

Q5

North Bristol Amateur Radio Club

Page Community Association,
Page Road, Staple Hill,
Bristol BS16 4NE

November 2023 Edition



One of the locos making all the noise over our special event contacts on GB0AVR

We have been meeting at our new venue for a few months now and are settling in well.

Visitors are always welcome.

Entrance is as normal these days, by door buzzer, just announce your arrival to the staff. Our Members however have door access code. Please park legally, as there are camera car patrols. There are however plenty of bays for everyone as well as disabled and Page Community permit holders only bays.

We meet in room 4 and room 3 is available for training or a quiet area for playing radio when required. Recently, it has been used for Morse practice.

Access to the meeting rooms are directly from the entrance (There is no passing through the bar)

In This Q5, a report on our last special Event of 2023

The last special event of 2023 for us was at the Avon Valley Railway, our host, not only for Railways On The Air, but their very own 40's event, that took place the weekend before ROTA.

Calendar of Events

We have a number of talks coming up. These are open to visitors as well as members of the club, so if you are reading this and are not a member you are very welcome to attend.

Christmas is not too far away and we will be looking for any member(s) to step forwards to organise this well supported event. Please give your Secretary or Chairman a call.

Chairman's Report

I hope you all are liking the new venue and facilities. I think you will agree, we are in a better place than before.

For myself, it was a bit of a shock during July to receive the letter from SHE7 terminating our hire agreement and giving us only 4 weeks' notice to leave after 40 years. We could have argued the case or indeed stood our ground but given their attitude it was decided not to bother and move on.

So, we had to move fast to remove 40 years of equipment and storage from the building. Not the easiest task nor good for me having just finished moving my Son to a new house, dealing with my mother's funeral and giving up more weekends again. Most of the club's valuable assets were removed, catalogued and kindly stored at various club members QTH's. The rest was going to have to be put somewhere temporary if possible, disposed of and sold where possible. A bit of a logistical nightmare to say the least.

To help move and sort things effectively we initially considered hiring a skip to be located at SHE7 but this was refused and the option of putting it on the road was out of the question so the only alternative was to take what we had in our cars. I am pleased to say, a lot of members were willing to fill their cars up and help store what they could.

The last leg was to dispose of the rubbish that we considered was not of any significant value, remove any existing fixtures inside the building, take down the Tenna Mast and remove the remaining old lattice towers that were stored.

Luckily, I was able to physically remove my rear car seats plus ladder racks to accommodate the remaining stuff. I probably went to the recycling tip some 15 times during the next 4 weeks and avoided any reasoning to suggest it was commercial waste.



As for removing the Tenna mast, I had to recall how I put it up 10 years ago in order to reverse engineer getting it down in a controlled manner due its weight, height and surrounding obstacles. To do this, additional safety ropes were purchased along with bringing my ladders, tools and equipment. At first, I struggled to work out the best way to approach lowering the mast on the day as it all seemed a bit bewildering due to not being able to focus on the task to hand but eventually with the help and advice from a few members we eventually lowered it without any problems.

Chairman's Report Cont'd

Now on my mind was to organise a mini flatbed lorry to take it away. This was soon sorted a week later by an offer to purchase the old towers and remove them along with any other masts we needed moving.



We eventually, cleared everything off site apart from the masts, and posted the keys back to SHE7 for the last time within the time frames they gave. We still have some way to go with the stored assets but hopefully we will resolve in the near future.

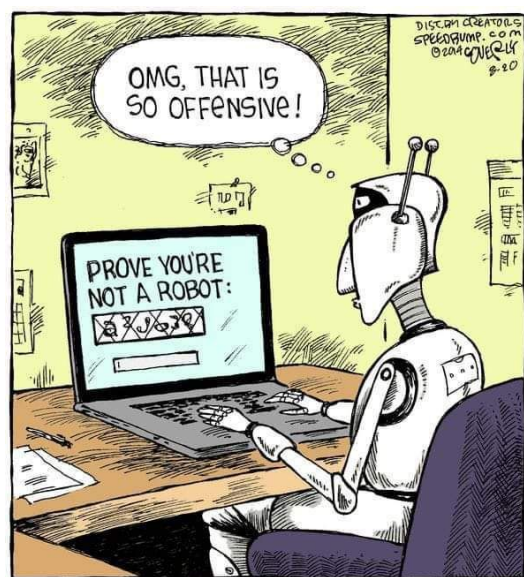
My thanks go to all of you who helped and your continued support during move.

