

Q5

North Bristol Amateur Radio Club

S.H.E.7, Braemar Crescent, Northville, Bristol BS70TD
G4GCT, M0NBC, G6PNB

May 2023 Edition

Flight BOAC 777a is ready for Take Off



The 777 event is ready for the end of this month. For those who don't know, flight 777 was a flight from Lisbon in Portugal to Whitchurch Bristol. The flight was a Civilian flight and took off on June 1st 1943 during the height of the Second world War. It was shot down over the Bay of Biscay killing all on board. On the flight was a known spy and the Film Star Leslie Howard.



Is the club moving to area 51? See page 8 for further details.

As we find it difficult to man this station for all the 5 or 6 days, fellow hams from the South Bristol Amateur Radio Club are taking part in this event so we are calling this a joint event.

Let us hope that this collaboration between our clubs will be the start of good things to come. It is to be noted that there is no intention to join the clubs together as one club, but to work together on various projects.

More information on this event can be obtained from Andy, G7KNA on the SBARC web site at www.sbarc.com or myself Dave, G7BYN (Details at the end of Q5)

Club Venue Improvements

SHE 7 in their favour have made a few more improvements. New fire doors, hot water, and a new boiler that makes the room and shack more toasty in the cold weather. Also ventilation has been added to the shack to aid with baking hot summer days (Remember them). All in all things are on the up.

The South Bristol ARC and The NBARC (Setting The Scene)

*A new venture in amateur radio in Bristol.
Mat operating a SBARC special event station
at Westonzoyland airfield.*

*This was an amazing event that, I wish more
of our members would have taken part in.*

*This scene has Mat on the HF bands for the
first time in over 3 years with Andy, G7KNA
logging his well deserved contacts.*



Mat and I have been working for a long time trying to get our two great clubs to work together. Back before the pandemic we tried to hold a contest to fight over the ASHES, just like the ashes fought over between two cricket greats, England and Australia.

The ASHES in our case would be the ashes of the old ham regulations, BR68. This trophy has been made and has the burnt offerings of an old BR68 sealed inside, But still visible.

Alas there were sceptics on both sides. Let us set aside our differences and try this again.

The link has now come to fruition. I spoke with Andy, G7KNA the SBARC Secretary and invited them to come and join in with us at the Flight 777 event at the end of May, running through to first week in June. This invitation he duly passed on to their members. They embraced, and accepted our invitation, and it was on Thursday 16th March Mat and I visited South Bristol and gave them a talk on the event, with Q&A session.

One of their top special eventers, Greg, 2W1BUF knew of the history associated with the event and was over the moon that we are making the effort. His input will be greatly appreciated.

So, was decided to make this a joint venture with the SBARC adding their banner, and advertising along with ours.



The SBARC reciprocated by inviting us on the 1st and 2nd of April to their Airfields on the Air event at Westonzoyland. Mat and I took up their invitation and went down to help with their station. We arrived on the Sunday at about 10am and were met by Andy, G7KNA along with Greg, GW1BUF (in the Photo)

The event was arranged in a WW2 “Nissen” hut. Not slumming it here, it had a canteen, tables and chairs with all the mod cons.

SBARC Event Continued

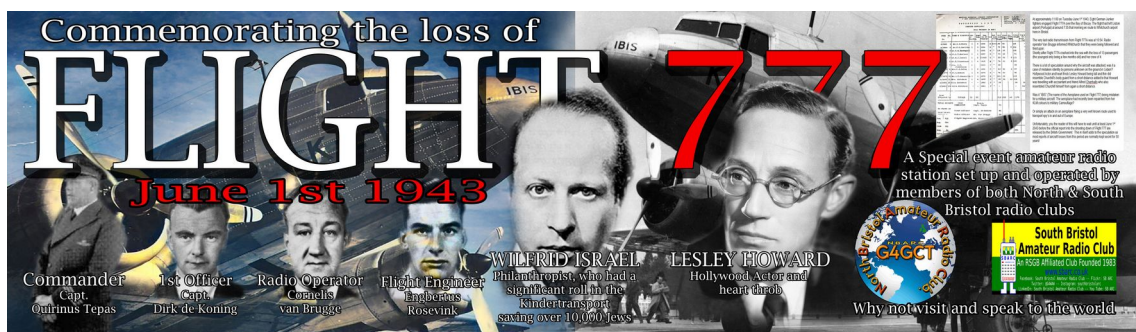
The Antenna, a very large Doublet having been erected on the Saturday made the setup relatively easy. Greg started by calling CQ, and as the morning went on it was noted that his reputation of talking the hind leg off of the proverbial donkey was correct. I must say his happy nature was quite infectious. By the end of the day we all had a go at operating. Making the total contacts for the weekend well over 100. Bare in mind it is not a contest and QSOs involve a bit of a chin wag. I will get the final number off Andy soon.



