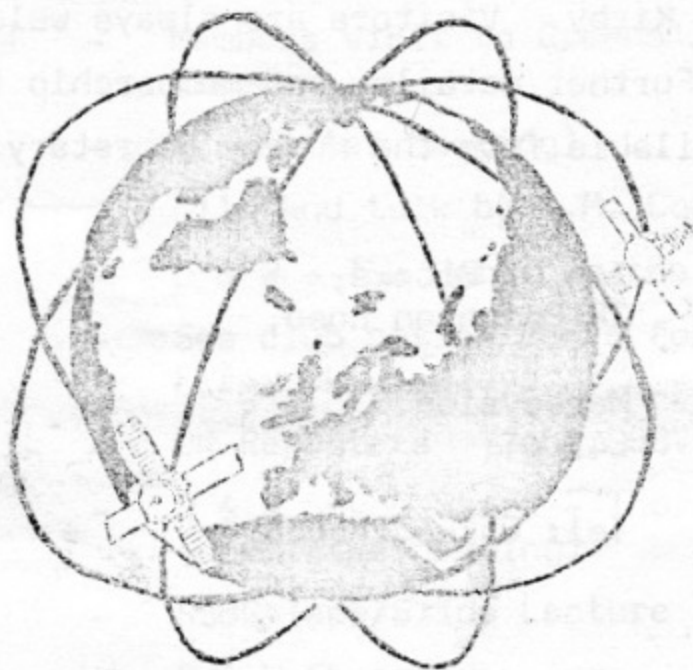


WIRRAL & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

G B W D C



August 1980

Newsletter No. 3

Chairman	-	Colin Phillips	G3RLA
Secretary	-	Ian D. Brooks	G8PMW
Treasurer	-	Malcolm McIntosh	G4IEQ
Committee	-	G8NDD G8NNS G8TSG	

Club meetings are held at 8 p.m. in the Dining Room (adjoining bar) of the Concourse Sports Centre at West Kirby. Visitors are always welcome at the club. Further details, and membership forms etc. are available from the Honary Secretary.

Ian D. Brooks,
28 Paignton Road,
Wallasey,
Merseyside.
L45 6TT

Tel: 051-639-5666

Future Events

- | | | |
|--------------|---|--|
| 10 September | - | Satellite Operations for the beginner - John Branegan GM41HJ |
| 17 " | - | D & W Lighthouse, Wallasey Village (Committee Meeting) |
| 24 " | - | Driving - Joe Owens G4GDM |
| 1 October | - | D & W Red Cat - Greasby |
| 8 " | - | D.F. Hunt Presentation & Special General Meeting |
| 14 (Tuesday) | - | Members visit to Greenall Whitley Brewery |
| 15 October | - | (Committee Meeting) |
| 22 " | - | Film and talk by H.M. Coastguards |
| 29 " | - | D & W - The Harp, on the Dee Shore |
| 5 November | - | See club notice board for list of Firework Displays |
| 12 " | - | UK Repeaters - John G8BVE |
| 19 " | - | D & W Seven Stars - Thornton Hough (Committee Meeting) |
| 26 " | - | RSBG Tape/Slide Lecture Radio Aurora |
| 3 December | - | D & W Shrewsbury Arms |
| 10 " | - | Propagation - G3 LEQ |
| 17 " | - | D & W - Red Cat - Greasby (Committee Meeting) |
| 24 " | - | No meetings |
| 31 " | - | No meetings |
| 7 January | - | D & W Seven Stars - Thornton Hough |
| 14 " | - | A.G.M. |

Notice of Special General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that on the evening of Wednesday the 8 October 1980 the Committee intend to table the following amendment to the Clubs constitution:-

Rule 4 to be amended to read: The Clubs Financial Year will be from the 1 January to the 31 December:

Rule 10 to be amended to read: Subscriptions shall be due on admission to Membership and immediately after subsequent Annual General Meetings:

Rule 11 to be amended to read: A member who has failed to pay his subscription by the 1st meeting in March be deemed to have forfeited his membership. These alterations though minor will serve two purposes:

1. It will enable the clubs membership fee to be set (the correct time and place - Editor) at the AGM.
2. It will enable the Treasurer to produce a true balance sheet and an audited set of accounts to hand over to his successor. There will not be a large amount of unentered cash due to membership fees being collected immediately before the start of the AGM as has been the case in the last few years.

