

# SIXTY YEARS OF FOC

Dennis Andrews, G3MXJ





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The History of the First Class CW Operators' Club  
1938 - 1998

Dennis Andrews, G3MXJ

This book is dedicated to the memory of Al Slater, G3FXB - a close friend and someone who demonstrated to me, and to countless others, the true nature and value of amateur radio. It is also dedicated to my wife Anne, who has tolerated me and my hobby for over thirty years.

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W. N. Craig	G6II	F. Robertson	G4BJM
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M. Fulcher	KC7V	R. W. Schoener	W8TPS
I. E. Green	K2VUI	E. L. Sikes	N4LS
R. Green	W1HT	G. Sochor	N9SW
D. B. Hall	K5AQ	G. P. Stancey	G3MCK
S. P. Hart	K8EJ	L. I. Stracqualursi	W1HMD
F. Hauff	W3NZ	H. D. Strieter	W4QM
S. J. Heard	G3IEW	D. Sumner	K1ZZ
B. Henke	K6OU	E. H. Trowell	G2HKU
R. M. Hirsch	K1RH	O. Vinje	LA1IE
O. Hope	LA2UA	W. Warden	W9GW
W. F. Hunter	GM3HUN	R. L. Warmke	W6CYX
M. Hutchins	ZL1MH	J. L. West	W6VD
T. I. Hutchinson	N4JT	R. K. Western	G3SXW
S. C. Ingram	EA6ZY	C. P. Wheeler	KC9T
A. Kahn	K4FW	M. G. Whitaker	G3IGW
B. J. O'Kain	K4LTA	R. L. White	W1CW
D. A. Karvonen	K8MFO	E. White	W1YL
J. Keese	W8VSK	J. A. White	K4OJ
R. P. Kemp	W6OV	J. D. Widener Jr.	N4UB
D. Klein	K4LT	A. P. W. Windle	G8VG
R. Krause	DI9SB	W. B. Wise	K5VO
A. A. Laun	K3ZO	M. W. Wiseman	K5DQ
L. I. Larsen	K7GE	M. Wren	K8NW
R. I. Leask	G4CEO	H. F. Zimmerman	K4FU
R. P. Leonard	W6THN		
D. S. Lewin	G4PKT		
C. Lindsay	G3KTZ		
J. R. Linford	G3WGV		
P. F. Linsley	G3PDL		
R. Locher	W9KNI		

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# Foreword

FOC has always been an integral part of my ham radio life.

Gravesend, Kent - where I was born and brought up, was always a centre of CW and contesting. When I joined the local radio club in 1956, and through its theory and CW classes obtained my licence in 1958, I naturally accepted CW as a way of life - and that's the way it has been ever since.

My first contacts were made from the shacks of Les Belger - G3JLB and Vic Curling - G6VC; my first major contest involvement was from the QTH of Stan Heard - G3IEW. Other locals who helped me with my first footsteps in the hobby included Alan Watson - G3DCV and Eric Woods - G3FST. So I was surrounded by FOC activity and influence from the earliest days and the achievement of FOC membership was instilled as a goal worth striving for.

When these early days are then coupled with my later close involvement with Al Slater - G3FXB, the subsequent path towards becoming Chairman of the Club and the writer of this book turns out to be almost pre-ordained rather than followed from choice.

The early history of FOC, especially the pre-war years, was poorly documented and we do not have a full picture of its activities. Communication within the immediate post-war club was by means of a Circular Letter which was passed from hand to hand. Those charting the first year or so of the Club's life after the war have been lost. Perhaps, in those early days, the leaders of the FOC did not envisage how the Club would grow in future years.

Bill Windle laid the foundations for the Club's first History Book. Al Slater completed the work and it was published in 1984 recording the history of FOC up to 1983. A lot happened in FOC and amateur radio in general during the next fifteen years. So the 60th anniversary of the Club is an appropriate time to write a new History Book, looking at the overall effect that FOC has had in that time and what relevance it might have for the future.

A book written by a Committee stands the prospect of being dry and unreadable. So I was entrusted with the task and, inevitably, the result will be coloured by my own personal view of the events that I have been part of during the 36 years that I have belonged to the Club. But I hope that I have managed to balance this by the differing views that were reflected in the News Sheets and our quarterly magazine, *FOCUS*. Much of the history of FOC is contained in those publications, so I make no apology for quoting liberally from them - there is no better way of capturing the thoughts and policies that guided our development.

To write such a book is a fascinating and enjoyable exercise involving, as it does, research through all of the Club's historic documentation. I hope that everybody who reads the history will find it enjoyable and will consider the project has been worthwhile.

*Dennis Andrews, G3MXJ  
Uckfield, East Sussex  
December 1998.*

# ROLL OF HONOUR

## Presidents

1938-39		G2ZQ	J. Hunter
1939	18	G2NM	G. Marcuse
1957	53	G6JJ	W. N. Craig
1959-60	32	G5LC	L. Cooper
1961-62	6	G8VG	W. H. Windle
1963-64	60	G6QB	L. H. Thomas
1965-66	248	G2QB	R. W. Bailey
1967-68	772	G6LX	R. L. Glaisher
1969	864	G2DC	J. Drudge-Coates
1970	352	G3FXB	A. J. Slater
1971	399	G3IEW	S. J. Heard
1972	869	G2PL	P. Pennell
1973	950	G8AX	T. C. R. Littlemore
1974	289	GD3FBS	H. Grist
1975	1040	G3GFG	D. R. Payne
1976	521	G3KMO	M. Birch
1977	924	G3HCT	J. Bazeley
1978	331	G3HVG	A. P. W. Windle
1979	154	G4CP	C. R. Perks
1980	823	G5ADE	R. E. Le Page
1981	24	GM3AWF	D. F. Craig
1982	1033	G3AAQ	S. L. Jacobs
1983	719	G5APC	J. H. Garrett
1984	7	G5RV	R. L. Varney
1985	617	G3HDB	J. Whitby
1986	158	G2FDF	W. F. Limehouse
1987	847	G3SXW	R. K. Western
1988	744	G3MXJ	D. J. Andrews
1989	785	G3IGW	M. G. Whitaker
1990	841	G3LHJ	D. Webber
1991	1282	G3KDB	P. Miles
1992	1414	G3SYM	D. R. Coltart
1993	1430	GM3YTS	R. W. Ferguson
1994	1309	GW3KGV	K. A. Bates
1995	1192	G3LIK	M. Puttick
1996	831	GM3POI	C. Penna
1997	1012	G3PDL	P. F. Linsley
1998	877	G3LTV	W. E. Robinson
1999	1265	G3KTZ	C. Lindsay

## Vice Presidents

1951	2	G2ZC	A. M. H. Ferguson
1951	58	G5PS	J. Catt
1957	338	G2DPY	S. Mercer
1969	809	W2NZ	M. Waters
1971	590	W2MUM	E. Wolheim
1972	453	G3JLB	L. W. Belger
1974	903	N2LK	H. W. Milark
1975	479	G3IMV	J. Hunter
1978	916	W1HZ	H. Ferris
1981	6	G8VG	W. H. Windle
1985	1159	W1RM	P. Chamalian
1986	352	G3FXB	A. J. Slater
1992	847	G3SXW	R. K. Western

## Honorary Vice Presidents

1974		Mrs D. Milark
1976		Mrs M. Slater
1978		Mrs M. V. Windle
1978		Mrs D. Ferris
1978		Mrs R. Waters

## Chairmen

1949-50	26	G3JZ	V. H. Penfold
1951-68	6	G8VG	W. H. Windle
1969-70	624	G3JAF	A. Trigell
1981-83	6	G8VG	W. H. Windle
1986-87	617	G3HDB	J. Whitby
1987-92	352	G3FXB	A. J. Slater
1992 -	744	G3MXJ	D. J. Andrews

## Secretaries

1938-39		G5BW	R. Webster
1947-51	2	G2ZC	A. M. H. Ferguson
1949-51	58	G5PS	J. Catt
1952-54	26	G3JZ	V. H. Penfold
1952-56	338	G2DPY	S. Mercer
1956-66	453	G3JLB	L. W. Belger
1967-81	6	G8VG	W. H. Windle
1981-87	352	G3FXB	A. J. Slater
1987-92	847	G3SXW	R. K. Western
1992-	1308	G4BUE	C. J. Page

## News Sheet Editors

1947-49	2	G2ZC	A. M. H. Ferguson
1949-52	58	G5PS	J. Catt
1952-56	338	G2DPY	S. Mercer
1956-67	453	G3JLB	L. W. Belger
1967-81	6	G8VG	W. H. Windle
1981-88	352	G3FXB	A. J. Slater
1988-	1308	G4BUE	C. J. Page

# The First Class CW Operators' Club

## Code of Conduct

Members of FOC are expected to:-

1. Foster and encourage a high standard of operating and behaviour on the bands.
2. Observe the licence conditions and principles of band planning.
3. Be considerate to other amateurs at all times and, in particular, by:-
  - a) ensuring that the radiated signal conforms to a good technical level;
  - b) avoiding interference to other band users by thoughtless tuning or by use of unnecessarily high power levels;
  - c) recognising that it is inconsiderate to 'break-in' to a contact unless there is a reason that is relevant to both of the participating stations.
4. By example, promote exemplary operating standards by:-
  - a) sending at a speed that is considerate of the other station's ability;
  - b) giving signal reports that are, where appropriate, honest;
  - c) ensuring a frequency is clear before transmitting - preferably by listening;
  - d) at the end of a contact, moving away if it is not 'your' frequency;
  - e) in DX 'pile-ups', observing the calling instructions of the DX station and never 'policing' the frequency;
  - f) if you are a 'DX' station, ensuring good management of your frequency by sending your own callsign at appropriate intervals - 'anonymous operating' does nothing to control pile-ups or increase contact rates and leads to chaos;
  - g) always remembering that many others may be listening to your contacts - refrain from bad language or derogatory comments.
5. Protect the future of the hobby by:-
  - a) being active on a regular basis on as many bands as possible;
  - b) giving encouragement to newcomers;
  - c) supporting a national society.



# Chapter 1

## The Early Years (1938-1951)

### A British A1 Operator's Club?

To the Editor THE T. & R. BULLETIN

DEAR SIR - At a time when the standard of British amateur-band operating is deplorably low, may I draw the attention of readers to the "A1 Operators Club"? Details regarding this club may be found in the ARRL Handbook, and while membership is international, I believe the number of British members is comparatively small.

Briefly, the object of the club is to encourage a high standard of operating in the amateur bands, and no doubt there is room for a similar organisation over here. There must be a considerable number of first-class G operators who are not members of the ARRL club, and the formation of a British club would be very beneficial.

British amateurs who are already members of the "A1 Operators' Club" could be foundation members and form an election committee. The rules as laid down in the Handbook can be applied when considering the eligibility of candidates, and membership would be a worthwhile distinction. It would be interesting to see what support, if any, is forthcoming for this proposal.

Yours faithfully,

R. B. Webster (G5BW).

[T&R Bulletin March 1938]

Bob Webster's letter to the RSGB magazine in 1938 marked the launch of the First Class Operators' Club. Two months later, an item appears which reports a '*a remarkable show of interest*' and the formation of FOC with '*the object to encourage and maintain a high standard of operating on the amateur bands*'. There was obviously a great demand for such an organisation and it was soon necessary to spell out exactly what was intended. It is not clear exactly how the early members were elected to the Club; but it would seem that a selection process, probably by on-the-air observation by Committee, was already taking place, and the organisers were already voicing their opinions on 'correct' modes of operating on the air.

We should like to correct a serious misapprehension which has arisen concerning the nature of the F.O.C. Apparently many members are under the impression that it is a British "edition" of the Rag-Chewers' Club (R.C.C.), but this is emphatically not the case. F.O.C. members are primarily concerned with "experiments in W/T," and the Club's slogan is "Genuine experimental work and first-class operating technique." We are of the opinion, however, that such experimental work can in most cases be performed more easily, quickly, and in such a manner as to cause less QRM, if the experimenter's theoretical knowledge is supplemented by good operating technique.

It is fairly obvious that a dually-qualified operator will be a more useful asset to the amateur fraternity than his less qualified colleagues. The F.O.C. wishes to organise these dually-qualified operators for the benefit of British Amateur Radio.

May we say a few words about test calls? Everybody seems to have his own method of calling, and nearly all are incorrect. Here is a suggested standard procedure, to be sent at not more than 12/15 wpm: "Test test test de G4AA" (repeated 6-10 times according to the amount of activity on the band) "Test test test de G4AA G4AA G4AA Test de G4AA QLH (or QHL) BK (if using) AR K." Under no circumstances should the speed exceed 15 wpm, and in particular the call-sign should be sent slowly and distinctly. If the band is very active, six repetitions should be ample to secure a reply, but this point must be decided by the operator's

common-sense. The single "Test de G4AA" at the end will enable an operator just tuning on to the signal to know that it is a test call, and not a call to a particular station.

The following is a preliminary list of F.O.C. members up to May 30, 1938: G5OQ, 8AX, 8HA, 8CK, 8QR, 2UJ, 2RO, 2AO, 5UA, 2ZQ, 8WI, 5LP, 8PG, 3FB, 5KV, 8IT, 2SG, EI5M.

It is significant to note that had every applicant for membership been elected, the above list would have contained over eighty call-signs. Readers will appreciate that, owing to the nature of the Club, the membership will be considerably restricted. Actually we do not expect to enrol more than 100 members, even under the most favourable conditions. Whatever the number, however, under no conditions will the standard be lowered to increase Club membership.

If any readers with artistic abilities would care to submit a simple and distinctive design for a Membership Certificate and an Emblem, we should be very grateful.  
[G5BW 6/38]

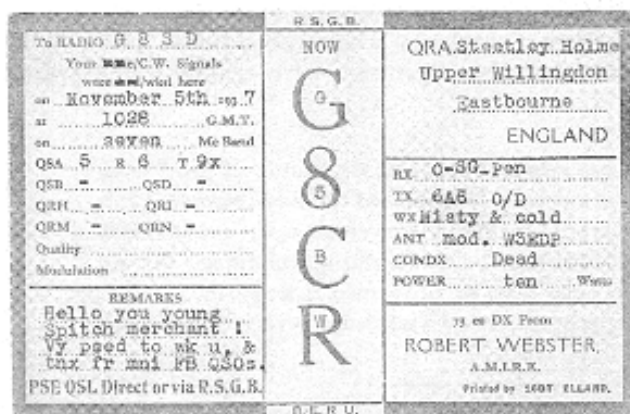
And later -

A number of amateurs are still clinging to the idea that FOC is merely a get-together for CW speed merchants. May we point out that membership is open to any station, 'phone or CW, the only proviso in the case of 'phone stations being that their technique is good and orthodox, and that they have an adequate knowledge of the code. It is immaterial to us whether our members work on 'phone or CW except that we deplore the practice of sticking exclusively to 'phone.  
[G5BW 8/38]

Also -

We still receive applications from various European countries, the United States and elsewhere. To save time and trouble, may we emphasise that FOC membership is open only to British amateurs, although it does not matter where they are located or under what call-signs they operate.  
[G5BW 10/38]

It is clear that, in six months, FOC had already made its mark in the world of Amateur Radio. It is interesting to note that in its original concept, 'first class operating' embraced both phone and CW. The reason for restricting membership to 'British' amateurs is unclear - possibly, in those pre-war days, attitudes to 'foreigners' were somewhat different to what they are today!



A rare link with the original founder of FOC

Having set itself up to improve the 'deplorably low' operating standards on the band, the Club was soon finding that moving from intention to action brought a number of problems. In his monthly column in the RSGB magazine, Bob Webster discussed the operating practices which FOC thought should be improved and made recommendations on desirable changes. It seems that many members took it on themselves to put forward this advice over the air. Inevitably, there were soon charges being aired of 'clitism'. Many took offence at being 'told how to operate'. Perhaps, in some ways, the Club's choice of title was unfortunate - for outsiders might easily see it as a self-appointed group who considered themselves 'first class operators' - rather than a group whose interest was to promote 'first class operating'. It was to be a recurring problem throughout the life of FOC.



Things came to a head, in March 1939, when a particularly stinging attack was launched in a letter to the RSGB's magazine.

To the Editor, T&R Bulletin.

DEAR SIR - The policy which the First Class Operators' Club has adopted, and which is typified by the behaviour of some of its members, on the air and elsewhere, is one which in our opinion merits considerable criticism. The opinions expressed in this letter are directed at that policy, and should not be construed as constituting a personal attack on any particular officer or member of the club.

Ostensibly formed to facilitate experimental W/T communication by encouraging good operating and developing improved procedure, it has as yet done little more than to form an association of amateurs, who apparently exist solely for the purpose of signing FOC after their calls and of offering unwanted and unauthoritative advice to experimental operators who have something better to do with the limited time at their disposal than to listen to them.

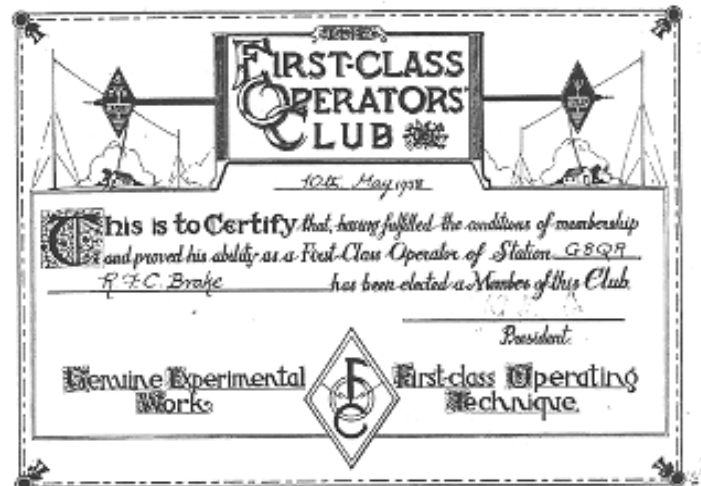
The club does not appear to realise that operating ability is a mere auxiliary to communication research, and that proficiency in that field should be acquired over a buzzer line or elsewhere, and not on an already overcrowded experimental frequency band. The implication associated with the statement repeatedly made, that its membership is largely comprised of ex-commercial operators, is indicative of the existing misguided policy; it is difficult to see just what qualifications an ex-commercial operator possesses which confer on him the right to advise an experimental amateur on any subject other than the use of commercial procedure.

The true objectives of the club appear to have been completely side-tracked in favour of a programme of carping criticism directed at amateur practice in general and a fervent self-congratulation and defence of its own membership and their alleged qualifications. There is no place in this country for an organisation which intends to develop in this fashion.

The status of the British amateur is that of an experimenter, and the value of operating ability, over and above that necessary for the efficient exchange of technical information by W/T, is small compared with the value of technical ability; in this country the only reason for the continued existence of an amateur radio organisation lies in its capacity to assist and encourage communication research; and any other objectives it may have are essentially of a subsidiary nature. There is a need for an organisation which will assist in the maintenance of a usefully high standard of operating, and which will develop new operating signals and new codes for the better exchange of technical data by W/T. But the FOC does not appear to be doing any useful work in these directions, and offers little promise of future assistance.

Despite the evidence supporting our contention that the FOC is pursuing a policy detrimental to the interests of the experimental amateur fraternity, there is little doubt that this will be, as it has been, strenuously denied. In this connection we should like to say that we are aware that some of its members possess high technical ability, and we have no doubt that the majority of them engage in a certain amount of experimental work; but this is no indication that the club is pursuing a useful policy. We do know that many FOC members who operate on 7Mc are not engaged in advanced experimental work because we have listened to them and logged their transmissions (they were not very edifying).

We recently intercepted a series of transmissions on 7Mc from a station operated by a member of FOC in communication with another member which continued for more than thirty minutes without the inclusion of a call-sign or an ending sign; which contained nothing but insinuating remarks directed at those who saw fit to disagree with FOC tactics; and which concluded with a most flattering description of one of the sender's critics, specifically identified by call-sign and location and couched in terms which no gentleman



would employ. This transmission, which we logged and filed, seems to us to be in direct and flagrant violation of legal and ethical codes.

It was not evident from the subject matter of any of the signals logged that the transmissions were of an experimental nature. The text of many of them consisted entirely of gratuitous advice to the receiving operator apparently given in a spirit of wishful flattery or of smug complacency depending on the mood of the sender, and in either case serving as little useful purpose, experimental or otherwise, as the usually inane emanations from a 7Mc telephony station. The standard of operating was in many cases surprisingly low, and the electrical characteristics of some of the signals left no doubt as to the deficiency in technical ability of their operators.

This low standard which the club appears to have adopted for its definition of a 'First Class operator' is in itself probably responsible for the fact that few of the country's really good operators are to be found in it. For with all their alleged qualifications we do not know of one member who could even approach the standard of a naval first-class telegraphist, and if we must have a yard-stick by which to measure the quality of a British amateur radio operator, then that is the logical standard to take.

We feel that the club is failing to pursue its true obligations and that steps should be taken to remedy this unfortunate state of affairs. We believe that there is a useful field which an operators' club might develop, preferably in association with R.E.S., [an experimental society] and we suggest that the members of FOC see to it that their club is run on these or similar lines rather than allow it to pursue its present destructive policy.

Peter Jones - G2JT, D. E. Palin - G6DP.  
[T&R Bulletin 3/38]

The FOC Committee was quick to reply.

