

B&DARC Newsletter.

Secretary report.

B&DARC 'Friday Flier'

A short feedback on last Friday nights Zoom club meeting on 15th January 2021.

Invitations were sent out to 30 members with 12 actually visiting the meeting which was from 19.40 to 21.00hrs.

Barrie complimented the Secretary in 'getting the club mentioned' in RadCom.

The Secretary confirmed that he had until January 27th to get March & April's notification into the RadCom editorial team, this was agreed & to list the future Zoom Friday club meeting together with our ongoing club net.

All members are advised to check that their licenses have been re-validated & can therefore continue using the Ofcom/Spectrum Licensing Portal.

If members do not possess or have lost these details, they can contact Ofcom either by email: Spectrum.Licensing@ofcom.org.uk Or Phone: 020 7981 3131 & ask for the Amateur Radio Licensing Section.

Please remember that there may be delays as I understand that 'home working' is in place. Generally, members present were in favour of the club continuing with Zoom meetings for the foreseeable future.

The Secretary advise that most Zoom free meetings were only for 40 minutes but may longer at present, however, to enable the club to have longer meetings & to hold committee meetings the club should consider up grading to Zoom Pro.

The cost of this is currently £120 per annum. Members seemed to accept this & subject to the proviso that several club members could instigate a meeting, should the secretary not be able to do so in the future.

The Secretary was charged with investigating this & giving feedback, probably by next week's meeting.

Brian Capewell has taken delivery of the Trio TS-120 & has started the process of putting up wire aerials. We await further news....

Barrie was giving more details of his work on various sizes of 'Loop antennas' & he successes in this field.

The meeting was lively with many exchanges between members & was concluded at 21.00hrs.

John Storey, G8SH.

B&DARC Secretary.

07759370544.

LDV Home Guard Article by John G4PKW.

February 1941 saw me on a Worcester bound train with hopes of joining The Royal Navy.

My fellow travelling companion, a stranger, was also 15 years old and again heading to The Royal Navy recruiting office in Angel Place.

After a thorough and slightly embarrassing medical examination, I was told "sorry but your eyes and feet are not up to the standard" and I was graded A5, which was to stay with me

throughout my military career. My fellow traveller passed A1 and spent his war serving in destroyers.

Back home, disappointed but determined to do something useful, I decided to join The Home Guard, originally called The Local Defence Volunteers which was formed early in WW2 by mostly elderly veterans of WW1, having no uniforms save for an armband with LDV on, and no real weapons, just an assortment of farm and domestic implements in order to protect them – bravery indeed.

However, by 1941 things had moved on and the Home Guard, as it was now called, was well equipped and well trained by officers and NCOs from WW1. The intention was to use them as an underground Army, as in other occupied countries to sabotage and generally make the invaders uncomfortable. Some of the equipment we were issued with was rather old, but with real Army uniforms we felt more like real soldiers!

Army boots, gaiters, ammunition pouch, tin helmet and a leather belt to carry a wicked looking WW1 bayonet which thank God I was never to use on another human being. It was only ever used in bayonet training when a screaming Private Gerard proceeded to disembowel a perfectly harmless and defenceless sack of straw!

Another nasty device for killing was the Hand Grenade, or so-called Mills Bomb. These had to be treated with great respect as they were capable of blowing off important bits of your body at close encounters or filling you with little bits of metal or black Bakelite at a distance away. There was a very important metal ring much like a key ring attached to a split pin. This held the firing lever in place so that the beast was safe. When used in combat this ring and pin was withdrawn with the left hand, keeping it safely on your forefinger in case one needed to replace it. When thrown in anger the lever flew off igniting the fuse and exploding the device with the aforementioned results.

We were issued with American WW1 rifles, brand new and packed in grease which took hours to clean. The calibre of these rifles was .300 instead of .303 as used by most British small arms. It had no external magazine as the standard issued Lee-Enfield and was loaded with five rimless bullets, with the bolt withdrawn another round was placed in the chamber, hence the nonmedical term of “one up the spout”. However, it was a very nice, lightweight and very accurate piece of kit which performed well on the firing ranges.

After three years of arms drill marching up and down, Sundays and week night nights spent crawling around muddy fields on exercises it was time for me to move to my three year stint with The Royal Corps of Signals as a radio operator, but that as they say is another story!

As a postscript to the Royal Navy story, the next time I met my traveling companion was, in the absence of my father due to illness, when I handed my sister over to him in church, for a marriage which ended not long afterwards.

It's a funny old life!

John. G4PKW.

OFCOM Comment by Geoff G4LXI.

Having updated my licence details (just a phone number change) my new licence came back as G#LXI. I am trying to get it amended but, in the meantime, and to remain legal could you all refer to me as G"Hash"LXI when on air.

Here is a copy of the email I sent to Ofcom

"My new copy of the licence shows my callsign as G#LXI. I use morse code and I cannot find how to send # in morse code.

Would it be possible to change my callsign back to G4LXI please?

G Swann"

Club Net.

During the net on Monday evening it was felt that the Wednesday Net could be dropped. We (G4PWK, G4LXI G0WIS M0BQE) have decided we will meet again on Friday.

For sale.

BNOS 12/25A power supply. This is the version with a front panel current meter. Very well-built British product, not to be confused with switch mode supplies. £50.00 collected. Alan G4LVK.

Finally.

Thanks to everyone who has submitted articles this time round, and I look forward to seeing more articles from John G4PKW.

As always, please let me have anything suitable for the next newsletter.

Alan G4LVK