As the event was on a small airfield, there were some aircraft to see. This one is one of my favourite ones, A Piper Cub in pristine condition. I have a yellow one myself, although it is only 6ft wing span with an 8cc four stroke single cylinder engine.

There was also a lot of junk around from old jet aircraft as well. I even saw bits of a jet provost.

We will certainly look forwards to working with the SBARC again, and of course we will be welcoming them to the 777 event at the end of may, running through to the first week in June. This leads us nicely on to the main event of the year.



For those of you out there who have never heard of flight 777 or even Whitchurch Airport, here is a short history lesson.

Whitchurch opened in 1930 and started flying small airliners (made from wood and canvas) also the flying of club aircraft from a grass strip, or more to the point a circle. This was so the aircraft could always take off into the wind. In the early days aircraft couldn't handle a cross winds very well.

During WW2 the runway was added and the commercial flights were moved from Croydon to Whitchurch. Many famous people travelled from Whitchurch, Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands and Eleanor Roosevelt. The ATA (Air Transport Auxiliary) formed a headquarters here and these young girls would deliver new aircraft to their respective squadrons. So you can see, if we expanded on the history this airport, it would quite easily fill a couple of books.

The new Banner for all of the NBARC events. We of course will still use the other banner at the back of the operating position, but this one was free.



Flight 777 Event Continued

A lot of work has gone into this event by Mat, and your support is paramount. The event is to be set out on the lawn at the Cafe by the skate park, Hengrove Park. There is free parking just a few yards away right by the cinema. Just head up airport road, look out for the cinema sign on the left, turn left into the about 1000yds before the Hartcliffe roundabout. Head for the cinema and entertainment complex. In the far end of the car park, just to the left is an entrance to the cafe and skate park. Unfortunately you have to walk the last 50yds.

At the cafe we can buy a coffee and sandwich also use the toilets. They are also going to supply us with mains power so we don't have to worry about generators or batteries.

The club IC 7300 is going to be used along with the table, chairs and the gazebo. The antenna is the same one as we are testing out at the Mills weekend in a few weeks time.

As you can see there is a bit of kit to transport and set up. We are therefore asking for volunteers to not only help set up but also transport the kit. Buses are regular to the venue from the city centre, Contact Dave M0HDJ at the club if you are not sure what bus to catch. There is no excuse for not supporting this event.

The event is from 30th May till 3rd or 4th June. This will need a lot of manning. Mat and I will be there from the start each day The station has to be put up each day and dismantled at the end of the day. Hopefully we can store the gazebo in the cafe's store room.

Fun Page

This is just a light hearted view of the world.

News Flash



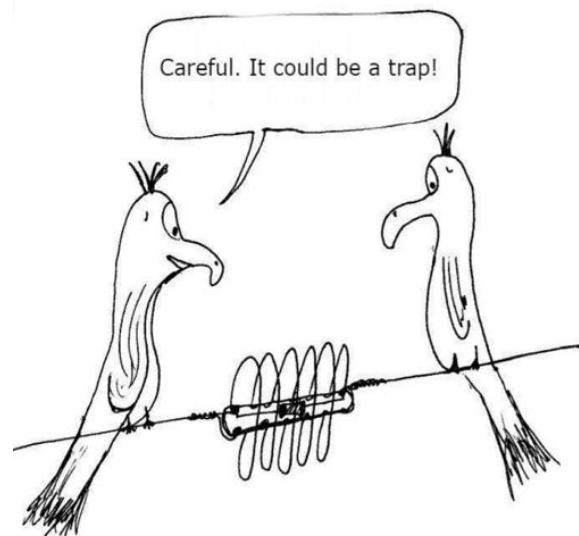
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HAVE FAITH IN THE PFIZER VACCINE.