To the Editor, T&R Bulletin.

DEAR SIR - We have taken careful note of the various criticisms and accusations levelled against our Club in a recent Bulletin letter. Although the majority of the charges are so fantastic that at first sight we were not inclined even to accord them a bare denial, we have finally decided that some answer is advisable. Actually, we have had considerable correspondence from Mr Jones in the past, and its nature leaves us in grave doubt that his published letter is not largely provoked by personal malice. In view of this, perhaps we may be forgiven if we do not attach to the letter the importance which the authors doubtless attribute to it themselves.

Apparently the whole atmosphere of condemnation and censure pervading the letter has been painstakingly built up by long periods of eavesdropping on QSOs by FOC members, selecting isolated incidents which have occurred over a long period, and basing on these incidents general charges against our Club as a whole. (Whether the time occupied by such amateur 'detective work' could not have been more usefully employed is not for us to say). An organisation like FOC cannot exercise a rigid authority over all its individual members, and it is quite likely that in the future, as in the past, critics may be able to single out isolated cases for complaint. We are, however, perfectly confident that the lurid picture of our organisation painted by Mr Jones and his friend is absolutely unrepresentative of the true state of affairs. Furthermore, their present (and past) assertions on questions of operating are of such a nature that we have little confidence in their eligibility to dogmatise on the subject.

FOC realises that it takes all kinds of people to make up what is generally referred to as the 'Amateur Radio Fraternity', and if our members find themselves in disagreement with other amateurs, they do not regard that bare fact as being sufficient excuse for launching a violent attack on them. As an organisation, our chief object is to effect an improvement in the general standard of British Amateur operating, and we desire to co-operate (peacefully) with all sections of the British Amateur movement. Mr Jones, on the other hand, has not yet learned to 'live and let live', and has often expressed his contempt and antagonism towards such Amateur activities as contests, ragchewing, certificates, DX and QSL hunting, operating for its own sake, and telephony operation in general. If he finds that his sole interest in Amateur Radio lies in research, we hardly know whether to congratulate or sympathise with him. We certainly envy him if he possesses or has access to the expensive apparatus and sub-standard instruments without which little of such work can be effectively undertaken. It is our opinion that the average British Amateur, while having his particular

technical 'specialist' also likes to participate in the varied activities implied by the expression 'Amateur Radio'.

The FOC notes which appear from time to time in the Bulletin do not purport to be the last infallible word on any of the subjects dealt with, and are merely intended as helpful suggestions and pointers for such persons as care to heed them. We receive and welcome correspondence referring to them, and indulge in many profitable discussions on the subjects concerned. There is no compulsion for anyone to act on the information presented, or even to read it, and we believe that RSGB members are quite capable of deciding such matters for themselves.

The Club has several times been charged with attempting to commercialise British Amateur operating, but this is only a half-truth. The fact is that where we consider commercial practice can, with advantage, be introduced then we advocate it. But we are quite aware that to adopt such procedure 'in toto' would result in confusion and defeat its own ends. We deny Mr Jones' implication that all is well with Amateur operating in this country. That criticism is either unwarranted or unnecessary, and we cannot accept his proposal to regard a first-call Naval telegraphist as a standard of reference. The operating standard of a FOC member is at least equal to that required by the GPO for the Unrestricted First-class Certificate of Proficiency in W/T, and nobody is considered for membership who cannot attain that standard.

In conclusion, may we make it clear that in future, we shall not attempt to answer attack or criticism either publicly or privately unless we are satisfied that they originate from a responsible quarter. A continuation of our correspondence with Mr Jones, for example, would serve no useful purpose, and would probably deteriorate into a fruitless and acrimonious exchange of personalities. We consider that valuable Bulletin space can be more usefully employed. But if Mr Jones feels impelled to have the last word, he may do so secure in the knowledge that not even his most outrageous charges will provoke any further official reply from FOC. In the meantime, we shall just keep on keeping on, and despite all such 'slings and arrows', we have an idea that we'll 'muddle through' somehow.

J. Mackintosh Dave - G2XG; A. C. F. Dearlove - G2QO; T. C. R. Littlemore - G8AX; C. J. Peach - ZB1P; W. A. Roberts - G2RO; R. B. Webster - G5BW.  
[T&R Bulletin 5/39]

Following these exchanges, the RSGB felt that it could no longer support publication of FOC material and, in June 1939, withdrew the facility for the monthly column although it did agree that it would continue to print occasional notes 'of a general nature'. Around the same time, a new amateur radio publication, The Short Wave Magazine, appeared in the UK. Tommy Thomas - G6QB and Austin Forsyth - G6FO were involved in its production and immediately agreed to provide space for FOC.

However, the dark clouds of war were already gathered and after only a few issues, the Short Wave Magazine ceased publication; the RSGB's regular column 'Month on the Air' became 'Month off the Air'. FOC became all but disbanded with its members off the air and diverted to other tasks from which many never returned.

Unfortunately, neither of the Club's founders survived the war - although their deaths were not directly attributable to the war itself. Bob Webster - G5BW, had been a Marconi operator with Cunard but was forced into early retirement after contracting tuberculosis. He passed away in October 1940 while still in his early 30s. John Hunter - G2ZQ, had become well known as one of the leading DXers of the day and had been the Club's first President. He served in the RAF and died in Ceylon, almost at the end of the war, from pneumonia. He was only 32 years old. If the antibiotics that today are taken for granted had been available at that time, both would undoubtedly have lived to play a significant role in the post-war development of FOC.

—ooOoo—

## Wing-Commander John H. C. Hunter - G2ZQ

Radio amateurs the world over will be shocked to hear of the death of John Hunter, G2ZQ, at the early age of 32.

It is no exaggeration to say that he was probably Britain's most famous amateur and that his passing will be a personal sorrow to hundreds of amateurs in almost every country of the world. All who knew him or who contacted him over the air were impressed by his cheerful, generous nature and his willingness to help others. He possessed an uncanny sixth sense for extracting practically inaudible signals from the QRM on our bands and for making them into intelligible contacts. One of the only two amateurs in the world to work all zones, he had a distinguished position in the DX Century Club and always ranked high in the various DX Contests for which he entered. Educated at Wellington and London University, where he graduated as BSc, he served until the outbreak of the war as a Station Design Engineer with the BBC. His Amateur Radio career began in September 1930 when he was licensed as 2ABS, obtaining his full call as G2ZQ on February 26, 1931. In October 1938, he joined the Civilian Wireless Reserve and was commissioned as a Pilot Officer, RAFVR, in February 1939.



John Hunter, G2ZQ - one of the only photos of a founder of FOC

At the outbreak of war, he went to Leighton Buzzard as duty signals officer and was later charged with the responsibility of converting Fighter Command Squadrons to VHF. In this work, he formed special fittings parties, the NCOs for which were of his own choosing and all radio amateurs. The splendid work he did in this connection was the subject of a special mention in dispatches and earned him promotion to the rank of Squadron Leader and transfer to Air Ministry.

Here he was attached to the Telecommunications Department and later to the Signals Plans Department as Wing Commander, where he played an important part in the preparations for D-Day. So successful was his work in this sphere that a year ago he was appointed to SEAC on similar duties. It was whilst in Ceylon that he was taken ill with pneumonia and passed away after a short illness.

To the old timers among us, Amateur Radio will never again be quite the same. His famous call-sign and faultless operating were so familiar to us all, so much a part of our accepted experience that it seems incredible that they are silent and still for ever. In fact, he typified what we mean by the term 'Ham Spirit'. By his untimely death, the country has lost a capable officer and faithful servant. Amateurs throughout the world will each experience a sense of very personal loss as they bid farewell to Johnny whose memory will always occupy a warm and affectionate corner of our hearts.

[T&R Bulletin 9/45]

—ooOoo—

The first post-war reference to the re-formation of FOC came in a letter from Louis - G5RV to the RSGB in June 1946.

SIR - As an 'old timer' back on the air again since our licences were re-issued, one thing is very clear to me - unless the operating ability and technique used by the amateur is First Class, we are going to find very soon that the pleasure of operating will be lost. It seems to me that now is a most opportune moment to initiate a modern 'First Class Operators' Club'. To be nominated a member of such a Club should be the aim of every true amateur.



I would suggest that the aims and objects of the Club and qualifications required of applicants for membership, be drawn up by Council and a nucleus of Founder Members be proposed by them in order to start the Club.

Perhaps a preliminary discussion in the columns of the Bulletin would be a good thing and this letter is written with the object of inviting comments and suggestions from members of the Society.  
[RSGB Bulletin 6/46]

In fact, the RSGB wanted nothing to do with FOC - possibly due to the difficulties encountered before the war. In addition, the Short Wave Magazine, which had taken up publicity for a re-established FOC, was a new presence in British Amateur Radio and seen as sometimes being a dissenting voice against the 'establishment' view of the RSGB which had effectively controlled the hobby since its beginnings.

Louis - G5RV, recalls attending the meeting in the Summer of 1946 that re-established FOC after the war. He and ten others, most of whom had been pre-war members, met at a garden party at the home of Captain A. M. H. Fergus, always known as Fergie - G2ZC in Farnham, Surrey.

UK licences had been restored but were initially restricted to 28MHz and the old five metre band, pending vacation of the other bands by military users.

Following the meeting at Fergie's QTH, the first announcement concerning the reforming of FOC appeared in the July 1946 issue of Short Wave Magazine with Austin Forsyth - G6FO, providing a driving force. The November issue announced the Rules for the Club with the news that Fergie had taken responsibility for the launching and preliminary management of the Club.



Fergie, G2ZC - the first post-war secretary of FOC

## The First Class Operators' Club

### Rules

1. The Club will be known as the First Class Operators' Club (F.O.C.). Its aims will be to foster and encourage a high standard of operating ability and behaviour on all amateur bands.
2. The F.O.C. will be managed by a small committee elected by the membership. The Editor of Short Wave Magazine (or his representative) will be an ex-officio member of this committee.
3. Membership of the F.O.C. will be limited to those who:
  - a) can send and receive Morse at no less than 18wpm.
  - b) can work break-in on at least three amateur bands, with ability to QSY as necessary. Break-in single channel working with VFO is desirable but not obligatory,
  - c) are prepared over the air to assist and advise newcomers to Amateur Radio.
  - d) Agree strictly to observe all conditions of the licence.
4. Operators will be elected to membership on the recommendations of at least three sponsors, who are themselves already F.O.C. members and have been in contact with the applicant over the air.
5. The F.O.C. "club wave" will be the 3500-3635kc section of the 3.5Mc amateur band.
6. Club periods each week will be as under:
  - a) Tuesdays and Fridays, 1800-2000 hours.
  - b) Sundays, 1100-1300 and 1500-1700 hours.
7. F.O.C. members operating on this band during these periods should always sign "FOC" after the call. This will identify them and enable prospective members to QSO with a view to obtaining a recommendation for election. In the general interest of the Club, the use of "FOC" after the call is always desirable on any band.
8. Upon election, a subscription of 3 shillings will be payable. Elections to membership will be notified periodically in the Short Wave Magazine, and no claim to membership will be valid unless so notified.

The note in Short Wave Magazine also recognised the difficulties that FOC ran into before the war.

The first point to make clear is that the FOC is not a 'snob society'. Its only objects are to encourage, stimulate and preserve a high standard of operating ability and operating behaviour on all amateur bands. To this end, membership of the FOC is open to any operators who - in the opinion of a jury of three members - measure up to certain reasonable standards, as laid down in the rules.

[SWM 11/46]

The club quickly attracted a good membership base. The first news sheet, produced by G2ZC, was published in January 1947. In fact, this was a 'Circular Letter' which was mailed around the relatively small number of members in a rota system with individual readers able to append comments on the various issues affecting the Club, and with each copy eventually returning to the Secretary. The 'Circular Letter' continued well after the time that the cumbersome rota system was dispensed with, and when each member was receiving an individual copy. The pre-war 'British-members-only' restriction was not carried into the new rules and FOC quickly included members in an expanding number of countries. The first USA member, Doug Borden - W1BUX, joined in November 1947 and, by the end of that year, the total membership was over one hundred.

The first post-war President, who continued in office until 1957, was one of the most famous amateurs of the time, Gerry Marcuse - G2NM. Gerry was one of the early amateur radio pioneers and many of his activities, particularly in the exploitation of short waves, were well ahead of commercial users.

During 1948, the membership increased to a total of 181 with forty 'rotas' of circular letters to be organised each month. This produced a significant load on the Secretary and assistance was urgently required. During 1949, the membership again increased steeply, reaching 256 by the end of the year. It was at this time that Hamish Catt - G5PS, offered his help in taking over production and distribution of the news sheet. It seems rather strange that no serious consideration seems, at this time, to have been given to mailing individual copies to each member. One factor was that, until February 1949, there was no subscription payable apart from a small entry fee. Even then, the subscription initially introduced was only 2/- (£0.10) per year. It was not until later, after Stan - G2DPY took over as Secretary, that a realistic subscription was introduced and the news sheet mailing was put on to a more practical basis.

In those immediate post-war years, the Short Wave Magazine did much to publicise FOC and its activities. It ran a monthly column with input from the Secretary and sponsored the club by providing membership certificates and dinner menus and die-stamps for overprinting the FOC emblem on members QSL cards. This helpful association continued until 1951.

FOC, during this period, seems to have been very much a 'private members club' and although it sought to promote good operating on the bands by example, it held back from pushing those views forward with any force. Nevertheless, it still found itself under fire from time to time, which required the occasional paragraph in the News Sheet.



Hamish Catt , G5PS - the second post-war secretary of FOC

I have heard, during personal conversation and QSOs with various non-members, some rather disparaging remarks about the standard of Opping among the FOC members. I have endeavoured to convince them that although the Club is called the 'First Class Operators' Club', they must not expect to find that the standard of operating is, in all cases, up to that of an Automatic Whetstone Transmitter, (how monotonous if it were!) but that the aim of the Club is to foster and encourage a high standard of operating ability and behaviour on all amateur bands. It is appreciated that we have quite a number of OTs in our ranks and that

their wrists (mine for one) are not as supple as they were when in their prime; and in consequence their morse cannot come up to the standard of some of the younger fraternity. However, they got through their QSOs!! I suspect that because the complainants are not able to copy these stations fully, they accuse them of bad morse. This failure to copy may also be due, in many cases, to the heavy abbreviations, engendered by experience, and unknown to the eavesdroppers. A second thought is that some of the members, when working overseas members, revert to the other man's language. Ah well, it takes all sorts of people to make a world - even in ham radio. So keep the flag flying!  
[G5PS 8/49]

Generally, the News Sheets reflect overall satisfaction with the running of the Club. There are lots of personal news items from a membership that is still scattered around the world. They were engaged in a variety of jobs associated with the armed forces or with the running of the, largely still intact, British Empire. There were also members who had moved from the UK to make new post-war lives overseas. There is a rather curious insistence on the ability of members to operate full break-in and, despite an obvious dislike amongst a significant proportion of the membership, the Committee voting to retain it until 1954.

It is strange to note that, at this time, the use of first names in QSOs was not universally in use.

One of our overseas members (European) seems to think that my frequent reference to members, in the C/Ls, by their Christian name followed by their callsign, is a grand idea and shows the 'mateyness' of the Club. I've been through my own List and find that I've QSOed 183 of our members at various times and most of these have given me their Christian names which I have taken as indicative of their wish to be addressed thereby. What is the feeling of the membership on this point? Would you like the other members to know yours, and when appropriate, to address you as such? Personally, I'm all for it!  
[G5PS 3/50]

.....and that, even then, the future of CW was already under discussion.

In my early days of telegraphy, and that was well over 40 years ago, I was told that 'Morse' had had its day and was rapidly being replaced by other systems e.g. 5-unit code etc etc. Well, I've seen all sorts of these systems come and go and although the 'good old Morse' is not so much in evidence as heretofore, it still holds its own and in fact surpasses many of these other systems.

A glaring example of this came to light at the later end of January and in this instance, one of our members was instrumental in using his knowledge of morse to good advantage. It concerned the Norwegian steamer RASK, which was on her way from Bergen to Newcastle. In a raging storm, during the darkness, she lost her rudder and drifted on to the rocks three miles south of Berwick. The lifeboat put out but could not reach the ship. So the breeches buoy apparatus was called into use over a distance of some 250 yards. The fourth attempt to get a line aboard was successful and eventually all the crew were rescued after about 8 hours of exposure to the storm. To quote from the Press - 'The only contact with them now was being maintained by a local radio 'Ham', S. Young, (G2YY) who kept sending and receiving lamp signals from the ship.'

Well, that was Syd, one of our senior members (Nr 29) and I'm sure we all congratulate, yes and thank him, for his efforts on behalf of that unfortunate crew. Quite often, we 'Hams' are looked upon as a nuisance by certain of the Public. But, be that as it may, I think that the above may certainly be placed on the credit side.  
[G5PS 3/50]

In October 1950, FOC passed the milestone of 300 members. It was clearly well established and here to stay. The proportion of overseas members had by then grown to around 30%.

The issue of the 300th Certificate of Membership is indeed a milestone in the progress of the First Class Operators' Club. The fact that FOC members are now to be counted in so many countries of the world is proof that the principles upon which the Club is based find acceptance wherever there is an understanding of the true meaning of the Spirit of Amateur Radio.

The original founders of the Club, G5BW and G2ZQ - both of whom have passed on long since - would surely approve the outcome of their own early efforts to found an organisation having as its real objective the keeping alive of this spirit.

As the Editor of Short Wave Magazine, it has been my pleasure and privilege to be closely connected with FOC matters since the very beginning. While remembering the past, the issue of the 300th Certificate is also my opportunity to underline what, as members, we all owe to the present executive officers of the FOC. They labour untiringly in the interests of the Club, and it is their efforts that have made the FOC the force it is today in the world of Amateur Radio.

[G6FO 10/50]

The 50th News Sheet appeared in September 1951 and was an appropriate time to review the post-war progress of the Club. It contained an announcement that the two Joint Secretaries, Fergie - G2ZC and Hamish - G5PS, would be looking to pass the duties over to a fresher set of hands. It also contained one of the first items from Bill Windle - G8VG on what was to become one of his favourite topics - activity.

Do FOC members hibernate, or do they just fade out? From a study of activity on various bands, I seem to hear the same old regulars with scarcely any change. Maybe I listen at the wrong time. But I am left with the feeling that some of us appear too infrequently. This brings me to the point. We have, ere long, a Marathon Contest. How about making a special effort to get on the bands? A few odd half hours would be something in order to give the keener members a chance to make a new high score.

[G8VG 9/51]

The final News Sheet from Hamish appeared in January 1952 when he and Fergie handed over the duties to Stan Mercer - G2DPY and Vin Penfold - G3JZ.



## Chapter 2

### Sponsoring, Rules and Objections

From its earliest beginnings, membership of FOC has been by invitation only. It is a policy that has, at times, been controversial, and has sometimes attracted allegations of elitism and snobbishness. However, the process has been fully supported by the membership over the years and has proved its worth in ensuring that recruits to the Club have a standard of operation that is sufficiently high to ensure that the aims and objectives are protected and that it retains a high reputation throughout out hobby.

In the pre-war organisation, a committee of five of the early recruits was given the job of selecting possible members and the method employed was that *'if any one of the committee worked a possible candidate, the callsign was passed to the other members who in turn worked the nominated station. If he passed the test, the details were passed to the Secretary for action'*. Club rules, of course, were somewhat different to those we have today; but the objectives had much in common. The early rules state that *'the First Class Operators' Club came into existence with the avowed object of taking into membership any amateur transmitter who, by virtue of his ability as a telegraphist and his general attitude to Amateur Radio, appeared worthy to belong to an organisation, the aims of which were to encourage good operating and the proper use of our bands'*. The main qualification for membership was that *'a code speed of 25wpm sending and receiving is desirable'* but a further rule states that *'telephony stations shall be eligible for membership provided their technique is good and orthodox. They will be required to prove their ability to receive and send morse code accurately at not less than 20wpm'*. Another qualification mentioned is *'an experimental interest in Amateur Radio, and on election, members are expected to observe such points of behaviour as comprehensive and critical reporting, full technical co-operation with other stations and, of course, courtesy and friendliness. Members failing to conform, or whose operating shows deterioration, are liable to be removed from the roll, though this can only be done by a majority vote of the Committee'*.

Following the war, FOC had been re-established on somewhat more formal lines than before and a new set of rules appeared in the July 1946 issue of Short Wave Magazine. Election to the Club was to be *'on the recommendations of at least three sponsors, who are themselves already FOC members and have been in contact with the applicant over the air'*.

Membership would be limited to those who:

- could send and receive Morse at no less than 18wpm;
- could work break-in on at least three amateur bands, with ability to QSY as necessary. Break-in single-channel working with VFO would be desirable but not obligatory;
- would be prepared over the air to assist and advise newcomers to Amateur Radio;
- would agree strictly to observe all conditions of the licence.

On the face of it, these requirements seemed simple enough. However, within a year, it was brought home to Fergus - G2ZC, who had the job of overseeing the sponsoring process, just how difficult it was to manage such a task. There were questions raised over whether a particular station could actually operate break-in; in the immediate post-war period, nominations were received for stations that were 'informally' operating in countries that were not yet issuing amateur licences; individual members were sponsoring large numbers of stations resulting in complaints that the standards of many sponsored stations were not up to FOC standards. An immediate result was that a limit of six was placed on the number of stations that could be sponsored by an individual at any one time. So began what has been an almost continuous process of modification of the rules to ensure that recruitment supports the ideals of the Club and satisfies the wishes of the membership.

