

QAV

No 535
February 2026

Newsletter of the Harwell Amateur Radio Society.

www.g3pia.net

Affiliated to the Radio Society of Great Britain.

The Quiz of the year took place at the January club evening hosted by John G6LNU.

The evening proceeded with the formation of two teams who endeavoured to answer the series of diverse questions posed by the quizmaster John. I think all present enjoyed the evening and we thank John for the production and presentation.

I look forward to members presenting their construction contest entries at the February meeting.

73 Dave G8DVK

A Real Coffee Shop Visit! Report by John, G6LNU

Well, for the first Coffee Shop of 2026 Millett's seemed a bit on the quiet side even though there were a fair few people in there, that said we had a good turn out even though I had apologies from two ladies who were not up to it on the day.

The following attended.

Angus, G0UGO,
Elizabeth,
Ron, G0BNC,
Val,
John, G6PEP,
Paul, M8JQT,
Lea,
Derek, G0MGZ,
Trixie,
Ian, G4BYR,
John, G6LNU.

The next Coffee Shop will be on Friday February 20th, starting at 10.45 in the usual place at Millett's.

73s John

RadioActivity

Neil, G4BRK - Christmas and a trip to Egypt have reduced radio time this month but I still managed some activity. I competed in two of the 80/40m AFS contests - CW and digital (RTTY + PSK63).

I was away for the SSB one. I managed 7th position in the 100W section on both of them. Unfortunately there were not enough club members on to have a full team of 4 in either of these so we were rather down on our normal score.

There was a bit of a tropo lift on the 27/28/29th of December. I worked quite a few good distance QSOs on 2m, 70cm and 23cm, mostly using FT8.

The new 13cm system is progressing and I can now get about 30W out with very little instability, using one of the Chinese amplifier modules. This was rather badly set up when it arrived, with no bias adjustment on the driver stage which was running in class A. There was space on the PCB to add a pot so I did so and got down to a reasonable class AB standing current. I also tidied the awful input arrangement which had a 3cm long piece of wire from the SMA connector to a point after where the VCO would have been (these are also sold as drone jammers which is why they are made in enough quantity to be affordable). I replaced this with RG-316 coax and also fitted some directional coupler components near the output to allow me to get an indication of power output.

I have a cunning plan to add some attenuation between the transverter TX gain stages to see if I can get it unconditionally stable.

The UKEI DX SSB contest was good fun and I managed to get placed as 2nd

UK/EI station in the 12h low power (100W) section. As well as the two 24h contests each year the UKEICC run a series of 1 hour evening contests on 80m during the year. These are a bit less manic than the RSGB 80m events and the provisional results usually come out within 90 minutes of the end of the contest. Details (if you aren't suffering from contest overload) at <https://www.ukeicc.com/80m-rules.php>

Mike & Ann, G8CUL & G8NV - The first half of January seemed to be taken up with both of us having bad colds/cough, the latter going on for ages. In amongst this we had an 8 hour visit to A&E at the JR, finally getting home at 04:50 on a Tuesday morning. Luckily all seemed OK except for a minor lung infection, which a second course of Antibiotics appears to have finally cured. Being a Tuesday, we had a UKAC contest to do that evening too!

We took part in the 80/40m Data mode contest, but I really wasn't feeling up to the CW event or even the SSB event either, so all power to Neil for entering both the Data and CW event as well as Rob, M0FXX and Dave, G8DVK on the SSB event.

Recently I have been updating a number of the various PCs we have running at CUL towers. I was prompted to do this after I managed to force an update from W10 to W11 on the PC we use for contest logging and other radio-based activities. It was running fine before the update but to be honest it never really was the same afterwards.

I discovered a supplier of refurbished Lenovo 'Mini' PCs who advertises on eBay. They show a number of options in terms of the main processor, RAM and SSD size, with prices ranging from under £100 to £250, the latter for a

version with the top end spec. I have now bought 4 of these mini-PCs and so far they are doing exactly what I want and seem fast. Their advert can be found here - https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/115710830111?itm_meta=01KGAMC9MSTFRTEY5FCBCHTH5E&hash=item1af0e7261f:g:7aYAAOSws7IIH~8

The current work on the Speedo and Tacho calibrator is just about complete and I hope to show it at the annual construction contest at the club meeting on Thursday 5th February.

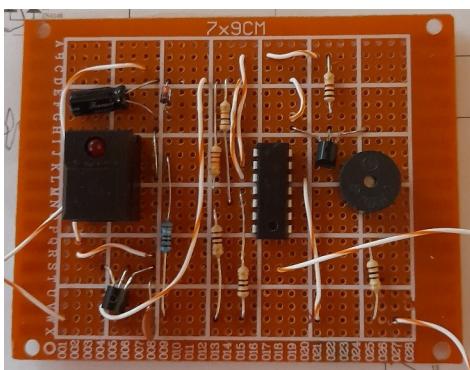
John, MOMLE -

One thing leads to another -

A couple of years ago I bought a very nice radio from our very own Oxford Shortwave Youtuber. Much to my shame and his irritation, I've yet to switch it on - I mention that before he does. Frustration with my indolence has provoked the aforementioned Youtuber to further supply me with a Super Antenna MP1 which is adjustable to cover a wide variety of bands. Although instructions for these adjustments were supplied, I was delighted to notice, on an auction site, an MFJ-269 which I thought would make a great companion for the antenna to ensure I got it tuned as close as possible to the required frequency and thereby avoid risk of damage to the radio. Although no longer in production, these seem listed at just under £400 but I got this one with a case and several adapters for a mere £80 or so which seemed like a great deal and left room for the cost, if needed, of a minor repair.

Well, it arrived and looked in great condition but when testing it with a dummy load, I thought some of its 'features' were not quite as expected although I wasn't too sure what

features to expect. The V/UHF range didn't seem to work at all. Google explained that a common fault was the failure of one or more HSMS-2820 SMD Schottky diodes. These are widely listed at a few pence each but nobody has stock and they are no longer made. Equivalents can be seen listed which are available but here, at the edge of my understanding of electronics, I can't guarantee that my examination of the data sheets will ensure I have indeed found an appropriate match - particularly for use in a measuring instrument. If I was sure they were a direct replacement, I'd just change all four. So, before removing a diode I'd like to test it in circuit and, since these are apparently so sensitive, I'm reluctant to jab my meter probes anywhere near them. In any case, the MFJ may be fully working and the only issue is my own incompetence. Another foray into Google-land led me to a circuit using a LM339 voltage comparator IC and a beeper to test continuity using less than a midge's of power. I thought that if it didn't work as designed for my purpose, I could juggle resistor values until it did -perhaps.