Note Copies of the Club constitution can be obtained from the Secretary for a donation of 10p.

Visit to Greenall Whitley Brewery at Warrington on

Tuesday 14 October

The following members put their names down to go on this visit:-

A. Rogers	L. Stamp	I. Kidd	J. Fogg
S. Shakeshaft	R. Welch	G. Earp	C. Phillips
I.D. Brooks	G. Stamp	R. Whitfield	P. Hilton
S.L. Brooks	G. Nicholas	D. Price	M. Hilton
P. Parkes	S. Nicholas	G. Scott	

If for any reason you find that you are unable to go please let the Secretary know as soon as possible.

If you are not on the list but would like to go give the Secretary a ring and he will put you down as a reserve.

After talking to most of the members going on the trip it has been decided to hire a coach at a maximum cost of £2 each. (Depending on source of Coach - Tom). It was felt that it would cost you almost that much in petrol not to mention the drink drive charge! The coach will pick people up at the following points -

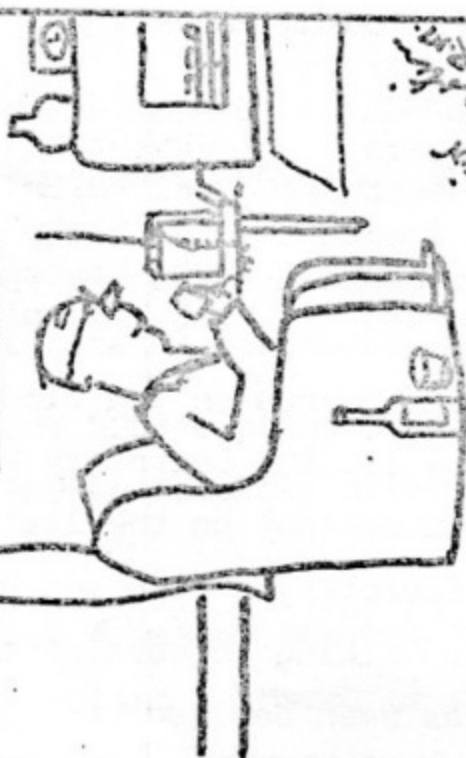
Please note the times carefully if we are to be at Warrington on time we cannot afford to be late leaving.

6.00 p.m. Birkenhead - Park in Car Park opposite Tech. College in Borough Road.