It was some years before non-UK members began to appear in the Club. This was partly due to FOC being relatively unknown abroad. But there was also some feeling that the organisation was, essentially, 'British' and should be kept as such. But by the time the membership had exceeded 200, there was considerable interest amongst amateurs in other countries. However, the discussion continued - and was especially directed against those

countries with which Britain had recently been at war. The following note which appeared in the News Sheet for May 1949 shows that, even four years after the cessation of hostilities, there were still strong feelings.

#### Sponsoring ex-enemy countries.

Three members have asked the position here, who are more recently joined members of the club. For the benefit of the later joined, I would state that this matter was voted upon by the club, and C/Ls 12 and 13 covered the voting etc. Briefly, it was decided by the members that no Amateur of an ex-enemy country could be sponsored for the club until his country had signed a Peace Treaty with this country. There were other restrictions voted, but for the time being, Germany (the country asked about) has not yet got a Government, and has not signed a Peace Treaty with Britain, so the matter need not be gone further into at the present, though it would be as well to add, that the Club decided that in the event of this happening, a fully licensed German would have to prove as a non-Nazi and would require five sponsors.

[G2ZC 5/49]

It was not until late 1952 that this policy was reviewed. Bill Windle - G8VG, then Chairman of the Committee, penned the following editorial for the September News Sheet. Bill, as always put forward his own point of view in no uncertain terms, and left the membership in no doubt over which way he felt the Club should proceed.

The question of extending membership to German and other nationals has been raised, and in order to study the question, one of our members who suffered great hardship and privation, was co-opted to assist the Committee. Our task was made much easier with the assistance so generously given.

It is the considered opinion of your Committee that membership of the FOC should be extended to all Nations, subject of course to qualifications, sponsorship and paying subscriptions. As a result of this opinion all members are asked to signify on the slip at the end of this C/L whether or not they are in favour of it.

FOC is, of course, a non-political body and should extend the hand of friendship to all who seek it - bitterness, resentment, colour and creed, have no place in the FOC, and should be put away from us.

Average individuals who are amateurs have much in common and the very nature of their hobby indicates that they have no desire to be at variance with anyone. If the FOC cannot assist in creating and maintaining friendly relations - the world future is indeed grim! Your decision is requested.

The letter from the member who was co-opted to assist the committee is almost too good to stuff away in a file and I would very much have liked to print the whole text. From one who had his share of the worst, it is indeed a humane and sensible summary and the only reason that it is not quoted is that it might suggest that there was some attempt to influence your decision.

[G8VG 9/52]

The result of the ballot, published in the March 1953 News Sheet, showed 93 out of 104 who responded, were in favour of the Committee's proposal and, from the end of the year, FOC became truly open to everyone.

Another issue which raised considerable discussion in the early days, was the insistence that all members should be able to operate 'break-in'. A number of potential members, who could not operate in this mode, were rejected from the nominations list. The insistence on 'full-break' capability seems to have been one of the original 'tablets of stone' associated with the foundation of the club and one that proved difficult to change even though it seemed to have little real support. From time to time, it was necessary to publish a justification for its continuance.

We are continuing to receive various comments on the insistence of being able to work full 'BK' as being one of the qualifications for membership. Among these, I quote one as saying 'I wonder how many members CAN work 'BK'? And another was a homily endeavouring to support a statement that it is impossible to work 'BK' through heavy QRM. To the first, I would suggest that ALL members CAN work 'BK' but do NOT always use it. In all communications, I think that COMMONSENSE, and that in its broadest sense, should prevail. If 'BK' working is deemed necessary, or preferable, then use it - if not, revert to straight back and forth procedure. From observation, I should imagine, and this is quite a personal opinion, that where members are well-known to each other 'BK' working is invariably the modus operandi but where members are not always known 'BK' working is not used.

Both the Hon. Secy and myself are, perhaps, in an advantageous position with regard to spotting members by their callsigns but not ALL members do spot each other unless the Club's slogan is used, or a lead given in a call that 'BK' working is preferred. With regard to working 'BK' through heavy QRM, this matter can give rise to quite long discussions on the pros and cons BUT I think that it can be summed up as follows: - FOC members are expected to show good manners over the air and should, therefore, not introduce QRM. Where such QRM appears on a channel already being used, then a QSY should avoid it. It is in such circumstances of QRM that 'BK' can be used to effect a quick QSY and avoid loss of transmission due to QRM. If such QRM prevents hearing the other station using 'BK' then surely it will interfere with any other transmission from that station.

The use of 'BK' as is, and as has been used in all radio communications and which is perhaps not fully realised by many, may be boiled down to a 'Rule of the Road' viz., 'The Man at the Receiver is in Control'. This should be quite obvious as the man on the key has it all his own way and just sends his signals out on the ether. The man at the receiver has, however, to receive the signals and may have to contend with QRN, QSB and QRM of all sorts, of which the man at the transmitter is not cognisant. The use of 'BK' can prevent lengthy repetitions and so conserve time and energy. This is the experience of many years and is worthy of the consideration of all members.

[G5PS 11/49]

This requirement for FOC membership continued for a number of years. But it seems that it eventually became untenable and was quietly dropped in a revision of the rules in early 1954 that stated '*Break-in single channel working with VFO is desirable but not obligatory*'. This 'desirable' facility was dropped from the rules by 1956.

The work involved in vetting incoming nominations for new members has always had its amusing moments.

#### Sponsoring Ghosts.

Recently, we put a callsign in the Starred List which was subsequently found to be incorrect. The C/L was in circulation when the error was discovered and before a correction could be issued, it was returned with a second sponsoring! This, on the face of it, looked OK and by the time the next C/L was due for issue, the particular station was fully sponsored! Then, came the rub. We had no name or QTH so no invitation to join the Club could be sent out. The answer, however, came 'out of the blue' and it was 'There ain't no such station'. Perfectly true - because the callsign had never been issued, and yet members had added their callsigns as sponsors. Well, can you wonder that we are continually having to call attention to the Rules? (They are drawn up for guidance AND adherence). I am not trying to excuse the error made in the first place and I'm certainly not trying to excuse the members who sponsored a 'ghost' station. It would, nevertheless, be interesting to know what the RST, each way, was during their QSOs with this station and also under what DX category could such a QSO be listed.

[G5PS 4/50]

By the early 50s., membership of FOC had topped the 300 mark and concerns were emerging over whether all of these, together with the new members joining, could adequately satisfy the objectives of the Club rules in terms of operating skills and on-the-air behaviour. In his annual report for 1952, Stan - G2DPY, emphasised the responsibility that each member had for monitoring operating standards and for bringing 'transgressors' to the attention of the Committee. In a revision to the rules in early 1953, the number of sponsors required was increased from three to five. With the addition of a requirement that new members should have been licensed for a minimum of three years, the sponsorship rules remained unchanged for a number of years. The club marked time in terms of membership growth although the proportion represented by overseas members was steadily rising.

At the time of the transfer of secretarial duties from Stan to Les Belger - G3JLB at the end of 1956, the Committee decided to place a limit on membership of 350. In September 1962, this figure was increased to 400 and, in March 1966, to the current total of 500. Many have misinterpreted this as an attempt to attach an air of 'exclusivity' to FOC. In fact, it was nothing more than a move to maintain the manageability of the Club.

During 1961, Bill Windle, as President, began to campaign for a tougher approach to activity and involvement within the club. He solicited views in the areas of the CW speed required for a nominee, the period of observation of a potential new recruit and whether members who had defaulted on payment of subscriptions should be reinstated without being responsored. The responses resulted in some of the proposals being accepted. The new rules stated that anyone who had not paid his subscription by 1st April would be struck off the list and would

require re-nomination; and the three year licence restriction was dropped. But the required CW speed remained at 18wpm.

The issue of FOC's close link with CW has become a little confused over the years. It is not true that the Club has always been a solely CW organisation. At its outset, although it promoted the use of CW and it was a requirement that new entrants to the club should be proficient in that mode, it also accepted members who could be considered to be principally phone operators, provided that they fulfilled the requirements of upholding the ideals of good operating ability on the bands. It is only in relatively recent years that the title of the club was changed to include 'C.W.' and the wording of the rules changed to suggest that a 100% devotion to CW was a prime requirement.

As late as 1962, Les Belger penned the following editorial.

The main object of the editorial this month is to clear up any misunderstanding about FOC as a CW Operators' Club. Let there be no doubt whatsoever - CW is our main interest, it always has been and will ever continue as such. The fact that you are a member of FOC means that you must be a good CW operator primarily, and future nominees must be appraised on their capabilities as CW operators.

However, do not condemn the more adventurous type who cannot resist the thrill and pleasure of operating, say, SSB on 21Mc/s when the band is wide open, or an occasional natter on 80 metres. Some of us may often be heard using fone but in every case I'm sure you'll find that the 'first-love' is always CW.

Personally speaking, I like to operate a station that is 'flexible', i.e. at least five bands in constant use, mostly CW (but occasional fone to break the monotony), contest operating, rag chewing, etc. The point I am trying to make is that Amateur Radio is a hobby (some people seem to forget this sometimes!) I operate my station for my own pleasure and relaxation and reserve the right to use any mode I fancy.

The rules of the Club have been very carefully worded so as not to insist upon 100% CW operation. The right of the individual must be upheld and we have no desire to dictate to members upon the mode of operation.  
[G3JLB 3/62]

Some years later, in early 1967, a difference of opinion seems to have arisen between Les and Bill Windle on the subject of CW exclusivity. Bill, in his position as Chairman, criticised the fact that SSB contacts had been allowed to count for the WAFOC award and stated that *'it was the intention of the founders that the Club should be a CW-operators club'* although this would appear to have been conjecture on Bill's part as such a supposition is certainly not supported by early copies of the rules. Les responded in the same News Sheet [4/67] with the comment *'If it was the intention of the founders that FOC should be a CW-Club, why in heavens name did they not say so in the rules - restricting it exclusively to CW-operators?'* A few months later, when Les was forced to relinquish the Secretaryship due to family and work pressures, one of the first actions Bill took as Secretary was that the name of the club changed, almost overnight, to the 'First-class C.W. Operators' Club'.

The March 1969 News Sheet carried proposals for a re-drafted set of Rules for the Club which were subsequently approved by the membership and, with some minor changes and additions, have formed the basis for the Club's activities over the past thirty years.

#### The First-class CW Operators' Club - Rules of Membership

1. The Club will be known as the 'First-class CW Operators' Club' and its membership limited to 500. Its aim will be to foster and encourage a high standard of CW operating and behaviour on the amateur bands and to observe the principles of band planning.
2. The Club will be managed by the committee, one of whom shall be the Chairman selected by the committee members.
3. A President shall be elected every two years and take up office at the Annual Dinner, normally held in October.
4. New members must be able to operate at a speed of not less than twenty-five words per minute and to operate on at least two bands.
5. Election to membership will be on the recommendation of at least five sponsors from at least two continents who are fully paid up members. These sponsors must have been in contact with the nominee over the air, on CW, and submit an extract from the logs showing the date of the QSO, etc.
6. Entry fee is seven shillings and sixpence (£0.375) and the Annual Subscription fifteen shillings (£0.75) payable on the first of January each year. Failure to pay subscriptions by the fourteenth of January will mean deletion from Club records. Any

cases of hardship due to prolonged sickness will, however, be considered by the Committee on appeal. Any dues received after this date will be returned. A reminder will be published in the November and December issues of the News Sheet.

#### By-Rules

- Sponsoring: Members are to observe stations over a period before sponsoring and only those stations known to be able to comply with the rules to be sponsored. All sponsors to have been members of the Club for at least one year.
- Objections: Any objections to a nominee, or a complaint about an existing member must be sent to the Secretary without delay, giving full details. The Committee will investigate all such cases.
- Committee: To serve for a term of one year from the month of September and a ballot taken if necessary. The Committee will deal with all cases of bad manners or non-conformity with the rules, etc., and if proven will take such action as deemed to be in the best interests of the Club.
- Special Note: Members are reminded that good manners over the air, AT ALL TIMES, forms a part of First Class Operating. Set an example to others, especially to the novice; let your behaviour be exemplary and your operating technique always be of FOC standard. Be sure that your nominees measure up to the standard we must retain.

Only two changes of substance were made during the following years. In the mid-70s, with an ever-increasing proportion of overseas members, it was feared that control of the Club might slip from the UK. Accordingly, a rule was passed ensuring that all committee members and the President must be resident in the UK. [12/76].

The other concerned what Bill Windle saw as the highest priority aspect of club membership - ongoing activity. After some prolonged discussion in the News Sheet, a ballot slip was included with the December 1977 News Sheet which asked the question *'Are you in favour of having all members sending in a return of members worked during the year up to 31st December?'* Although, in an accompanying editorial, Bill appeared to be supporting a 'Yes' vote for the proposal, it was, in fact, defeated by 159 to 134 votes [5/78]. Letters received with the returned voting slips suggested that the onus of proving activity should be put upon those members who were considered to be inactive. This resulted in the famous, and to some members the infamous, 'Rule 7' which stated *'The Secretary may ask any member to submit proof of activity by giving the member six months notice when a list of 50 members worked should be submitted'*. [5/78]. The first six member deletions under the new Rule 7 were made in November 1979.

During 1980, there was renewed emphasis on activity and the need to attract the 'right kind' of people into FOC. There was criticism of 'the old pal's act' by which it was considered that groups of members would cooperate in putting together the necessary nominations to 'get someone in' even though they might not satisfy the requirements of comprehensive activity levels. The Committee passed two changes to the rules that were designed to discourage these activities - changes which are carried forward into today's rules. These were the restriction on sponsorings from individual members to five per year; and the requirement that there should be at least two continents represented with a maximum of three members in any one. Bill continued to train his guns on inactivity through use of Rule 7. However, it seems that the ballot that preceded the implementation of the new rule suggested that the membership was not totally behind too firm a line being taken on activity levels. From the August 1980 News Sheet, we see that the level of adverse response to implementation of the rule, during the previous twelve months when 65 members were approached over activity levels, seems to have caused the Committee to decide to take over application of the rule.

By the middle of 1982, it was decided that Rule 7 was causing more problems than it solved. The requirement for a list of 50 members worked seldom resulted in any increased activity in the long run. So the rule was changed to its modern format. *'In the interests of maintaining levels of activity, the Committee may approach members who appear to be inactive. In the absence of a satisfactory response, membership may be withdrawn by the Committee'*. [7/82]. During 1982/83, Al - G3FXB and the Committee became increasingly concerned about the 'old pal's act' and Al quoted one example of having received nominations for a US station from five other US members, four of them in the same call area. In the same mail were copies of letters sent by the prospective candidate to two UK members soliciting support. Although not too many examples had been noted of such blatant lobbying, such activities continued to cause concern. It was very difficult to frame a rule that would trap these actions. The one action taken by the Committee was, in August 1985, to strengthen Rule 5 with the requirement that at least one sponsor should come from the UK.



### 'Secret' nominations and objection handling

There has always been a range of opinion over the degree to which nominations should be known to the nominee and to what level it is acceptable for a nominee to express interest in becoming a member of FOC. At the one extreme, at some times during the Club's life, it has been the policy that nominations are carried out totally in secret, and the first that a prospective member knew about the nomination was when an invitation to join was received. Under this regime, there were frequent charges that particular nominees were openly soliciting membership over the air, or had access to copies of membership lists and were actively pursuing members around the bands hoping to gain the necessary support.

This was never a satisfactory situation. In more recent years, the policy has been much more open. When a station is initially nominated and first appears on the Additional Nominations List, a letter is sent which sets out the procedure by which new members join and which provides background information on FOC. It emphasises the requirements for maintained on-the-air activity and a desire to become involved in all the aspects of Club activity. It points out clearly that the Club is not intended to be for those who are *exclusively* DX or contest operators. It also points out that membership of FOC is not seen as a recognition of first-class operating ability but that it is a club that promotes first class operating *by example*. It invites the nominee to consider the implications of membership and to be sure that a commitment to its ideals will be forthcoming. The issue of objections is addressed and it is pointed out that existing members have the opportunity of objecting to nominees on grounds which include poor operating ability and general conduct on the bands.

The handling of objections is, without doubt, the most difficult area of Committee activity. The issues involved are never black and white. If an objection is sustained, the sponsors are, understandably, dismayed. A member raising an objection finds it difficult to understand why it may be overruled. Before a decision on a particular objection is taken by the Committee, every effort is made to obtain further background information on the issues involved. The Committee is faced with the unenviable task of playing judge and jury on the question. Ultimately, to some extent, the decision will be subjective. However, the only alternative to this is that membership of FOC is made open to all comers. But, over the years, the membership has overwhelmingly voted to retain a numbers limit - not to claim exclusive privilege, but to ensure that the standards of membership and the prestige of the Club are maintained; although it should be remembered that the original rule limiting numbers was established to keep administration to a reasonable level.

Fortunately, the number of objections is relatively small. This indicates that the nomination and sponsoring procedure generally works and those that have been nominated but are unlikely to be able to uphold the standards of the Club, do not progress to the point where an objection would need to be considered.

### Associate membership

The vast majority of members support the policy that FOC should be a club for people who are regularly active on-the-air, and who wish to remain involved in the range of club activities. Where a member becomes inactive, the question is raised whether he should continue to hold one of the 500 places in the Club or step aside to allow someone else in. There are, of course, a number of reasons why someone may become inactive. It could be a temporary situation caused by family or job changes; it may be somewhat more permanent due to ill-health or advancing years; it may simply be that the person concerned has developed other interests which now fill the available spare time. Additional grades of membership have been developed over the years in an attempt to address these different situations.

Following a 400-limit being placed on membership at the end of 1962, and the limit being reached early the following year, pressure began to grow on those members considered to be 'inactive'. The first discussion on the issue appeared in the April 1963 News Sheet and subsequent correspondence led to the announcement of an 'Inactive Panel' a few months later. This was formally incorporated into the rules in April 1964 together with the intention of introducing a 'proof of activity' plan that would require members to submit a return of at least 50 CW QSOs of which a specified proportion should be with other members. The joint actions seem to have had the desired effect with a number of members transferring to the 'Inactive Panel' although, with a number who presumably disagreed with the new rules, resigning completely from the Club, quoting 'Inactivity'. Although the requirement for an 'annual return' appears to have been followed up for a few years, it seems to have been quietly dropped - probably as a result of the administration involved in checking the returns and following up those who had not submitted one.

By late 1968, the membership limit had been raised to 500 but there was a QRX list of 36 call signs and a starred list of 40 - so the pressure was once more trained on those that were deemed to be inactive. A proposal from Bill Windle appeared suggesting a revised requirement for annual returns [11/68] but this does not seem to have been met with any great enthusiasm. Instead, a revision to the 'Inactive Panel' was announced - now to be called 'Temporarily Inactive'

If a member is likely to be inactive for any period up to a maximum of two years, your Committee have agreed to permit resignations to cover this on the understanding that the reason is given in writing to the Secretary at the outset. This will be recorded and subscriptions and the monthly News Sheet will cease. The vacancy will be used to relieve the QRX List. When the station ceases to be inactive, he should again notify the Secretary in writing when he will be (a) re-enrolled, if a vacancy exists, or (b) placed at the top of the QRX List and take up the first vacancy. Until he is re-enrolled he cannot take part in Club activities and will not begin to pay subscriptions till notified by the Secretary. He will retain his membership number.  
[G8VG 8/69].

This rule seems to have worked quite well with sustained editorial pressure for inactive members to move onto this list. It also had the effect of eventually filtering out those members who were, effectively, totally inactive. The January 1972 News Sheet shows deletions of eleven members who had been on the T/I list for the limit of two years.

In late 1977, a proposal was made to cater for those members whose activity levels had dropped off due to advancing years but wished to maintain links with the Club [10/77] and this resulted in the introduction of the FOC(R) category of membership [12/77]. However, this facility does not appear to have been very popular with only two members opting to transfer by March 1980.

At the end of 1980, it was decided that the 'Temporarily Inactive' list had run into difficulties as members were opting to transfer to this list and then remaining active. So the list was discontinued [12/80] and the members returned to the active list. This had the immediate effect of inflating the membership total well beyond the 500 limit and, in turn, placed renewed pressure on measures of activity as a justification for continued membership.

The Committee faced the dilemma of trying to balance the interests of maintaining a high level of on-the-air activity with the need to cater for those who were genuinely inactive for a *temporary* period. The removal of the T/I List did nothing to solve the problem apart from causing the membership total to remain well above 500 and, consequently, there were few vacancies for new members.

In late 1983, Roger - G3SXW, as a Committee Member, proposed rules for an 'Associate Membership' category [12/83]. These were well received and passed into the rule book in May 1984.

#### Associate Membership (1984)

1. Associate Membership is available for those Full Members who are no longer in the position to operate on the bands sufficiently for full membership to continue but who nevertheless wish to maintain close links with the Club. Associate Membership is granted only to a current Full Member as a direct transfer.
2. When transferring to Associate Membership, a certificate is issued in recognition of previous service as a Full Member.
3. Associate Members continue to receive News Sheets and are listed in the Club Call Book and are welcome in all Club operating events, but do not count for points in the Awards programme or the Marathon. Normal full subscription is payable.
4. Associate Members wishing to return to Full Membership at a later date must be sponsored in the normal manner. However, once the normal procedures are completed, including the three month objection period, priority will be granted over other nominees awaiting a vacancy. A new membership number will be issued.