So, I breadboarded it then soldered it on a piece of perf board. Next step is to neaten and box it up. So, Clint, I'm working on it !

A note from Rob, M0FXX about a proposed trip to Bletchley Park

During the AGM in January a question was raised about arranging outings for the club members. I have been in contact with the RSGB Coordinator for the National Radio Centre at Bletchley Park in Bedfordshire and have provisionally arranged a visit to the NRC for **Thursday, 12th March 2026**, due to limitations on access this will need to be during the daytime (we can finalise the exact timing when we have committed numbers). Entry is Free of Charge to RSGB members by downloading a voucher from the RSGB webpage www.rsgb.org/bpvoucher

Non-RSGB members will have to purchase a ticket which is £28:00 for adults and £25.50 for over 60's and students with a valid ID.

The tour will consist of a visit to the NRC for around two hours which will include the opportunity to operate GB3RS for both licensed and unlicensed individuals (a copy of your amateur license and valid photo ID is required). This will not be a dedicated tour as other visitors will need be accommodated but my understanding is that footfall during the planned visit is likely to be light. We will also have the opportunity to visit the other areas of Bletchley Park (www.bletchleypark.org.uk) at our leisure.

To get this visit finalised could you please let me know by email at: Robert.Limb@btinternet.com

if you are interested in attending. I would like to get a list of the provisional attendees by the **middle of February**. We can then coordinate transportation which will be by private vehicles. Please could you let me know if you are planning to drive yourself and if you have any spare seats. Bletchley Park and the NRC are open between 09:30 and 17:00 in mid-March. Food and drink are available in various cafés on the site and there is also a gift shop.





Operating GB3RS

Why I Went to Sea.

Howard Griffiths, M0JWC, Ex Merchant Navy Radio Officer.

I was born in 1948, one of ten children, living in abject poverty on a run down council estate in the suburbs of South Manchester. We weren't catholic, I think the TV was broken. Mum had been married three times and had regular liaisons resulting in a mongrel bunch of children. I never met my dad, apparently he took one look at me and buggered off to Canada to marry his brother's widow.

Being a feral child, it was the norm for me to be playing football with a tennis ball under the street lights until all my mates were called in for bed, building bikes from old bits dumped in the area and generally messing about, not all within the confines of the law!

Mum was absolutely delighted when my elder brother, who was a complete waster but a great bloke, passed his 11 plus and went to the grammar school. Unfortunately the uniform requirements were strict and mum went into heavy debt with a weekly payment to a clothes company to provide for her golden boy. As I approached my 11 plus, mum told me in no uncertain words not to pass because she couldn't afford another uniform! Now that wasn't difficult for a kid that 'dicked' about all his life. Secondary Modern school proved unchallenging and my 'rag-arsed' attire wasn't too out of place. A very kind teacher took me to the staff room and showed me a cupboard full of blazers which had been donated by past pupils and she selected a very smart blazer adorned with the school badge. Now, at this time I was undernourished, under five foot and weighed about 7 stone soaking wet. The blazer, even though it was the smallest she could find, drowned me, the sleeves were about three inches too long etc., but this didn't matter to me it was an A1 'as new blazer!'. When I got home and showed my mum she was convinced I had stolen it and marched me straight back to school to the headmaster's office to get confirmation of the donation. At this time a friend, who's dad was a Radio Amateur, took me home so that his dad could show me his amateur radio station. Usual story, he showed me how to build a crystal set, etc, and I was hooked!

I left school at fifteen and my interest in electronics made me think of becoming a TV engineer. I had no thoughts of going to Uni or further education, I just needed to earn a crust. The careers master said "no son, those types of apprenticeships are for the grammar school chaps". Back in the early sixties, valve black and white TVs were mainly rented due to the cost of constant maintenance and I wrote to every rental company that advertised in the Manchester Evening News and was offered an apprenticeship. When the aerial rigger's mate was on holiday the apprentices had to take their place, shinning up wet filthy slate roofs, no cat ladder or any form of safety. The chap I spent two weeks with was an ex Merchant Navy deck hand and his tales of travel and adventure really whetted my appetite, an opportunity to get away from my poverty struck (but happy) life. The bonus was that Brooks Bar radio college was only a few miles

down the road from home and the very helpful Mrs Sparks the college secretary, advised how to apply for a grant. Now my stepfather was an Irish bog-trotter who could hardly read or write, so I filled all the forms in and forged a signature and due to the number of children in the family my weekly income went from £3/10s a week to £12/10s a week, even after all my college fees had been paid. How generous the grants were in those days. I bought and ran my first car, a 1938 Morris 8, I had a couple of my most enjoyable years at college.

I passed the appropriate exams and set off to sea with the International Marine Radio Company, my first ship The Orepton, a Holder Bros iron ore carrier. On my first trip to 'Seven Islands' in Canada in mid November, I was seasick before we left Workington harbour and I



MV Orepton

was sick for nearly two weeks, before finally getting my sea legs. The next trip was up to Murmansk where the ship caught fire and sadly the First Officer was killed (another story). When we finally returned to Port Talbot there was a letter waiting from Mum, a rare thing and of very few words, it went along the lines of "Dear Son, I hope everything is working out okay. Just to let you know we've moved to a smaller flat and there's no room for you when you come home. Your sister Margaret is pregnant we don't know who the father is. We've had to have the dog put down because he was old and incontinent (no room for him either?). I had to give your car away because there was no room for it at the flat. Hope you have a great Christmas. Your loving Mother"

When the Orepton caught fire in Russia the senior Radio Officer was very lucky to be alive as his cabin and the radio room was directly above the seat of the fire. He was an elderly chap who had survived being torpedoed twice in WWII, the poor chap could hardly speak due to smoke inhalation but refused to attend a Russian hospital. The radio room was gutted without which the ship couldn't sail. My company asked if they shipped new equipment out would we be able to install it? even on a temporary basis until we got back to the UK. Well the old Radio Officer didn't have much idea so me being a fresh out of college 'know it all' said "no problem". The equipment installation went OK and we passed the survey saying we were safe to sail back to Blighty.



MV Geestcape

bananas from St Lucia, St Vincent, Dominica and Grenada. The ship also carried 12 passengers, this was the happiest ship I ever sailed on, the schedule was, a week sailing out from Barry in South Wales, a week around the Islands, a week sailing back and a week at home. The people in the Caribbean were the friendliest I ever came across on my travels and I had some wonderful fun times.

(Jude the XYL) and I sailed around the same islands on a five masted clipper as a 70th birthday treat, but sadly all the banana plantations had gone and people made a living selling Chinese junk to the shiploads of tourist the flood the islands. The locals have adopted the American diet and culture, even abandoning cricket for the sake of other sports!)