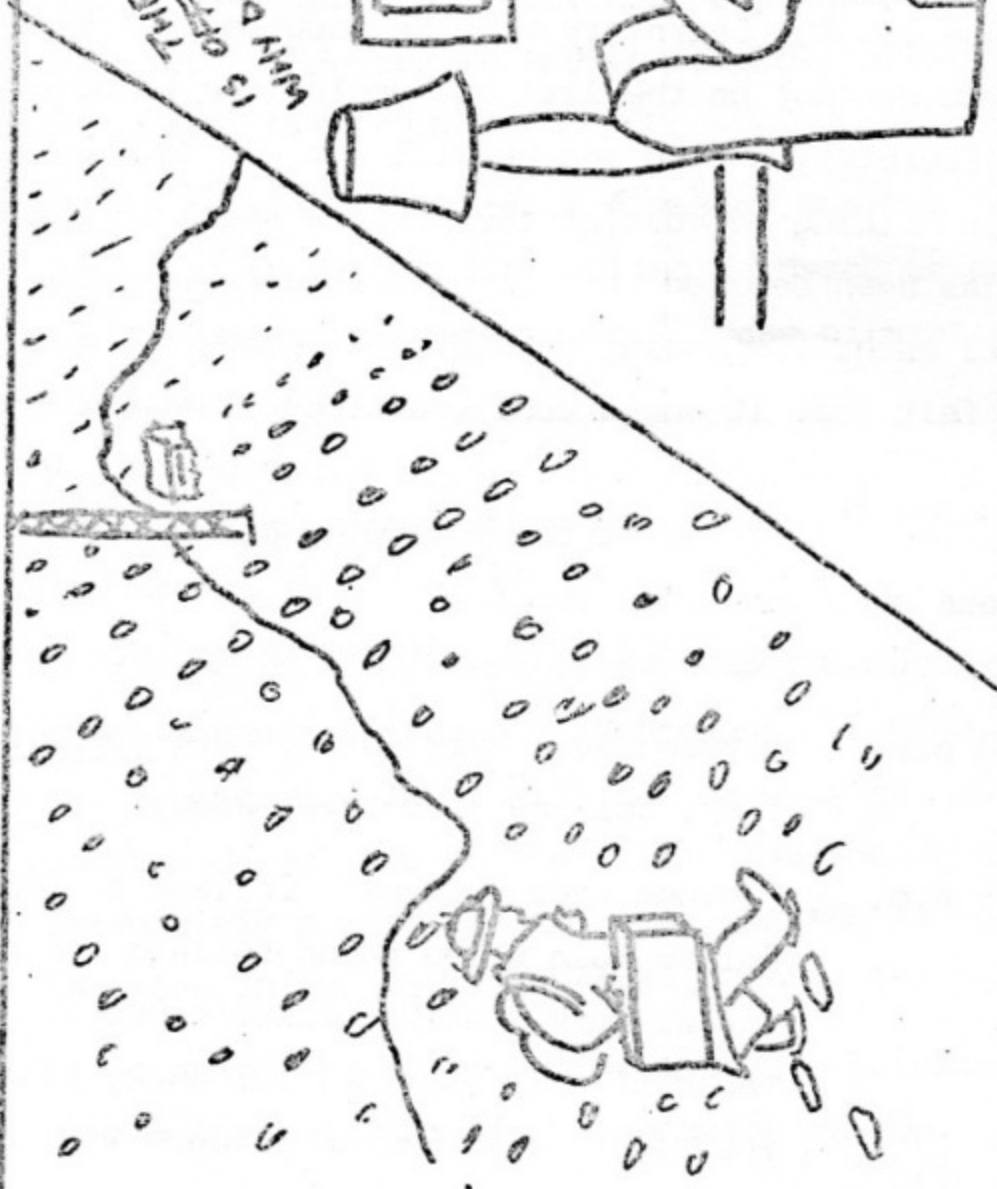
6.25 p.m. Eastham - Carlett park College of Technology. Follow main drive round college and park in Car Park near Caretaker's house.

You must only use this car park, otherwise you might be locked in. Coach will go to this car park.

Major
K. J. ...



THE REPORTER
IS OFF THE AIR!
WHY DON'T THEY DO
SOMETHING
ABOUT IT?



26 November - RSGB Tape/Slide Lecture Radio Aurora
C.E. Newton G2FKZ. This very interesting lecture;
which is illustrated by 22 coloured diagrams on 20
slides, provides a good introduction to a relatively
little known science. It also includes examples of auroral
noise and is given by an acknowledged expert in the
field.

Visit to Moel-y-Parc (Miss Piggy)

Would any of our members (who missed the last trip) or
visitors be interested in a visit to see M.P. If you are
interested please drop a line to the Secretary who
will contact the Repeater Group to arrange a suitable
date.

Drinkers & Wafflers

Since the last newsletter their have been several
meetings of the Drinkers and Wafflers, the meetings
are informal and are held at various pubs around the
Wirral, most are attended by about twenty people.

In fact the one at the Harp the other week was so well
attended that there was no room left for the locals.