These rules satisfied the requirement for over ten years. However, there were suggestions for change from time to time. Some felt that the rules did not give sufficient support to those long-standing members of the club who, through advancing years or ill-health, were no longer able to be active. There was a feeling that members were discouraged from seeking Associate Membership as, especially where inactivity might only be for a relatively short period, it represented too great a break from the Club and raised the issue of future responsoring.

In 1994, following suggestions from Owen - G3LKZ, the Committee decided to have another look at the Associate Membership rules to see if they needed to be revised to cater for the modern club. Ken - GW3KGV, carried out a survey with the result that new Associate Membership rules were introduced at the end of 1995. These had the effect of encouraging members to transfer when they expected to have a temporary period of inactivity. Associate Members would be able to continue to take part in the Marathon and would be able to transfer back to the Active List without the need for re-nomination. However, transfer would be at the discretion of the Committee and would only be for a defined period of time. This was designed to reinforce the policy that FOC should be an active club and that there should be no 'second class' of membership for people who desired the 'status' of belonging to FOC but were, in reality, not sufficiently interested to be active on the air. The Committee also took the power to grant, at its discretion, Permanent Associate Membership where appropriate. This gave the Committee the facility to recognise the long standing association of a member who was physically unable to continue activity but wished to remain in touch with the Club.

#### Associate Membership (Rule 9, 1995)

Members who are, for any reason, unable to maintain a sufficient level of activity to justify continuing Full Membership may apply to the Committee for transfer to Associate status.

Associate Membership will normally be granted for a defined period of time after which the member will be expected to have resumed a normal level of activity and to be eligible for return to Full Membership.

However, the Committee will consider extensions to the period of Associate Membership provided that it is satisfied that the member does intend to ultimately resume normal activity levels. Where circumstances are appropriate, the Committee will grant Permanent Associate Membership.

An Associate Member may, at any time, apply to the Committee to resume Full Membership. Responsoring will not be necessary but the member will be required to furnish evidence that satisfactory activity levels have been resumed. Reinstatement will be subject to the overall 500 membership limit but will be given priority over new nominees.

1. Subscription will remain at normal full rate. Associate Members will continue to receive News Sheets, Focus and other club material.
2. The membership number will be retained and this will be shown on all club documentation, including the Call Book, with the letter 'A' appended.
3. Associate Members may not submit nominations for new members.
4. MARATHON - Full participation is allowed and entries will be accepted.
5. WINDLE AWARD - The members callsign and number will be shown on the appropriate lists for information purposes, but the member is not eligible to enter and contacts will not provide Windle Points to other members.
6. CLUB AWARDS - Associate Members are not eligible to participate in the Club Awards programme.



## Chapter 3

### The Stan Mercer Years (1952-1956)



Although Stan was only elected to membership of FOC in July 1951, by the following February, his offer to take over from Fergie and Hamish was willingly accepted and Stan produced his first News Sheet in February 1952. He was assisted in the production by Vin Penfold - G3JZ who looked after the duplication and the mailing.

An interesting item about Stan appeared in the second News Sheet that he produced and which foreshadowed the Club's future association with Lords and the 'English' game of cricket.

The spring sunshine brings thoughts of cricket and those of you who are cricket lovers might like to know that Stan, our worthy Hon. Sec. comes from a family of first class cricketers - his father and three brothers having played for their county. Brother John toured the West Indies with the M.C.C (Marylebone Cricket Club with its headquarters at Lords) and went back there to coach that wonderful pair Valentine and Rhamadin. He is also one of that select band to have taken ten wickets in an innings. Stan modestly tells you that his achievements do not match the rest of the family. But a QRP chirp tells me he was useful at most games.

[G3JZ 3/52]

Until recent years, the Secretary of FOC had always been the principal point of contact with members - almost a figurehead. And with the News Sheet providing most of the communication with the membership, the Club inevitably took on something of the personality of the current Secretary. Stan was new to FOC - so came with some new

ideas and fresh initiatives. Under his editorship, the News Sheet became a much less formal and far more personal publication than it had been in the past. There was a lot more member news and Stan often speaks of a bulging mail sack and problems with fitting everything in. There is a lot of operating news - what members have been working on different bands, new equipment and antennas that have been tested, DX information, and reports that perhaps reflect a somewhat broader scope than is the case nowadays - with space being given to activities on CW, Phone and VHF.

One of Stan's first actions was to end the rota system for distributing the Circular Letter, as the News Sheet was originally called. In the early days of the post-war Club, this served a useful purpose in that it kept down costs and, as each rota started and ended with the Secretary (assuming no-one broke the chain), it could also be used to poll membership opinion on various matters. However, with a membership approaching 300 with over 200 in the UK, continuance of this system was clearly impractical. So the subscriptions were increased to six shillings (£0.30) per year and everybody then received their own personal copies of the News Sheet.

This increase in communication between 'HQ' and the membership very much marked Stan's secretaryship. He encouraged a much greater flow news items with the result that the amount of material for the monthly News Sheet was usually sufficient to maintain five or six pages. This was, without doubt, a very positive development but inevitably raised its own difficulties. FOC has always been organised and run by voluntary effort - by people who have daytime jobs to go to and who also want to get on the air from time to time. With the increasing volumes of correspondence, it was clear that, if membership numbers were allowed to increase unchecked, then the role of Secretary would become impossible.

Stan produced his first Annual Report, at the end of 1952. [12/52]. Subscriptions had recently been introduced for Overseas Members and Stan thought that this might lead to some resignations. He considered that some changes would be required in the rules of the Club. He proposed increasing the required CW speed to 25wpm; and he proposed increasing the number of sponsors from three to five. He praised the membership for the amount of news that was sent to him, enabling him to publish a regular monthly News Sheet of never less than four pages with odd issues of six pages. He worried about the growing impact that TVI was having on the hobby and called on the members to ensure that they could continue to work at least one band at any hour of the day or night.

Summing up - the aim of the First Class Operators' Club is to carry on with the existing policy of gathering together a happy family of 'Gentlemen of the Air' who possess the qualities that the title of the Club implies. It is the duty of every one of us to make sure that we leave no room for criticism either with regards to our code, manners or ability. It is, furthermore, the duty of any FOC member to notify HQ if, in his opinion, any other member is transgressing our rules or has allowed his operating to become a little 'rusty'. It will then be my responsibility, with tact and diplomacy, to bring the offender into line.  
[G2DPY 12/52].

As with all secretaries, one of Stan's biggest headaches was encouraging reluctant members to pay up their subscriptions at the beginning of each year. Stan tried every friendly tactic to get people to pay up, even producing a rhyming apology from one member.

Non-payment of subs! by VS6CQ

Dear DPY, I don't know why  
I've failed in my subscription.  
You will agree I'm all at sea,  
My memory fails description.

I see the date, I'm three months late,  
But here's my contribution.  
Less beer I fear - about a year  
Is my just retribution!

Strike not my name from Radio's fame,  
Keep me a good Club member.  
My solemn vow, (it's noted now)  
"I PAY UP IN DECEMBER!"

Eventually, the Committee was forced to introduce a rule threatening 'striking from the list' where subscriptions were not received by the end of June each year. This still gave members six months grace and this period was considerably reduced in later years.

In early 1952, amateurs began appearing on the new 15 metre band, although it was not released in all countries at the same time. UK amateurs received authority in the middle of the year and began investigating the new medium and also coming to terms with the fact that the second harmonic was exactly in the middle of the TV channel for the south of England. For the first year, at least, the band does not seem to have immediately adopted the cut-throat DX tactics of the other HF bands.

Returning to 21MHz, during the recent short skip conditions on this band, there was quite a reunion with FOC contacts between European members. Sunday afternoons on 21 seems to be a very pleasant affair. Everyone seems so friendly. Most are cheerfully calling 'CQ DX' but do not seem averse to chewing the rag for an odd half hour with a local. So many stations appear on the band for the first time and are so happy to work anyone at all, that the whole spirit of the band seems carefree. In passing, I would say that the general atmosphere on all bands seems to have improved and one does not hear so many 'dogfights' as of yore. Maybe when old Father Sol changes his spots, the dogfights will return in strength - meanwhile - it is all quite enjoyable, DX or not!  
[G2DPY 6/53].

During these years, there is ongoing discussion over how the membership was attempting to cope with the growing problem of TVI in the face of the growing spread of television ownership. This took place in a situation where the Band 1 TV channels were harmonically related to the amateur bands. The London transmitter, at Alexandra Palace, was a particular problem with its sound transmitter on 41.5MHz and vision on 45MHz. This represented the third harmonic of 14MHz. Harmonic suppression was something new that had to be applied to the largely 'homebrew' transmitters of the time. A particular boost in TV sales occurred in the middle of 1953 at the time of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

Nowadays, Louis - G5RV, is known to almost every HF operator world-wide, for his multi-band antenna concept. Less well known is the part he played in research into TVI suppression. Without doubt, the work that he did and the articles that he published played a major part in getting UK amateurs back on the air and able to operate during TV transmission hours.

In October 1949, Louis presented a paper to the Institution of Electrical Engineers, in London, which specified the problems and the technical issues involved with the resolution of harmonically related TVI. This formed the basis for designs for many 'TVI-proof' transmitters. In his paper, Louis pointed out that even though amateur transmitters conformed to the internationally agreed specification for permissible harmonic content in a commercial transmitter, this was quite inadequate to ensure interference-free television reception for even a low-power amateur transmitter. Thus, amateurs were being asked to produce a performance from their transmitters many times superior, in this respect, to commercial equipment. He pointed out that there was no 'magic cure' to TVI and that relief could only be obtained by careful observance of all the known and described precautions - which he listed.

- Adequate circuit screening
- Screened leads in circuit wiring and inter-unit cables
- VHF filtering of supply leads
- RF by-passing
- Harmonic trap circuits
- Harmonic filters
- High-pass filters for TV receivers
- Low level frequency multipliers.

For his work related to TVI research, Louis was awarded the RSGB Norman Keith Adams Prize. He went on to design a number of amateur transmitters that embodied the TVI-elimination principles. In 1953, he published designs for the *Elizabethan* transmitter which pulled together all the essentials for TVI-free operation - low-power multiplier stages, full screening etc. Preceding, as it did, the availability of commercial amateur radio equipment, the *Elizabethan* became one of the most widely used pieces of equipment amongst UK amateurs. Clubs formed project groups to pool resources and expertise, so that as many of their members as possible could take advantage of the new ideas. The classic *Elizabethan* design used a pair of 807s in the final with a matching AM modulator, also using a pair of 807s.



Louis Varney, G5RV



A very early shot of G3FXB!

Al - G3FXB, in further attacks on TVI has now emerged with a completely TVI-proofed job on all bands. CQWW on 31st October is the first try-out. The final, and apparently most important phase of the TVI-proofing, was to totally enclose the rig in a copper mesh envelope which dealt with the remaining interference abracadabracially. [G2DPY 11/53]

I have finished my new 150 watt TVI proofed rig, the 'Elizabethan' and it's going like a bomb! With no ATU or filters, I can run 80 watts on 40 metres with a 139' long wire straight on the end of the Pi-network. [G2DPY 3/54].

In one of Stan's last major editorials, he summed up FOC in a way that remains essentially true today.

When in QSO with members, I experience a very warm feeling of friendship and it gives me cause to ruminate on just what our club stands for these days. It has, since C/L No 1 in the post-war period (circulated and written by Fergie G2ZC on 31.1.47) grown enormously and naturally many changes have taken place. The membership at that date was 14, today it just tops 300 and the C/L is number 96 - four to go for the century. Membership is spread over 42 countries. Studying our very simple rules, I think that the following extracts stand out: Rule 1: "Its aim will be to foster and encourage a high standard of operating ability and behaviour on all amateur bands". With the large amateur population of today and the new techniques produced, I think that we are best able to interpret this rule simply by conducting between ourselves and non-members, a slick procedure and using fluent readable code. We can hope that those who need improvement will try to emulate the same methods. Heaven forbid that we imagine that all the first class operators are enrolled under our banner - this would necessitate a membership of several thousands. In our small way, however, we can help by keeping our code and operating clean and endeavour at all times to give no cause for criticism in any respect. Rule 3c states: "are prepared over the air to assist and advise newcomers to amateur radio". This nowadays is not so easy outside the local clubroom. With the C&G [the UK theory test board] examination necessary for a licence and also the services training usually obtained in morse, modern newcomers are apt to come straight on the bands armed with pretty good equipment and knowledge.

I should say that FOC has grown into a friendly bunch of operators throughout the world who take pride in belonging to our fellowship and are happy and willing at all times to indulge in a FOC ragchew. I have found this myself. Strong friendships have been created over the air with Allan - ZS5AM, Eric - ZS2BC, Doug - VQ4EI, George - ZC4IP, Lucia - CR7LU, Vic - W4KFC, Dave - W8RA, George - YO3RF and many others too numerous to mention. What do you get out of FOC? Just this friendship and knowledge that you can let rip at a good operator and have a snappy ragchew whenever you hear a fellow member. The C/L is issued each month and may perhaps seem tedious to some of you. But it is a means of keeping us in touch with one another. This is something that the clubs who merely issue a membership certificate, and leave it at that, lack. Maybe when Jim 7BB moves to a new QTH atop a hill you, personally, couldn't care less - but, there are most certainly a few of his pals who did not know and are pleased to hear about him. Short of trying to emulate the technical magazines there is not much else one can do with a bulletin. However, here we are at the approach to the century - the way littered with stencils and empty ink containers and still going strong. Each year, we lose a few for various reasons - especially around subscriptions overdue time! To compensate, we always take in enough to keep the total around 300. Still with us are Nos 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, and 8 - G6FO, G2ZC, GC8NO, G8VG, G5RV and G2VV - in fact all the 'young number' 'old timers'. I find, and I am probably in closer touch than any other member, a sense of comradeship and an eagerness to help one another in any way possible. Two recent examples come to mind. Hamish - G5PS, when he first entered hospital, was so inundated with phone calls, letters etc., that the authorities found it necessary to 'clamp down'. Lucia - CR7LU, who is in a very difficult location for obtaining spares, appealed via the C/L and received a complete fill by return from Jim - W5FXN; additionally, George - G3CED, Al - G3FXB, and others offered assistance.

Perhaps adherents of top band and 80m may look askance at my almost complete absence from those bands. Amateur Radio is primarily a hobby to be indulged in whatever medium one enjoys most. In my case, and many others, it is DX, yet others like ragchewing on 80 or 160 metres. Some spend their time evolving wonderful TVI proofed rigs with which we less technical operators rake in the DX during TV hours! More are busy with Clubs and Society administration - others write DX Bulletins, experiment with two metre technique, help with RAE, further the cause of QRP etc. Each finds fulfilment in his own way and is under no obligation to try and cover the whole field. One thing is certain however - that when two FOC members make contact, there is always something to be said and it is generally said in a speedy and efficient manner.

During the annual 'Marathon' we meet many members who drag themselves from other duties and hobbies and come on 80 for a quick 73 with the gang. By sponsoring the very best and be sure about this - by forwarding your objection if you see a 'wrong-un' on the Starred List, and by living up to the title of our club - thus will a long and successful life be guaranteed to FOC; and further, by keeping the intake to reasonable limits, it will ensure that a sparetime secretary can keep a grip on things. There is nothing to stop us swelling to four-figure membership - except common-sense! Carry on gang, and rest assured that FOC is flourishing in a quiet and steady way without the aid of 'aspirin', certificates etc. And, if the other chap doesn't sign FOC - don't worry, he is probably one of the modest types who fortunately are the backbone of Amateur Radio. Fergie - G2ZC, our co-founder, ex-hon secretary and now Vice President, always summed FOC up in one word - 'matiness'.  
[G2DPY 7/55].

At the end of 1955, Stan published what was to be his final Annual Report. The Club had 312 members, with 208 in the UK and 104 Overseas. Stan felt that the time was approaching where a limit would need to be placed on numbers and thought that this should be 350. Also, as demands of a full-time job and a young family grew, Stan announced that he would be looking for a volunteer to take over the secretarial duties in 1956. *'I do think that new blood would be a good thing for the Club and I think you could too.'*

It was to be almost another year before that volunteer came forward in the shape of Les Belger - G3JLB. So Stan was able to publish the 100th News Sheet - a landmark in the Club's post-war history that brought congratulatory messages from many members. Also, before he handed over the job to Les, Stan had the sad duty of marking the passing of one of the Club's vice-presidents, Hamish Catt, G5PS.

It is with the profoundest regret that I have to notify you of the loss of our Vice-president, Hamish - G5PS, who died after a heart attack on the morning of the 5th June 1956. 'Hamish' was the nickname of an internationally known and respected amateur of the highest standing. The callsign CXD was allotted to him in 1904 when the Wireless Telegraphy Act came into force. He held commissioned rank in the Navy, Army and Air Force as well as his connection with the GPO and the Ministry of Supply. G5PS had lived in 52 countries and could speak just about as many languages. One of the features of our Christmas C/L was always the Christmas Greetings page which was from a stencil cut by Hamish and on which every FOC members could find a greeting in his own language. Even Mandarin Chinese was scripted! Hamish was a 'true-blue' CW man and never used other than a straight key. His hobbies included - besides amateur radio - weaving, bee-keeping, philately, modelling, joinery and the work he turned out on a stencil with his style was truly artistic and typified the 100% efficiency and perfection that he always demanded, and got, from his efforts. It is not perhaps so well known that at tennis and badminton, Hamish, in his younger days, was a player of county standard. He got great joy from watching International Rugby on TV but claimed that he was a sure sleeper after ten minutes of a [cricket] test match! From the day I took over from G5PS and Fergie - G2ZC, Hamish was ever 'on tap' for advice and I do not think I am betraying any secret when I say that Hamish, who was a perfectionist, never hesitated to let me know when I was straying off the track in any way! After pursuing something I had written four or five times, I would still be rather dubious as to whether or not it would pass the eagle eyed perception of G5PS! It was all in good cause for he was a wholehearted and enthusiastic supporter of FOC and the success of our club meant a great deal to him. It is to Hamish that we owe the idea of a regular 'first of the month' bulletin and other things that we now take for granted - all started from the time when he was, with Fergie - G2ZC, co-editor and secretary of FOC. I cannot pretend to cover a fraction of his vast experiences and interests; it would make an interesting book I am sure, to cover his very full life. Even whilst in poor shape - due probably to his being involved in the Harrow train crash of a few years ago, Hamish always attended the RSGB Exhibition and FOC Annual Dinner and it was a warming sight to see him with his cronies G2QB, G3DQ etc stretching his legs from the comfort of a chair behind some stall or other - watching the new generation of amateurs pouring through the stands. [G2DPY 7/56].

Stan's contribution to the Club was substantial and he was honoured by a Vice-Presidency in 1957. He was also presented with an autographed Certificate in recognition of his valuable service by the new President, Bill Craig - G6JJ, at the 1956 Annual Dinner.





## Chapter 4

### Dinners and Socials

It is difficult to say exactly how the idea of social get-togethers arose. It certainly represented a change in direction for the Club and, indeed, for the hobby. Up to then, social contact between amateurs was fairly restricted. Widespread car ownership was a thing of the future and personal contacts between amateurs did not go much beyond meetings at the local club or at the RSGB Amateur Radio Exhibition, held annually in London.

#### The London Dinners

The first suggestion for a club dinner appears in the Circular Letter for April 1948, with the suggestion that a group of London members might form an Organising Committee for such an event. This idea received a lot of support and a date of Saturday 30th November 1948 was set - this coinciding with the last day of the RSGB Amateur Radio Exhibition in London. Interestingly, the membership were asked to vote on whether or not they were in favour of '.....having a dinner for members only or to include guests *such as our XYLs etc*'. The first announcement also set an overall pattern that would survive over subsequent years - *'.....it will be an informal affair, with no set speeches, which will give everyone more chance to ragchew and get to know each other rather than be glued to a chair while folk spin yarns'*.

Meg Mills, G3ACC, took on the organisation of the first Dinner which was held at the Strand Brassiere, a restaurant in the West End of London, with a price tag of seven shillings and sixpence - £0.37 in modern terms. By September, all of the 50 seats were sold and the membership had voted to include XYLs but not other guests. The evening was voted an instant success and there were no doubts that it would become an annual event. Evert, at that time I2XKF and eventually DJ0XJ, had the honour of being the first overseas member to attend a FOC Dinner. Toasts have always formed a part of formal and semi-formal dinners in Britain - a tradition which sometimes puzzles visitors from overseas. At this first dinner, the toasts were identical to those we drink today - to 'The King', to 'The Club', and to 'Guests and Absent Friends'. The GW6OK Cup was presented to the Marathon winner who, for 1948, was Jack Wakeman, G4FN. It is recorded that following a suitable speech of acceptance, Jack filled the cup with 'hooch' and it was then passed around 'like a loving cup'.



The GW6OK Cup for the 1950 Marathon is presented to John Heys, G3BDQ at the Aldwych Brasserie by G2NM. Looking on are Hamish, G5PS and Austin Forsyth, G6FO.