On my return to the UK there was a letter from the boss saying that the shipping company had given me a glowing report and there was an extra £10.00 in my monthly salary, yes a full £10.00! But this was 1968. But the most exciting thing was that he advised me I was being transferred to The Geestcape a lovely looking refrigerated banana ship; bringing bananas from the West Indies. We took vegetables out to Barbados and picked up



Royal Clipper

That time was the start of a very happy and exciting period in my life, all I owned was contained in two bags and my bank account

Radio Diary - February 2026

Date	Time (BST)	Event
Sunday 1st	12.00 for 12.30	HARS Sunday Lunch at The Packhorse, Milton
Thursday 5th	19:30 for 20:00	Annual Construction Contest 7.30 for 8.00 Chilton Village Hall
Friday 20th	10:45	Monthly Coffee Morning at Millets Farm Shop Café
Sunday 22nd		World Thinking Day on the air. St Helen and St Katharine Abingdon, Page 26
Mondays	19:30 on	Zoom Coffee Evening
Wednesdays	10:45 on	Zoom Coffee Morning
Wednesdays	15:30 -	HF Sked G3PIA 7.150 ±
Fridays	10:45 on	Zoom Coffee Morning
Fridays	20:30	Friday Night Sked on 3.710MHz ±
Saturdays	15:30 on	Sked on 2m FM 145.4125MHz
Sundays	15:30 on	Sked on GB3DI
Mon 2nd	20:00-21:30	80m CC SSB
Tue 3rd	20:00-22:30	2m UKAC
Wed 4th	17:00-21:00	2m FT8 AC (2hr or 4hr)
Sun 8th	0900-13:00	70cm AFS
Tue 10th	20:00-22:30	70cm UKAC
Wed 11th	17:00-21:00	70cm FT8 AC (2hr or 4hr)
Thu 12th	20:00-22:30	6m UKAC
Sat 14th	08:00-11:00	1st 160m Contest
Tue 17th	20:00-22:30	23cm UKAC
Thu 19th	20:00-22:30	4m UKAC
Mon 23rd	20:00-22:00	RSGB FT4 Contest
Tues 24th	20:00-22:30	SHF UKAC
Mon 26th	20:00-21:30	80m CC CW

More notes from a Newbie

By Paul, M8JQT

Notes from a Newbie, January 2026

Now G1 FGX!

Well, this month I had the joy of dealing with OFCOM to get my new call sign. It was a joy, honest!

At first I spoke to OFCOM again about the possibility of getting my Grandfather's call sign [G2XY] but they were adamant that this call sign structure was not available to anyone, even if I could prove it was my Grandfathers and despite it not having been re-allocated.

So, I moved on and then tried various other potential call signs that I might have liked BUT without any joy so I decided to just stick with my original Foundation Suffix and a new G1 Prefix.

I would have liked to have kept the FGX Suffix for my Intermediate Call sign [2E0FGX!!!] if it had not been for the annoying OFCOM Website automatically allocating me 2E0 JQT, so I feel that this was the right path for me.

Interestingly, I did note that in this month's RADCOT a few people were "ranting" about how disgusting it was that new licensees could take old call signs and reuse them. They felt that this was impersonating old Hams and being disrespectful rather than being respectful to old radio Hams that were admired! So, maybe it was a blessing I couldn't get Grand Dad's call sign as there is always someone who will "have a go" at you when they do not understand the full context – shame!

How, I thought my quest was complete and I could put my feet up before I spoke to someone at the HARS Millets Farm Christmas Coffee morning (don't worry, Colin, I won't tell them it was you!) who said that I didn't really have my full licence until I had completed my Morse test! (*This might have been true 25 years ago - but is not now! - Ed*)

Although I hate to say it, I rather think that my Grandfather would have agreed, so now, my next step is learning Morse.

I started learning with the "CW Ops" method as recommended by the Essex Ham Radio club.

They recommended using a website by Stephen Phillips "CW Academy Morse Code Trainer" but I found this a bit too repetitive as you were supposed to practice each of the thirteen "Sessions" for a week before moving on.

Whilst this had the advantage of introducing letters and numbers at the same time because they used preset words, numbers, call signs and phrases for the whole session (aka lesson!), I found that after a couple run throughs, I was remembering the words and not actually listening to the Morse.

I have therefore moved on to using a combination of the CW Ops method PLUS the Koch method for introducing new characters with Farnsworth spacing to try and develop more proficiency.

I am therefore using the “CW Academy Morse Code Trainer” web tool and both the “Just Learn Morse” and “G4FON” morse apps to support my learning.

I've done a few numbers and the Koch method up to letter Q for the time being. Let's see how I get one!

Cheers, Paul

G1FGX

G2XY

M8JQT

2E0JQT

M7FGX

More news from Clint, M0OXF

This past month has been pretty diabolical in terms of the amount of time I've spent on amateur radio. I'm not able to take part in the Friday night skeds right now, due to family and work commitments, but since Christmas I've missed a few Wednesday afternoon nets also. Work is so manic right now, which is a high-quality problem to have of course. Interestingly, we have been selected as preferred magnet partner for a fusion energy start-up, who are developing a Centrifugal Reverse Mirror Fusion device. This is nothing like a typical Tokamak that uses magnetic fields in a 'doughnut' geometry to contain the plasma. A reverse mirror scheme is essentially two very high magnetic fields at either end of a tube and then an external electric field is applied, which causes the ions to rapidly rotate, up to around Mach 6. The centrifugal force actually assists in the plasma containment. It's all very esoteric stuff and is taking up so much of my time that as I said, skeds are out and I'm also struggling to attend Committee Meetings, so my apologies to all, for that. Unfortunately, work must come first.

So having done almost no radio this month, I did actually have a go at FT8 this week, but only because the Lenovo laptop dedicated to FT8 in the shack is no longer supported by MicroSoft and cannot be upgraded to Windows 11. Oddly, it still operates perfectly with no loss of speed as far as I can tell. It's one of the earlier Lenovo laptops fitted with a solid-state drive which don't noticeably slow down over the years as the registry gets clogged up with Charlie Romeo Alpha Papa! Anyway, I decided it was time to replace it, which I did with another Lenovo - essentially the modern equivalent. I didn't need a particularly high specification to run WSJT-X, Grid tracker and FDM SW2 software, so I opted for

8 GB of RAM, 512 GB hard disk with an Intel Core i3-N305 processor. I managed to find a download link for the Yaesu FT-991A virtual com port driver (CP210x Universal Windows Driver - if anyone else is interested) which installed without issue. I then downloaded the installation packages for WSJT-X etc., and again, all fine. A few tweaks to the Radio/Audio



Yaesu and BLA350 PA

settings in WSJT-X and I was working FT8 with the new Lenovo at about 300W, via the BLA350 linear amplifier. Slightly different to the low power/very lower power testing I was doing with my new Icom IC-705 a couple of months ago. It's interesting how much laptops have come down in price. I bought essentially the same laptop a couple of years ago to replace yet another old Lenovo I was using in the shack with a mechanical hard drive. It cost £650 at the time, whilst my purchase this week was just over £300. Anyway, I'm not complaining!