There will be some D&w's through the Summer break so keep
your ear to the rig for them.

Steve Harry

Ex BRS 41712 alias G8W??

V.H.F. Direction Finding Contest

On the evening of 25 June Ian (G8PMW) and Graham (G8NNS) managed to avoid detection by sitting on a Public footpath underneath the Motorway flyovers. Afterwards a lot of comments were received regarding weak signals or the fact stations could not get a null.

On a rerun a much more obvious location was chosen in a dead road on the opposite side of the motorway to Raby Mere. This time we were discovered by only one team (G8UZZ, G41EQ, G8WKD, and Steve G8W??),-that lead by John Fogg. Another team managed to get within several feet of us but rather than believing their own team headings decided to follow Johns team - unfortunately they were heading away to the QSY.

For the Prospective Amateur

Want to Study

As in past years a Radio Amateurs Examination course will run at the North Wirral College of Technology, Borough Road, Birkenhead at 6.45 p.m. on Thursday evenings with Dave Owen G4GCB as the Tutor. The course is specifically designed for students who want to sit for the May 1981 examination. Enrolments can be made from 9.30 a.m. to 7.30 p.m. on Monday 8, Tuesday 9 and Wednesday 10 September.

In the past the course has been over subscribed after the first week and we have had to turn potential students away.

Cont'd

If you know of anyone who wishes to take the course then please tell them to enrol early. The cost will be £21.75 - reductions available for under 18's in full-time education, O.A.P.'s and the unemployed. For further details phone 652-1521 Ext. 21.

Why do we have to pass an examination before we obtain an Amateur Radio Licence?

This is a question often asked by prospective radio amateurs from time to time. With so much commercial equipment available the question is a difficult one to answer. We can if our purse allows go to our local dealers and purchase a complete installation, then sit and operate. Or can we?

Surely we must have some sound basic knowledge to enable us to operate our new equipment within the authorised frequency bands, using correct operating procedures, not radiating spurious emissions and carry out other tests required by the licence conditions. In fact the examination ensures that we have some basic knowledge of electrical and electronic theory, transmitters and receivers, aerials and propagation, test equipment and measurements. All necessary (I like to think) to operate, construct and use our equipment in a friendly considerate and responsive way. If this basic knowledge achieves this then the examination is fully justified.

Dave G4GGB

December Examination

The December Radio Amateur Examination will be held (yet more work for me) at North Wirral College of Technology on Monday 1st December at 6.15 p.m. for a 6.30 p.m. start. The cost of the examination will be £12.80 and entries must be received at the college on an official entry form (obtained from the college office, please send me a SAE if you want form and receipt posting to you) no later than Friday 10 October 1980.

Further details from the Secretary at home or at work on 652-1521 Ext. 35.

CONGRATULATIONS

To the 26 people who passed the examination at North Wirral College of Technology and at Grappenhall Community Centre - Warrington.

* * * * *

Mary Mary quite contrary,
How does your morse class go?
With Dits and Dars,
For hours and hours,
Why is your progress slow?

Edited Extracts from Club Committee Minutes

Points of controversy, information or expenditure recorded in the minutes and not shown elsewhere in this newsletter. The club's books, including the committee minutes are normally available on club nights for inspection by any member.

16 April

1. Chairman reported that the Mobile Log Books have been printed and that these were now on sale for 20p each.

21 May

1. Approved three applications for membership - membership now stands at 49. (Now 51 - Editor).
2. Authority given for a supply of contest slips to be printed.
3. Secretary reported that all visits had been fully subscribed.
4. Membership fee for next year. The hire charge for the club room was £1.50 per night when the club first met on 11 January 1978, this has now risen to £3.10 while the membership fee has stayed the same. The Treasurer was requested to work out what membership fee we need to charge for next year.

Have you given any thought to contributing to the future of Amateur Radio?

The election of Basil G2AMV to President of the RSGB (our heartiest congratulations) will leave a vacancy on the council. Merseyside has one of the greatest concentrations of Amateurs in the U.K. so how about another local lad - any ideas.