Encouraged by the good response to the first Dinner, the Committee decided to move to the Aldwych Brassiere, another West End restaurant, which could accommodate up to one hundred people. Unfortunately, a booking for the corresponding Saturday in 1949 was not possible and the Club had to be content with the Friday evening of the RSGB show. This proved to be a discouragement and only forty people attended. An early booking for 1950 ensured that the room was available for the Saturday evening and good publicity in the Circular Letter pushed numbers up to sixty-six. However, it became obvious that there was only really enough interest in the Dinner to attract a regular attendance of around forty to fifty people. So in 1952, it was back to the Strand Brassiere for the next seven years, apart from 1955 when the room was not available and the Club had to go to the Royal Hotel in Russell Square.

This first dinners seem to have been very enjoyable affairs, being principally a meeting of the members from the London area, although Evert continued to visit the dinner each year. Dinners have always provided an opportunity to recognise individual contributions to FOC. One of the first of these was at the 1951 dinner when Fergie, G2ZC and Hamish, G5PS retired as joint secretaries. In addition to presents (of a silver cigarette box to Fergie and an electric drill set to Hamish) Bill, G8VG, had organised framed certificates signed by the fifty members at the dinner. In the early days, the Club was run very much by the Secretary and, although there was an elected Committee, there do not appear to have been regular Committee meetings. So the Dinner provided a good opportunity to discuss issues concerning the development of FOC and also to hold what passed for a mini-AGM.

Eventually, it was decided that guests (other than XYLs!) would be made welcome at the dinner and this, together with a rise in the number of overseas members attending, prompted a search for a larger venue. In 1959, a move was made back to the Aldwych Brassiere which was deemed to be 'more amenable' and attracted 38 members and their guests which included Karl Mosley, W0FQY, and Jim Macintosh, VS1AA (GM3IAA), both well known for their work with antennas. The venue was not available for the following year so a move was made to the Shaftesbury Hotel which proved even more attractive and where we stayed until 1967, apart from 1965 when a prior booking at the Shaftesbury meant a move back to the Aldwych for a year.



The 1965 Dinner at the Aldwych Brasserie. Centre and lighting his pipe is Tommy G6QB. To his left are Monica and Peter, G3EIX/VK2BPN. Top table left to right: Les, G3JLB; Mrs and Bill Bailey, G2QB; Bill, G8VG and Muriel. In front of the door to the right of Muriel is Les, G5LC. Immediately in line with Les are Joan and Vic, G6VC. Sporting a beard on the extreme left is Mike, G3KMO; and two places closer, a very young looking G3POI.

By the mid-60s, FOC was a well respected organisation and the number of overseas members had grown quickly. The annual dinner had become established with a regular attendance of around 40 members - not a particularly large gathering and still principally catering for members in London and the surrounding area. However, the growing prestige of FOC was such that many well known guests are recorded as joining us. At the 1966 Dinner, for example, visitors included Roy Stevens, G2BVN - the RSGB President, Bob Denniston, W0NWX - the ARRL President, Ted Truszkowski, OD5LX - the President of the Lebanese Society and ON4VY - a past President of UBA. At this dinner, FOC presented the 'Thomas Memorial Trophy' to the RSGB through Roy Stevens, in memory of Tommy Thomas,



G6QB who had become a silent key earlier in the year. The G6QB Trophy would be competed for annually in connection with the RSGB 7MHz CW Contest.

In 1962, the membership limit had been raised to 400 and in 1966 it increased to 500. This reflected a general raising of the interest level in FOC and this in turn showed itself in a lift in the numbers who wanted to attend the annual dinner. A record number of 62 came to what was to be the last dinner at the Shaftesbury Hotel, in 1967. Bill Windle, G8VG, who had taken over as Secretary during the year, decided that it was time that the annual gathering extended its horizons and he determined that 1968 should be the year to look for new pastures where the club would be able to properly celebrate the its post-war coming of age and its thirtieth year of overall life.

So was born the annual pilgrimage to Lords.

The announcement for the 21st Post-War Dinner appeared in the August 1968 News Sheet and was followed by intensive publicity during the following months. If he had lived in later years, Bill would obviously have been snapped up as a marketing copy-writer. *'It [Lords] is beyond doubt a beautiful place with a spacious dining room and lounge, splendidly carpeted. Light music will be played during the afternoon and until Dinner. Part of the carpeting will be taken up and dance music will be played after Dinner until we close at midnight. The bar will be opened at 5.30pm. The lounge will have plenty of room for those of us who wish to ragchew without any discomfort from the dancers.'*



'Lords' in St Johns Wood, London - principal venue for the dinners since 1968

The 1968 Dinner was an outstanding success with a total of 184 attendees. Following a suggestion by Ellen White, W1YYM (later W1YL), Mort, W2JDL (W2NZ) organised group travel on a charter flight to the UK which brought over 30 members, XYs and guests - beginning a long tradition of cross-ocean visiting to FOC social events. After the Dinner, Bill's skills with words continued. *'I cannot hope adequately to write of the wonderful get-together on the 5th October 1968 at the Lords Cricket Ground Banqueting Suite. Of the place, I am almost lost for words good enough to describe it. Wonderfully carpeted, splendidly furnished and very spacious, an ideal venue for our purpose. The service with afternoon teas, the large bar and the helpfulness of the staff was excellent. A peep through the sliding doors of the Lounge into the Dining Room was breathtaking, so beautifully prepared. The meal was very good and the service was the finest it has ever been my good fortune to experience. I am sure all who attended were impressed by the efficiency of the staff and I am pleased to say that we shall be holding the Dinner in 1969 at the same place.'*



Bill, G8VG speaking at Lords

In his first speech to a dinner as Secretary, Bill emphasised the strong role that FOC had established in the world of Amateur Radio and gave notice of the strong leadership that he intended to exert. *'This year will be recorded in the history of FOC as the greatest gathering ever and a new addition is the introduction of a book record of all who attended. Had this started 21 years ago, we would have had a record of all the great names who have made FOC what it is today. Nevertheless, this new record will be kept in the FOC archives and brought out annually for further signatures and callsigns and in another 21 years, members will be able to check on who's who in the past .....FOC has proved what it set out to do in 1938 and that was to improve the standard of CW operating. Evidence of this can be seen in the fact that we have 32 fully sponsored stations on our QRX list and a further 36 on the Starred List .....The type of members we want are CW*

*types, and the type of member we get is in the hands of the members themselves, We could do without the station who just wants another certificate and the station who wants to get a certificate and then to go all SSB; not forgetting the members we already have who are seldom on the air. I aim to get FOC a really active Club as whilst I hold the position I am holding at the present time, I will do my damndest to do so.'* [11/68]

The first dinner at Lords also seems to have seen the introduction of that which no FOC Dinner can do without - the raffle. However, although raffles are uniquely British affairs, it was not the British who started it! Again, from the Dinner write-up, *'Many thanks are due to Jim, W8FXP, who produced several items for raffling. He caught us on one foot as we had to borrow the tickets from the Manager. We made £8-14-6 for the Club. Next year, we shall not forget to include a raffle for the XYLs also. It is the OM at fault - he should have thought of it himself!'*

Thus began a long line of Dinners at Lords, which continues to this day. For the next twenty years, up to the end of the eighties, dinner attendances averaged over 170 with peaks of 207 in 1978 and 255 in 1988, both anniversary years. Visitors included an increasing number of overseas members, especially from the USA. An on-site station at Lords became a regular feature with GB2FOC on the air at the 1969 dinner and the two club callsigns G3YPB and G4FOC being used in later years. This activity came about very much as a result of Ron Stone, G3YDX and later Ron Lindsay, G3KTZ, with willing helpers, being prepared to turn up early in the morning and clamber across rooftops to put out the antenna. Walter, DL9PF, kindly produced a picture brochure of the 1975 dinner which was circulated with the news sheet and which was followed up with similar brochures from Lords and other dinners up to the time that the club magazine, Focus, began publication.

There was a small blip in the smooth running of the Lords history in the mid-70s. Following a year which became known as the 'Saddle of Lamb saga' when the meal turned out to be more saddle than lamb, and with a disagreement in the next year between Bill Windle and the management of Lords, the Club made a rather precipitant move to the Clarendon Court Hotel for the dinners in 1976 and 1977. This proved to be very much 'out of the frying pan and into the fire'. The dining room at the Clarendon Court was not big enough to accommodate all those that attended and the social space was limited, particularly in 1977 when it had to be shared with a stranded planeload of Japanese tourists. With the resulting move back to Lords for 1978, Bob Le Page, G5ADE (G0ADE) took over from Bill the responsibility for the organisation of the dinners.

Although the original concept of the dinners was to have a 'matey' evening without long speeches, they did not always escape controversy. Apart from Bill and later Al Slater taking the opportunity to emphasise their strongly held views on topics such as sponsoring and activity, there was a long tradition that the Presidential Chain of Office would be transferred at the dinner and that the outgoing President would, at that time, be able to voice his personal views on how the club should develop. At the 1976 Dinner, John Bazley, G3HCT, on finishing his term as President, voiced some very controversial views that included proposals that the Annual Dinner should take the form of an AGM with an election to fill some of the Committee places; that Committee members should receive paid expenses; that the membership limit should be extended beyond 500; and that



Bob Le Page, G0ADE

once a person is elected to membership through demonstration of the required qualities, he should be able to remain a member regardless of activity levels. These views proved to be very much a red rag to a bull and Bill Windle provided an immediate and robust rejection of all of the proposals. The resulting ripples took some time to settle down and it was resolved that action would be taken to lessen the potentially controversial nature of speeches at future dinners!



A happy Friday gathering at G4BUE's QTH

Over the years at Lords, one of the most pleasant aspects has been the development from what was originally a Saturday evening dinner towards an all-weekend event. This has, without doubt, attracted many of the regular overseas attendees. For a number of years between the mid-seventies and mid-eighties, Jake, G3AAQ and Nettie ran a popular get-together, for overseas members, in the Midlands on the Friday before Lords. This was usually at their own home but on occasions at the local village hall. These get-togethers are fondly remembered for the good food, good wine, and Jake's jazz expertise on the piano. When ill health forced them to stop, the Friday gathering for overseas members continued at the home of Chris, G4BUE, in Sussex.

The Saturday, itself, developed into an all-day event. The rooms at Lords were open from 10.30am and many friendly lunches have been enjoyed at the Lords Tavern - the pub immediately below the Banqueting Suite - and at other locations in the neighbourhood. Some cynics have, from time to time, suggested that it was essential to arrive in time for lunch in order to ensure 'at least one good meal during the day!' With a large reception room available in addition to the dining room, Lords has, over the years, proved an ideal location for our type of event.

Most overseas and many of the UK members have always stayed the night at nearby hotels where FOC was able to negotiate favourable rates and where the management were sympathetic to the needs of late night socialising. In the early days, this was the Ambassador Hotel in Lancaster Gate. But this burnt down in 1971 so the FOC gathering relocated to the somewhat closer Clarendon Court Hotel. It is interesting to see that, at that time, a single room with shower cost £3.90 per night or £8.80 for a double, including full breakfast. Also available were sauna baths, massage and beauty treatments although there is no record of how many FOC visitors used, or needed, these facilities.

The Clarendon Court was unable to accommodate the large number of members who wanted to stay overnight for the 1978 dinner and the overflow found a friendly welcome at the Colonnade Hotel, also quite close to Lords. This quickly became the hotel of choice for the weekend and soon displaced the Clarendon Court. This was not so much as a result of superior accommodation, indeed the decor was somewhat eccentric in places. But the family who owned and ran the hotel proved to be exceptionally friendly and, of great importance, were happy to keep a bar open virtually until daylight appeared. Over the years, many regular FOC visitors were welcomed back time and time again, almost as friends of the family.



'Wychwood' - the Slater's home in Sussex



At 'Wychwood' in October, it always seems to be sunny

The Sunday after Lords has traditionally been the day of a party hosted by the Slater family. Although most will associate this with unexpected sunny October days at Wychwood, their home at Maplehurst in the weald of Sussex, the parties did, in fact, start in the late 60s when Al and Maud lived at Southwick, on the south coast. The idea of a Sunday gathering was prompted by the growing numbers of overseas members that were beginning to attend Lords.

The 1983 Dinner proved to be something of a turning point, not only for Lords, but for the Club itself. Bill Windle, G8VG, had been the architect of the modern dinner - turning it from a Saturday evening gathering of local and semi-local members, to a central part of the club's annual activity. The idea had spawned a number of other FOC dinners, and Bill and XYL Muriel had attended the North American dinners in 1971 and 1975 as guests of the US members. In the early eighties, it was evident that Bill's health was failing even though he was always able to muster the energy to pursue his vigorous campaign on behalf of activity levels. At the 83 Dinner, the outgoing President was unable to attend and it fell to Bill to propose the toast to FOC and to install the new President, Louis Varney, G5RV. It proved to be Bill's last public act for the club after an close involvement with its organisation during all of the post-war period. Bill died just a few weeks later at the beginning of December.

The organisation of the dinners by Bob - G5ADE (G0ADE), and Al Slater - G3FXB and Maud was done on top of all of the other secretarial duties. Eventually, in 1987, it was decided that it was unreasonable to expect a single individual to run all of the club's varied activities. A change in organisation meant that each Committee member took on the task of managing a specific area of the club. Colin - G3VTT became the Social Secretary and, in this role, organised Lords for the next six years, followed by Dave - G3SYM for 1994/95 and Bob - G4HZV for 1996/97.



Three of the recent organisers of Lords, Colin - G3VTT, Dave - G3SYM and Bob - G4HZV

Over the past ten years, the format of Lords has remained essentially unchanged - everything coming together as an extremely enjoyable weekend. There is some concern over falling numbers with the average attendance down to around 140, mostly due to increased costs both of the dinner itself and of accommodation. The RSGB currently holds an HF Convention which is usually on an adjoining weekend and adds to the attraction for overseas members. A range of additional activities have been organised - tours for the ladies, barge trips along the canal, lectures and slide shows, committee forums, CW speed trials, guided tours of the Lords Cricket Ground memorabilia, and limited exhibitions of CW related equipment.

What of the future? Lords seems to be living on borrowed time. Commercial pressures mean that it is difficult for organisations such as ours to find a venue where we can organise a economically viable event. Owners of such venues look for the commercial conference package trade which would cost many times the amount that we currently pay. It is often suggested that a move out of London would realise a more economic alternative - but investigation of such alternatives only reflects the very good deal that we are currently able to negotiate with the management of Lords - largely due to our long standing custom. But it is, perhaps, only a matter of time before this reasonably happy arrangement is displaced by new, more 'commercially oriented' management. At that time, it will probably be necessary to look for a completely new structure for a UK based annual FOC event.

### Harrogate

The 'Northern Get-Togethers' in Harrogate began as informal meetings of members at the Crown Hotel in 1987. However, this was not the first attempt to arrange a FOC social event 'up North'. The newsletter of March 1951



includes a note that a number of members supported such an idea, the secretary was prepared to liaise on the arrangements, and it would give an opportunity for those members who could not attend the London Dinner to have their own get-together. As it turned out, Hamish - G5PS, only received two replies and commented - 'I propose introducing them to each other so that they may have a tête-à-tête at a time and place to suit their mutual convenience!'

However, with a much more mobile population, the 'Northern Get-Togethers' very quickly became the 'Harrogate Dinners' attracting a large attendance for a weekend around the end of May or beginning of June. Mike - G3IGW and Pete - G3PDL undertook the organisation and, for the second meeting in 1988, 73 people sat down to dinner including the whole of the Committee.

The Harrogate weekend quickly formed its own distinctive personality as a weekend away. Although not far from many of the industrial cities of the North of England, Harrogate has long been famous as a spa town where our Victorian and Edwardian ancestors came to partake of the medicinal properties of the waters. The Pump Room at Harrogate was built in 1841 and houses what is reputed to be the strongest smelling sulphur spring in the world. Naturally, the worse the taste, the better the potential benefit and 'taking the waters' was an essential part of daily routine for visitors to the town. In 1897, the Royal Baths were opened which allowed visitors to bath in the waters as well. These remain open and offer Turkish Baths, sauna, massage and various beauty treatments. Like other spa towns, Harrogate became an extremely fashionable place and the houses and public buildings reflected a very grand style. Today, it remains a popular tourist centre with good shopping facilities and easy access to tourist spots such as the Yorkshire Dales.



Mike Whitaker, G3IGW

Although the first three gatherings were held at the Crown Hotel, since 1990 they have been held at the Imperial Hotel. Many of the visitors make a weekend of it and arrive late Friday afternoon in time to make up parties to go out to dinner at one of the town's many excellent restaurants. Saturday provides time for a little tourism or shopping and maybe a visit to the famous Betty's Tearoom. The Saturday evening dinner is typically a very informal affair with no speeches or raffles - just a convivial dinner followed by even more convivial gathering in the bar! Mike and Pete continued to organise the dinner until 1996 after which Dave - G3RXP took over.

## The North-American Dinners



Group outside the Holiday Inn, Spring Valley, 1973. Left to right, standing, K4FP, W2AO, W9AE, W2HZY, W1RAN, W2HAQ, WA2DIG, W2AIW, W2AGW, W4BJ, W2SAW. Kneeling left to right: W3NZ, W1TW

The first recorded social gathering of FOC members outside Europe took place in March 1968 when an informal supper was held for Morrie Myers, VK2VN, at a restaurant in Manhattan. Meeting with Morrie were W1RAN, W1WPO (W1CW), W1YYM (W1YL), W2HAQ (N2LK), W2JDL (W2NZ), W2MUM and others. It was at this meeting that Ellen White, W1YYM, suggested a charter flight arrangement to enable US members to attend the 1968 FOC Dinner in London. This suggestion was taken up by Mort, W2JDL, who organised a party of some thirty members, XYLs and guests. It was, however, another five years before a regular US Dinner became established.

### New England

During the October 1972 ARRL Convention at Tarrytown NY, there was a FOC hour, during which it was decided to hold an annual dinner with a venue in New Jersey or New York. The March

1973 News Sheet carried the announcement of the first 'Mini-Dinner', to be held at the Holiday Inn, Spring Valley NY on 19th May and organised by Heinz W2HAQ. The weekend turned out to be anything but a mini-dinner with 103 in attendance the special callsign, WF2OC; and with Al and Maud Slater beginning what was to be a constant flow of members to dinners on opposite sides of the Atlantic. During the dinner, Heinz was presented with a Certificate of Merit 'in appreciation of his zeal in calling together the biggest social gathering FOC has ever had anywhere other than at Lords'. A further three dinners were held at Spring Valley up to 1976 with attendances averaging above ninety, and with the last of these being organised by Mort, W2NZ. However, clashes with other functions at the hotel dictated a change of venue.



Gathering in honour of G8VG at the home of Bob & Ellen White in 1971. Left to right: W1YL, VE2NV, W2AGW, W1BIH, K1ZX, W2MUM, W2MEL, G8VG, W1DA, W2NIN, W1PL, N2DAN, K1ZZ, W1RAN, W2HI.

around the pool. The increasing flow of overseas members meant there were always new faces to be matched to familiar callsigns. The food at the Ethan Allen was always good. The Dinner itself presented an opportunity for visiting members of the Committee to speak about the organisation of the club and to make awards and presentations. From 1981 onwards, the picture brochure was introduced which showed the rest of the membership what they were missing! There are many fond memories of the hospitality suite organised by Nap - W4DHZ, Dick - W3PHZ, and Lin - N4LS. A combination of a bath filled with ice cubes and beers and Nap's tasty smoked fish provided a very unique quality to the evening. The Sundays are remembered for the drive from Danbury out, through the beautiful countryside of New England, to 'Pete & Bobbie's Do'.

For the final two years at Danbury, 1988/89, Pete and Bobbie Chamalian took over the organisation. But it had become clear that it was too much to expect the total organisation to be handled by a single person and, following an open forum at the 1989 dinner, it was decided to form a management committee to organise future events. The first step was to poll the North American membership on what they wanted for an annual dinner.

### Washington DC

The organising Committee, which included N3JT, N2UU, K5MA, K2VUI, W1RM, WB1ADL, K7GE and K5NA, negotiated a good deal with the Ramada Hotel at Tysons Corner, close to Washington DC. The location has proved ideal for attracting overseas visitors with its proximity to major tourist sites such as the Smithsonian, the National Gallery of Art, Mount Vernon, and the White House, not to mention the large shopping malls in the immediate vicinity of Tysons Corner. In addition, the weekend has always adjoined that of the Dayton weekend making it attractive for overseas visitors to do 'the double'.

In the nine years that the dinner has been in Washington, it has maintained a more or less constant programme, apart from 1997 when it moved to the Marriott Hotel, also in Tysons Corner. Although it was thought, at the time, that this move might be permanent, the Marriott management had other ideas. They decided the FOC gang was too noisy and

Responsibility for the organisation of the dinner passed to Howie, W1HZ and, for the next three years, the dinner was held at the Quality Inn, Vernon CT. The format of the dinner expanded to a 'weekend event' in 1978 when Bob and Ellen White, W1CW/W1YL, held open house on the Friday evening and Pete and Bobbie Chamalian, W1RM/WB1ADL, on the Sunday. This location also proved to be rather noisy with bands playing in adjoining rooms; so the search was on again for a more suitable venue.

So the dinner came to Danbury in 1980 where it stayed for the next ten years and, in 1982, eventually deciding that it was sufficiently established to promote itself from the 'Mini-Dinner' to the North American Dinner. The Ethan Allen Inn at Danbury proved to be a very satisfactory location. It was well placed between Boston and the New York area, had good accommodation and there were no clashes with other functions in the building.

