GI4FUE	211	186
G4RRM	262	243	VP8NO	202	202
G0TSM	257	240	G7ILZ	197	178
G4OBK	250	240	G3VGZ	187	187
E12GLB	249	247	G8GNI	186	185
G3KZR	247	225	MM0XXW	106	106

Please note that the table shows DXCCs worked *on the FT modes only* (i.e. FT8 and FT4). 'Confirmed' means either with a traditional paper QSL card or on ARRL's Logbook of The World – please do not include entities 'confirmed' only on eQSL, QRZ.com etc.

Contesting

Steve and I are very happy to see that our winning streak continued in the RSGB's series of FT4 contests with a bigger margin win in April and May. We missed the June contest as we were in Europe that month. In July we had two problems, our Hexbeam was in need of repair (broken elements) and on top of that our computer kept crashing. Consequently we were not in the top spot. These issues have now been fixed and we will be back on full form on 18 September when the next contest takes place.

The World Wide Digi DX Contest, organised jointly by the Slovenia Contest Club and the World Wide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF – the same group that now organises the CQWW CW and SSB contests), will take place on Saturday 26 August from 1200 to 1159UTC on Sunday 27 August. This contest is on six bands: 1.8, 3.5, 7, 14, 21 and 28MHz and you can operate on both FT4 *and* FT8. I enjoyed taking part in this last year on my own, single op. This year Steve and I are talking about joining as a team, we'll see how it goes!

Until next time, happy DXing and contesting with FT! 73, Eva, PJ4EVA

A NEW ENDEAVOR

RICHARD HAENDAL, W3ACO

My daughter Melissa, W7MAH and I have wondered why there are only a few female radio operators on the bands. To help remedy this, we have started a fund, the **Haendel YL Radio Operators Fund**. (YLROF)

Requirements:

1. Operator must have a general class license or better.
2. Operator must have a valid passport.
3. Operator must be willing to travel to a DX entity for a period of a week or more.

This is for an individual traveling to be part of a group, not as an individual traveling alone.

Contribution initially will be made annually to a single individual. If funds allow, contributions may be made to more than one individual.

Fund managers: Rich Haendel W3ACO
Melissa Haendel W7MAH

We have selected an individual for this year, Paige, K0PZH, a student at the University of Iowa, who will be traveling to Curacao for the CQ WW SSB contest in October. Her expenses will be entirely paid for by the fund.

Thought you would be interested in this effort. Rich W3ACO

DRAFT MINUTES OF CDXC 2023 AGM

TONY BETTLEY, G4LDL

Preamble

In view of the success of using the on-line facilities in recent years, in order to extend the reach of the AGM voting the Committee has decided to allow members to provide an online vote in advance of the AGM. Such votes cast will be provided as a proxy to the Chairman of the AGM who will cast them on your behalf at the meeting.

Each member was only vote once on each resolution: either online in advance of the AGM or in person at the AGM.

The following papers were available on the CDXC web site from 5th May and voting closed at midnight on 11th May.

- Minutes of 2022 AGM
- Chairman's report
- Secretary's report
- Treasurer's report (includes accounts and auditor's certificate)
- Proposal for 2023 / 2024 Committee members

For each document there was an email address where questions could be raised or clarifications requested. No questions were received.

The Constitution requires us to secure majority votes in favour of the following and these were the items put to the vote:

Adoption of the 2022 AGM Minutes

Adoption of the 2022 / 2023 Accounts

Appointment of the 2023 / 2024 Committee

Appointment of the 2024 Auditor

+++++

The following minutes are from the live AGM with reference made to online voting where relevant. They are of course 'draft' until approved at the 2024 AGM. Thanks to Tony for preparing these.

CDXC AGM 2023

13th May 2023, 11:00 BST at the Link Hotel, Loughborough.

Members present: 2EOLMA, G0DWV, G0KJP, G0MTN, G0UWS, G2NF, G3BJ, G3FVZ, G3RRM, G3RWF, G3SJH, G3SVL, G3TTC, G3UEG, G3UNA, G3VGZ, G3WGV, G3WKL, G3XTT, G3ZQH, G4CGG, G4DCI, G4FZN, G4HCL, G4IUF, G4JKS, G4LDL, G4MFX, G4PFF, G4PVM, G4TSH, G4TVR, G8GNI, M0BCT, M0IFT, M0KYB, M0NKR, M1DST, M1SMH.

Guests present: LA7GIA

1. Welcome.

Chairman Chris, G3SVL welcomed everyone to this the second “live” AGM since the Covid restrictions.

Apologies for absence were received from:- F5VHY, G0IFC, G0PHY, G0RPM, G1VDP, G3KMA, G3OQT, G3RZP, G3USR, G3WPH, G3YBY/F5VKT, G4IRN, G6NHU, GM4FDM, GW0RHC, M0AUG, MW0YVK, VE6SH, W1YRC, ZL3PAZ.

2. Minutes of 2022 AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on 7th May 2022 were accepted unanimously as a true record at the live AGM. Acceptance proposed by M0BCT & seconded by G3UNA.

(On-line voting: For = 213, Against = 0, Abstentions = 23)

There were no matters arising.

3. Chairman's Report, Chris Duckling G3SVL.

In my report to last year's AGM I said “Once again the Covid pandemic has deprived us of DXpeditions ..” but while the six months that followed was also rather devoid of travellers, since December 2022 they have been coming thick and fast. And with Cycle 25 on its way towards its peak, being part of the ‘DXers community’ that is CDXC is ever more valuable.

We expect to be donating more money to sponsor DXpeditions than we did in the ‘Covid years’ so maintaining and indeed growing our membership is essential if we are to keep our subscription rates at their current level. Do think of introducing new members who will benefit from, and contribute to, CDXC.

We had successful running of all three of our Challenges and I would like to thank Derek, G4XEE for the sterling work he puts in to adjudicate each one. Congratulations are due to all Trophy and certificate winners. I will announce them and present Trophies after the AGM. We tweaked the Trophy awards as from the start of 2023 to encourage legacy modes.

The Reflector continues to be an excellent forum for technical and DX help and is a real asset for members. Activity peaks during DXpeditions as you would expect: during

February 2022, when Bouvet and Crozet were both active, we had 1,000 posts - the highest monthly number since April 2016. The two Skype channels provide DX spotting and real-time chat among members. I'm pleased to report that there have been almost no reasons to intervene with moderation on either platform during the year.

Activity on our Facebook site is somewhat disappointing with most of it posted by the Committee. Do think about sharing photos of your station, activity, new awards etc. We have stayed on Twitter and continue to monitor the situation under the platform's new ownership.

Chris, G4FZN has worked on our YouTube channel, and we intend to add more content in due course. If you have a relevant video, please think about allowing us to add it to our channel.

Members may not have realised that CDXC has never directly owned the domain name 'cdxc.org.uk', it was held benevolently in our name. This was rectified in December 2022 when we formally gained ownership. We also acquired the domain name 'cdxc.uk' which we may use at a future date.

As is customary I would like to recognise the efforts of the outgoing Committee and those who assist the Committee in other ways: Reflector moderation, G3YMC; Facebook moderation, M0AFJ & M0NKR; Digest production, G4FNC and Digest postage M0URX.

That brings me to proposed changes to the 2023/2024 Committee which will be put to the vote at this AGM. Ian, G3YBY who has served on the Committee for eight years is standing down. He has been pivotal in improving our promotions and press releases and has acted as a back up to Derek on Challenge adjudication tasks. This in addition to the routine work of the Committee. Thank you Ian.

Tony, G4LDL has been our secretary for 14 years – probably the longest serving secretary in the history of the Club. He has overseen the introduction of our membership management system, dealt efficiently with member queries, organised AGMs, Conventions, dinners and goodness knows what else. We will sorely miss him. Thank you, Tony. As I announced a few weeks back, we co-opted two new members onto the Committee – Lee Allen, 2E0LMA and Pete Walker, G4RRM. They are standing for election at this AGM, and I commend them to you. We will redistribute the various Committee tasks at the first meeting on the new Committee.

That concludes my report for the year. I am happy to answer questions on my report or provide further detail.

4. Secretary's Report, Tony Bettley, G4LDL.

Our membership numbers have remained fairly constant across the year and at 31st March 2023 were (with 2022 figures in brackets):

Total = 727 (734), Overseas = 149 (157), UK = 570 (571), Other = 8 (6).

That is a “loss” of 7 overall. However, we gained some 55 new members during the year (47 UK & 8 Overseas) which of course means 62 members failed to renew their membership. Of these 15 positively resigned; the reasons given being mainly to do with cost of living, change of circumstances etc.; the rest just letting their membership lapse with no response to subsequent reminders. This is not unusual.