Details of the inauguration of the President will be announced shortly and with the number of tickets being limited do not waste time thinking about it - it is a good chance for an evening out with the wife.

Talking about elections, our A.G.M. is only a few months off, there will be seven posts open, so now is the time to start thinking about who YOU want, and how you want YOUR club run. Official notification of A.G.M. will be in the next newsletter.

N.R.S.A. Report - July 1980

The Annual General Meeting of the Northern Radio Societies Association took place at the Grappenhall Community Centre on Wednesday 16 July 1980. The Wirral District Amateur Radio Club, being a member Society were represented by Dave Johansen (G8TSG) and Colin Phillips (G3RLA). The Income & Expenditure account for the year ending 19 June 1980 was presented and accepted. A figure of £335 was proposed for distribution as grants to contributing societies - the W.D.A.R.C.'s share of this will be £15, a 50% increase on last year's grant.

Club Net Frequency

Xtals have been ordered so we would be grateful for the money - so remember to bring your cheque book or QRK to the next meeting.

Hopefully by then we will have the Xtals and Malcolm will have individual itemised invoices for you - cheques should be made payable to W & D A.R.C.

Club Emblem

We are looking for a design to be used on club publicity material - our QSL cards, newsletter, letter head etc. In order to make this more interesting the committee will award a prize to the winner (provided there is one).

Rules

1. Any number of entries may be made.
2. These should be handed to the secretary by the end of October.
3. The design should be approximately 10½" by 10½" and show the position and colours required (the more colours the dearer the printing), the relationship between lettering and the illustration, and the preferred style of lettering (any leterset typeface).

* * *

Mary was a little ham,
Who tried to Q.S.O.,
On every frequency than then was clear,
Her Cambridge wouldn't go.

The Belle Vue Convention held in April this year - the responsibility of the N.R.S.A. - was again reported to have been an absolute success. Approximately 4000 people passed through the turnstiles this year and the event continues to become bigger and better year after year. Those of us who attended the event this year must have been impressed by the efficient organisation and our thanks must go to the organising committee for a job very well done.

Severall members of the 1979/80 Committee have stepped down this year and there were unfortunately insufficient nominations from the floor to fill all the vacant positions - it is essential that these positions be filled in order to guarantee the continuation of the Convention - will any club member who is prepared to be nominated to serve on this committee please contact G8TSG or G3RLA (Committee Vice-Chairman) as soon as possible.

Next year's Convention is provisionally booked for Sunday 29 March 1981 - make a note in your diary - not to be missed - a chance to spend all that old money which has accumulated in your back pocket during the long dark winter months.

(G3RLA)

* * *

Hey diddle diddle,
Young Mat had a fiddle
To get back some sigs from the moon,
He made the boys laugh,
When they saw such a gaff,
The dish that he had wouldn't tune.

R.A.C. Membership

Hon. Sec. now has the full details of the R.A.C. (yes as in car) Amateur Radio Group Scheme - this gives a reduction of £2.50 on the normal fee. The membership period is from 17 May, however if you are already a member when your current membership is due for renewal you can transfer to the group scheme by paying at the pro-rata rate of 88p per month.

Extract from the Radio Budapest Newsletter

The following abbreviations expressed in figures are generally used in telegraphy and phone operation, and also in literature and QSL cards:

- 33 - a form of greeting used by young lady operators when communicating with each other.
- 55 - mainly used in German language operation and stands MUCH LUCK.
- 73 - expresses heartiest greetings.
- 88 - a form of greeting used in operation between male and female operators, meaning LOVE, KISSES.
- 99 - only used in telegraphy and meaning BUZZ OFF, CLEAR OFF, an abbreviation hardly ever used in amateur operation, which is primarily characterized by politeness and a readiness to help.