I did get a new receiver for Christmas (I usually ask for one) - a Tecsun S-2200X and some initial testing led me to believe I might have made a mistake. The AM audio on longwave and medium wave was generally terrible. It sounded as if the AGC was cutting in too quickly, either clipping or compressing the audio. I nearly asked my XYL to send it back. However, all is forgiven now that I have experimented with various external antennas and I'm now enjoying using it very much. I'll probably write a quick review on it for QAV next month. That is about it for now.



Yaesu FT991A

settings in WSJT-X and I was working FT8 with the new Lenovo at about 300W, via the BLA350 linear amplifier. Slightly different to the low power/very lower power testing I was doing with my new Icom IC-705 a couple of months ago. It's interesting how much laptops have come down in price. I bought essentially the same laptop a couple of years ago to replace yet another old Lenovo I was using in the shack with a mechanical hard drive. It cost £650 at the time, whilst my purchase this week was just over £300. Anyway, I'm not complaining!



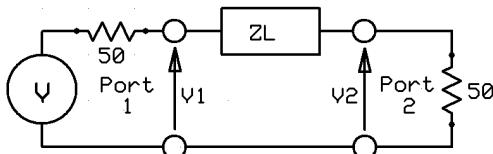
Tecsun S-2200X

Measuring high impedances with a nanoVNA

Richard, G0REL

While attempting to make chokes with high impedances ($>1\text{kohm}$), I have measured their parameters with a nanoVNA. The most obvious way is to connect the choke between the centre conductor and ground of Port 1 like any other component. Parameter s_{11} is measured and can be displayed as R and jX at the frequencies of interest.

Without any explanation, many authors state that it is better to connect the choke in series between the centre conductors of Port 1 and Port 2 and measure s_{21} . This is the attenuation between the ports and from this, the impedance of the choke can be calculated.



However, last week I found G4AKE's "Measuring High Impedance at RF" [1] which has it all - well almost. He gives all the algebraic expressions and shows that a +1% error in s_{11} (0.99 to 0.9999) increases ZL from 9,950 ohms to 999,950 ohms - a wild increase.

Unfortunately, he does not continue and show that a +1% error in s_{21} (0.0100 to 0.0101) only reduces ZL from 9900.000 ohms to 9800.991 ohms - also about 1%. Clearly it is worth the effort of calculating the component's impedance from the attenuation.

Note that LibreTexts, 2.5: Scattering Parameter Matrices of Common Two-Ports [2] gives expressions for s_{11} and s_{21} for this circuit.

[1]https://g4ake.co.uk/high_z/

[2] [https://eng.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Electrical_Engineering/Electronics/Microwave_and_RF_Design_III_-_Networks_\(Steer\)/02%3A_Chapter_2/2.5%3A_Scattering_Parameter_Matrices_of_Common_Two-Ports](https://eng.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Electrical_Engineering/Electronics/Microwave_and_RF_Design_III_-_Networks_(Steer)/02%3A_Chapter_2/2.5%3A_Scattering_Parameter_Matrices_of_Common_Two-Ports)

Series Element

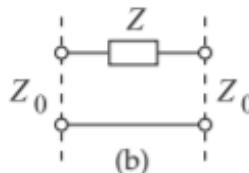
The S parameters of the series element (Figure 2.5.1(b)) are:

$$S_{11} = S_{22} = \frac{\bar{z}}{(\bar{z} + 2)} \quad \text{and} \quad S_{12} = S_{21} = \frac{2}{(\bar{z} + 2)}$$

where $\bar{z} = Z/Z_0$ is the normalized impedance.

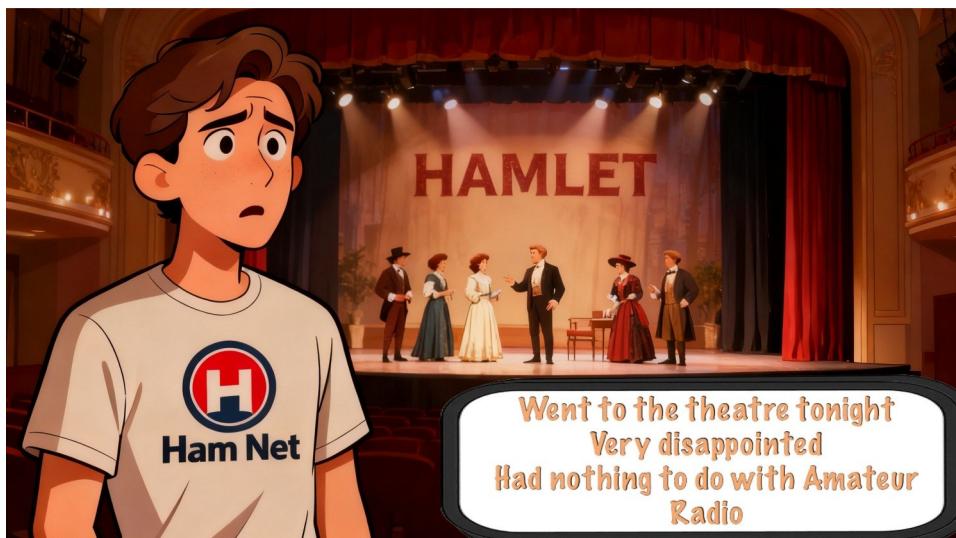
$$Z = \frac{2Z_0S_{11}}{(1 - S_{11})} \quad \text{and} \quad Z = \frac{2Z_0(1 - S_{21})}{S_{21}}$$

Figure 2.5.1 (b)
series element in the
form of a two-port.



Edited clip from LibreTexts, 2.5: Scattering Parameter Matrices of Common Two-Ports [2].