Again, we were able to recover some of this loss - mainly by publicity in the form of attendance at rallies (Norbreck, Newark, RSGB Convention and Friedrichshafen for example) and by targeting folk who had taken part in “special events” such as the Transatlantic Centenary.

Thanks to Ian G3YBY/F5VKT, Chris, G4FZN, Pauline G8HQQ and others who helped make up lists, arrange and man the CDXC stand at these events.

Recommendations from Clubs and other members also contribute to gaining new members - so the message remains clear – keep up the CDXC profile however you can.

Sadly we had several members become SK during the period and CDXC offers condolences to the families of the following:-

Frank, EI6EF; John, G3HCT; Jim, G3TTJ; Gordon, G3WQV:

Regular bi-monthly Zoom Committee meeting have taken place (thanks Chris, G4FZN for the Zoom hosting) covering a wide range of topics from membership matters, DXpedition sponsorship, Challenge and Awards rules and adjudication, publicity, Digest matters and content and of course financial matters.

This will be my last Secretary’s report so I would like to thank all members for their forbearance during my tenure when things didn’t go right, or answers were difficult to find.

I will still be around to assist when required particularly regarding some of the mysteries or our database system.

Chairman comment: Roger, G3SXW (SK) had been a stalwart CDXC member for many years before his illness caused him to lapse his membership. Chairman Chris asked that he be remembered for his contributions to the Club.

5. Hon Treasurer’s Report, Accounts & Audit Certificate, Andrew Thomas, G8GNI.

Presented below are the audited accounts and brief comments on the financial highlights of the year ending 31st March 2023. The accounts have been approved by the Committee and audited by the Club Auditor, Owen Williams, G0PHY.

The accounts for the year show a surplus of £1,347. The main highlights in income and expenditure over the previous year are as follows:

Income

Subscription income has declined slightly. With the reduction to four Digests a year, advertising income is now spread over an eighteen-month period. The annual

dinner and the increase in interest rates have contributed to an overall increase in income.

Expenditure

Printing and postage costs have increased by 13% over the previous year with a consequent increase in the cost of the Digest. Marketing expenditure reflects the cost of CDXC's stand at Friedrichshafen plus the purchase of two new advertising banners. CDXC made a contribution of £150 to DX World, sponsored WRTC 2022 and several DXpeditions, as follows:

Marquesas Islands OC-027	TX7G	250
Chatham Island OC-038	ZL7/K5WE	250
Papua New Guinea OC-240	P29RO	250
Congo	TN8K	250
Rockall EU-189	MM0UKI	250
Saint Brandon Island AF-015	3B7M	400
South Cook Islands (OC-083) & Niue (OC-040)	E5 / E6	500
Clipperton Island NA-011	TX5S	1,000
WRTC 2022		531
Net roundings, charges and currency movements		131
Per Income & Expenditure accounts		3,812

Balance Sheet items

The amounts pre-paid total of £700 reflects the deposit paid to the hotel venue for the 2023 AGM and Annual CDXC Convention.

Current liabilities include:

1. The reserve for subscriptions paid in advance;
2. DXpedition sponsorship, which is charged in the accounts for the year in which sponsorship is pledged. Pledges which remain unpaid at the end of the financial year are recognised by provisions carried forward;
3. Other Creditors at 31st March 2023 are:
 - a. A £670 donation to CDXC in 2014/15. This will be utilised from time to time to satisfy DXpedition sponsorship requests which match special conditions stipulated by the donor which relate to the upload of logs to LotW and other QSO confirmation criteria;
 - b. Members fees paid in advance for the 2023 CDXC Convention;
 - c. Accrued advertising revenue;
 - d. £500 allocated for the provision of trophies.

Accumulated Net Current Assets carried forward of £21,690 indicate a continuing healthy position and a continued sufficiency of working capital to meet the day-to-day needs of CDXC.

Subscriptions

Given CDXC's overall financial position, subscriptions will continue at current levels for 2023/2024. These are: for UK members - £18; for Overseas members taking the eDigest only - £18; and for Overseas members taking a paper Digest - £24.

Income & Expenditure for the Year Ended 31st March		
	2023	2022
Income		
Members Subscriptions	12,951	13,859
Advertising	1,114	970
Annual Dinner Income	2,277	132
Dinner Raffle	520	0
Donations Received	632	1,253
Interest Received	85	28
Miscellaneous Income	10	0
Total Income	17,589	16,242
Expenditure		
Digest Print and Distribution	7,996	7,047
DXpedition Sponsorship	3,812	5,044
Annual Dinner	1,650	0
AGM Costs	100	86
Trophies & Awards	457	312
CMIS - Wild Apricot Costs	1,456	1,456
Marketing & Membership	406	0
Donations	150	100
Miscellaneous Expenses	163	165
RSGB Affiliation	52	52
Prior year adjustment for Advertising	0	1,584
Total Expenditure	16,242	15,846
Net Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	1,347	396
Accumulated Surplus brought forward	20,343	19,947
Accumulated Surplus carried forward	21,690	20,343

Note: CDXC does not capitalise assets held such as loan equipment but writes them off when incurred. Therefore, there is no need for Fixed Assets or Annual Depreciation to be recognised in the Accounts.

Andrew Thomas, G8GNI.

Approval – Acceptance of the accounts was requested and agreed by all present.

(On-line voting – For = 221, Against = 0, Abstain = 15)

Audit Certificate by Owen Williams, G0PHY

To the Members of CDXC - The UK DX Foundation

I have examined the annual accounts of CDXC - The UK DX Foundation for the year ended 31st March, 2023 comprising an Income & Expenditure Account and a Balance Sheet with accompanying Notes and I certify that they are in accordance with the books and records exhibited to me.

Signed:

O. W. Williams

Owen Williams, G0PHY
Honorary Auditor, CDXC

Dated:

10th April 2023

6. Committee for 2023/24.

The proposal for the 2023/2024 Committee is as follows:-

President	Don Field, G3XTT.
Chairman	Chris Duckling, G3SVL
Membership Secretary	Chis Kirby, G4FZN
Treasurer	Andrew Thomas, G8GNI
Digest Editor	Peter Chadwick, G3RZP
Member	Derek Bate, G4XEE, (Challenges Adjudicator)
Member	Lee Allen, 2EOLMA
Member	Pete Walker, G4RRM

At this point the existing committee stood down and the meeting was handed over to Don, G3BJ who asked if there were any further nominations. There were none so he proposed that the new committee, as shown, be elected en bloc.

Voting Live – Majority voted to accept with no votes against.

(On-line voting - All proposed had a minimum of 198 votes from 236 who voted).

Election of Auditor – The Committee proposed Owen Williams, G0PHY be elected as Auditor.

Voting Live – Majority voted to accept with no votes against.

(On-line voting – For = 230, Against = 0, Abstentions = 6)

7. Any other business.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 11:24.



Since 1972 . . . Making DX Happen

- Supporting DXpeditions to rare DXCC entities
- Improving DXpeditioning skills and technology
- Managing worldwide Beacon network



NCDXF.org

EXPEDITIONS TO NIUE AND SOUTH COOK ISLANDS

JANUSZ WĘGRZYN, SP9FIH AND LESZEK PRZYBYŁAK, SP6CIK

Expedition objectives:

- To conduct as many calls as possible with unique call signs;
- To pay special attention to European stations;
- To take advantage of good propagation on the higher HF bands;

Introduction

The idea of an expedition to Niue was first conceived in late 2022. However, after seeing the length of the flights and the time needed for broadcasting, we decided to extend our stay from Niue to include the South Cook Islands.

We applied for licenses for Niue requesting the following signs: E6AF, for Janusz SP6FIH, and E6CI, for Leszek SP6CIK. We received approval, and the licences were to be issued upon our arrival in Niue, after payment of the appropriate fees. Unfortunately, the signs we requested were not confirmed.

We also applied for licenses for South Cook (E51CIK for SP6CIK and E51WEG for SP9FIH). It was confirmed very quickly that we would receive the requested signs, and that the licenses would be issued upon arrival at Rarotonga.

After ordering flights and cabins, we proceeded to prepare the equipment. The total weight of our luggage was more than 79 kg: in addition to radios, amplifiers and antennas, our gear included more than 100 meters of coaxial cables, band filters, an antenna analyzer, and laptops for logging communications.

We left Opole on March 21 at 7:00 a.m. for the airport in Warsaw, from where we flew to Dubai, and then, after a several hour wait, to Auckland, New Zealand, where we waited for the week's only flight to Niue. Here the situation was a little tense, as we did not receive approval to fly until about two hours before the plane took off, due to Niue Covid-19 regulations.