How's this for Service

I have recently received a QSL card for the club station which was sent to the Home Office, Waterloo Bridge House with the request "please forward to GW8WDC". It was forwarded to me in an Official Paid envelope with a G.P.O. date frank only 10 days later than that on the 2nd class QSL post card.

Seems that the Home Office is running a highly efficient QSL Bureau - mind you I bet they won't provide this service very often particularly when you send in your 2 inch wad of QSL cards.

Ian.

Letters

Hallo Ian,

Thanks for letter and copy of Newsletter No. 2, a very creditable effort. Hard work, isn't it???? Was wondering what the "D & W" is?? thought might be Dog & Whistle until I realised that each D & W is at a pub anyway! On the visit to the brewery I suggest you also add the question "How much beer can you carry"!! The Oscar 9 info was interesting and will certainly look out for the news on its launching although I don't have any 2m gear. The article on "5 and 9" by G8KJZ summarises what I have always said about S-meters and a pity more amateurs don't realise the stupidity of the constant "5 & 9 plus 20dB" reports. As a CW addict I know that

in contests everyone gets a 599 whatever his signal.
It comes off the key nicely and saves having to make an
entry in the log at the time! Best wishes to Sue, my
own daughter's name!

Sincerely,

Eric G4AR

(Compiler of "Amateur Bands" for Practical Wireless.

Dear Ian,

The derivation of the clubs callsign (G8WDC) is obvious,
but have you noticed some of the others? We have a
chairman who Relates Latest Agenda

a secretary who is a Perfect Minute Writer - who also
Prefers Malt Whiskey (editor)

a treasurer who Intends to Extract our Quids

Dave who Gently Gees-up Beginners

Joes who is a Good Driving Master

We have had an interesting talk from Circumventing
Villains and Fire, and are occasionally joined by the
Married Money Maker.

I kindle Joke with zest, being glad I am not Mr. Watson
of Middlesex who has to answer to G4 Alpha Bravo Foxtrot
Anon.

* * * * *

Jack took Jill up the local hill,
To try for some "D.X."
But Jill came down,
With an awful frown,
She thought he's said for sex.

Since I returned to Amateur Radio last October I have frequently been asked, by my elderly contemporaries, what I find of interest in Amateur Radio - what is there in it for you?

A fair enough question today from an ordinary person who has become accustomed to no apparent limit to telecommunications. He expects sound and colour from any part of the world - and indeed from the moon and even from outer space, with an understanding that electromagnetic waves take a finite time to travel. He lifts his telephone and knows he can speak to anyone on Earth connected to the telephone network. Why should someone want particularly to do the same thing from his home or car in a much less reliable manner or get excited about a relatively crude data link or television channel?

It is a fair question and it might be interesting to know what facets of amateur radio have caused individual members to join the ranks.

I started with an interest in radio because of the fascination of the technology and interest led to a "ham" licence and also affected the career I followed. But at that time, circa 1936 (real History this - Editor), whilst it helped to be crazy, the very obvious excitement of creating ones own equipment and with it speaking via morse or 'phone' to distant places was clear to anyone. Remember that to most people, the telephone was

a device for relatively local connections - there were of course some trunk circuits, some continental circuits across the channel via cable but a mere handful of H.F. radio telephone circuits over which an international telephone call could be booked.

The World's first T.V. service had just started from Alexandra Palace and the number of amateurs in Britain could not have exceeded 262×3 , i.e. less than 2,000 for the call signs were all two letters with G2, G5 and G6. It was exciting and anything but commonplace and the amateurs role had in it a good element of pioneering new ground; particularly in the H.F. bands of 14, 28 and 56 MHz.

As I have said, for me initially it was the technology. After the war - some seven years of QRT - the freedom once again to speak to friends and enemies alike was a joy which to amateurs symbolised, perhaps more than the end of rationing, what the war was about. Sure the technology appeal was still there but developments had been accelerated by the war, the ranks of the old amateurs were swollen by the thousands who had learned their radio in the services and were still fascinated by it, and of course for a few pounds one could buy all the gear necessary to set up a station from the (seemingly) limitless war surplus market.