Those who attended the dinners at Danbury recall them for their friendliness and their atmosphere of a 'family reunion'. The evening of the dinner would kick-off with the cocktail hour

would not accept a booking for 1998. So it was back to the Ramada, now renamed the Doubletree, where new management and upgraded hotel rooms meant improved facilities.

Many of the overseas visitors arrive during the preceding week and take advantage of the easy Metro transport into the City to make the most of the attractions. The weekend really starts on Friday evening with Jim N3JT's block booking at the local Pizza restaurant and the opening of the hospitality suite where the ice bath and the smoked fish follow the tradition set down during previous years in New England; and the station provides contact with the outside world.

Saturday morning sees groups of visitors either at the shopping malls, more tourism, or just taking it easy and socialising. A cocktail hour precedes the buffet dinner where the quality of the food has always been considered excellent and the quantities leave visitors feeling a little guilty at not being able to do it full justice. Our dinners inevitably run on tight financial budgets so the raffles provide a little fun as well as helping things to break even. The DC dinner is no different in this respect and benefits from the on-going generosity of the individuals and organisations that regularly donate the prizes. The short formal part of the dinner enables visiting Committee members to provide an update on current FOC issues - and for awards and Marathon presentations to be made. Then it's back to the hospitality suite to continue the rag-chewing - with it usually being the small hours before the last stragglers reach their beds.

The Members Forum on Sunday morning is the time that the Dinner organisers can obtain some feedback to help with planning for future years. It also provides an informal opportunity for members to raise issues with the Committee members who are present, and to discuss the policy direction of the club.

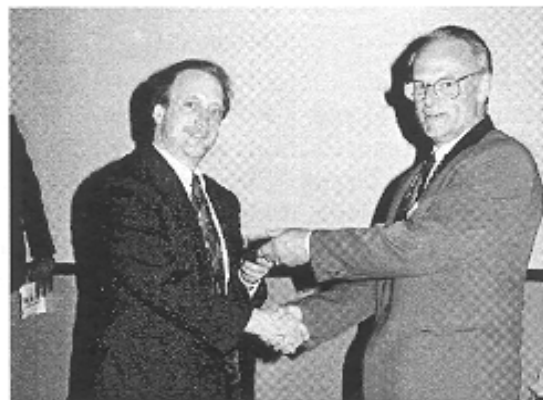


Sunday lunch at K3ZO

When the dinner was located in New England, the open houses provided on Sunday were a great attraction. The organisers of the Washington Dinner have, from the outset, been fortunate in the generosity of Fred Laun, K3ZO and Somporn, and Frank Donovan W3LPL and Phyll, in throwing open their houses to visitors. So after the Members Forum has finished, it is into the cars and off around the Capital Beltway to the K3ZO QTH which lies just across the Potomac river in Maryland. Fred's set-up is an outstanding example of what can be achieved in what is really a semi-suburban location. The continuing success of K3ZO in contests is a testament to its operational efficiency. Fred's family and friends always provide a most enjoyable barbecue in the garden and, with luck, the weather is dry and the sun shining.

Then, after lunch, it is back onto the Beltway and up to the north of the city to the W3LPL QTH which lies in rolling open countryside between DC and Baltimore. First time visitors to Frank's are always stunned as the towers appear on the skyline. The afternoon begins with a walking tour around the estate to see what new antennas have appeared over the last twelve months; and to admire the wire 80-metre quads slung between the towers, the 160-metre four-square array, and to remark on the professional level of engineering associated with all of the installation. Another surprise awaits the visitor when he gets to the 'shack'. In the basement under the house is one of the largest multi-operator set-ups anywhere, with full operating positions for each band and more - a huge high-voltage rack mounted supply in the corner that supplies the individual band linears, and the next-door sleeping room for use during the multi-op events. Many visitors to this and similar stations in the US are prone to dismiss it as the simple application of millions of dollars. Not so! It is the result of years of planning, dedicated application, and above all, hard work! Upstairs, good supplies of hot coffee and cake are on hand and Phyll and the ladies chat and admire the views over the countryside.

By late afternoon, some of the weekend visitors are beginning to make for the airport as tomorrow is Monday and, for many of the US members, a working day. By the time the FOC convoy gets back to Tysons's corner, the size of the group remaining at the hotel is much reduced and, by Monday morning, it is really just the small number who are staying to do some more tourism. Like most of the FOC dinners, 'DC' becomes a pleasant habit and people just seem to be able to find a reason to come back each year - maybe a 'convenient' business trip - maybe an extension to a visit to Dayton. Either way, it's a good example of the 'FOC Family' in action.



Jim - N3JT with Mick - G3LIK

## Florida

The Florida Dinner began in 1990 and was intended as a get-together for the FOC members in Florida. Ken and Mary Ryden, K8OHG and K8ONV, arranged an attractive deal at the Wilson World Hotel in Kissimmee - close to all the Orlando tourist attractions such as the Magic Kingdom, MGM Studios, Sea World and a comfortable drive from other centres such as Daytona Beach and Cape Canaveral. The first week of December is 'low-season' in Florida and the hotel rates are particularly attractive. For the first dinner, a family room was available for \$45 a night - amazingly, in later years, this reduced to \$35. The hotel was almost empty and there were good facilities in the shape of a large hospitality room and a private dining room. The first dinner attracted 35 members, XYLs and guests, although none from overseas.



A happy group in Orlando . Left to right: G3ZYV, N4OO, N4TO, G4BKI, W1YL, VA3CH, W8KJP, N4LS, G4BUE.

However, you can't keep good news quiet for too long. In the following years, with cheap airfares available from Europe, a week or two in Florida just before Christmas sounded like a very good idea and the dinner began to attract many FOC visitors from Europe. As annual numbers rose towards sixty, the gathering became too large to fit into the private dining room and the dinner had to move into the main restaurant and, to some extent, compete with other guests at the hotel. Mary and Ken continued to do a great job in publicising the event until they were overtaken by ill-health. At this point, Ellen, W1YL, took over the arrangements up to the 1996 dinner. This included the period during which she and Bob, W1CW, relocated from Homestead to Tampa following the disastrous hurricane which destroyed their home.

As with other FOC events, the Florida Dinner has, over the years, developed from a Saturday night dinner into a full weekend event. The hotel will extend their special rates either side of the weekend and this provides a great opportunity for visitors from further afield to link a visit to the dinner with days at the surrounding tourist attractions. An annual tradition has become the Friday night visit to 'Charleys' - one of the top steakhouses - where Vic - N4TO, challenges the rest of the party to compete with him in demolishing one of Charleys' 32oz T-bone steaks. Saturday morning gives us the chance to visit one of the shopping malls, parts of the DisneyWorld or to go to the huge radio surplus centre in Orlando.

The Saturday evening dinner is always a very informal affair and is followed by the usual late evening (and early morning) social session in the hospitality suite, managed by Ink- N4OO, and Chas - VA3CH. In 1994, Bob and Ellen White opened their doors (quickly dubbed 'the White House') for a Sunday get-together and this has proved an extremely enjoyable extension to the weekend.

Unfortunately, Wilson World has, in recent years, contracted with package tour operators in Europe; with the result that the hotel is now very crowded and the dinner has to additionally compete with karaoke in the atrium. So the time has come to move on. Chris - K4EFZ, and Bob -W4VQ, who took over the organisation of the dinner for 1997 have negotiated a deal with the Holiday Inn near Orlando International Airport. This will provide much improved facilities and comfort; and the move looks as if it will ensure the continuance of this increasingly popular annual event.

## The West Coast Dinners

These began in 1984 as an initiative from Tom Gallagher, N6RA, who organised the first dinner to coincide with the DX Convention at Fresno in California. In succeeding years the dinner followed the move of the convention to Visalia. Although it began as a fairly small gathering of members for a Friday night get-together, by 1988 it had grown to an attendance of 43 which, that year, included Al and Maud Slater. The evening included a slide show from Al and a 'FOC trivia quiz' organised by Dave, K6DDO. For the first time, a FOC Hospitality Suite was available during the Convention weekend. Since then, the dinner has continued to provide a convenient meeting point for FOCers attending the West Coast Convention. From 1990 to 1997, the Dinner was organised jointly by Tom and Eric - W6DU. Bruce -N6NT took over for 1998.



## The Continental Dinners

The first suggestion for a dinner on the European continental mainland was made by Evert, DJ0XJ, in September 1984. He proposed holding it in his home village of Asendorf, near Hamburg, at the end of May. The first of four dinners held there between 1984 and 1987, was organised by Evert, and attracted between 50 and 60 people. The centre of the weekend was the 'Zur Heidschnucke' hotel on the outskirts of Asendorf and about a mile from Evert's QTH and about four miles from the home of co-organiser, Ernst DL1PM. The local Community Hall was also made available for the weekend providing plenty of space for the social scene and for DX talks by Baldur, DJ6SI. On Saturday, the ladies were taken on a horse-drawn tour of Lueneburg Heath in warm sunshine, typical of this part of the world in late May. The Saturday evening dinner greeted the Burgomaster and the Registrar of Asendorf as special guests and there was considerable toasting to FOC and to the various groups of members who had travelled from the various European countries. The Sunday again dawned clear and sunny, giving ideal conditions for the barbecue at the Community Centre where the menu included 'five different types of large and meaty German sausages'. By chance, the local football team was playing a team from York, England who were surprised to find unexpected support from the considerable number of UK visitors. In the afternoon, the party moved to Evert and Helga's house for cake and coffee. DK0FOC/P was activated to a background of Jazz.



An early menu from Asendorf

This first dinner set a pattern for future years - in general, warm and settled weather - a chance to see previously unvisited parts of Europe; an opportunity to couple a visit to the dinner with a touring holiday around a broader area of the continent.

Two following dinners, in 1988, and 89, were organised by Baldur, DJ6SI, and held at the Park Hotel, in Bergheim, near Cologne. They followed very much the style established in Asendorf with the Saturday devoted to socialising plus visits to local tourist spots including the cities of Cologne and Dusseldorf. On Sunday, there was a barbecue in the woods followed by coffee and cakes at the home of Baldur and Christa.



Baldur - DJ6SI

For 1990, the weekend was organised by Herman - DJ2BW, at Trier, in southwest Germany, on the River Moselle, and close to the border with Luxembourg. Trier is one of Germany's oldest towns and was, in past centuries, the Roman city of Augusta Treverorum and, in more modern times, has been a considerable centre of wine-production. So it was natural that the weekend would include visits to local wine cellars with the opportunity to sample some of the products. Other attractions included visits to the Roman remains in the city, shopping expeditions for the ladies or a visit to the aircraft museum at Hermeskeil. The

dinner, at the Blesiusgarten Hotel in Trier, was attended by nearly fifty people and included FOC members from eight countries. The Sunday brunch was organised by Helmut and Margot and took place at a nearby 'Reitanlager' - the local riding club. This was followed by the traditional coffee and cakes at Herman's QTH.

It had been hoped that it would be possible for the Continental Dinner to move around to different areas of Europe. However, there were no takers for the 1991 Dinner and it fell to Evert, DJ0XJ, to make arrangements at Asendorf. The weekend seems to have passed off as the usual happy and successful event. It is rather interesting to note from the write-up that 'a toast was proposed to the Queen followed by toasts to the various Heads of State by a member from that country' - clearly a very patriotic evening. Evert took the opportunity to remind members that although he was fully supportive of FOC meaning 'Friendship over Continents' he hoped that there would be little support for the alternative 'Federation of Contesters'!



Renata - DJ9SB, is a regular visitor to the ConDins

1992 saw the first ConDin to be held outside Germany. It was organised by Andy - F2MA and took place at Ostend in Belgium, a ferry port on the North Sea coast that provides good links to the UK. A highlight of the weekend was the hospitality shown by the 'Radio Club of Oostende' who threw open their premises to the visitors and joined in an extremely pleasant social gathering.

In 1993, the Dinner moved to the pleasant Dutch town of Vlissingen, another port closely associated with ferry links to the UK, and known in much English literature and in many English paintings as 'Flushing'. Many of the visitors, including the writer, made a holiday of it and explored the interesting coastline between Amsterdam and Vlissingen, along which one is constantly reminded of the never-ending fight of the sea to reclaim the land. It was at the dinner on the Saturday evening that the President for the year, Robbie - GM3YTS, was paid what must have been for him, a very unexpected complement. Frans - PA0INA, revealed himself to be a keen bagpipe player and launched the evening in company with the Interscalois Pipes and Drums. Later, the hosts were, presumably, flattered by Colin - G3VTT, who thanked the organisers on behalf of all the visitors - in Dutch! The food at the Hotel d'Orangerie is remembered as a delicious example of Dutch cuisine. PA6FOC provided contact with the outside world throughout the weekend. Plans to hold the following year's dinner in Berlin did not materialise so Wino - PA0ABM, stepped into the breach and organised a second dinner in Vlissingen. With 43 in attendance, it seems to have been just as successful as the previous year.

—ooOoo—

### A ConDin Reunion by Les Easter - G3JHF

My little story really begins at the time of the ConDin in Vlissingen. But to put you in the picture, I have to go back almost a life-time.

On the 4th September 1939, I joined the RAF and about a month later, I was called to Blackpool to do my initial training, (Square Bashing!). I then went to Yatesbury and was posted to 214FMS Sqn at Stradishall in Suffolk in April 1940. I was there for three years and in April 1943, I re-mustered to WOM's course to Cranwell. Bob- LA2UA, was there at the same time. But I am digressing - those six years would fill a book!

I was eventually demobbed in February 1946 and whilst on leave, I was offered a job in charge of a small POW camp at an old country house called 'Beaupre Hall' in the village of Outwellin, Norfolk. My work was to supervise and allocate the 'boys' to farmers in the area who had requested labour. Apart from just one, a 'Hitler Youth type', I didn't have any problems with any of them. A land-line to the local military police removed this 'thorn' within ten minutes.

I lived with them and got on well with them all, and with one in particular, who was of the same age group and had been a WOP in the Luftwaffe, and therefore had a lot in common with me. He was shot down over the Maginot Line area in June 1942 and had been captured by the American forces. He had been shipped to the USA and then back to the UK in 1944. His name was Harald Kobel and I last saw him in 1947, but I know he was repatriated to his home in Sonneberg which, in 1948, was in the Russian zone of Germany.

Harald sent a short note to my parent's address to let me know he had made it back to Sonneberg all right. I was moving around a lot at that time and as everything was being severely censored by the Russians at that time, we lost touch with each other. Before the war, Harald's family business had been a toy factory.



Les Easter - G3JHF

In 1986, I was telling this story to Baldur - DJ6SI, at the Asendorf ConDin and gave him Harald's name and town. When we visited Baldur's home in 1988, while attending the ConDin, Baldur told me that he may have found my friend, Harald. It was a toy shop listed under the name 'Annie Kobel', Harald's mother. Baldur telephoned the toy shop. The call was answered by Elspeth, Harald's wife. The resulting conversation raised Baldur's telephone bill a little.

Joyce and I had decided to attend this year's ConDin in Vlissingen and then travel on to visit Harald at his home. So on the Sunday after the dinner, we set off. We stayed the first night at Paderborn and the second in Oberhof and got to Harald's home about midday on the Tuesday where we stayed for five days and were made very welcome - four meals a day, and cake for breakfast! It was a great reunion for Harald and for me and they could not do enough for us. After almost half a century, we met once again. It was great, especially as neither of us thought it would ever happen.

Harald told me that after the takeover by the Russians, the factory was seized and the former owners were put to work there for 500DM per month. It was a very tough forty years for them and they stayed in most of the time, hardly daring to converse with their neighbours in case something was said that could be misconstrued by the army of occupation, who had very little mercy. But now it is all over and they are very content and happy together. We tried to persuade them to visit us in England for a holiday but Elspeth has never flown and Harald was unwilling to come without her. So I guess that was our last meeting. I had my birthday over there and Harald gave me a superb locomotive which had been made in their factory. I never thought I would make it to see Harald again, but I am so pleased that I made the effort.



The dinner returned to Germany in 1995 with Klaus - DK8EI organising the events for 95 and 96 at Undeloh, a small 200-year old village in the Lüneburger Heide wild-life reserve about 30 miles south of Hamburg. Lüneburg has been famous for its saline springs for over 1,000 years and became a very prosperous town through the salt trade. The weekend took our members back close to nature! Events included a visit to the local farrier to see horses being shod. This was followed by a horse and carriage ride through the nature reserve which ended at a restored village called Wilsede where there is a museum charting the history of the village, shops to buy souvenirs and a hotel. The Saturday evening dinner was followed on the Sunday by a visit to see cooking in a traditional clay oven - a backofen. The socialising at the Undeloher Hof Hotel went on until 2am.

For 1997, it was the turn of Holger - DK4LX, to do the honours. There was a total of 40 attendees at the dinner which was held at the Baeder Park Hotel in Fulda - about 55 miles northeast of Frankfurt. As usual, the Saturday was devoted to informal socialising. There were visits to the local tourist attractions which include the cathedral, built between 1704 and 1712, and the castle where those who bothered to climb the stairs to the top could enjoy not only views over the town but also a display commemorating the life of the radio pioneer, Ferdiband Braun, who lived in Fulda at the end of the last century.

Herman - DJ2BW and Margot took over the organisation for the 1998 Dinner when it returned to Trier after an absence of eight years. The six-course dinner, at the Blesius Garten Hotel, was supported by over 50 members, XYLs and guests. This was followed by the traditional Sunday gathering at Hermann's house. Over the weekend, the callsign DK0FOC was on the air and the special DOK 98FOC was in use



## Chapter 5

### The Les Belger Years (1956-1967)



Les Belger - G3JLB

Les officially took over as Secretary from Stan Mercer on 10th November 1956 and produced his first 'C/L' in December. It contained the results of the 1956 Marathon, a write-up on the 1956 Dinner, an item on the opening of the 70MHz band in the UK, and a note that the Committee had decided to place a 350 upper limit on membership in order to limit the load on the Secretary.

The first issue of 1957 contained the sad news that Fergie, G2ZC, had died on Christmas Eve after some years of ill health.

It has been a sad year indeed for FOC to have lost both Hamish - G5PS and Fergie, who together laid the very foundations of our Club. Fergie, in 1946 revived the FOC and painstakingly laboured throughout the first few years entirely on his own to establish the Club. His great wish, always, was for the Club to be 'matey' and FOC was a great part of his life.

There were so many aspects to his life that it would be impossible to touch upon them all. He was interested in anything and everything - from how to build a garden wall, properly - through Poetry to Radio Engineering - he was AMIRE, and his interest in anybody who was an expert in any particular subject, was immense. So far as we were mainly concerned, he was in all a First Class Operator to the letter. His code on hand-key or semi-auto was perfect as was his procedure. I remember a few years ago that his sole aim when on the air seemed to be in making QSOs with beginners, and he took a huge delight in easing down to about 12wpm and rag-chewing, even if it took an hour or more to get a few sentences across. He thought this more indicative of a first class operator than tearing off strings of 35wpm incoherence on an el-bug.

Fergie devoted much time to the study of the meaning and purpose of life, and was very sure that he had found the correct philosophy. As he was so right in more earthly problems, I am sure that he also had the answer to this.

Many of us knew Fergie very well and I am sure that all the members elected during his reign as Honorary Secretary will agree that all of FOC is in being entirely as a result of his great efforts.  
[G2DPY 1/57].

The next few years were to be outstanding in terms of radio conditions and activity with the highest sunspot levels ever recorded producing propagation that has never been forgotten by those that experienced them. The increased activity quickly led to a QRX list for membership. These were quiet years for FOC so far as discussion on club organisation went. Perhaps the sparkling band conditions kept everyone very satisfied with life. Despite the lack of political issues in the News Sheet, there was plenty of news coming in from members covering DX news, antenna and technical articles and so on. The size of the News Sheet increased from two to four pages each month.

Jim Price, W5FXN was a regular contributor to the News Sheet. There was usually a paragraph containing DX information and, occasionally, an item on his approach to FOC. The following, which might be judged somewhat idealistic by modern day standards, was well received by the membership at the time.

I am fortunate that my job requires me to spend better than half of my time visiting businesses catering to amateurs and representing my firm at ham-affairs such as ARRL Conventions. This means that I meet a terrific number of amateurs. Of all those pins, buttons, badges, tags etc., that litter my bureau drawer, my FOC badge is always in my lapel. Invariably I am asked the question:- 'What is FOC?' Not long ago I was asked this by WIDX of the ARRL HQ staff. This set me thinking - obviously we have not done an adequate public relations job. Of all people, an ARRL HQ-man had never heard of FOC. Now I take great pains to sell FOC, its purpose, and its aims whenever I am asked about the strange badge in my lapel. Incidentally, the discussion with By Goodman lasted well over an hour and he was most impressed. So, What is FOC?

FOC is more than a Club ..... it is a way of life, a camaraderie. It is an organised effort to demonstrate that which is good for all BY EXAMPLE.

FOC means more than a clean CW operator capable of transcribing 60wpm in old-English characters with a 6" brush. FOC means a clean signal, a willingness to QRS to 3wpm for the struggling beginner, a helping hand to the aspirant down the street, a feeling of oneness with all who would see the level of amateur radio rise. FOC is not a reward, it is a goal.