Geoff, M7SFE sent me this picture -



UKAC Contest Results 2025

1.3GHz UKAC 16/12/25

Open															
Pos	Callsign	Loc	QSOS UBNs	Score	Bonus	Total	Norm	ODX	Kms	Power	Group	Ant show	Equipment show	Comments show	
4	G4BRK	IO91HP	46 8,531		12,500	21,031	823	GM4JTJ	562	400	Harwell ARS				
11	F1MKG	JN08KQ	14 5,856		5,000	10,856	411	G8XVJ	582	75	Harwell ARS				
14	PE1EWR	JO11SL	8 2,141		2,500	4,641	235	G4CLA	344	80	Harwell ARS				

Restricted															
Pos	Callsign	Loc	QSOS UBNs	Score	Bonus	Total	Norm	ODX	Kms	Power	Group	Ant show	Equipment show	Comments show	
3	G8CUL	IO91JO	49 9,650		11,500	21,150	920	GM4JTJ	568	100	Harwell ARS				
11	G8DVK	IO91IN	28 4,567		7,000	11,567	600	GM4JTJ	572	100	Harwell ARS				
20	M0FXX	IO91NM	16 1,504		3,000	4,504	240	F1BHL/P	242	80	Harwell ARS				
21	F4HOG	JN09OJ	5 1,734		2,000	3,734	200	G7LRQ	420	60	Harwell ARS				

Low Power															
Pos	Callsign	Loc	QSOS UBNs	Score	Bonus	Total	Norm	ODX	Kms	Power	Group	Ant show	Equipment show	Comments show	
4	F1BHL/P	IN99PI	32 9,647		6,000	15,647	928	G4HGI	480	10	Harwell ARS				

50MHz UKAC 11/12/25

Restricted															
Pos	Callsign	Loc	QSOS UBNs	Score	Bonus	Total	Norm	ODX	Kms	Power	Group	Ant show	Equipment show	Comments show	
18	F4HRD	JO00XX	27 6,362		4,000	10,362	760	G0CNN/P	459	80	Harwell ARS				
40	F4VRB	IN98PT	6 2,608		1,500	4,108	450	GM4CXM	831	100	Harwell ARS				
54	G6LNU	IO91HO	6 552		2,000	2,552	253	G4AFF	195	95	Harwell ARS				
61	PE1EWR	JO11SL	4 1,026		1,000	2,026	154	G4CLA	344	80	Harwell ARS				
68	F4HOG	JN09OJ	1 383		500	883	56	G4CLA	383	100	Harwell ARS				

70MHz UKAC 18/12/25

Restricted															
Pos	Callsign	Loc	QSOS UBNs	Score	Bonus	Total	Norm	ODX	Kms	Power	Group	Ant show	Equipment show	Comments show	
14	G8NVI	IO91JO	26 3,420		6,500	9,920	767	GM4CXM	525	40	Harwell ARS				
34	PE1EWR	JO11SL	7 2,265		2,000	4,265	410	G4FZN/P	442	40	Harwell ARS				

Contest Overall Results 2025

All results were in the General Clubs Section of the UKAC

6m

HARS were 5th overall. F4HRD (Jeff) being our highest scoring club member and the Leading non-UK entrant in the Restricted Section

4m

HARS were 4th overall. G8NVI (Ann) being the highest scoring club member

2m

HARS were 3rd overall. M0UHF(Jeff) being the highest scoring club member. PE1EWR (Frank) was the Leading non-UK Station in the Restricted Section

70cm

HARS were 3rd overall. G8CUL (Mike and Ann) being the highest scoring club member. PE1EWR (Frank) was the Leading non-UK Station in the Restricted Section. F1MKG (Jacky) Highest placed non-UK Station in the Open Section and PA0FEI (Jelke) Highest Placed non-UK Station in the Low Power Section

23m

HARS were 3rd overall. F1BHL/P (Jacques) being the highest scoring club member. F1MKG (Jacky) was the Leading non-UK Station in the Open Section; G8CUL (Mike) runner up in the Restricted Section
F1BHL/P (Jacques) was the Winner and Leading non-UK Station as well as being the Station providing the greatest number of ODXs to other entrants! Well done Jacques!

13cm

HARS were 3rd overall. G8CUL (Mike) being the highest scoring club member and runner- up in the Restricted Section. F1BHL/P was runner-up in the SAO section

9cm

HARS were 3rd overall G8CUL (Mike) being the highest scoring club member

3cm

HARS were 3rd overall M0FXX/P (Rob) being the highest scoring club member

HARS UKAC results for 2025

24 Members

Call	50 MHz	70 MHz	144 MHz	432 MHz	1296 MHz	SHF	Total
G8CUL	57.1		49.2	51.7	73.8	69.9	302
M0UHF(/P)	63	62.1	66.3	17.3	46.8		256
F4HRD	63.8		49.8	45.4	27.4		186
MW0OMB	33.1	41.9	34.9	31.3	32.5	6.2	180
PE1EWR	31.7	32.1	56.5	20.3	27.4	8.7	177
F1BHL/P				41.5	95.3	32.6	169
G4BRK	8.7	11.6	36.1	48.6	48.4	3.7	157
G8DVK	1.7		44	51	53.9		151
F1MKG			36.9	40.9	53		131
F4HOG	12.2		48.3	40.8	22.4		124
PA0WMX			31.6	24.5	36.1		92
M0FXX(/P)	5.9	10.7	12.4	22.4	18.3	5.8	76
G8NVI	7.4	62.9					70
G0BNC(/P)	1.9	2.6	25.7	33.9			64
F1CBC			26.3	30.4			57
F4VRB	3.7		22.6	18.1	8.3		53
G6LNU	11.4		13.9	16			41
G4HLX/P		7.2	5.3		7.1		20
F4HNP			8.2	4.1			12
PA0FEI			0.8	8.2			9
G0GLG	0.4		3.7	2.2			6
F4IMK(/P)			4.8				5
G0MJW				4			4
G8NRP			0.7	0.5	0.3		2
Total	302	231	578	553	551	127	2342

HARS retained a very respectable 3rd place in the General Clubs UKACs for 2025. Thanks to EVERYONE who contributed to this success. Parallel Lines and Northern Fells are very hard to compete with—both big contest groups with large well sited stations.

It is wonderful to have so many European Stations contributing to the HARS scores. Not only does it help the club but it also provides some good DX for UKAC entrants to contact and I know that is much appreciated by the contesting fraternity in the UK.

2nd place in 2026 is not beyond our grasp!