Niue

Upon arrival in Niue on Friday, March 24 (local time), we immediately went to get our licenses' unfortunately, however, the licenses (with the signs E6AF and E6CI) were not issued until Monday. In addition, upon arrival, we had



Janusz E6AF (SP9FIH) with the 15m and 10m VDA antenna

E6CI (SP6CIK) 17m and 12m antenna



to perform a self-test for Covid-19, and then report to the hospital a few days later for a PCR test.

While waiting, we began installing antennas. Janusz E6AF mounted the antennas: VDA at 15m and 10m and GP at 20m. Leszek, E6CI installed the 17m ad 12m square and the 40m and 30m GP antennas.

On March 28, 2023, 01:27 UTC, we began work on the bands later than planned. Janusz E6AF worked on 20, 15 and 10m on

SSB, FT8 and RTTY. He used an Icom 7300 transceiver with an Expert 1.3K-FA amplifier.

Leszek E6CI worked on 40, 30, 17 and 12m with CW and FT8 emissions. He used an Elecraft K3 TRX with an Expert 1.3 - FA amplifier.

The bands from 17 to 10m worked best. Conditions for working with Europe (e.g., DL, G and SP) were difficult, as the signals ran through the vicinity of the North Pole. We tried to work as much as possible and we think ham radio operators from all over the world heard us often on the bands.



Leszek E6CI (SP6CIK) at the operator position

	Band [m]							Together
	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	
CW	133	138		1541		1522		3334
FTB	2571	2213	2479	5092	6848	5533	5781	30517
RTTY					38			38
SSB				66	4494	193	3086	7839
Total	2704	2351	2479	6699	11380	7248	8867	41728

TABLE 1: Summary of contacts made on individual bands and modes

A short summary of the operations on Niue, from March 28, 2023 01:27 UTC to April 9, 2023 23:45 UTC: 13 days (310 hours total).

Total QSOs	Uniques	Uniques %	QSOs/day	QSOs/hour
41728	15458	37.0%	3231	134.61

TABLE 2: Total number of QSOs, uniques, and average numbers of QSOs per day and hour

Call	G	GD	GI	GJ	GM	GU	GW	Total
E6AF	168	4	11	1541	25	1	13	222
E6CI	127		6		23		5	161
E6AF + E6CI	295	4	17	0	48	1	18	383

TABLE 3: Total number of QSOs with UK stations

South Cook

After completing operations in Niue, we returned to New Zealand for one day, and then flew on to Rarotonga Island in the South Cook Islands. We arrived in Rarotonga on May 12 (local time) and, as in Niue, immediately went to get our licenses. Unfortunately, the person issuing the licenses was absent and we received the licenses a day later with the requested E51CIK and E51WEG marks.

After installing the antennas,

Leszek E51CIK (SP6CIK) and Janusz E51WEG (SP9FIH) at the VDA antenna at 17m and 12m



Janusz E51WEG (SP9FIH) at the operator position. Leszek E51CIK (SP6CIK) took the photo

we were able to start working on the bands. Janusz E51WAG used the following antennas: VDA at 17m and 12m and GP at 40m and 30m. Leszek E51CIK used VDA at 15m and 20m and the GP at 20m. The radio equipment and amplifiers were identical to those on Niue.

Propagation conditions were marginally worse than Niue until March 24, when

there was practically a propagation collapse. Operators conducted several hundred QSOs per day. It was virtually impossible to conduct communications with Europe.

	Band [m]							Together
	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	
CW			1978		2545		1118	5641
FTB	926	2865	4900	5498	6434	5868	4454	30945
SSB				2949	275	2497	52	5773
Total	926	2865	6878	8447	9254	8365	5624	42359

TABLE 4: Summary of contacts made on individual bands and modes

A brief summary of the operation on Niue, which lasted from April 13, 2023 04:53 UTC to April 27, 2023 23:59: 15 days (355 hours total).

Total QSOs	Uniques	Uniques %	QSOs/day	QSOs/hour
42359	15402	36.4%	2864	119

TABLE 5: Total number of QSOs, uniques, and average numbers of QSOs per day and hour

Call	G	GD	GI	GJ	GM	GU	GW	Total
E6AF	239	2	17	1	47	1	12	319
E6CI	227	1	25	1	37	2	11	304
E6AF + E6CI	466	3	42	2	84	3	23	623

TABLE 6: Total number of QSOs with UK stations

Summary

The expeditions to Niue and South Cook resulted in a total of 84,087 QSOs during 28 days of work on the amateur bands. However, as the openings were so short, despite there being a lot of interest in European station communications, not all stations were able to conduct communications on the bands they needed.

Like many other expeditions, we urge you not to repeat communications with the same mode on the same band: this takes time away from other stations hunting for ATNO. We also urge you not to call out while responding to other stations: this extends the communication time, which can otherwise be used for a new station.

THE OTHER OPERATOR'S STATION: DON BEATTIE G3BJ

My involvement with radio and electronics goes back to the time shortly after the transistor was invented. As a child in Nottingham, I had been fascinated by my father's ex-Army 18 set, which he used (battery powered) as a receiver on part of the SW bands with a wire antenna in the garden. This kindled my interest in radio and at the age of 11, I built my first crystal set. Curiosity got me looking for more gain, and I started experimenting with early germanium transistors (red spot, white spot etc). We lived near the Nottingham radio club, and it was not long before I was going to the meetings to talk with many "old timers". Those were the days of real "elmers", and despite my youth I was welcomed warmly and given much encouragement to go for my licence – with the club running a weekly RAE course. In addition, I was encouraged to operate the club's impressive high power AM transmitter (under supervision!) and learn on-air protocols. There was great camaraderie in the club, and some inspirational trend-setters – I mention particularly John, G6CW. I passed the RAE in 1959, Terry, G3OMK then offered Morse lessons, and before long I made the trek to St Martins Le Grand to take the test at GPO HQ.

G3OZF was assigned to me in May 1961, and I was quickly on the air with a home brew 10-watt AM/CW transmitter and CR100 receiver (this having replaced my R107 used whilst an SWL). It was not long before the DX bug bit and with a high end-fed half-wave, I was soon working the US and ZL on 160. This was then further helped by a new Eddystone 888A which my mother bought me (after significant pressure!). A wonderful receiver and one which I'd dearly like to have here again today as a reminder of those early days. I remember regular visits to Woolworths to buy antenna wire and also baking trays which when inverted could be easily punched to take valve holders and other electronic bit and bobs. Home construction became all-consuming and, together with a number of "belts" from the HT line in equipment under development, I learned the rudiments of RF equipment. A crystal controlled home-brew rig for 20m ran the enormous power of 12 Watts, and the first time I called CQ I was astounded to be called by Peter, VP8GQ on South Orkneys. Now the bug had really bitten.

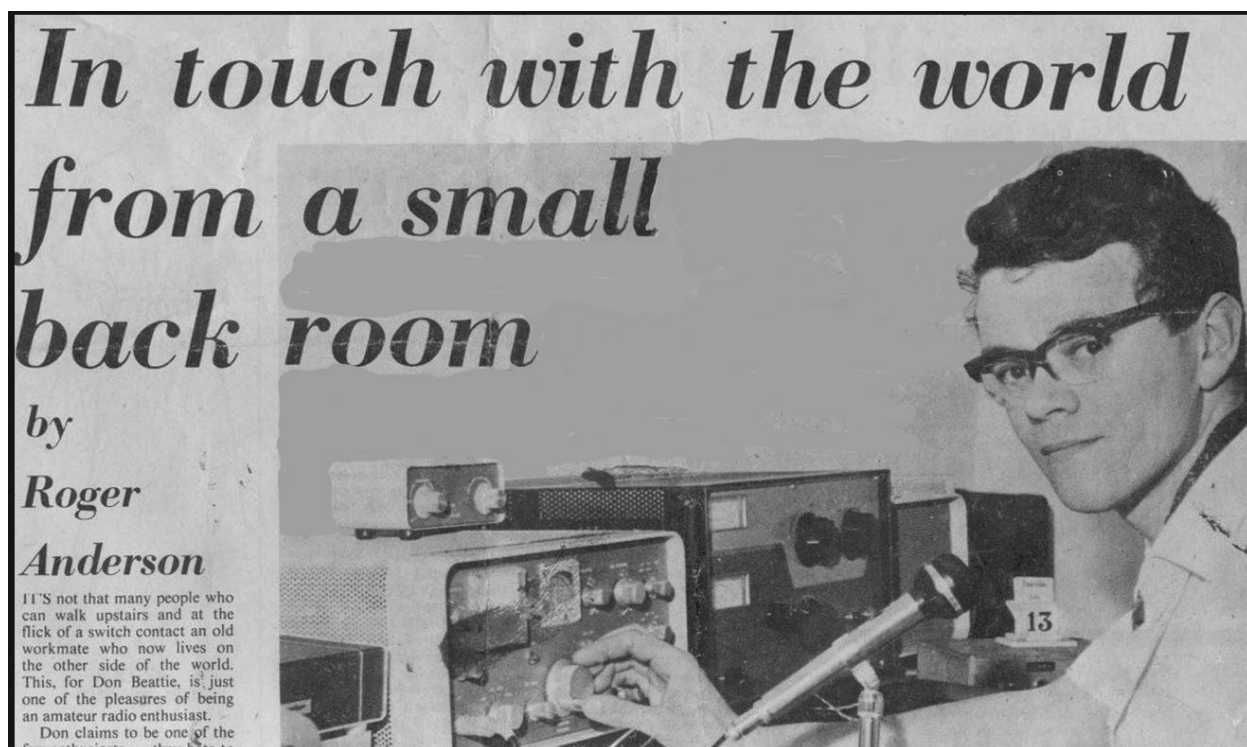
Scroll forward to University days at Imperial College and its radio society (G5YC). A superb location on top of a high building with a cubical quad, DX100 and HRO receiver. I took an active interest in contests here, bringing another bug into my system. My first "mini-DXpedition" with other members of the college radio society followed, to the Scilly Isles as GB2IC. Bug number three had bitten.