Today, I am back again in ham radio and whilst the technology has generally degenerated into a coded Japanese black boxes, there is still some opportunity to do some "home brew", and some fun to be had. For me, however, it is now the people that gives ham radio its greatest appeal, for in retirement it is the absence of regular contact with people which one misses most and which, if not replaced would make retirement, despite all its freedom, a very dull life.

Write to Ian sometime, tell us what turned you on!

George G8GX

Electronic Hobbyists 11.8.80

Required to join a young enthusiastic team commissioning and developing communications and microprocessor based equipment.

Academic qualifications are not essential, but applicants must have proven capabilities in the assembly and testing of electronic circuits in either or both of the above mentioned fields.

Please write giving detailed information on any projects undertaken either in present or past employment or at home. Salary to commensurate with age and ability -
Microwave Modules Ltd., Brookfield Drive, Aintree,
Liverpool L19 7AN

F O R S A L E

2200GX - very good condition, all repeaters fitted as well as S20, S21, S22, and S8 complete with charger and case - £110

12 Volt D.C. to 240 A.C. 50 cycle rotary converter 100 V.A. - £4.

Marconi Valve Voltmeter with spare valves £3

Vintage 2 deck disco unit with passicer mixer £5

Good home wanted for 2 Vintage Audio P.A. Amplifier with 807 P.A. - FREE

For all the above phone Gordon (MMM) on 051-336-7143 any evening.

Closing date for articles, adverts letters etc for Newsletter 4 will be the end of October.

Over the last two years that I have been involved with contest organisation, it has become very clear that in order to successfully enter a major contest a great deal of hard work must be done by whoever organises it both before and after the contest.

The largest initial problem has been obtaining rigs, linears, power supplies etc, only to find that some are incompatible with others, unfortunately this has not been found out until the contest has started and so valuable minutes, perhaps the most valuable of the 24 hours, have been lost. We hope that in the future all the equipment to be used on a contest site will be totally air treated at least a week before the contest in order to iron out any incompatibilities, by doing this it is hoped that we will be able to start transmission at the start of the contest knowing that we are putting out a strong clean signal with no last minute alterations.

With basic equipment including ariels, masts, tents etc being borrowed, the person organising faces an extreme problem if one of the promised items fails to appear for the day. This is one reason for the decision to spend club funds on a certain amount of contest equipment namely ariels for 70 cms, and power cable, these are essentials that are not readily available and without which we could not operate a contest station.

Cont'd.....

What must also be appreciated is that during the contest any requests - systems or notices displayed in the operating tent are there for the guidance of all and every effort must be made to make sure that these things are carried out. There is a good reason behind every rule ie all operators must be RSGB members or location and QRA must be sent and received if either of these where applicable, one broken then the contest entry is automatically void, thus many hours of work are wasted.

After each contest has finished and all the equipment has been removed to the various home locations once again, for someone, myself recently, the work is only just beginning and with the increased success of our stations so this work will increase.

Firstly the slips are counted to make sure that they are in order and that non are missing, the check logs are counted to give an idea of how many contactshave not been recorded on the log. This also indicates the number of possible duplicates.

The operator slips are then checked against the check log one by one, looking for inconsistencies and of course duplicates. This may take two or three hours depending on number, however, after this check the slips are now ready for entering into the contest entry, once any unreadable call signs etc have been sorted out. The contest entry itself, takes on average about ten hours to write out (typing takes a bit longer) and therefore has to be spread over a couple of days, it is at this time that any writing that is difficult to read takes its

Cont'd.....

toll, consultation of maps, callbooks etc is often required in order to confirm a callsign location or QRA, this can run into 10 minutes per slip and as you can realise this can easily add an extra hour at least to the time taken to complete the entry.

Graham G8NNS

Little Jack Horner sat in a corner,
Tweaking his little black box,
He used fourteen Puff,
When two was enough,
Now his P double L never locks.