73

Paul G8YMM



I Don't want to scare you, Dad says if I don't get a better report, someone's going to get a good spanking



WOW What a year. 2023 A year Of Special Events

By Mat G7FBD

On reflection 2023 might not have happened! But thanks to Scientist, Gut determination of the British People and the driving force of our own Club Sectary. We could have been isolated at our homes still!

Things kicked off with our traditional Mills on the air weekend in May; Okay we had some “Technical” issues which resulted in our station only working a handful of stations. However, the technical issues were vital in learning and re-designing the antenna for future events.

The Antenna, blowing in the wind did bring much amusement to the team that attended the event. Its special design meant that its operating parameters did depend heavily on the direction of the breeze that was blowing and changing direction throughout the day.

I think if conditions had been better, then our results would have been better. Lots of stations on the band were commenting on the conditions. The results are, the jury is still out on the horizontal windmill.



Next up as, for me, the biggest radio event I have ever had the pleasure of helping go from a simple chat at the club following its re-launch post lock down, to delivering an inter-club 5 day event that included guest speakers, lots of QSO's, a conversation with Jim Lee at G8BBC, not realise who it was until he said he was working from Broadcasting House in central London. Even then it was only the over excited commentary from G7BYN that triggered my slow brain to put the boxes together. Of course, who can forget my question of, “Does this count as a first date?” to a camera man as he slid a mike up the inside of my shirt. Oh and the re-birth of our own regular TV Star, G7BYN.

Of course I am speaking about our GB80AGBB event, also known as Flight777.

It was FANTASTIC how it captured the willingness of not only members of South Bristol Radio Club (SBARC), our own club membership And even the help and support of a couple of non-club members. My heart felt gratitude goes out to each and every member of the team, and I mean TEAM that help put the station together each day, operate, met the public and even help tear down the station each night. There was a real buzz both on and off air right through the weeks operation. As I write this, I have just checked the QRZ logbook and can confirm we worked 421 stations over the 5 day period, some 125 have confirmed our QSO via QRZ.com. It was not just local UK contacts we made, but stations in 15 countries. A little factoid, again at the time of writing the GB80AGBB QRZ page has had 4918 lookups. Okay if you include the page reloads I did when putting the page together it actually totals 5096 page lookups.

2023 A year Of Special Events Cont'd

We are also proud to be part of the Wikipedia community as our SSES (Special, Special Event Station) is now part of the Flight 777 Wiki page. Here you can find links to various sources and even a 3 minute (ish) clip of our own TV Star on Points West. Go look it up.

The whole event was a blast, and to be honest has left a bit of a hole in my life post the event, and I am looking around for other events. Spoiler alert – G7BYN has done it again! More details will appear in later copies of Q5, and we made it into Radcom!

Oh – I forgot, Thanks to the Horizontal, multi-directional spinning jenny antenna used at the Mill. Dave, G7BYN went away and re-imagined an antenna, and after a few design changes came to Flight 777 with a Trapped 20/40m dipole. My god it is GOOD!! And within the first few minutes of day one, Dan from South Bristol Radio Club found himself at the bottom of a pileup! As I said to Dave – G7BYN at the time, that was NO DUMMY LOAD on the end of the coax!

Because of the work involved in getting Flight 777 on air, it was decided that this year we would step back from the International Light houses and Light Ship weekend. But We are already planning for 2024.

This brings us happily to the Bitton Railways 1940 weekend. Although visitor numbers were down for the railway, I think this was purely down to the Fab' British Summertime weather, it did rain both days on and off. But those members of the pubic that did attend appeared to be having a blast. Over the weekend the team managed to work 92 stations.



The Spinning Jenny Antenna Leaning over in the wind

Again as big thanks to everyone that attended the 1940's weekend.