'FOC' after your call is not a boast; it is an invitation to all others to emulate and therefore a responsibility equal to the privilege. 'FOC' should not mean that the member can boast of five friends that wanted him to join the Club; it must mean:- 'here is a man in whom we have found the qualities that make him a desirable advertisement of our whole'. FOC means then, that not only did this man receive the endorsement of five who inspected him minutely from many different viewpoints, but also that another 399, through their acquiescence, considered him worthy. Thus, the responsibility of selection is upon us all; it takes but one 'black bean' and each of us is uniformly guilty when a member is asked to resign for reasons of bad conduct over the air. The FOC limited roster of 400 places FOC membership in the position of being the most difficult achievement in all hamdom.

This is not snobbishness for it is a basic fact that mankind strives hardest for those things which are all beyond his capabilities. It is through this fact that even those who do not pass our review have benefited from the effort, and contributed to the common good.

Summing up, FOC is many things:- Character, Integrity, Compassion, Education, Discipline, Charity, and Fraternisation. It is truly more than a Club.  
[W5FXN 11/59].

In May 1961, another of the early leading lights in FOC and one of the true radio pioneers became a Silent Key. Gerry Marcuse, G2NM was President of the Club up to 1956. Gerry's overall influence in the hobby had been almost without parallel and was recorded in News Sheet articles written by G6CJ.

—ooOoo—

#### G2NM by G6CJ.

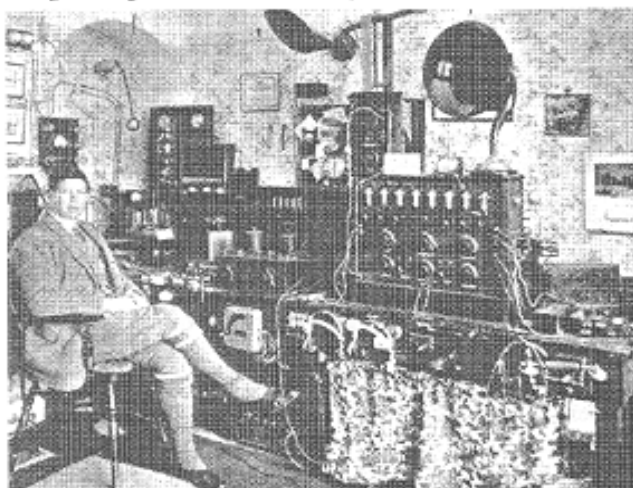
There is a metal plaque on the commemorative seat, presented by the RSGB, which stands outside the church at Bosham, Sussex where 'Gerry' spent his last years. There is a similar plaque on his former house 'Coombe Dingle' at Caterham Surrey. His story is so well recorded in many other places that it is not easy to find any original matter for this tribute but perhaps a few personal reminiscences will help.

Gerry was born in 1886, the son of a city merchant, and was trained as an engineer. He was badly burned in a boiler explosion, and bore the marks of it for the rest of his life. We typically remember him in his famous beret, which he always wore when his more formal covering was not essential. He obtained an experimental licence in 1913 and served in the 1914-18 war. Shortly after the war, he appeared in records when he became 2NM. By this time he had taken over his late father's business as a seed importer and his position gave him the key to places where he could later be of tremendous help to the amateur movement.

In 1924, he appeared as the Hon Sec of the Radio Transmitters Society, with Capt Ian Fraser as President, one of the several competing clubs which developed in the early 1920s and which through the efforts of Hugh Pocock, Editor of the *Wireless World* became amalgamated into the T&R Section of the RSGB. The *Wireless World* had for many years been the official journal for all amateur bodies. But Gerry had felt that one of the handicaps to progress was the lack of their own means of communication to the members. So with H. Bevan Swift, G2TI, who was by now Chairman of the T&R Section, the T&R Bulletin was born, with its first edition

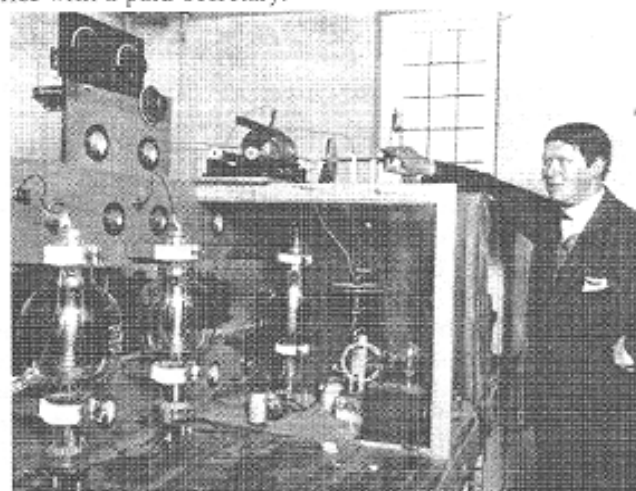


appearing in July 1925. The two men carried most of the cost of running the RSGB between them, but it was growing now and in a few years would have its own office with a paid Secretary.



The equipment used by Gerry Marcuse in 1924 with which he made the first two-way contact on short waves with the west coast of America.

[Photo RSGB]



G2NM, with some of the equipment he used for broadcasts to the British Empire, the first of which took place on 1st September 1927.

[Photo RSGB]

1925 was a momentous year. Amateur Radio had become an international phenomenon. Communication was becoming possible with other continents for those who had managed to wrench permission to 'go abroad' with something better than a ten-watt licence from the authorities, and even for some who hadn't! (The sun may have helped but they didn't know about sunspots then). Gerry had met Hiram Maxim, the President of the ARRL, and went with him to lead the British Delegation to the Conference in Paris where the International Amateur Radio Union was founded. The short waves had been extended to us (some of us) via 45 metres and 23 metres.

Many well remembered amateurs contributed to the great awakening in radio during those two or three years after the 200 metre transatlantic tests. G2NM made great contributions. He had become the link between the Rice-Hamilton Expedition into the interior of Brazil and the Royal Geographical Society in London. He had communicated with the US Navy en route from Australia to Honolulu. He made contact via shortwaves with the Naval base in Hong Kong and set an example by bringing home some traffic to the Admiralty in London in one day instead of the three or four days it took over the longwave circuits. For this, he received a commendation from the Admiralty, and from the Post Office, who added that if in the course of this experiment he had exceeded the terms of his licence, the matter would be overlooked!

His speech transmissions had become known around the world, by the public as well as by amateurs. He first realised the potential of Empire Broadcasting when an amateur in Bermuda re-transmitted some of his signals to other amateurs in the West Indies. There was a growing demand from the Empire. His first request for a permit to carry out experiments in this direction was refused on the grounds of copyright. He overcame this, by sticking to the terms of his licence, and employing artistes and well-known persons direct and communicating to a specific station abroad. A station was set up in the Savoy Hotel in London and later on in his home in Caterham.

The first transmissions included speeches by Capt Ian Fraser, President of the RSGB, and the High Commissioner for Australia. His later concerts were re-broadcast in the Public Services of the Dominions and Colonies. After much difficulty, he finally obtained a licence, with of course extreme limitations, to do experimental broadcasts and these started in 1927 and continued for two years. One month after his start, the BBC began tests using the Marconi station G5SW at Chelmsford, but it was not until 1932 that the BBC Empire Service started, and then Gerry was told to go QRT. The cost of this great venture was met from his own pocket and was said to have amounted to £6,000 - a fortune in those days. The site at Caterham was 700ft above sea level and the aerial a 'zepp' another 100ft up. The station, when I saw it later at Sonning, comprised three Marconi MT9F bottles, one driving the other two, to well over 1kW under the influence of a 4kV motor generator set.

In 1929, he became President of the RSGB and was soon working with Arthur Watts, G6UN, who was to succeed him in bringing together the amateurs of the Empire as BERU [The British Empire Radio Union]. He later moved to Sonning, near Reading, where the writer was able to visit him, and a friendship developed



which lasted until his death. He made no bones about his technical limitations and would call in the experts like G6OT and G6YK. Our visits usually resulted in some improvements to the station.

The 30-metre broadcaster, was there doing service as a DX station. The push-pull PA was difficult to neutralise well, a common problem with undernourished filaments, especially those made from tungsten. The makers labels stated the optimum filament voltage, but the tubes didn't get it because of a couple of chokes between them and the meter. He wouldn't let us shift the meter, he feared any change, and he knew that high filament voltage meant more bing, but shorter life, although he may not have realised that the chokes dropped half a volt. There was also a trio of 832s which put out very strong signals on TEN metres, but it was not exactly a break-in station. For at each over, the big generator had to wound up - not unusual in those days, but not recommended for rapid progress these days.

With a move to the south coast, he became again a 'Man of the Sea' starting with a nice little cabin cruiser (My Babe) which had served in and survived the evacuation from Dunkirk in 1941. A successor was Irene II, a ten ton ketch, in which the writer and his friend G6OT spent many happy times, learning sailing, navigation and sometimes fishing. Gerry must have sailed these waters before, because when he upset the Normandy fishermen, he could answer them back in their own peculiar version of French.

The great man amongst the builders of the Amateur Radio Tradition was charming, kindly, hospitable, but of course strict when it came to business. He continued to the end, known everywhere on the air, and died in harness in 1961. The final station as it was at Bosham is now preserved at the Chalkpits Museum, Amberley, West Sussex, where the Chichester Club holds an annual day on the air using the special event callsign GB2NM.



A number of factors contributed to this 'quiet period' coming to something of an abrupt end later in 1961. Bill Windle became President; the long spell of good HF band conditions began to fade as the sunspot cycle started running down towards its null; and activity became an issue as the Club's first operating award, WAFOC, was launched.

WAFOC began on 29th April 1961 and an Activity Weekend was organised to coincide with the start. The lack of support for the event brought home to a few people that, perhaps, overall activity levels of the general membership were not all that they might be. Although many people associate Bill Windle with pressure for activity, it was, in fact, Tommy - G6QB, who got the ball rolling.

Dear Les

If you haven't already done the Circular Letter, I think the membership as a whole should be congratulated on the NON-activity weekend. The disciplined way in which they kept radio silence was most impressive. I got the impression that FOC members just don't like operating!

Was looking forward to this weekend for some time, and set aside a few jobs so as to have plenty of operating time, but all I did was to flit from band to band, picking up the occasional QSO here and there. Whoever achieves WAFOC Award #1 will have done a really fine job.

What do you think the trouble is? When I suggested a FOC Activity Period on 80, some time back, and you gave it a try, the results were about the same. Where they all hide, I don't know. It seems to me that the Committee might give serious thought to some 'proof of activity' if members are to remain on the list. I guarantee there are at least 100 on the present list who haven't been heard on any band for years .....do you think it's worth mentioning? After all, inactive members are just so much dead wood keeping would-be members out.

[G6QB 5/61]



G8VG chasing the activity

In the same News Sheet, Bill Windle had penned an editorial pointing out that the current rules of the Club had been framed in 1946 and that, maybe, it was time that they were reviewed. *The Club is yours, and your Committee want to run the Club in such a manner that enables us to maintain our rightful place in the Amateur Radio Movement, today. Will you therefore read your rules once again and consider whether, in your opinion, they meet present day needs? Tell us where they require additions, deletions or perhaps some amendments.* [G8VG 5/61].

Responses from the membership came in during the next few months and gave the Committee subjects to consider in any proposed rule revision. It was immediately obvious that activity levels were going to be a principal concern.

It is quite evident that we have a lot of 'deadwood' in FOC and in order to thrive we must have an active membership. Many 'stalwarts' are very concerned about this sad state of affairs and suggest that something must be done about it. Inevitably, some of us have to curtail activity from time to time for various reasons. Of course, by 'deadwood' we mean the member who NEVER transmits on any band. Should we do anything about it? What is the remedy [G3]LB 8/61]

For his part, Tommy - G6QB looked at ways of encouraging members onto the air, in addition to the option that appeared to gaining ground in the Committee that 'inactive' members should, in some way, be penalised. *'Can't we arrange a frequency and time when we can count on some FOC activity, on some other band or other? Top Band, 2000-2200 GMT, would be a good bet and wouldn't keep anyone out of bed - or Eighty on Sunday mornings or early afternoons. What do members think? And shouldn't we make more play of the fact that we are an Operators' Club?'* [G6QB 12/61]. This idea was followed up by a Committee decision to start 'FOC-NETS', running at weekends with two nominated hours on each band 160m - 15m and with a 'volunteer' calling CQ-FOC to stimulate inter-club activity.

There is little comment in the News Sheets of the time on whether these 'nets' met with much response. However, it was decided to make another attempt at an Activity Weekend. This was scheduled for April 1962. This second activity weekend met with no more success than the first. *The FOC Activity Weekend was a screaming failure. I worked more members on the Friday evening preceding the weekend. We must arrive at the conclusion that the members just do not want to get together'* [G3]LB 5/62]

In October of the same year, it was Tommy, who came up with the suggestion that we should adopt '025' as a 'calling frequency' for the Club.

Since meeting other FOC members on the HF bands is such a chancy business, it's surely time we had a calling frequency on each band. Not one on which we have to stay for a QSO, but at least one on which we could call 'CQ FOC' then slide off a few kc, if necessary, and go ahead.

I suggest we adopt '25' as our magic number, and look for other FOC members on 1825, 3525, 7025, 14025, 21025 and even 28025. To set a good example, I will certainly call CQ FOC on 025 whichever band I'm working, from the time this C/L gets around.

This may seem like an obsession with me. I've said it so often, but we are an operators' club and we don't work each other often enough. Half of our membership, I am convinced, doesn't operate at all. Maybe this 025 technique will enable us to find out who really does use his gear. [G6QB 10/62]

....and Tommy was able to follow this up at the end of the year, when he became FOC President for 1963.

Greetings to all members from your new President, who wishes to thank everyone for doing him the honour of allowing him to sit in this exalted chair. Actually, it's a hot seat and I'm almost afraid to operate on the bands now, in case I unwittingly butt in on someone's QSO and get labelled as a bad-mannered so-and-so, which is so easy to do in all innocence. My single track mind continues to propagate the same grouse - where is all the membership hiding itself? Despite being within a very few points of WAFOC, I find that there are no fewer than 186 members in the list, whom I have never heard on any band during more than twelve months of chasing WAFOC.

This seems terrible to me - even if only, say 80 of those 186 can be described as 'inactive', they could make room for 80 more younger and more enthusiastic types who would at least be heard around the place. Should we modify the rules so that membership can only be renewed on proof of, say, 12 QSOs with FOC members during the year? After all, we are an operators' club - not a technical society or social group. If we don't operate, we might as well not belong. What about it?

If you are one of those hibernators (or just plain defunct, as far as operating is concerned) please do one of two things:- (a) get on the air so others can have the pleasure of working you, or (b) face facts and resign from the Club.  
[G6QB 12/62].

By coincidence, in the same News Sheet, it was noted that G6QB had just completed his quota for WAFOC and a few members decided that he was, perhaps, making comment on the excessive time that he felt it had taken him. So in the next News Sheet, he found himself having to water down his comments.

No, I am not trying to make my seat as hot as all that ....the suggestion was that those members who are completely inactive ought to make way for some younger blood, unless they have a chance of getting back on the air again. Jim - G2JF, points out that there are a good few members on VHF who will naturally appear to be inactive to those who don't work those bands ....Willie - W5LEF, makes the point that there are really very few of us, that we don't all operate at the same time, and that band conditions can carve up the world, DX-wise ....Charles - G3SB, who works 20, 15, and 10 only, nudges me to the effect that because I haven't heard a member, it doesn't follow that he hasn't been on ....Kip - G8PL, agrees that a stirring up of activity is needed, and so do G5CG and W5VA ....Bob - G3RF, hopes that WAFOC isn't going to turn into a 'numbers game' and produce rubber-stamp QSOs where decent ragchews were possible before. I don't think so Bob, judging by my own experience. The majority of WAFOC points were captured on normal QSOs when both members were content to stop around and talk. The only exceptions were those picked up during other DX contests, and they were naturally snappy contacts.  
[G6QB 1/63]

Another issue that taxed the Committee around that time, and which has echoes on the modern bands, was that of the general standard of operating.

The Committee has decided that it is high time we commenced a deliberate campaign to help in cleaning up the bands. The need for this is becoming more apparent as the numbers of Radio Amateurs steadily rise.

It is not suggested that we should 'police' the bands or anything of the sort, rather to demonstrate, by example, how a CW station should be operated. Call these badly operated stations, find out what makes them tick (or click!). Burying our heads in the sand and 'tut-tutting' about this menace will do no good. We must offer help at the same time avoiding a superior attitude and making the offer modestly and politely. It is quite obvious that a lot of the offenders do not monitor their sending - although how they can send 'blind' beats me. Tommy - G6QB, our worthy President, hit the nail on the head in his Short Wave Magazine article (May 1963) and I am sure that all of the members endorse it. It is difficult, however, for FOC to be critical of the rubbish heard on the bands unless we are certain that our notes, keying and behaviour are beyond reproach.

In an endeavour to improve our high standard, an amendment has been made to our 'By Rules' and I am sure you will agree with me when I suggest that any infringement of this rule should be brought to the notice of the offender at the time. "Particular attention should be paid to the operating ability of the potential member and his signal should be a steady T9, well keyed and free from any undesirable characteristics". He should appreciate it, cure it, and thus put us in a better position to attempt to clean up the bands.  
[G3]LB 5/63]

The Committee was also concerned about the potential effects that the growing imbalance in the numbers of UK and Overseas members might have.

For some considerable time we have watched with some anxiety the slow but steady rise in overseas membership of FOC. The Club has always been predominantly British (indeed at one time it was exclusively so), and the Committee feels that it should remain as such. If we carried on as we are, the control of FOC could well slip to the USA - probably I am exaggerating, but I hope you get the picture.

The Committee has therefore decided to limit the membership to 51% G, GM, GI, GW, GC, GD, and 49% overseas, or as near thereto as we can get. Our 'QRX-Rota' assists us in this task of apportionment with which we are now faced. If you care to consult your latest list, you will realise that we must give immediate effect to this, consequently no more overseas members will be admitted until we again reach the 51/49% proportions.  
[G3]LB 8/63]

During late 1963 and early 1964, there was continuing discussion on how to deal with the 'problem of activity'. The first action that was taken by the Committee was the establishment of an 'Inactive Panel' [8/63] that allowed members who were 'temporarily inactive' to continue with membership but would allow new members to be brought into the Club within the limit, which had recently been raised to 400.

The April 1964 News Sheet contained a report of the Committee meeting which approved a new rule requiring that, from January 1965, subscription renewals would need to include a return declaring that at least 50 CW QSOs had been made from the station concerned, of which a number were FOC members.

On the air quite recently, I heard someone say 'Oh - the FOC's a closed shop. You can't get in there until someone dies.' It was funny at the time, but really it is too near the truth to be laughed off. To try to restore the dynamic energy associated with FOC in the old days, as compared to the static state it seems to have got into at present, your Committee has finally agreed (after consulting the membership) on certain new proposals. Most important is a proof of activity with the renewal of membership.

This decision was not arrived at easily. Lots of letters from members were considered, and the discussion went on for a long time. Eventually your Committee (all seven of them) were quite unanimous about it. If you want to stay in, be active and prove it. Otherwise put yourself on the 'inactive list' (if you have good reasons) or face the stark facts that you are not now an operator and need no longer be a member of the Club - the prime interest of which is operating.  
[G6QB 4/64]

There is little record of reaction to this new requirement or of the effect that it had at the end of the year. However, there were a number of transfers to the 'inactive panel' and there were a number of resignations citing 'inactivity'.

Bill Windle, in his capacity as Chairman, pushed the issue of activity, or rather inactivity, further with an editorial in the September 1965 News Sheet.

May I appeal for some action on the part of all FOC members and I mean action on the bands. Since the early days, each successive committee has developed a king-size headache in endeavouring to get members on the air by activity weekends, marathons, the use of fixed frequencies etc. A faithful few turn up but the majority seem to be elsewhere.....From observation on all bands, it would seem that less than 50% are active and this does no good to the FOC image.....To those who wish to wear the FOC badge without the responsibilities, I would suggest that they hand in their notices and make way for live members.  
[G8VG 9/65]

Bill returned to the subject following publication of the results of the DX Marathon.

The breakdown of the figures [*for the DX Marathon*] is very revealing and shows a remarkable lack of support. One can accept reasons for not being in attendance such as illness, making one's home, moving house, accidents etc., but the figures are just ridiculous.

It is just not good enough. The temporary inactive panel shows that 13 would not take part, but where were the other 398? The figures show where a few of them were. FOC should mean 398 keen, active, first class operators! We ought to be able to produce at least 80% of the members upon the occasion of the DX

Marathon. Plenty of warning is given as to dates etc., there can be no excuse on that score. Evidence of activity of a fair number can be seen in the results of various contests and reports in the DX columns of periodicals so who on earth can't these members turn out? If you are not interested in WAFOC, Marathons, Activity Weekends (tried, but abysmal failures) - what on earth are you interested in? You are at liberty, of course, to write to the Secretary and let him have any suggestions for improvement of contests, FOC rules or anything else you may care to write about. It does the club not a bit of good to retain your membership if you are doing precisely nothing about it - are you holding on for prestige reasons, or for old times sake? If we don't wake up, we will have little prestige left.

We do not want or need sleeping partners but live active members. If you are neither live nor active, why not make room for somebody who is?  
[G8VG 1/66]

This latest shot brought in a flood of letters. Some questioned the conclusions that Bill had drawn from the figures for the DX Marathon, suggesting that the general level of contacts was consistent with the spread of membership and varying propagation. Others were forthright in saying that the small number of members who took part in the various 'activity programmes' indicated only one thing - that members, by and large, were not interested in contests.