PFIZER MAKE VIAGRA.

IF THEY CAN RAISE THE DEAD, COVID-19 SHOULD PROVE EASY!

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A reward of 500 *microfarads* is offered for information leading to the arrest of Hop-a-long Capacity.

This un-*rectified* criminal escaped from a *Weston primary cell* where he had been clamped in *ions* and is awaiting the *gauss* chamber.

He is *charged* with the *induction* of an 18 turn coil named *Milli Henry* who was found *choked* and robbed of valuable *joules*.

He is armed with a *carbon rod* and is a *potential* killer

Capacity is also *charged* with driving a *dc motor* over a *Wheatstone bridge* and refusing to let the *band-pass*.

If encountered, he may offer *series resistance*.

The *electromotive force* spent the night searching for him in a *magnetic field*, where he had gone to *earth*. They had no success and believed he had returned *ohm* via a *short circuit*.

He was last seen riding a *kilocycle* with his friend *Eddy Current* who was playing a *harmonic*

The Antenna Projects

The build started back in February. It was decided to build a couple of HB9CV antennas. For those of you out there, these are a directional type of antenna not unlike a yagi. It consists of two elements both of which are driven. The quirky nature of this one is that the elements are driven out of phase so that when the rear element is driven the element in front is acting as a director, and when the front element is driven the rear one is acting as a reflector. Dennis, M0IYQ brought his test gear to test the specifications of each.

Nick, M7NCK also brought along his "Slim Jim" I fitted this to a piece of batten to give it some rigidity. This antenna was made some years ago and was beginning to show it's age having been made from a length of 450ohm twin feeder. It now has a new lease of life.

Dave, G7BYN brought his 2m, 40 year old HB9CV. We found out that the SWR had gone high measured as 2:1. Ahh well, there is some adjustments to make.



Getting back to the HB9CV antennas, this has been a long term project and when it is finalised and all dimensions tested, we will 3D print the final brackets in a single piece. The final design will then be available for all to make, if required, free on request.

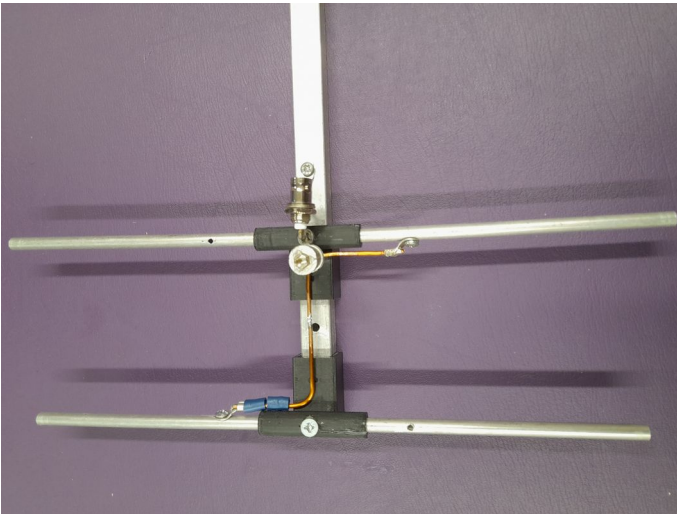
Rocky, M6VRL has been working hard on this project and has been putting in all the graft. He has been adding a bit here and cutting a bit there, moving the feed that I had marked in the wrong place (we will keep quiet about that).

Dennis brought out his test equipment to give the antenna a once over and the results can be seen on the test gear

The photograph on the next page shows the lengths Dennis goes to to get things right. He insisted that we make two antennas, that way he was able to measure the gain when the project was complete.

Antenna Project Continued.

The Antenna project is not finished by a long way. Each week we Rocky adds a little mod here and there.