This just left the following weekend. (23 / 24TH September) this was Railways on the air. This weekend we did not have the railways Marque to shelter in, so it was a return to the purple people eater gazebo. We again was using the by now, reliable trapped 20/40m dipole, and watching the team put the antenna up was like watching a well rehearse play. It was almost like clockwork. The antenna, Gazebo and station were up in record time!

Over the next several hours we managed to work over 80 stations, and as a bonus 13 of the stations worked were other railways! (Dave, do we get a certificate?).

2023 A year Of Special Events Cont'd

We did not work the Sunday, as the weather forecast predicted high winds and driving rain. What did we get? Mostly sunny with a little rain. I will take that as ME BAD!! Sorry guys.

A few things we took away from these years events:

The Biggie is that both South Bristol Radio club and ourselves feel we should do some more events together, not every event, as we have our own ways of doing things, but perhaps an event driven by South Bristol that we can lend our own event expertise to? Please feel free to submit ideas to the committee.

Be warned when Dave and I sit around talking, and Dave G7BYN says “Have you ever heard of.....” It could be the start of another amazing Special Event Station.

It's a shame there is not more support from our club with helping putting on, setting up, tearing down and even operating one of our now regular Special Event Station. We want our club to feel they can come to an event, join in, help out and take it in turns to operate. I feel relieved when I can hand over the Microphone, or logging duty to someone else. I can then relax and help out with things such as getting Nick used to working HF etc. I/We do not want the SSE's to become the realm of Just Dave and I, we want to open things up to others! So if you do not feel confident working on the Radio, or as we used to Call it “Mic Shy” a SSE is a good place to simply have a go! We do not work contest style of 5/9 QRZ. We try as much to stop, explain to the station we are working, more about the station, its purpose and the operating team. I think our contact numbers prove it. Trust me, I do contesting, and I am sure if we were working contest style, our numbers would be more than double!

The SSE station is pretty much up to getter with only a few more bits needed to make it a “Grab and Go” station. So if YOU want to arrange a SSE then the only stipulation is that your idea MUST go via the committee. This is to ensure that legal coverage is in place to help protect you and the public.

Finally before I upset the Editor, here is a look at next years Ideas for SSE's..

May 2024 - Mills on the Air

Aug 2024 - International lighthouses

Sep 2024 - Bitton 1940's and Railways on the Air.

Nov 2024 - Event still in embryonic state.at,

Mat, G7FBD Events Manager

A Different view of Avon Valley Railway's 40's Event & Railways On The Air

This year saw the return of the 40's event as organised by the AVR. As usual, we were situated in the Marque. The antenna set up was the same as that used at Flight 777, the making of which can be replicated in the next few months.

At the start of the day we off loaded everything in the rain. Yours truly got soaking wet. The only thing we had to do on the survey was to measure the distance from the first pole by the building to the sign post across the other side of the green. We had to increase the length of the antenna by about 3m of cord added to one end. The centre just clipped the tree, but guess what, this is always going to be a compromise.

A back stay was required at the building end from the pole to a bit of the decorative eave at the roof of the station building. The back stay from the other pole was easily made off to the picket fence.

Mat was chief photographer at the setup and took most of the photos you see here.

The photo on the right shows us assembling the far pole, yours truly at the base and nick, M7NCK walking the pole into an upright position ready to strap to the sign post that happens to be concreted into the ground at about the right spot for our antenna.

One of the blue ropes will be used for the back stay. This stops the pole from bending under the strain from the pull of the antenna wire. We do pull the system quite tight to stop the centre from sagging. The other rope is used on the antenna it's self via a pulley.



At least we dried out soon after the station was set up in the marque. All of us lads getting wet putting up the poles and antenna, the boss, Mat taking the photographs, keeping dry. I called him a few choice words as he wanted me to pose as the rain is dripping from every part of my body.

Mat set up the radio on the top of the purple table cloth. This time he used the club's laptop that he had set up with a logging programme. I must admit I use a paper log, but it does make things a bit easier if working a pile up.

Avon Valley Railway's 40's Event & Railways On The Air Cont'd

As I dried out, I began to enjoy myself. Mat got down to operate. Stations came in from the word go, then, the weather began to dry up, typical.