So, when I left college I was "infected" with three interests – DXing, contesting and DXpeditions. My amateur radio interests meant I was determined to join a company where I could continue learning about radio communications, and so I joined Marconi in Chelmsford. Because of the Marconi presence, Chelmsford had a super-active radio society which provided regular fascinating topics at meetings and where I formed many lasting friendships. The club supported a vibrant 160m DF community and many happy Sundays were spent in the undergrowth around Essex running the "fox" station or running as a competitor.

Our first house in Essex had a postage stamp plot so all I could manage was a 20m ground-plane and (a little later) a home brew 10m 2-ele yagi at 20 ft. Having abandoned the home-brew equipment, I graduated to a KW2000A and was fortunate

enough to find a commercial Marconi linear amplifier which was being scrapped, and which I bought, building the necessary 3kV PSU to produce a very capable passive grid amplifier running a pair of QY4-400s. This produced good results in the RSGB 10m contests. My work in Marconi was initially as part of a design team on advanced HF point-to-point communications systems and I was involved in one of the very early digital fully synthesised systems – a taste of things to come. But after some five years, I opted to move more towards general management, and radio communications became relegated to a hobby again.

In Essex, I also took my first tentative steps in the political area for amateur radio. I represented two local amateurs on antenna planning appeal public enquiries, which had a successful outcome. Also, the Essex Chronicle carried a full-page article on amateur radio, based on my interviews with their reported (see picture).



From the Essex Chronicle, late 1960's

Roll on a few years, and a move to a new house outside Chelmsford with “space”. This allowed me to acquire a P60 tower, with a Mosley Mustang. I developed an interest in “RTTY” and in those days this meant a Creed 7E printer, tape reader and home-brew terminal unit. With encouragement from Jim, G3VDB, we had great fun trying our luck in some of the big RTTY contests of those days. Writing the log from a couple of hundred feet of print-out paper was perhaps the least attractive part of the whole process. How things have changed. We speculated that it would not be long before we could leave the station to work the contest on its own, and we could go to the pub. With FT8, how prophetic!

But then a change in job meant a move to the Aylesbury area, where again we found a house with “space”, the tower was transplanted and a home-brew 80-40 trapped vertical and 160m dipole added. This gave more capability and I started to take contests and DX more seriously, even dabbling with SO2R in its early days. I joined the RSGB HF Contests Committee and tried to make some contribution to the evolution

of contesting in the UK. Aylesbury also allowed some social events with well-known visiting DXers – including Father Moran, 9N1MM, who at the time was very active from Nepal and who attended an early HF Convention at the Belfry, and Jim, VK9NS, who we were privileged to drive over to France to the “other” CDXC convention one year.

Team contesting then entered the scene at home, and we had many weekends in the major contests making modest attempts to do well. By this time I had a pair of Yaesu transceivers and two linears, a Drake L-4B (acquired from the scrap heap in Marconi a few years previously) and a Kenwood TL-922. After burning out a front-end protection resistor in one of the Yaesu’s I had also learned the wisdom of fitting band-pass filters when trying multi-op contesting. With encouragement from Steve, G4JVG (now PJ4DX), we created a small contest club which allowed us to acquire “GnW” where n was the last digit of the year. Remember that – when your contest call changed each year (and was only available to clubs)? When Ofcom simplified the process, we opted for G5W and I have used it extensively since.

In the 1990’s the IOTA contest was in its infancy and Steve and I made a few forays to try our luck on islands in the contest. We started with EU-099 (Les Minquiers) and continued with ZC4DX and 9H0A (at Jeff, 9H1EL’s QTH). The expedition bug was returning, and it was not long before a small group of us - what was to become the Five Star DXers Association - went to Spratly as 9M0C. This was heaven – great team, great location and great pile-ups (and as a plus, I got to pass my PADI diving course there).

My mother often recounted that she remembered visiting her cousin in Hendon before WWII and seeing his “wonderful radio equipment”. In 2000 I finally traced the callsign of that cousin (died 1945) and arranged with Ofcom to take over “G3BJ” – a vast improvement on CW from my original call. Retirement in 2000 gave Hilary and me the opportunity to move from the South-East and we established a new QTH in South Shropshire. This was a very different environment – a land more akin to the

1950’s with little traffic, few people, stunning scenery and.... no electrical noise! We were fortunate enough to find a location with lots of “space” and it was not long before towers began appearing, together with a 160m vertical and receiving antennas for LF. However, I soon discovered that living on top of a hill at



G3BJ in his Shropshire shack

nearly 1000 ft altitude has its drawbacks – the winds are ferocious in the winter, so antenna maintenance takes on a full-time perspective.

As FSDXA expeditions became less frequent, a small group of us wanted to try small “fly-in/fly-out” efforts, and I was fortunate enough to become part of the “Six G’s” team for TX6 (Austral), E6 (Niue) and ZL7 (Chatham). Other commitments meant I could not join the team on Christmas (VK9). Now as the years advance (I am in my 80th year) I need to be realistic about DXpeditions to remote places. So I suspect that any



The Six-Gs Dxpediton team in New Zealand prior to the E6GG expedition

future DX operations will be at existing installations in countries with some level of medical care!

During my working life, I did not take QSLing very seriously. It seemed a tiresome process and it was only later that I started counting. I was only short of about twelve cards to reach the #1 spot on HR. So I researched my log (transferred from paper to computer, but only the

“interesting” QSOs) and started seeking QSLs from the outstanding countries. To my amazement, QSOs even 30 years earlier produced cards, until I was left with just two countries. Navassa had not yielded a QSL – in fact a “not in log” - but I had several QSOs from one DXpedition recorded. Digging deeper, I found that Bob, N2OO had just transferred the paper log to LOTW. I got an immediate match. That left just Glorioso (missed as I had been away for a recent expedition). I thought I would do a manual search of the paper logs, and found I had missed transferring FR0GGL/G to the computer. A quick note and the card was returned in a few days. So not only HR but top of HR – whoopee!.

The home station today is a straightforward SO2R installation which can be reconfigured for two-station contesting if needed (MS or M2). There are a pair of FTDX101 transceivers, with a Microham SO2R controller, auto-switched bandpass filters, two auto-tuned linears, automatic antenna selection from band data, computers and a range of antennas. The shack has two Heliax feed lines. One feeds a three element SteppIR on one tower (including the GM3SEK 6m parasitic elements) and a Titanex V160HD for 40-80-160. The other line feeds a Force 12 10-40m Yagi, dipoles for 80 and 160 and “alternate” antennas for HF (a fixed yagi at 45 degrees and a 40m dipole). The alternate antennas are manually selected at the operating position. There is also a K9AY receive antenna and two beverages (US and ZL). Because there is some distance between the operating position and the towers (between 100 and 150 metres) I have “repeaters” at the base of each tower, to ensure that the rotators do

not suffer undue ohmic losses on the motor feed lines. The rotators are then controlled via UTP from the shack.

My main interest is CW operation, and principally in contests. I “rag chew” from time to time, but it’s not my favourite activity. I’m not now actively chasing DX, except for 160m, where I aim to get the country score up further. 6m is another band I would like to explore further, but I’m not sure about the time commitment.