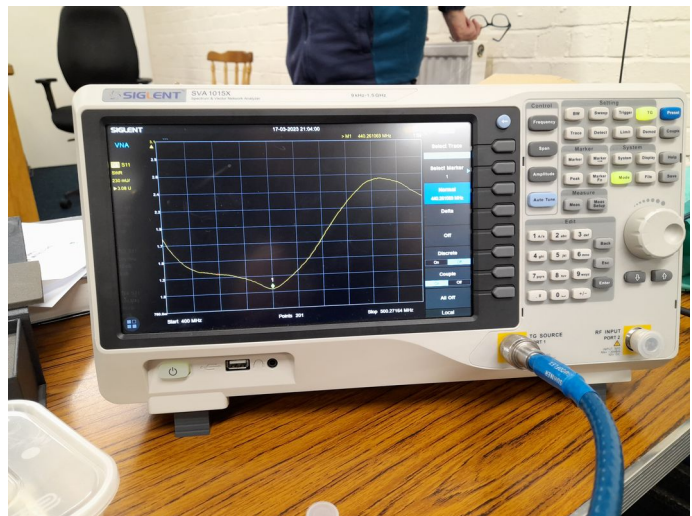
The 3D printed parts that holds the elements were modified to the spacing between the elements. A slot was also added to where the phasing line is down the centre of the boom.

This has been designed and printed by yours truly. A box to cover all of the line and capacitor was printed, but found to be inaccurate in holding the phasing line and the BNC connector. Back to the drawing board. I have decided to leave the printing till we get everything measured and working.

Dennis, the ever perfectionist, was not happy with the results and screws were added to the ends of the elements to make them a bit longer. This brought the whole thing to resonate on the frequency chosen. (I don't know what exact frequency Rocky chose) With all of the dimensions now known, Rocky started to make the Mk2.

The Mk2 With elements and boom cut the 3D parts added, things were on the up. Or so we thought. The Mk1 worked, but was rough construction.

The Mk2 looked really good but refused to tune in properly. Time was running out. Rocky and Dennis spent two months on this project, is there any end to this project. Our problem has been lack of time to fit this in every week. There has been other items on the calendar of events. This project is ongoing and will be finished very shortly. When it is, the plans and parts to make a very accurate reproduction will be available for download from the club's web site or may be published here in Q5.



I do thank Rocky and Dennis for all there hard work put into this project. As I said we aim to publish all the results with true gain figures along with the plans. Unfortunately it has not been possible to finish everything for this edition of Q5

Dave G7BYN

Woes of the RSGB

Although The R.S.G.B. is needed and a necessity in these times. I thoroughly recommend that we all join them if we can, But, and this is a big but, they do have their short comings. It is to be noted that I am not Bashing or trying to discredit them. I know things can, and do go wrong from time to time, it is how the problem is dealt with that is how to judge.

Although I had mentioned this to the membership at various meetings, I thought that I had better put pen to paper as it were.

The Bristol Amateur Radio Club has moved to Scotland. This is official as the RSGB said so.

Well.....Not strictly so. Let me explain. The new portal on the RSGB web site require a new log in, this I duly did in my capacity of Secretary. I had some difficulty as the previous secretary was unable to supply any passwords. This was quickly rectified but I was unable to change anything as the new computer software was in the process of being updated. In the meantime our area rep Andy, G7KNA, sent me an email questionnaire for the 2023 Call Book updates. Entering the changes I had a problem. Ringing Andy, he found us in area 5 (West Midlands). Andy promptly changed every thing back to area 11, that is our area (South West).



I'm Confused, Mat. Are we area 1, 5 or 11

Evidentially, the club's post code told the software the club is in Gloucestershire, that being (area 5). When I spoke the the RSGB office, they found that is where the error was. They said the software should have read AVON.....UUGH. I told them Gloucestershire should be South Gloucestershire and that Avon hasn't existed since 1996. So that took care of the area 5. So how did we end up in Scotland? Evidentially, any club not sorted, defaults to area 1, being Scotland.

As I see it, The RSGB is not really at fault, only the software and the way it is used.

I hope the software will be sorted as soon. I am sure it will, as the people who are responsible are due to leave primary school soon.

A post script:- The software was sorted within a week. As I said at the very beginning, we judge on how a problem is dealt with. The RSGB has been exemplary in the way this has been dealt with. Thank You.