This year, the marque at the 40's event was open sided at the end nearest to the station building. Although it made working conditions a bit draughty, at least we could be seen by the public. Here, Nick is assisting with the pole installation. He is getting good at this now, having assembled and disassembled the poles at flight 777 for 4 days running. Well done Nick.

The photograph on the right shows the setup using the club's gazebo during the ROTA event, the weekend after the 40's event.

This is setup just in front of Audrey's bench. For those of you who may not have known Audrey, she not only assisted at the AVR, she was also a member of our club. Her call sign being G4ULH and for many a year she was the club's Morse tutor. Alas, she is now a Silent Key.



The noise from passing trains sometimes caused a bit of QRM. It however added to the atmosphere.

The unexpected whistle before the train pulled away caused quite a bit of a laugh, holding back any expletives if transmitting at the same time.

Avon Valley Railway's 40's Event & Railways On The Air Cont'd

It was a shame the weather forecasters got it wrong again. We didn't want to risk the gazebo and all of the equipment as it was said that big storms were on the way for Sunday. We therefore called off the Sunday's ROTA event. So did some of the other exhibitors, a shame really, as the weather was no different than the Saturday.

It is rather funny, though out many years of attending events like these, I have noticed what the weather has been like. Because they happen generally the same month and the same weekend every year, I have noticed that some years it has been rather hot and T shirt weather and some years it has been freezing cold.

If you want to know what the weather was like in 2014 ROTA or Mills on the air, I will look back at the photos and have a look at what we were wearing.



And Finally, yes, we did win a certificate for Railways On The Air.

A rather nice one. We will get it framed as soon as we get a shack up and running.

It will look good in pride of place.

Bye for now, this being the end of this year's out door events. If you would like something that you think we should be doing, don't just grumble to yourself, tell Mat Paul or myself about it.

I know that I have never organised Field Days for example. If you think we should participate. We can do it. If however you request an event, we will hold you to being one of the members at least turning up and giving your support.

73 Dave G7BYN

9

EDEN VALLEY RAILWAY and
BISHOP AUCKLAND RADIO AMATEURS' CLUB

RAILWAYS ON THE AIR WEEKEND

23rd and 24th of September 2023



THIS CERTIFICATE IS AWARDED TO

GB0AVR

For celebrating the birth of the steam passenger railway and the application of amateur radio by successfully contacting or hearing radio stations at preserved railways throughout the world.

Signed on behalf of B.A.R.A.C.

Photo B Dingle - Locomotion Number One Replica at Shildon National Railway Museum
The engine that pulled the first public passenger railway train on 27/9/25 from Shildon
Steam is the breath of the railway - the driver is its soul

Morse:- The score as written for the TV Programme. (What does it really say?) By Dave, M0RKE

A few weeks ago, on our net, John, G4WOD, brought up the subject of Morse code. One thing led to another and I can remember in a following conversation that Morse, as in the TV programme, the music didn't spell Morse, but Torse, due to the spacing and speed of the music. Now I must say that I can't read Morse and know nothing about it. I can remember reading this in either PW or Radcom, however, I can't for the life of me find this article.

Dave M0RKE took up the challenge and decided to take a look at what the music really did say in morse.

Dave emailed me the following comments:-

1) On the first few listenings, however, even a skilled Morse listener, such as myself, may stumble a bit. The timing of the first two letters (M = "Dah-dah", and O = "Dah-dah-dah") is inconsistent with how it would be sent in real time. In Morse code operation, the "Dah's" would all be the same length. In this music, the "Dah's" for the "M" are longer and more drawn out than the "Dah's" of the "O", making the three "Dah's" of the "O" sound like "Dit's" in comparison. This was undoubtedly done for musical reasons. Some creative musical freedom was taken, but it works. Once one realizes that the first five characters, although presented at different speeds, are all "Dah's", everything else falls into place nicely.

2) That's interesting, I've never heard the theme before and listening to it just now I'm hearing Dah Dadit dit dit didadit dididit dit

Or ___ ___• • • •___• ••• •

which spells TNEERSE or TTEEEAESE if the delay on what could be the R is split for proper character timing.

It definitely does not spell MORSE which would have been: DADAH DADADAH DIDAH DIT DIDIDIT DIT. I would agree that as Craig said in his answer that they took artistic license to fit in with the music.