I’m afraid that my engineering of the station lacks something, as when I am experimenting, if something works, I just leave it in place. For example when I built the K9AY and controller it was “to see if it makes a difference”. I finished installing it just before dusk, and I noticed that the Pratas expedition was on 160m. I listened and could hear nothing on the Titanex. Switch to the K9AY and – 559. One call and he’s in the log. Result! K9AY is a keeper. I don’t think it’s been touched in the 20 years since. For the load resistor, I use a Vactrol, remotely adjustable from the shack. I have been very surprised at the sensitivity of the setting to achieve optimum front/back ratio and wonder whether K9AYs with fixed load resistors are truly optimised.

I also enjoy building antennas, unless it is a complex yagi. Whilst I’m keen to stay with mono-band antennas, one exception would be the experience in Aylesbury, where I wanted a vertical which would cover 40 and 80m. I thought that half a W3DZZ could be interesting, so with a 40m trap and a few lengths of aluminium from the local non-ferrous scrap yard and a short fibre-glass tube, I built one. It seemed to work very well. Indeed, I was amazed to work Steve, G4JVG, when he was on Mellish Reef as VK9MM, on 80m SSB in broad daylight!

So in closing, a few reflections. I suppose the first thing is the enormous scope of what amateur radio has to offer. I have just scratched the surface of what are available as learning areas. I wonder sometimes if my parents understood that in the early years I was building high voltage power supplies and climbing tall trees to put up antennas. But they did recognise that I was learning.

The second and most self-evident aspect is the social side of our hobby - not only does amateur radio provide great opportunity for international friendships but it can provide great opportunities for family interactions around domestic events. Some radio societies place special emphasis on arranging activities for the whole family – more should do so in my view.



The main tower at G3BJ with a second tower in the background

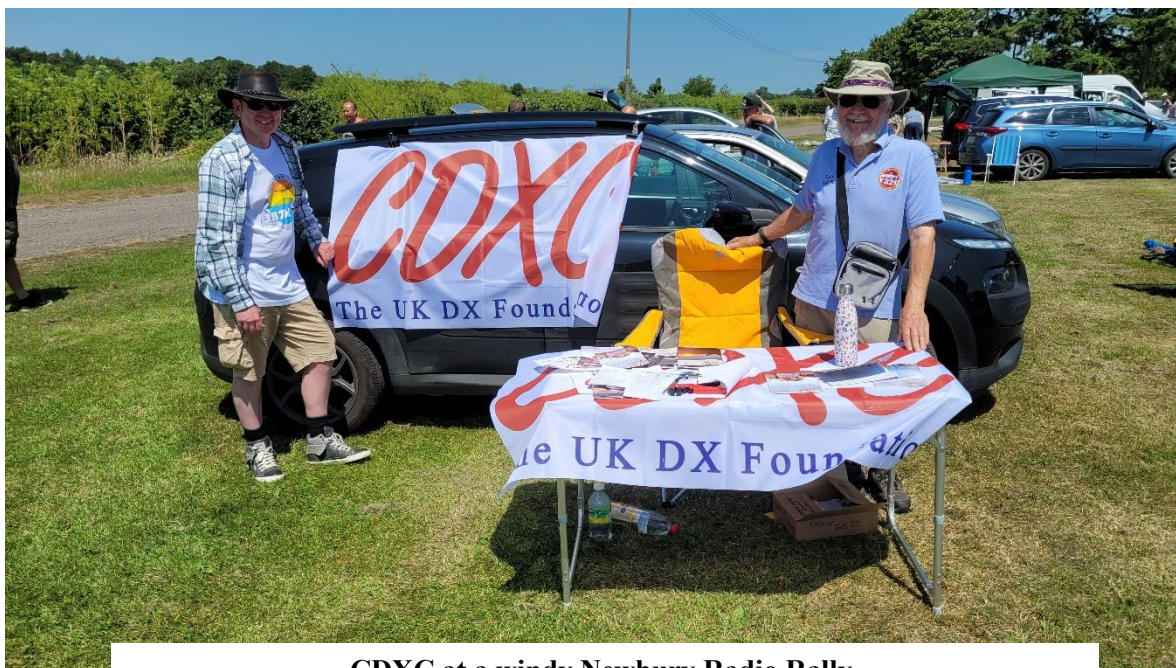
I must also mention the administrative and regulatory side of amateur radio. With time available in recent years, I have become more involved with some of the administrative aspects of amateur radio over the last 25 years, firstly as President of RSGB (and for a short while acting General Manager) and more lately as Secretary and then President of IARU Region 1. This allowed me to form friendships with leaders in the amateur radio movement and also to work closely with regulators globally.

It is remarkable what the IARU has been able to do over the decades to develop the spectrum available to amateur radio. I have seen at first hand the time and effort which goes into this work. But the sadness to me is that IARU is very short of volunteers. You do not need a PhD to become involved – a simple understanding of radio communications, some basic technical knowledge and the right personal skills are all that are needed. Unless IARU can gain more volunteer resources, I am concerned it will be increasingly difficult to defend our spectrum. I also have a personal concern that the emergence of FT8 and similar narrowband modes (which are great and have opened up amateur radio to many) has also caused a wholesale depopulation of significant parts of our spectrum. I hope this is temporary, as regulators will be looking at our spectrum usage and may ask questions if we don't return to a more balanced use of the allocations we have. Use it or lose it may apply here!

Amateur radio has been a big part of my life – and I hope it will still be around to excite and enthuse future generations for a long time to come.

NEWBURY RALLY 2023

Picture taken by Chris, G3SVL, at this year's Newbury Radio Rally. You can see one of our new committee members, helping Tony, G4LDL, fly the CDXC 'flag' at a windy event in June 2023.



**CDXC at a windy Newbury Radio Rally.
l-r Lee, 2E0LMA and Tony, G4LDL**

Picture G3SVL

CDXC AGM AND DX CONVENTION 2023

CHRIS DUCKLING, G3SVL

After last year's successful event the committee held its customary review of what went well and what could have gone better. We also took a look at alternative venues as we are always looking for best value for money. In the end we concluded that the Link Hotel with its central England location and rooms attached to the venue was the place to return to for 2023. We did however review feedback about the lecture overrun that happened in 2022 which was unpopular with the few who weren't staying for dinner.

I would normally go looking for lectures three months before, but as I was fortunate enough to have assisted in the organising of the 3Y0J Bouvet team dinner in London just before they set off, I took the opportunity to ask Ken, LA7GIA if he would provide a lecture for us. When I contacted him after his return, I nearly fell off my chair when Ken offered to come to Loughborough and present in person. I had also contacted the 3B7M team to see if they were able to provide a virtual talk, only to have Lubo, OM5ZM and Sysa, OM4AYL agree to fly over too. This was shaping up well.

Ken flew into Heathrow on the Friday afternoon, and I gave him a ride up to Loughborough. We got to the hotel just in time for dinner with the others who had travelled on the Friday. At breakfast on the Saturday we heard from Lubo that he and Sysa had arrived in Manchester the day before but were now faced with a train strike problem. Fortunately, they worked out a train journey or two and arrived in time for the afternoon session.



Tony and Glenys check everyone in



Charlotte and Pauline selling raffle tickets

As usual the day started with tea, coffee and biscuits and at 11:00 we held the 2023 AGM. The minutes of the AGM are elsewhere in this edition but suffice to say it went smoothly and the after-AGM discussion on 'Rig in a Box'

DXpeditioning and the challenge of reaching the top of Honor Roll were discussed. That took us to lunchtime which was well catered by the hotel staff.

The afternoon talks were all in-person, such a pleasure after so many online talks over the past few years. One of the great benefits of this is the opportunity to ask questions – both in the formal setting and afterwards in a more relaxed atmosphere over afternoon tea, dinner or in the bar. Those present took every opportunity to do so. John, G3WGV did the honours with audio and video and the AGM, and four talks will be available on the CDXC YouTube channel shortly.

The 3Y0J presentation by Ken, LA7GIA showed us the real conditions they were up against and the hardship they endured when the South Atlantic seas played their part. Ken delighted those present by bringing personally signed QSL cards for them. He also presented CDXC with a piece of Bouvet rock. Our plan is to mount it and make it a CDXC Trophy.



Lubo, OM5ZM and Sysa, OM4AYL gave us a real insight into planning and operating the 3B7M DXpedition. Having been on the 2007 Five Star DXers' 3B7C DXpedition I

was saddened by the erosion of this lovely island. Indeed, buildings have been destroyed and shoreline where we had antennas have completely disappeared. I wonder how long before this and other low islands are no longer available to us.



Attentive listeners

With two outstanding DXpedition talks we had excellent balance with Don, G3XTT's enlightening talk on Amateur Radio Magazines through the ages. The number of times I saw nods or heard an

'oh, yes' from the audience suggested many had their memories stirred quite a few times by Don's talk. Certainly one for the CDXC archives.