UKAC Contest Results 2026

144MHz UKAC 06/01/26

Open																
Pos	Callsign	Loc	QSOS UBNs	Score	Bonus	Total	Norm	ODX	Kms	Power	Group	Ant show	Equipment show	Comments show	Comments	
9	F5RZC	JO10AR	6817,369	7,000	24,369	714	GM3SEK	624	120	Harwell ARS	💡	📡	💡	💡	💡	
12	F1MKG	JN08KQ	4017,412	6,000	23,412	607	GD8EXI	716	300	Harwell ARS	💡	📡	💡	💡	💡	
21	PA0WMX	JO21XI	20 9,700	3,500	13,200	285	GW4SHF	655	150	Harwell ARS	💡	📡	💡	💡	💡	
22	M0FXX	IO91NM	49 5,075	7,000	12,075	250	MM0CEZ	525	400	Harwell ARS	💡	📡	💡	💡	💡	

Restricted																
Pos	Callsign	Loc	QSOS UBNs	Score	Bonus	Total	Norm	ODX	Kms	Power	Group	Ant show	Equipment show	Comments show	Comments	
9	G8CUL	IO91JO	7612,522	11,500	24,022	931	DL2OM	622	100	Harwell ARS	💡	📡	💡	💡	💡	
17	G8DVK	IO91IN	62 9,128	10,000	19,128	863	DL2OM	627	100	Harwell ARS	💡	📡	💡	💡	💡	
28	PE1EWR	JO11SL	29 8,926	5,000	13,926	769	G4KUX	505	80	Harwell ARS	💡	📡	💡	💡	💡	
30	F4HRD	JO00XX	39 8,370	5,000	13,370	752	GD8EXI	569	80	Harwell ARS	💡	📡	💡	💡	💡	
75	G0BNC	IO91GT	27 2,038	2,500	4,538	367	GD8EXI	336	40	Harwell ARS	💡	📡	💡	💡	💡	

432MHz UKAC 13/01/26

Open																
Pos	Callsign	Loc	QSOS UBNs	Score	Bonus	Total	Norm	ODX	Kms	Power	Group	Ant show	Equipment show	Comments show	Comments	
8	F5RZC	JO10AR	5214,643	7,000	21,643	666	GI4SNA	689	120	Harwell ARS	💡	📡	💡	💡	💡	
10	F1MKG	JN08KQ	2912,022	4,000	16,022	571	GD8EXI	716	200	Harwell ARS	💡	📡	💡	💡	💡	
11	PA0WMX	JO21XI	2310,640	3,500	14,140	523	M0GHZ	567	400	Harwell ARS	💡	📡	💡	💡	💡	
13	M0FXX	IO91NM	39 4,496	8,000	12,496	428	PA0WMX	474	400	Harwell ARS	💡	📡	💡	💡	💡	
18	PE1EWR	JO11SL	13 3,728	3,000	6,728	190	M0GHZ	399	45	Harwell ARS	💡	📡	💡	💡	💡	

Restricted																
Pos	Callsign	Loc	QSOS UBNs	Score	Bonus	Total	Norm	ODX	Kms	Power	Group	Ant show	Equipment show	Comments show	Comments	
8	G4BRK	IO91HP	6911,112	12,000	23,112	931	GM4JTJ	562	100	Harwell ARS	💡	📡	💡	💡	💡	
9	G8CUL	IO91JO	7511,156	10,500	21,656	921	GM4JTJ	568	100	Harwell ARS	💡	📡	💡	💡	💡	
12	F1BHL/P	IN99PI	4915,342	5,500	20,842	892	GD8EXI	596	100	Harwell ARS	💡	📡	💡	💡	💡	
23	G8DVK	IO91IN	54 7,891	8,500	16,391	784	GM4JTJ	572	100	Harwell ARS	💡	📡	💡	💡	💡	
36	F4HRD	JO00XX	31 7,542	5,000	12,542	656	GD8EXI	569	70	Harwell ARS	💡	📡	💡	💡	💡	
56	F4HOG	JN09OJ	10 3,666	2,500	6,166	460	GD8EXI	663	50	Harwell ARS	💡	📡	💡	💡	💡	
73	G6LNU	IO91HO	10 545	2,000	2,545	294	F1BHL/P	255	50	Harwell ARS	💡	📡	💡	💡	💡	

Low Power																
Pos	Callsign	Loc	QSOS UBNs	Score	Bonus	Total	Norm	ODX	Kms	Power	Group	Ant show	Equipment show	Comments show	Comments	
18	G0BNC	IO91GT	23 1,784	3,000	4,784	413	GI4SNA	429	10	Harwell ARS	💡	📡	💡	💡	💡	

50MHz UKAC 08/01/26

Restricted														
Pos	Callsign	Loc	QSOS UBNs	Score	Bonus	Total	Norm	ODX	Kms	Power	Group	Ant show	Equipment show	Comments show
19	F4HRD	J000XX	17	3,696	2,500	6,196	718	G4FZN/P	420	80	Harwell ARS	tee	cd	

70MHz UKAC 15/01/26

Restricted														
Pos	Callsign	Loc	QSOS UBNs	Score	Bonus	Total	Norm	ODX	Kms	Power	Group	Ant show	Equipment show	Comments show
42	PE1EWR	J011SL	3	934	1,000	1,934	163	G4CLA	344	40	Harwell ARS	tee	cd	

UKAC Results so far 2026**General Club Scores**

Pos	Club	50 MHz	70 MHz	144 MHz	432 MHz	Total
1	<u>Parallel Lines CG</u>	1000	1000	1000	1000	4000
2	<u>Northern Fells CG</u>	548	397	748	839	2532
3	<u>Wirral & DARC</u>	786	371	559	469	2185
4	<u>Harwell ARS</u>	102	18	534	691	1345
5	<u>Norfolk ARC</u>	290	189	260	263	1002
6	<u>Triple B ARCG</u>	255	98	181	130	664
7	<u>GMDX</u>	142	14	232	264	652
8	<u>Burton upon Trent ARC</u>			455	191	646
9	<u>Gower/Gwyr CC</u>		102	261	80	443
10	<u>Medway ARTS</u>	49		106	66	221
11	<u>Bittern DX Group</u>	73		107	18	198
12	<u>Bishop's Stortford ARS</u>	64	33	58	42	197
13	<u>Flight Refuelling ARS</u>			48	72	120
14	<u>Mid Somerset ARC</u>		97	6		103
15	<u>RSGB Contest Club</u>			101		101
16	<u>Nunsfield House ARG</u>		95			95
16	<u>Premier 9 DADS</u>	40	50	2	25	

A slightly slow start for HARS in 2026, caused partially by the weather and partially by illness. Well done to F4HRD (Jeff) for entering on 6m this month and PE1EWR (Frank) for entering on 4m. Let us hope to get a few more on 6m and 4m in February—our aim should be to catch the Wirral Club very soon!

secretary@g3pia.net

HARS UKAC results so far for 2026

13 Members

Call	50 MHz	70 MHz	144 MHz	432 MHz	Total
F4HRD	102		72.5	58.6	233
G8CUL			89.8	82.3	172
G8DVK			83.2	70.1	153
F5RZC			68.8	59.5	128
F1MKG			58.5	51	110
PE1EWR		18	74.2	17	109
G4BRK				83.2	83
F1BHL/P				79.7	80
PA0WMX			27.5	46.8	74
G0BNC			35.4	36.9	72
M0FXX			24.1	38.3	62
F4HOG				41.1	41
G6LNU				26.3	26
Total	102	18	534	691	1345