I wonder what others really hear - or do they as often is the case follow the crowd and maybe compound an error without really 'hearing' what's actually there.

All in all a most interesting topic IMHO

Thanks for bringing it up Dave

Dave, M0RKE

Club News

AGM

A reminder that the AGM will be held on Jan the 19th. If there is one meeting you should not miss, it is the AGM. The AGM sets out the agenda for the year to come. Please give this some thought and register your intentions if you wish to stand yourself, or nominate a friend to stand for committee.

A form for you to print out is at the end of this Q5. Forms can be given to the chairman or secretary at any club meeting up to the AGM. You can, if you wish, email it to the Secretary, whose email address is on the form.

Constitution

At that meeting there will be a change to the constitution. Mainly the address where we meet. If there is anything else you wish to discuss please email me so I can register it for the AGM.

New Members

Over the last few months we have had a few more members join our club. Please make them welcome. They are John, G4WOD and Dave, G4FJH. They are both well known amateurs in the area. John has always been there to help the club with our events over the years and will be known to many of us. Dave, yes another Dave, has organised a couple of nets in the area, this time on 2m ssb and a 6m repeater. More details at the bottom of the page.

Morse Practice / Training

For those who like the idea of morse, there has been a few sessions held in room 3. This is a smaller Quiet room for training. Contact the lads at the club for more information.

Notice of a few more nets. Contact Dave, G4FJH at the club for more details.

Bristol 2m Vertical Sideband Net

144.340 mHz

All welcome to join every Monday from 20.00hrs

6m Net

The Net is conducted every Thursday night from 20.05hrs via

the GB3ZY Repeater located just to the South of Bristol

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

Sunday Evening Net This is on GB3BS 20:00 to 21:00

Saturday DMR Net GB7BS This net has been suspended for the time being. The reason is due to the expansion of the network covers the whole of the South West and members on the net are mainly from the Bristol area, so in theory talk group 9 could be used instead of taking up the use of 21 repeaters.

Plea From The Secretary Recently, in the money received when members sign in, I have received all sorts of coins. 10 euro cents (worth about 8p) old £1 coins, worth zero, this doesn't happen just once but many occasions. This is not playing fair with me as I have to make up the short fall. Please, please, make sure you pay with the correct money as your mistake costs me money.

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 February 1st 2024

Q5 Publication

Last date for articles Jan 24th

Publication Date February 1st

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

Calendar of events

Nov 3 rd	Christmas Meal Planning
Nov 10 th	Assemble a Hot Spot with Ian, G4TAH
Nov 17 th	General Chit Chat
Nov 24 th	Talk on The Bus The Digital Bus by Dennis M0IYQ
Dec 1 st	General Chit Chat
Dec 8 th	HF antenna Construction Start of Project
Dec 15 th	Make Your Traps
Dec 22 nd	Christmas meal
Dec 29 th	Holiday Period No Meeting
Jan 5 th	Finish Your Antenna Project
Jan 12 th	General Chit Chat
Jan 19 th	AGM Nomination forms are attached to this Q5
Jan 26 th	Show and tell with prize for the best presentation.
Feb 1 st	Q5 Published
Feb 2 nd	General Chit Chat
Feb 9 th	Lab View Demo Dennis, M0IYQ

Note When we are programmed to do constructional projects, non participating members can continue with a Chit Chat or Morse practice.

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 the secretary just to check if it is still on or not. A phone call is preferred rather than email or TXT. If you want a quick reply.

Secretary's contact number is 07533933831



North Bristol Amateur Radio Club

Page Community Association,
Page Road, Staple Hill,
Bristol BS16 4NE
G4GCT, M0NBC, G6PNB



Affiliated 1977

Nomination Form

Nominations for the following Positions:-

Chairman
Vice Chairman
Secretary
Treasurer

Training Manager
Officer 1
Officer 2

To be returned electronically by email to g7byn@outlook.com
Or handed to the secretary Dave G7BYN at a club meeting

I (Your Name).....Callsign:-.....

Nominate.....Callsign.....

For the position of.....

Nominations will only be accepted on this form