We always try to provide a thought-provoking technical talk and James M1DST did us proud with his talk on building a 21st Century station. It was a real eye-opener of the possibilities of integration of devices, whether local or remote, using Node Red applications. Certainly for me it made me think about what I can do to add features to my station or make things more easily available.

During the tea break we had our usual raffle with prizes donated by Martin Lynch & Sons, BHi, RSGB, DX Daily, Practical Wireless, 3Y0J, 3B7M plus wine, whisky and books given by members.

Those who stayed for dinner had the opportunity to ragchew before, during and after the meal and the chat, laughter, ideas exchange and DX-talk carried on late into the night. The Sunday morning breakfast was another chance to relax and chat before we all headed off home.

Justin, G4TSH and Tony, G2NF took Ken, LA7GIA to Bletchley Park before returning him to Heathrow while our OM friends were delivered back to Loughborough station for their return to Manchester. Ken, Lubo and Sysa commented on the new friends they had made over the weekend. I hope they are all able to join us in future years - they will always be welcome.

We will shortly start planning the 2024 AGM & DX Convention and will announce the date and venue towards the end of this year.



The President wins a raffle prize

ANOTHER ANGLE – OBSERVATIONS ON THE CONVENTION

LEE VOLANTE, G0MTN

A note of thanks to everyone who organised, presented at, and attended the Convention and AGM yesterday - I had a really enjoyable day. I travelled with a very recent member from my local club, not really knowing what to expect, and he fed back that he found the talks very enjoyable and everyone very welcoming.

I've been a CDXC member for quite some years now - much of that time not being a DXer at all (!). I put all my energy into contesting and had a stint at submitting the Contest column to Martyn, G3RFX for the Digest in the 2000's. Much of the reason was having antennas I needed to set up to use - great for contests, but not so much for a quick spot of DXing here and there. Post-traumatic stress from sitting in a CW pileup for hours trying 9MOC without success also sticks in the mind - maybe this wasn't for me...

The combination of finally having 'everyday antennas', the Covid pandemic, and being able to occasionally quietly monitor FT8 whilst working from home (!) led me to take more interest in HF DX. Also having a young family meant that availability for weekend contests had dropped somewhat.

Back in my early CDXC days I remember attending a summer gathering at Don, G3XTT's in Reading. But not knowing so many members, and with not so much to talk

about in terms of DXing, I wasn't a regular attendee at these events. Following the pandemic last year, I was looking forward to Loughborough to get out of the house, meet some likeminded folks and be inspired with the DX bug biting. All of the boxes were well and truly ticked, so I was back this year with a couple of other local club members also attending. The combination of the AGM, additional presentations, plus time for socialising and the dinner all together works well.

Catching up



I'd not realised that Ken, Lubo and Sylvia were all going to be in Loughborough in person (striking railways notwithstanding). With the rise and ease of video calling it was a very pleasant surprise to see and hear from them face to face. Maybe highlighting 'in person' visits on the event advertising could be useful to attract more visitors in future years. I took

the opportunity to briefly thank them all for coming, and their respective efforts on their expeditions. In a coffee break, it was interesting to ask Ken about the impact of constant callers from the DXpedition's point of view. That wouldn't have been possible via 'Zoom'. I have enjoyed watching the 3B7M



Three DXers

video on YouTube - although from Loughborough yesterday we now have extra context about the operating permissions, the storm, broken antennas and seasickness - there's always more challenges than we might imagine.

Don G3XTT had many personal anecdotes in his presentation which made it fascinating, even if some of the publications highlighted were a little before my time. And whilst my own station at home works (to some extent) James M1DST demonstrated just how far from 'state of the art' it has become in just a few years. It's always a work in progress.

The whole day went really quickly - great to catch up with Paul G4PVM and Chris G0DWV over lunch, exchanging some ideas for how to get the best out of Clublog and LOTW, and also about some tower and antenna misadventures. I wasn't able to stay for the dinner this year sadly, so some conversations were quite short. Operating "Single Op 2 Coffee Machines" whilst quickly congratulating Justin G4TSH on a recent contest win being just one example. All of our online messaging tools are great, but there's nothing like getting together in person.

The post AGM discussion topic carried over from Visalia by Chris, G3SVL on the merits of the 'rig in box' solution to activate more difficult locations remotely opens up many 'what if?' questions. We realise that reaching DXCC Honor Roll (and especially #1) is getting more difficult with access to many of the most wanted becoming more restricted. There seems to be a consensus that a 20+ year 'marathon' should result in success. If that is becoming more and more unlikely, semi-remote activations might become valid to maintain interest in the programme. But with limits (somehow) - we would not want the challenge or integrity to be removed if within a short period of time a majority of difficult entities might be accessible on a daily basis. How much of the validity of a QSO is based on building a station and using operating skills and propagation paths between your station and a DX station, and how much is dependent upon the location of the operator (or even having an operator at all) at the far end? As a relatively new DXer I kick myself each time I look at the DX World memories which in my head I read as "On this day 15 years ago you completely missed working..."

Sorry for the ramble - but I did want to share some thanks and thoughts from the day, and also try to break my habit of only very rarely contributing to the reflector. Good luck to the new 2023 committee!

JEREMY BROWNE – 73 CUBED HONORARY WALK

TERRY ROBINSON, GM3WUX



Mon 2 Oct 2023 – Sun 8 Oct 2023
In memory of Jeremy Browne,
1st Jul 1952 – 26th Oct 2022

Jeremy Browne was my best friend for some 59 years. We grew up together, so he was the nearest I had to a brother. Sadly, he died of Cancer last October. This is a terrible way to go, so I'd like to do a little thing that might help stop this happening to others.

During the week of my 73rd birthday (2 - 8 October) I plan to walk 73 laps round a familiar loop of paths in Queens Park Glasgow, I understand each lap is about 1.4 miles with about 200 feet of ascent. So the whole walk would be about 100 miles, including over 14,000 feet ascent. I, like Jeremy, am totally blind so would complete this unassisted, using my long cane.

Jeremy and I were both radio hams and the number 73 means "Best Wishes". So, I'm calling this walk "Jeremy Browne - 73 Cubed - £389017 for Cancer Research".

That's a 73-year-old person, doing 73 laps wishing all 73's for a Cancer free future.

CAUSE: Preventing cancer

Understanding the causes of different cancers and preventing more cases could save many thousands of lives. Help fund Cancer Research UK's research programmes that look into ways to help reduce people's risk of developing cancer.

Please visit my fund-raising page at

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/jeremy-browne-73-cubed>

WORLD RADIOSPORT TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS - BOLOGNA, ITALY (WRTC 2022)

JOHN WARBURTON, G4IRN

I was very honoured to be selected as one of the 60 referees at the WRTC event held in Bologna, Italy in July 2023. The event was a year late due to Covid and was under threat just weeks beforehand due to severe flooding in the Bologna area. However, the Italians managed to pull it off.

WRTC is the 'Olympics' of amateur radio contesting. It attracts many of the world's best HF testers, selected per region based on results in a series of qualifying contests. Each regional qualifier can choose one teammate, so teams are made up of two people representing each region. Following some withdrawals for political reasons, there were 58 participating teams in Italy.

The event itself is a 'contest within a contest' and is concurrent with the IARU HF Championship - a world-wide contest involving IARU national societies (RSGB and the like) and thousands of individual entrants. WRTC is designed to provide a level playing field for teams to compete, the only 'variable' being their operating skills. Sites are selected to be geographically and topologically similar - exactly the same antennas are deployed at each site. In Italy these were rotatable tri-band Yagis and separately fed dipoles for 40m and 80m on a telescopic mast.

The contest itself was scheduled for 8th and 9th July but the actual WRTC event started on Tuesday 4th July. Most participants and visitors arrived via Bologna Airport or the main rail station; the Italians knew when to expect us, having previously collected travel plans. I arrived at the airport and was met by a welcome team; I didn't have to wait too long before the bus was ready to depart with about half a dozen participants. Already I was meeting new friends.

The WRTC campus was spread over three hotels and a convention centre in Castel San Pietro Terme, south-east of Bologna and about 30 minutes' drive from the airport. We were required to check in at the HQ hotel, receive our welcome pack and directions to our hotel, all of which were within a few minutes walk of each other. For a referee the welcome pack consisted of 'WRTC Magazine', local produce and tourist guides, three T-shirts and a polo shirt - the competitor, referee and Organising Committee 'official shirts' give a real feel of 'belonging' to the event.

The week was full on. A number of excursions were available but for competitors and referees, ahead of the contest, only Wednesday's trip to the Guglielmo Marconi house was viable. I'm so glad I did it - it was a great opportunity to mix with other participants but above all, it was a very emotional experience to stand where Marconi had conducted his first experiments. After that we had a huge lunch in a country restaurant, then visited the Museum of Communications and Multimedia. Later on, Wednesday evening there was an official WRTC opening ceremony, attended buy the President of ARI (the Italian national society) and the local mayor.