Other Contests' Results HF Contests

RSGB AFS 80m-40m Contests CW

100W Section

M5M (Neil) - 7th

RSGB AFS 80m-40m Contests Datamodes

100W Section

M5M (Neil) - 7th

G8CUL (Mike and Ann) - 51st

RSGB AFS 80m-40m Contests SSB

1000W

M0FXX (Rob) - 48th

G8DVK (Dave) - 52nd

After these 3 HF Contests HARS is still lying in 2nd place in the General Clubs Section of the Super League Championship 25/26

Forthcoming Contests

70cms AFS—Sunday 8th February 09:00-13:00

Last of the Super League Contests for 25-26. (First 2 hours overlap with a French Contest on 70cm/23cm and 13cm.) Rules are here https://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/contest_rules.pl?year=2026&contest=afs432MHz

VHF National Field Day

VHF National Field Day is a portable VHF/UHF contest taking place on the first weekend of July (4th and 5th). A portable contest is one that takes place in temporary structures (caravans, tents, vehicles etc) not using mains electricity (generators have to be used). Field Day involves running a maximum of 5 different stations over a weekend, so depends on quite a large team to run it.

The club did not take part in the 2025 Field Day but the Committee are considering taking part in the 2026 one if there is enough support from Club Members



Please let the Committee have your thoughts—secretary@g3pia.net

RSGB Updates via Malcolm, G8NRP

Ofcom has released a new step-by-step video on its YouTube channel to assist radio amateurs in the process of revalidating a UK amateur radio licence using the online licensing portal. Ofcom does note that whilst it is a requirement to revalidate your licence every five years, it is recommended to do it annually. Make sure you keep your details up-to-date and make a diary reminder to renew each year. You can find the video by going to the licence revalidation page on our website where you will also find a helpful FAQ prepared by the Society on the topic: **Licence Revalidation - Radio Society of Great Britain** -

<https://rsqb.org/main/operating/licensing-novs-visitors/uk-licensing/revalidation/>

Malcolm Andrew, G8NRP
RSGB District Representative - Oxfordshire
Email: dr93@rsqb.org.uk

Forthcoming RCE Courses

Information on forthcoming RCEs:

Foundation:

2026/Q1 Foundation RCE Course - Saturday 7th March and Sunday 8th March

The nominal joining fee for the course is £10.

If you are interested - please do not hesitate to contact us ASAP, giving your mobile phone number in addition to any other information specifically requested.

Full details can be found on the Forthcoming Courses pages of the club website
<https://www.g3pia.net/forthcoming-courses.php>

HARS LF Band Skeds

It is good to see that the Friday evening LF Band Skeds on both 160m and 80m continue to draw in a good number of club members both old and new. Band conditions often change from week to week, and members' experiments with different aerial configurations in an effort to get a better signal out, are always interesting to hear about.

We increasingly get non-club members calling into our nets, and it is interesting to see how our signals are received in different parts of the country. We have recently been getting reports via the HARS Twitter feed which is also nice to see.

Thank you to all club members who participate in this club event, and make it what it is - without you, the net would not exist! If any club members need help getting going on 80m or 160m with aerials or equipment, please ask, and we will do our best to assist you.

We try and send out email reminders for the net during late afternoon/early evening on Fridays. If you're not already on the list, but would like to receive these weekly reminders, please contact me (rogerpowell200@outlook.com).

73 Roger G0AOZ.

(Roger ably runs the Friday evening skeds and Dave, G8DVK does the same for the Wednesday afternoon skeds, the latter using the club callsign, G3PIA, The skeds are frequented by a few club members, but if you're not one of them, why not make a effort to join in? You would be made very welcome - Ed)

EMF Calculations

As from 18 November 2022, all UK amateurs are required to have conducted EMF assessments for all the bands they use. The RSGB has issued a Trial Version 2 of its EMF Calculator App. This version removes the restriction on frequencies below 10MHz and the minimum separation of near field boundary. The app is being released as a trial version as the RSGB would welcome feedback from users. You can find the app and more information about the EMF work on the RSGB website at <http://www.rsgb.org/emf>

There is now a new EMF calculator which should produce sensible results right up into the UHF part of the spectrum. It can be found at ; <http://www.rsgb.org/emf> . It is always worth viewing that page for up to date information.

Malcolm, G8NRP
RSGB Rep for Oxfordshire

(We have heard of Amateurs being asked to submit their EMF calculations to Ofcom for scrutiny - so be prepared! - Ed)

DX of the Month

It would be nice to continue filling this list, giving the results by band, so please keeping sending in what you have worked. I will normally list 1 entry/band/Mode/month/callsign. When sending the information to me, please list **all** of the following information of the DX station. The entries are in date order -

Date, Callsign, band, mode, 6-figure Locator, distance.

Date	Callsign	DX	Band	Mode	Locator	Distance km
19/12/25	G4BRK	SQ3GJS	2m	FT8	JO82CJ	1202
19/12/25	G4BRK	OE5VRL	70cm	FT8	JN78DK	1171
29/12/25	G4BRK	OK1VUM	23cm	FT8	JN79FX	1125
2/1/26	G0UGO	SN0WWA	80m	FT4	JO80	1280
2/1/26	G0UGO	3B9FR	30m	FT8	MH10RG	10106
2/1/26	G0UGO	CO8ZZ	15m	FT4	FL10MW	7222
3/1/26	G0UGO	AA5AT	12m	FT4	EM40KN	7384
3/1/26	G0UGO	ZW5B	10m	FT4	GG54KL	9765
11/1/26	G0UGO	E2WWA	40m	FT4	OK03	9654
18/1/26	G0UGO	A41ZZ	20m	FT4	LL93IF	5953

Please remember that I only publish the longest distance per month/band/mode/ callsign. When you send these to me please include all the details shown above including mode and locator (where possible).

Mike, G8CUL.

Colin, G3NNG is a founding member of HARS and as such he has a complete set of QAVs since the start of HARS up until now - however he has loaned issues 1-5 to another club member but can't remember who it was! If it was you, please get in touch with Colin or me (gav@g3pia.net) and I will pass the information on to Colin.

Forthcoming Events

Thursday 5th February 2025—Annual Construction Contest 7.30 for 8.00
Chilton Village Hall and Zoom

Friday 20th February 2026 - Monthly Coffee Morning at 10:45 at Millets Farm Shop Café

Sunday 22th February 2026 - World Thinking Day at St Helen and St Katharine Abingdon - See below for more details.