Dave G7BYN



Changes to the South West Cluster.

I did say in the last Q5 that I would publish the changes to the SWC. I felt that it was a lot of hard work that was totally unnecessary as all the hard work has already been done by Mat, G7FBD in the latest news on the GB3BS web site. I was given permission to copy the web site, but, instead chose to give a link instead.

www.gb3bs.com

When you arrive on the site there are some tabs across the top of the page. Click the tab marked **NEWS** You will then see the tab opens out and will give you **Current News Items**. Click on this and you will be presented with up to date news of what is going on with the cluster.

You can see, with the ever changing nature of this project, anything I print here can very soon be out of date. (Remembering that I had run out of the magic ink)

This web site has a wealth of information about all the repeaters on site and is a tribute to Mat, G7FBD and, the repeater keeper Mark, G4SDR, who is the unsung Hero of the repeater without whom, there would be no repeater.

Support your local repeater

OK, I am a bit biased here. I would like every one to support GB3BS, but it is OK if you supported your local repeater. I know times are hard, and years ago when I was bringing up my kids I didn't have the money to go splashing out on repeater subs. However as soon as I could, I did. (If that makes any sense)

Anyway, I am now pleading for anyone who uses BS regularly, to support the cause. There is maintenance and electricity to pay of course so I am asking on their behalf, just donate £10 for the year. If you can't no one will stop you using the box. However it would be nice if you could.

(Can I get up off my Knees now, Mat, Mat, Mat, Oh he has gone)

Calendar of events

May 5 th	Flight 777a, What's it all about (with Short Film)
May 12 th	Prep Kit For Mills Weekend
May 13 th & 14 th Sat/Sun	Mills On The Air at Ashton Mill
May 19 th	General Meeting Committee Meeting
May 26 th	Prep Kit For Flight BOAC 777a
May 30 th – June 4 th	Flight BOAC777a at Whitchurch
June 2 nd	General Meeting
June 9 th	Special Event De-Brief and feedback
June 16 th	General Meeting
June 23 rd	Ham Radio stories on Broadcast Radio
July 7 th	General Meeting
July 14 th	Giant Tabletop Sale. (The Sale of Club's unwanted items)
July 21 st	General Meeting
July 28 th	General Meeting (Secretary Away)
Aug 1 st	Q5 Published
Aug 4 th	Show and Tell. Prize for the best exhibit.

Items Marked In Red are external events to the normal Friday evenings.

We do our very best to put on the events listed but, due to unforeseen circumstances, things can change. If the event is important to you, you can always phone or email the secretary just to check if it is still on or not.

Secretary's contact number is 07533933831 email g7byn@gmail.com

Club Nets & Contact Details

To spice up our nets, the Wed net will be a Technical net (If we can). If members have a problem, or just want to know how something works, ask your question here.

This came about because some participants of our nets didn't want to spend the night talking about the weather and general chit chat. They said it was boring, so wouldn't come on any net. The Chit Chat evenings will be the Sunday net. We hope this will cater for all.

Wednesday net (This is the regular Net) GB3BS 20:00 to 21:00
The net controller is normally G7BYN

Sunday Evening Net This is on GB3BS 20:00 to 21:00
Because of family commitments, G7BYN is not always the net controller

Saturday Mat's DMR Net GB7BS 20:00 to 21:00 South west cluster TS2 (950) This cluster now consists of 10 repeaters in the SW.
Note the change of time was from the beginning of February

Note, Your secretary has kicked Virgin Media out of his QTH, and has therefore changed email address. You can contact Dave on the following email address.

g7byn@outlook.com

Club Contacts

Secretary and Q5 Editor

Dave G7BYN

Phone 07533933831

Email g7byn@outlook.com

Chairman

Paul Stevenson G8YMM

Phone 07921942922

Email g8ymm@nbarc.co.uk

Next Q5 August 1st

Q5 Publication

Last date for articles July 24th

Publication Date 1st August

It is hoped that I will get articles sent to me from time to time. I thank all of you that have submitted items over the past couple of years. All back issues are available on the club's new web site.

www.nbarc.org.uk