Meeting of Referees and Competitors

Thursday heralded an early start and an 8am meeting between the organising committee, referees, and competitors. The first task was to assign referees to teams - this was done pseudo randomly, for example there was the need to avoid a UK referee partnering UK competitors. Everyone was eager to know who they would partner, and I was out of the 'hat' (a computer!) fairly early, paired with Team EU-7, Matija S53MM and Sandi S57K. Discussions on several points followed, largely seeking clarification on rules and adjudication. In the

afternoon, the referees met alone to receive instructions and to discuss our roles and 'what if' scenarios.

On Friday morning it really felt like the contest was drawing close. Competitors, referees and the organisers met again to firstly randomly allocate 'secret' contest call-signs, one to each team in a sealed envelope and then a further lottery to decide which team would be operating from each site. Callsigns were issued from the block I41A to I49Z and avoided certain suffices e.g. E, I, S, H, K to avoid confusion on CW. As a referee I had to safely keep my team's call-sign envelope - it wasn't to be issued until 15 minutes before the contest. Unlike some previous WRTC events where stations were set up 'field day' style with tents and generators, the Italians had opted for rural B&B premises. The closest sites were drawn first; my team's site was about an hour's drive from WRTC HQ near the town of Dogata. As soon as my team were drawn out of the hat, we located our designated Site Manager, I collected my 'referee kit' and then we headed off to the site. As a referee I was issued with a



Team EU-7 ready to depart with a car full of kit and a referee

local mobile phone and list of contact numbers - during the contest the competitors' phones were confiscated to avoid them notifying anyone of their contest call-sign.

On arrival at the contest site at around 1:30pm, my team decided they wanted to eat so we headed to a local restaurant then via the supermarket on the return journey. Knowing we'd be awake for the 24 hours of the contest, we stocked up with 'contest food' to keep us going - bananas, water, nuts and of course 'contest cookies'.

We all slept well on Friday night and were ready for the contest start at 12 UTC, or 2pm local in Italy. 15 minutes before the contest I locked away the team's mobile phones and handed over the call-sign envelope. They were reasonably happy with I42D.



The official call-sign I42D is handed over to the competitors in a sealed envelope

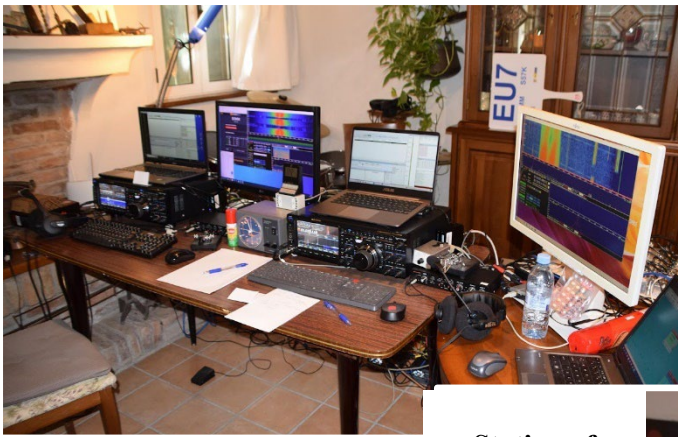
Whilst at the B&B we were well looked after by the host, however there were other guests staying and there was a slight electrical noise problem

on some bands. It seems my team were lucky, other suffered worse noise, and in some cases very poor operating conditions.

The contest started and I listened in. The role of the referee is to ensure compliance to rules and to make sure no cheer-leading is going on i.e., the competitors attracting contacts from their home nation - teams must speak in English and are only allowed to identify themselves with their WRTC callsign. Fortunately, my team were well versed with the rules and happy to follow the spirit of the contest; that made my job very easy.

The station configuration is worthy of mention. My EU-7 team had a very typical setup of two radios, one for each operator and each with a laptop for logging and panadapter display. A third laptop was used for recording the contest plus I had my own laptop on the network to watch the log. There was an elaborate, automated switching and band-pass filtering system to allow the radios to operate simultaneously at 100 Watts on two bands.

The tri-band Yagi was fed into a triplexer to allow two bands to be simultaneously used and each dipole had a separate feed. An audio feed was provided to the referee, and I provided my own switch so I could listen to either one or both of the stations.



**Station of
Team EU-7**



It worked very well. Each WRTC site had Internet connectivity, in our case via a 4G router. The competitors' logs were fed through a VPN network to HQ where a real-time scoreboard was managed.

At the end of the contest the team was allowed 30 minutes to make log amendments based on their notes during the contest. After that I took a copy of their log and the contest recording, the latter being for the adjudicating team to use if there are any issues. It's then a waiting game.

After dismantling their station, we headed back to WRTC HQ where I handed over



**Referee relaxation
after the contest on
Monday**

**I-r:
G3Xtt, OE2CEL,
G4IRN, G4BUO,
OH2KL**

the USB stick and we parted company for some rest. Sunday evening was rather subdued and an early night beckoned. Monday was quiet and a few of us strolled into town; in the evening there was an awards and closing ceremony during which the winners were announced and presentations made. There was also an amazing moment when Guglielmo Marconi's daughter Princess Elettra Marconi Giovanelli was called, she gave a goodwill message to the audience by phone.

**The 'UK table' at the closing
ceremony.**

**In the yellow shirts are the UK
Competitors, Martin GD4XUM and
Dave G3NKC with their technical
engineer in black, Roger G4BVY**



On reflection the event was 'full on' but very enjoyable. Spending a week with the world's most committed and talented testers was inspiring and lots of fun; it was great to reconnect with old friends and make plenty of new ones along the way. Also, Italy was fantastic - pasta as a starter to every meal and great food to follow. Throw in the sunshine and fine local wine, I definitely needed to get home for a rest!



**Some members of FOC
I-r: M0DXR, K1DG, W6OAT,
G4IRN, G3NKC, ZL3CW,
VK2IA, AD5A, KC7V, AA3B,
K3LR, G3XTT, G4BUO**

REPORT ON HAM RADIO 2023

CHRIS KIRBY, G4FZN

Another twelve months has flown by, and it was time for the International Ham Radio Exhibition once again. Located at the Messe, in Friedrichshafen, Germany, this exhibition brings together buyers, sellers, manufacturers, and special interest groups. CDXC falls into the latter category. There is an area of Hall 1 organised by Stephan HB9DDO (President of the Swiss DX Foundation) called the "DX Plaza". This area is dedicated to the various DX clubs and foundations - and here the CDXC stand was located. You may recall that, last year, there was an incident that caused the entire back wall of our booth to fall away and end up flat on the floor. Club member, Allan GM4ZUK, collected a bruise on his forehead as a result of that. But, they say every cloud has a silver lining - and because of that incident, the booth this year didn't cost CDXC anything other than the hiring of a table and some chairs. Thanks, Nobby!

So, after a long drive south through France, and an overnight stay in a hotel in Völgelsheim (where we cross over the Rhine into Germany), xyl Pauline G8HQQ and I met up with Derek G4XEE, on Thursday afternoon and soon had the stand, banners and posters on the display board set up and looking good. Derek (who also drives to Friedrichshafen) stays at the rally's dedicated motorhome site. But for us, it was a short drive back to Fischbach to check-in to our Airbnb. As so often seems to be the case on the shores of Lake Konstanz, there were some nasty looking thunderstorms around on the Thursday evening, so we didn't venture back into Friedrichshafen. Instead, we walked into Fischbach and stumbled upon a new Thai restaurant. Perfect! Afterwards, we wandered along to the nearby "MotorCycles Rockhouse Bar" for a welcome beer or two. I think we were the only customers not smelling of oil and not wearing leather jackets. Nevertheless, the proprietor recognised us from last year - and offered Pauline a complimentary shot of some seriously alcoholic substance, which she accepted, and downed it in one. Me? I stayed on the beer.