Thursday 5th March 2025—Talk—TBA 7.30 for 8.00 Chilton Village Hall and Zoom

Friday 20th March 2026 - Monthly Coffee Morning at 10:45 at Millets Farm Shop Café

Thursday 2nd April 2025—Practical Evening 7.30 for 8.00 Chilton Village Hall and Zoom

Friday 17th April 2026 - Monthly Coffee Morning at 10:45 at Millets Farm Shop Café

Thursday 7th May 2025—ANNUAL FLEA MARKET—members and other local clubs welcome. Tables: secretary@g3pia.net 7.30 for 8.00 Chilton Village Hall and Zoom

Thinking day on the Air - 2026 World Thinking Day on the Air

This year marks the centenary of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts round the world marking the birthdays of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell with Thinking Day, later World Thinking Day. The idea of using Amateur Radio is much more recent, starting in 1985 though we ran our first station in 1991 and have been on air every year since, possibly a World record.

This year Girlguiding Abingdon is holding an afternoon of activities in celebration at The School of St. Helen and St. Katharine in Abingdon on Sunday 22nd February and we are running GB2OG. Any stations active for the whole weekend will be closing down by Sunday afternoon making possible contacts few and far between so we are asking for contacts with HARS members so the girls are not disappointed.

Please contact Richard, G0REL - Gzero.REL@zen.co.uk
73, Liz and Richard

Construction Contest

Thursday 6th Feb 2025

Chilton Village Hall

7.30 for 8.00

A Construction Contest has been held for many years at the HARS February Meeting. This popular event gives members the opportunity to show items that they have been building during the year to other members of the club.

As usual there will be 2 categories:

The General Category—open to all members of the Club

Each entry will be judged by members present at the meeting and will be assessed on:

- Design
- Novelty
- Implementation

Each entrant will be expected to make a BRIEF presentation (no longer than 5 minutes) about their entry.

The entry with the highest marks becomes the winner.

The G2HIF Trophy will be awarded to the winner with cups for the runners up.

The Novice Builder Category—open to those who have just started to build, have just come into the hobby or are newly licensed (Foundation, Intermediate or Full). Their construction should be their first radio-related project, made at home, without professional assistance and can be of original design or a kit.

Each entry will be judged by members present at the meeting and will be assessed on:

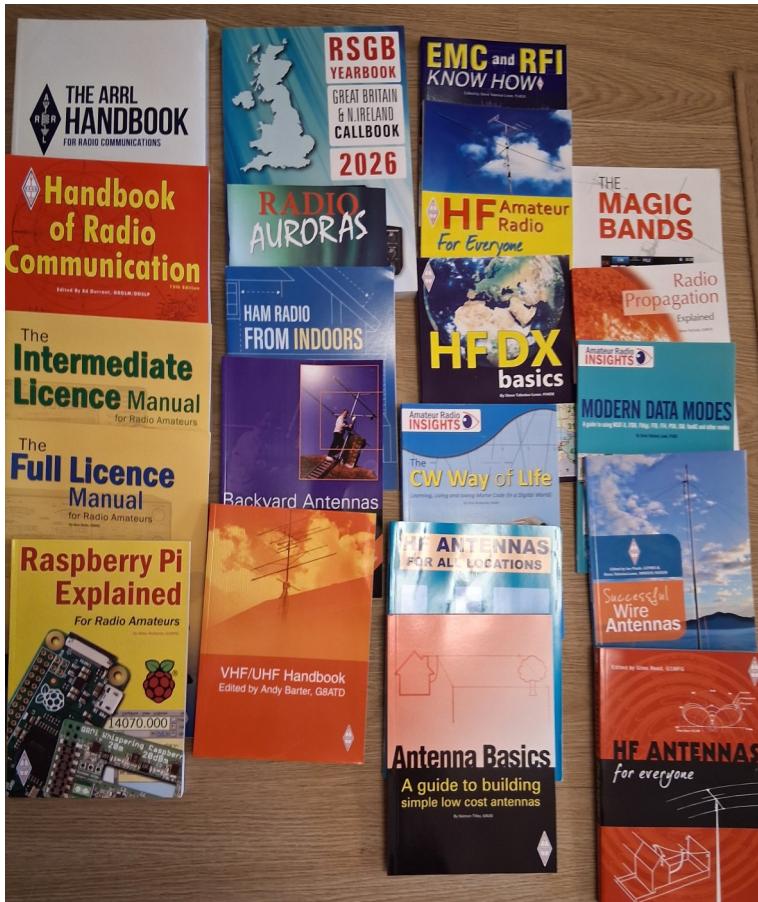
- Novelty
- Implementation

Each entrant will be expected to make a BRIEF presentation (no longer than 5 minutes) about their entry.

The entry with the highest marks becomes the winner.

The G3LQC Trophy will be awarded to the winner with cups for the runners up.

New for 2026—HARS Library



Your Committee have decided to offer a lending library of Amateur Radio related books for use by members. The pictured have been purchased for starters—please recommend any books that you think should be added to the stock for consideration. If any books are particularly popular we will buy an additional copy.

We have a couple of major handbooks, and cover subjects such as antennas, datamodes, propagation, auroras, CW and operating practice.

The Intermediate and Full Licence Manuals will only be available for reference and not to borrow. A lending system is being designed based around borrowing and returning at Club Meetings.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Remember that you can advertise suitable radio equipment here for **free!**

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Tenma 72-10480 Power Supply, 0-30V 3A, with User Guide. £45 ono.

Rigol DS1102E oscilloscope, with cables, documentation etc, new in 2014. £100 ono.

Both look in good condition and in working order, but it's a few years since they were used regularly so they could do with being checked over properly. If all is not OK, I will refund.

For details/photos/to arrange inspection, contact Kate.G7DOF@gmail.com.

Harwell Amateur Radio Society - Committee

OFFICERS

Chairman: Dave Aram, G8DVK
Vice-Chairman: Robert Limb, M0FXX
Minutes Secretary: Ian Maslen, G4BYR
Treasurer/Corresponding Secretary :
Ann Stevens, G8NVI

ORDINARY MEMBERS

Roger Powell, G0AOZ
Dave Temple, G0OYS
John Booth, G6ZHB
Neil Whiting, G4BRK
Clint Gouveia, M0OXF, Media Officer

Other, non-committee positions

Contest Manager: Ann Stevens, G8NVI
RCE Head Trainer: John Morris, G6PEP
RCE Secretary: Ann Stevens, G8NVI
QAV Editor: Mike Stevens, G8CUL

Club Contact Details

Website: www.q3pia.net
Email: hars@q3pia.net

Opinions expressed in QAV are the personal views of the contributors and cannot be taken as reflecting the views of the society, committee or editor.

Contributions from all members are greatly welcomed. They may be submitted to gav@q3pia.net. The publication date is usually the 1st of the month, so please submit your contributions by **1 week before** that date.