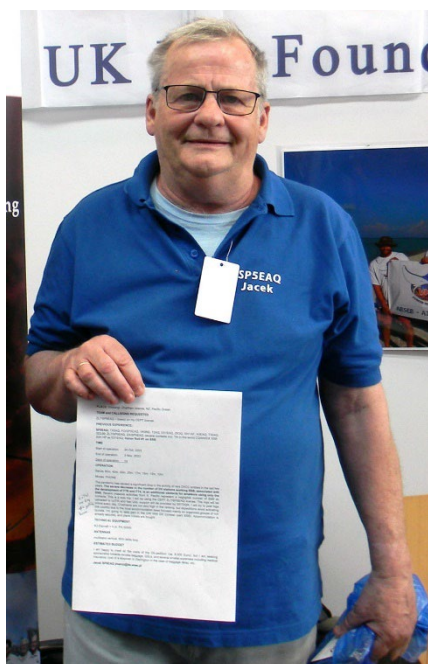
Friday, the first day of the show, was the busiest day. Derek G4XEE, was first to arrive at the stand quickly followed by President Don G3XTT. Our first visitor was Gene K5GS - from the Perseverance DX group. This group are well known for their many successful DXpeditions including VP8PJ and VP6D - both of which I worked for "new ones". Gene (who is a CDXC member), was promoting the 2024 Clipperton Island DXpedition, TX5S, and came especially to the stand to thank CDXC. The club has donated £1000 towards this DXpedition which is expected to cost up to \$350,000 - and that figure doesn't even include the team's own transport costs!

Don, G3XTT and Gene, K5GS



Later that day, we were also visited by

Jacek, SP5EAQ



expedition leader, Jacky F2CW/ZL3CW, Allan EA3HSO and Nodir EY8MM all of whom are in the same 2024 Clipperton team.

On a smaller scale, our next visitor was Jacek SP5EAQ. He is planning a one-man DXpedition to the Chatham Islands (ZL7) in October. Jacek has a good track record, having previously operated from the Australs, Norfolk Island, South Cook Islands, Tuvalu and more. He came armed with a plan and schedule for this expedition. He is meeting all the costs of his travel and accommodation but was seeking some sponsorship towards excess baggage and QSL printing. Of course, we couldn't promise any support there and then, but his application has gone to the CDXC committee, and it looks likely the club will give him a modest contribution. Jacek intends to upload all his QSOs to LoTW one day after getting home. Wouldn't it be nice if more DXpeditions did that!

In the afternoon, a formidable group arrived to say "Hello", five members of the 3Y0J Bouvet team - were welcomed to the stand and posed for a photo - standing right in front of the Bouvet island photo on our stand!

Bouvet Team.

I-r:
Cezar VE3LYC,
Erwann LB1QI
Gjermund LB5GI
Ken LA7GIA
Axel DL6KVA



Saturday wasn't quite as busy, but I was really pleased to be handed my FT8WW Crozet QSL card in person by Thierry F6CUK. I suppose I'd been somewhat cheeky pushing my QSL card into his hand the previous day, but you know the saying "if you don't ask, you don't get". You made my day, Thierry, thanks!

Four Dutchmen from the Swains Island team were next to visit the CDXC stand, and announced they would be active in early October this year with the call W8S. This is great news, since it was way back in 2019 that we first received their request for sponsorship. Covid put a stop to the planned August 2020 trip, and also to the revised Spring 2022 expedition. They've kept in touch with Chairman Chris G3SVL, first

Thierry, F6CUK handing Chris G4FZN his Crozet QSL card.



rescheduling to March 2023, and now their target is October 2023. Fingers crossed. CDXC is supporting this DXpedition with a £750 donation.

Sunday was a quiet day. A chance to have a look round, and there was plenty of space for other CDXC members to rest their legs and have a chat.

The journey home commenced on Monday morning, with a long drive through Germany and France, with an overnight sleep near Dover, a Tuesday morning ferry, and a long drive up the A1(M), arriving home Tuesday evening. Why does it always feel further

coming back than it felt on the way out? Then it was time to start packing the box trailer for VHF NFD, but that is another story, and probably not one for this magazine.

Overall, Ham Radio 2023 seemed busier than last year, with more visitors and traders in the main hall. Perhaps not quite so for the flea-market which was down in numbers. The beer garden, as always, was doing good trade! Unfortunately, the RSGB did not represent themselves this year with a booth or even a table. This meant we were presented with a few boxes of QSL cards intended for the RSGB bureau. Derek, who had space in his motorhome, brought these boxes back to the UK, and they have now been handed over to the RSGB.



Club members Tony G2NF, Andy 5Z4VJ and Don G3XTT catching up on gossip and putting the world to rights

Forty club members signed the Member's sheet, and a big thank you goes out to all those who gave up some of their time to be on the stand and talking to visitors. We signed up a couple of new members, and processed some renewals, but the most important thing is that the club was represented and was "on the scene" in the DX Plaza.

MACHINE READING OF THE DIGEST

Sight impaired members who use a machine reader may have had problems when reading the electronic Digest from the website. The answer is to request the basic Word document. If you are in this category, please inform me at ed@cdxc.org.uk.

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- EQ20B-DSP QST Dec 2019 review "easy-to-use device that improves the audio clarity of amateur signals"**

Dual In-Line



Fully featured dual channel DSP noise cancelling unit

- 8 Filter levels 9 to 40dB
- 3.5mm speaker level & line level inputs
- separate 7W mono speaker output- Stereo headphone socket
- Easy to use controls

In-Line Module



- 5W amplified DSP noise canceling In-Line module
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- Excellent review in Jan '23 QST!**

Compact In-Line



- Powerful audio processor
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- Use with headphones or a loudspeaker

NES10-2MK4

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DESKTOP MKII

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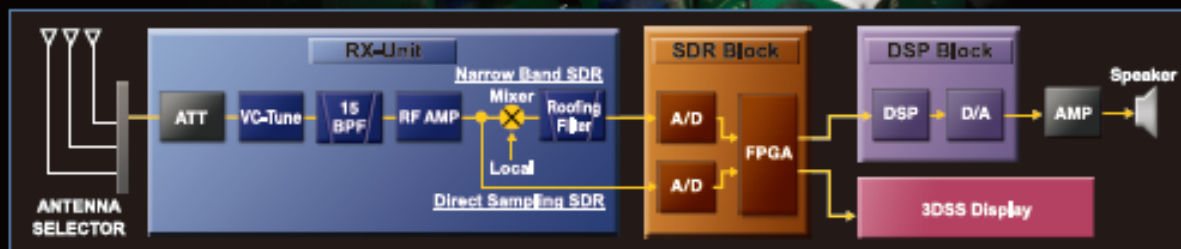


EA&O

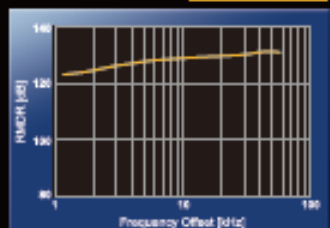
FTdx101 TECHNICAL HIGHLIGHT-#1

True Performance Hybrid SDR Configuration

The Hybrid SDR Configuration combines the excellent performance of a Narrow Band SDR receiver with the wide band sampling of a Direct Sampling SDR receiver that simultaneously provides a wide bandwidth real time display of band activity

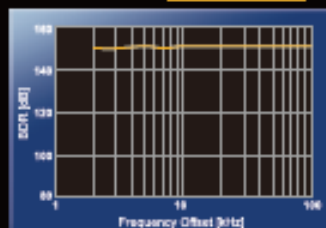


2kHz RMDR **123dB+**



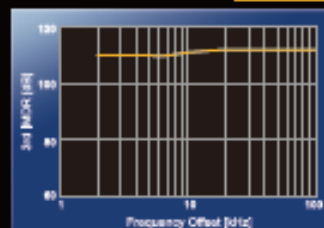
14MHz Band Reciprocal Mixing Dynamic Range (RMDR)

2kHz BDR **150dB+**



14MHz Band Blocking Dynamic Range (BDR)

2kHz 3rd IMDR **110dB+**



3rd IM Dynamic Range (IMDR)

HF/50MHz TRANSCEIVER

FTdx101MP 200W

HF/50MHz TRANSCEIVER

FTdx101D 100W



* Microphone (Mk) Option

LOOK WHAT A UK HAM WORKED IN JUST A SINGLE MONTH USING A YAESU FTDX10. ALL ON A HALF SIZE G5RV!

Thanks for the FTDX10, purchased from you a few weeks ago. The radio is superb with the receiver being especially good for CW, my only mode. Shown are the QSOs I had in May 2023. I decided to plot the CW contacts with very



casual operating at <40 Watts (many at 5W) to a half size G5RV antenna. 263,538 miles, or around 11 times around the earth, amazing! As they say; "a picture paints a thousand words." 73 de Chris G4UDG



Yaesu FTdx10 HF+6+4m Hybrid SDR Base Station. Narrow Band SDR with 3 types of roofing filters and phenomenal multi-signal receiving characteristics.

Hybrid SDR Configuration

Like the FTdx101 series, the new FTdx10 utilises the Yaesu Hybrid SDR configuration - Narrow Band SDR and Direct Sampling SDR. The Narrow band SDR receiver emphasises excellent receiver performance, while the Direct Sampling SDR provides a Digital Processing Real-Time Spectrum Scope.

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