Louis - G5RV, was especially critical of Bill's remarks.

Bill's remarks are based on a completely illogical premise. The fact that only 105 out of a possible 398 took part in the DX marathon [is taken] to prove:

- a) that members are doing precisely nothing about being members of FOC, and
- b) that all non-contestants are, ipso facto, inactive members.

Personally, and I think a lot of members will feel as I do, I resent the implication. I am as active as my work and domestic duties permit. I seek QSOs with other FOC members and rarely a week goes by without at least a few FOC QSOs. But I don't much like contests. In fact, I would go so far as to say that the present day over-abundance of them on our bands is an anathema! They clutter up the bands and actually prevent FOC members and others from engaging in normal QSOs which, surely, are much more satisfactory to the average member. There is nothing in the club rules which makes participation in the Marathon (or any other contest) a condition of membership.

To answer Bill's question - '.....what on earth are you interested in.....?' - I would say - pleasant and reasonably frequent QSOs with other amateurs (FOC or not) and doing our best to set a good example of operating and courtesy on the air.  
[G5RV 2/66]

The question of 'activity' and what it means in the context of FOC membership continued to be discussed and can still raise considerable controversy.

'Tommy' Thomas, G6QB, passed away in May 1966 at the relatively early age of 59. Les commented that *'The loss to FOC is a very great one, the loss to the Amateur Radio fraternity is immeasurable. Tommy was a complete amateur'*. Bill - G8VG pointed out that *'Tommy was a conscientious Committee man who thought nothing of travelling 60/70 miles to attend meetings and never missed one of them. He will be remembered for his carefully considered opinions and his contributions towards the shaping of FOC, and he must be placed in the category of the 'greats' - G5BW, G2ZQ, G2ZC, G5PS and G2DPY - all of whom spent so much time and effort in the service of FOC. Tommy was a member of the original FOC in 1938 and because of the very wide field he covered in amateur radio, he will be greatly missed by all British amateurs and by many thousands overseas'*.

A tribute to Tommy by G2UX is probably the most interesting from a historical viewpoint.

*'I cannot claim to be a great pal of Tommy, but I knew him quite well back in 1929 when I first came on the air and when I first joined the South London & District Radio Society - we were called the 'sliders' - I think the name originated from the habit of the Goyder locked PAs we used in those days to remain unlocked at times - resulting in squiggles sliding up and down the band! It was there I first met GQB and his great pals of the day, Don Price - G6HP, John Hunter - G2ZQ, and Ham Whyte - G6WY (later VE3BWY). They were the South London gang of the times and worked everything there was. G2ZQ was of course, a founder member of FOC and the first station in the world to WAZ. You knew, of course, that Tommy was an accomplished musician and played the organ professionally at the BBC and also at several West End Cinemas as Howard Thomas. I have just been digging into a box of old pre-war QSLs and have found two or three cards from Tommy, the earliest of which is dated 7th November 1929 - Tommy was then WAC and 68 countries under his belt! I feel certain that FOC will do something to mark the passing of this great character and to perpetuate his memory. I will be proud to have the honour of being associated with any such undertaking.'*

In fact, a fund for the Thomas Memorial Trophy was set up and the response was described as 'overwhelming'. As a result, a fine trophy was obtained and donated to the RSGB to be awarded to the leading station from Great Britain in the 7MHz CW contest - to be held for one year. It was also agreed to use the surplus to finance the presentation by the RSGB of miniatures for retention by the winners. The trophy was presented by Bill - G2QB, to RSGB President Roy Stevens - G2BVN, at the Annual Dinner on 29th October 1966.

A note of unintended controversy struck the Club early in the next year. Don Miller, W9WNV was nominated for membership in late 1966 and his membership (#900) was shown in the January 1967 News Sheet - just as the Amateur World began to realise that his 'DX exploits' were not all that they seemed. Following W9WNV's suspension from DXCC by ARRL and letters of concern from a number of members, FOC terminated his membership.

The Secretaryship of FOC is a very demanding task. This was especially so in the immediate post-war years when the post included the treasurer's duties, typing and duplicating the monthly News Sheet, and looking after all the mailings. When Les took on the job in 1956, he had only intended to fulfil the role for a few years. With a young family and a demanding job, the duties became more and more difficult to discharge as the years went on. From 1963 onwards, Les actively sought someone to take over the role - but without success. Eventually, in the middle of 1967, following promotion to a senior management position in his company, Les was forced to tell the Committee that he could continue no longer.

In recognition of his long period of support for the Club, Les was appointed as a Vice President of FOC in 1972.





# Chapter 6

## Marathons and Awards

Immediately the post-war Club was formed, members began considering competitive events that would test out their 'first-class operating' skills.

### The FOC Marathon

The first Marathon was held in 1947 and was a relatively simple affair. It began on 1st October and the winner was the first person to work 95% of the Club membership. The only 'rule' was that contacts made by schedule or during 'Club activity periods' did not count. It took the winner, Jack - G4FN, four months to work the 66 members that represented the 95% figure - a marathon indeed! For this, he received the silver cup that had been donated by GW6OK, plus a medallion for his retention. The following year, the rules were slightly changed to require 75 members worked; and G4FN was again the winner, but this time, only taking 17 days to complete the course - and it is recorded that this was done on QRP using three bands. Even in 1948, it was necessary to remind members that *'we must arrange to cut out the dog-fighting tactics of mass calling, which has NOT impressed members and non-members'* [2/49]. Evidently, the event was too much of a marathon for some members. The next year, 1949, the number required was reduced to fifty, now representing just 25% of the membership. As many people had continued after the eventual winner had worked the required quota, it was arranged that G2ZC and G5PS would make an announcement on 80m when someone had reached the magic number.

The winner of the 3rd Marathon was none other than Bill Windle - G8VG and the account that was published in the News Sheet, and written by G5PS, makes interesting reading.



G8VG receives the trophy from G2NM and G5PS

Firstly, let me say that he was sporting and keen enough to take a week of his annual holiday especially for the event! He checked his TX on all bands (10, 20, 40 and 80) well in advance and then at two hours before zero hour settled down ready for the task. He then had a few QSOs to satisfy himself that he and the rig were OK! Between 0001 and 0130 hours, he only managed to work two stations so retired to bed until 0430. No FOCs were about then so he had a spot of DX and then developed a noisy RX, which eventually turned out to be caused by a bad joint in the power pack. This was repaired and conditions sounded better. A FOC at 0951 then not another

until 1602! At 1700, things began to warm up and by 2225 the score was 32 - worked a few more, the last one at 2307 - and although searched until 0230 the next morning, ND. Went to bed, but 'couldn't sleep although felt terrible - fat head and as stiff as the devil'. Back to the set at 0430 but ND until 1726. Then came an interruption from a GPO Engineer who called to say that Bill was causing BCI at a place about a mile away (the receiver, in which the alleged BCI was being experienced was a 25-year-old using swinging coil reaction!) The Engineer stayed about an hour and having disappeared over the door-step, up came another unexpected visitor in the shape of another ham, who had casually called having 'seen the aerial'! He was soon disposed of when the 'extenuating circumstances' were explained and so back to work. Things went well until 2229 when he worked the 49th station, then sat around until 1210 when he hooked his 50th! Now for the climax! Bill couldn't leave well alone so up again on the following morning to find the room full of 'stinking' smoke issuing from the RX, which he had inadvertently left switched on all night. Investigation showed that the HF chokes in the mains leads had burnt out. It took about three hours to clear but he says 'what a blessing it didn't happen a day or so earlier!' Bill winds up by saying 'The Marathon was a VFB example of high-class operating and my thanks to all who gave me the opportunity to pull it off.' Well, FB Bill, and congratulations from us all on your success.

[G5PS 11/49]

The 'marathon' aspect of the Marathon was clearly still not to the taste of the whole membership, with complaints being received that the trophy would just go to the person who was prepared to stay awake the longest. So for 1950, the Marathon rules were reframed to limit the total operating time to 56 hours - with operating taking place daily between 1930 and 2330 GMT and the contest extending from 1st to 14th October. All bands could be used, but only one contact with each member would count.

The comments from entrants are as applicable today as they were then!

- A few members have complained about the reluctance of some other members to enter into the spirit of the contest, carrying on long QSOs while a queue of competing members was waiting to score from him.
- Is it right for a competitor to make a sked for the competition period?
- Complaints over 'bunching' between 3530 and 3550 kc/s [12/50]

Some members still felt at a disadvantage over the hours demanded and the additional problem of TVI. So for 1951, the rules were again modified to allow any 50 hours of operation over 21 days but with activity specifically excluded during TV hours. This format produced a much better entry with 27 logs being received and 162 of the 300 members being active. It was still very much an inter-G affair with the majority of contacts being made on 80m. Interestingly, *'.....all the QSOs, with the exception of two, were on CW'*. Bill - G8VG, was the winner for a second time with a total of 108 contacts.

For the next three years the Marathon duration was reduced to seven days with the total operating time varying between 27 and 50 hours. Activity in all of these events was relatively low and the number of entries even lower. There was clearly a need to make things more attractive. Al - G3FXB, took on the job of Contests Manager in 1955 and brought in the rules which would survive until 1965. These restructured the Marathon into a short contest, held for between 11 and 14 hours on a single Sunday in October and restricted to the three LF bands at first, and to just 80m and 40m from 1958 onwards. The scoring initially provided a bonus for contacts outside one's own country but this was later abandoned for a flat one point per contact. Although the membership of FOC was now well over 300, these events still only attracted a small proportion of the Club, with typically around 100 members active and only between 15 and 30 entries being received. Towards the end of the period, the date of the contest was moved forward in the year with 1964 being held in July and 1965 in May. For 1964, it was announced that it would, henceforth, be called 'The FOC Contest' but this abandonment of tradition brought forth howls of protest and the original title of 'Marathon' was reinstated.



Al took over as Contest Manager in 1955

With the Marathon itself being very much aimed at European members, a separate event, the 'DX Marathon' ran between 1953 and 1965. A first trial of a 'DX Marathon' had been tried in 1950 but only attracted one entry and was declared 'null and void'. For 1953/54, the revamped 'DX Marathon' ran in parallel with the 'European Marathon' i.e. over a period of seven days, with a scoring system of 1pt/QSO plus 5pts/continent and 3pts/country. Support remained fairly minimal. So, in 1955, after G3FXB had become Contest Manager, it was tried running it in parallel with the CQ CW Contest with inter-FOC QSOs using the CQ scoring system. This also proved unattractive. For 1956, a system emerged which eventually proved popular and remained in place until 1965. This ran for a 48-hour period, on a separate weekend from the 'European Marathon, and in September or October. Only stations in other continents counted and the scoring system was based on 5 points for the first contact with any particular country, 4 points for the next, and so on until each contact after the fifth counted one point. This 'DX Marathon' proved to be more popular than the 'European Marathon' especially after the launch of WAFOC in 1961 when members could use it as a useful way of building up their award points.

Following the 1965 contests, Bill Windle, as Chairman of FOC, wrote a highly critical editorial in the January 1966 News Sheet pointing out that, out of a total of 398 members, only 105 had put in any kind of appearance in

the DX Marathon. This led to considerable discussion on the general subject of activity. In Committee, a decision was taken to revise the overall rules in an effort to stimulate more participation.

From 1966 onwards, there was just one Marathon each year, with the two events effectively combined; but with the new format resembling more the rules of the DX Marathon than the European Marathon. Scoring was made deliberately simple - one point per QSO with your own country; two points for other countries in the same continent; and five points for other continents. A 48-hour format was adopted and, for the first time, an exchange including the members FOC membership number was used. The date moved around a little until, in 1969, it settled on the first full weekend in February, where it has remained ever since. Also in 1969, the concept of bonus points for five-band contacts with individual members was introduced. This style of contest seemed to suit a large proportion of the members and the number of entries quickly grew to more acceptable levels. These rules were retained up to 1974 with minor modifications.

For the 1975 event, the scoring system changed to what we have today. It was brought into line with the rules for the WAFOC award with one point per contact, five points for each continent, two points for each country, and ten points for each five-bander. There were a few complaints from members in those countries that did not yet have 160-metre allocations but the new rules seem to have been generally popular and the number of entries for the Marathon began to climb through the 200 level and on to the 300 level which is common today. An additional five points for contacts on further bands, which originally included VHF, was added a year later. It became traditional for the President of the day, or the Secretary, to air the club call sign, initially G3YPB and later G4FOC, during the event - with the special call sign counting for double points.

Some members began to take advantage of the weekend to mount their own mini-DXpeditions for the Marathon. Amongst the first to do this were Jo - DL1RK, and Evert - I2XKF, who began appearing from various semi-exotic locations around Europe such as 3A, 4U1, HB0

#### The 4U1ITU DXpedition

If you ever want to make an exotic excursion on the bands in comfort, go and see 4U1ITU in Geneva! Jo, DL1RK and myself intended to repeat our last year's M1FOC stint with an HV-appearance, but since we had no definite approval from the Vatican Authorities by the middle of January, we decided this easy way out: 4U1ITU, a new one for many members, and, as we found out, after the new CW-DXCC also very much in demand elsewhere. Our hosts were Ted Robinson - F8RU, himself an excellent CW operator, and Renato Brossa - ex-I1BAG, both of ITU. They could not have cared better for us, and their hospitality must be experienced to be believed. I went two weeks previously to judge the situation and found that a 160m xtal was needed, kindly put at our disposal by another ITU ham, while also the transceivers, FT101 and KWM2, did not have the selectivity needed. A Drake R4C was taken along which performed admirably with its two sharp CW filters. Jo and myself set out, on 30th January, from Milan, and at 1700Z we made our first QSO from 4U1ITU. Operation was smooth and the only trouble was some RF floating around and affecting sometimes the keyers, so please excuse our fists which were sometimes not up to standard. About 800 QSOs later, with 39 countries and 6 continents in FOC, Jo pulled the big switch at 0500Z on 5th February to return to Milan a few hours later. As always, operating in the FOC Marathon was great. We did not enter to win, but to join and add to the fun; and we certainly did the former, and hope we achieved the latter. 160m operation was a surprise, even if not many FOC-ers were there, while 10m gave us only one lone South American contact. Conditions on 20m and up were not bad, improving as the weekend went along, and once more, both Jo and myself vowed to participate in next year's Marathon, hopefully as HV1FOC!  
[I2XKF 4/75]

One of the earliest long distance DXpeditions for the Marathon was the trip to CT2 for the 1978 event, undertaken by Jim Price - W4TO and Marv Carter - W4ZMQ.

#### The Story of CT2/W4TO

During the 1977 Marathon, post mortems, both Junior Op. WA3QLT and I decided that the 1978 Marathon would see us operating from a prefix hitherto unrepresented in the WAFOCC country list.

A list of prospective host countries was compiled and the merits of each tabulated. On the basis of accessibility, ease of obtaining authorisation, favourable propagation conditions, cost of travel and housing, the Azores (CT2) was a hands down winner. So we set our course through the paperwork maze and selected

the island of Santa Maria since it boasted of an international airport and was quite removed from the US refuelling base on Terceira. Southernmost of the Azores, Santa Maria is roughly 1,000 miles from Europe and 2,000 miles from the US, ideal distances for both continents.

Enquiry to ARRL provided us with a contact at REP and a letter was dispatched to Lisbon in March requesting assistance in obtaining permission to operate and the callsign CT2FOC. We were assured that there would be no problem and that an application form would follow. It did, in May! The necessary documentation was assembled and the application, with fee, was filed in June. During this time, a search was being made for accommodations. The only hotel, the Hotel Do Aeroporto, we found to be across the street from the airport control tower, a high QRM-risk location. After several dozen cross-country phone calls, we located a travel agent who professed to represent home owners of Santa Maria wishing to lease homes for short periods. We gave our order and placed the proper deposit for a two bedroom home in a rural area.

From this point (June) until December, there was complete silence! But, during this time, a homebrew 50mW transceiver was built to garner CT2 credit for both of us! In December, we received confirmation of the house rental but nothing concerning the licence even though several follow-up letters had been sent to the REP. In early January, the help of the International Desk at ARRL was enlisted, plus a registered letter to CT1ZE of REP, urgently requesting action. A response was received indicating that the Portuguese government would take action by 15th of January. Sweat, sweat! Airline reservations from Boston were made.

Late in the Fall, we heard that Al - K4FW, was going to announce a new solid state 75 watt rig in his Ten-Tec line. This, from a weight and power standpoint, sounded ideal and a phone call to Al produced the promise of a loan of one of their new Century 21s for the operation. About two weeks before our scheduled departure, I called Ten-Tec, only to find that Al was paddling a canoe up the Orinco River on holiday. His number one man, Jack - K4JU, came to the rescue and assured me that a rig would be dispatched immediately. Imagine my surprise when a beautiful Triton IV, 220v power supply and yet to be announced universal antenna tuner arrived via air. More about the rig later.

February 1st, departure date from Boston, was getting close and no formal confirmation of the house nor any formal word from the CT government. With only two days to spare both came in! The letter from the CT authorities said that the licence would be waiting at the Post Office in CT2 and the house reservation gave the QTH. Armed with these, airline tickets, passport and US Dollars, I was sure that everything was going to come off swell. But a family crisis had arisen at the WA3QLT shack. An urgent series of phone calls to key people in various parts of the country put out the call for an operator with some time, a passport and the money at hand. Good old Fred - W4DA tracked down Marv - W4ZMQ, who was between assignments for GE and was awaiting assignment in EP on March 1st. Marv called and we immediately worked out the details and set up a meeting in Boston airport on February 2nd.

We met, flew to Santa Maria with all 140 pounds of gear, courtesy of special arrangements made for us by TAP, the Portuguese airline. Arriving at 0500 hours local, we went to the Hotel Do Aeroporto for a couple of hours rest. At 0830, we began a search for the house rented, only to be told by the owner that they knew nothing of our rental! To further complicate the issue, the house was in the centre of Vilo do Porto, three stories high and sandwiched between dozens of others on the main street. We abandoned the idea of the house and returned to the hotel and set up. A trip to the Post Office failed to turn up any trace of the licence and we were referred to the PO at the airport. There, the Chief of Telecommunications, after an hour search, turned up authorisation to operate, not as CT2FOC, but as CT2/W4TO! But we were on our way.

In an hour, we were set up with a modified 14AVQ trap with 80m added, plus a long wire. Marv is quite an antenna installer! The Triton IV is as nearly perfect a rig as has ever been produced. Peaking the RF preselector and spinning the main tuning dial are the only adjustments made. Everything else is 100% automatic. It is a CW man's dream with perfect break-in, even between dots at 35wpm. We ran continuously for 52 hours with only two 2-hour breaks. Incidentally, our licence stipulated that we were not to operate in excess of 20wpm! Line voltage fluctuated from below 200v up to over 240v, which probably accounts for our only failure. The antenna relay stuttered and 100w of RF was pumped into the receiver front end, cremating the .01mfd coupling capacitor. A poor substitute was scrounged from one of the accessories we had along, and we were back on the air in short order. I don't know when I've had such a delightful operating experience.

At 2100 on Sunday, we had produced over 700 QSOs with members in approximately 40 countries and were dead tired. At 0500 the next morning, we were off to New York via Lisbon. Unfortunately (or happily) we

were stranded in Lisbon due to storms in New York. So we spent three days of Carnival in CT1. For you cost accounting types, Marv and I figured that the cost per QSO was something in excess of \$2.25. It was worth it! [W4TO 6/78]

During the years, the number of members who travelled to DX locations, or were operating from winter QTHs, built up and Marathon regulars included John - W1BIH/PJ2 (later PJ9JT); Louis - CX5RV (G5RV); CT3CU (W2ZZ); and Tony - XE2/NR7O.

Of course, any 'contest' puts a potential strain on family relationships!



Friendships are made or broken the first weekend in February. People who ring up or visit this QTH at that time may find they never ever hear from me again. Why? Because it is the MARATHON. Everything, but everything stops here, except the rig, and movable meals, interspersed with a little light sleeping. Sometimes I think maybe there should be a Marathon more often, for I get out of practice in such things as living on snacks, remembering not to run the washing machine, refuelling the fire by night and by day, and generally doing all the things expected of a good XYL on these occasions. This year, I scored points and lost points. I remembered to have a stock of cold meat (especially sausages, great sustainers) but was foolish enough to dash to the loo before taking the phone off the hook; and, needless to say, it rang in the middle of a QSO. I had a piece of good luck in happening to be in the garden on the Saturday and intercepting a G8 (No-code VHF-only licence) who had received his call that very morning and had arrived all bright-eyed and bushy-tailed to sit at the feet of the Master. 'Are you expected?' says I. 'No' says he. 'Then you'd better wait here till I see if Sir is receiving today' says I. Fortunately, things were going well at that particular moment and the new boy was bidden to come in. 'Stand reverently by the set, and don't speak until you are spoken to,' says I. The OM finished working someone on the other side of the world, and then gave the lad a few minutes of his precious time. He congratulated him on getting his ticket and urged him to 'WORK AT HIS MORSE'.

I learned, during my first Marathon, and remembered ever since, that when I heard an apoplectic roar and Sir screamed, 'Why won't you come back to me?' I didn't have to dash to his side protesting fondly 'But I never left you.' (Oh, the sweet sound of 'GOT HIM!') The weekend has its lighter side too. How many females are wakened (unintentionally of course) at 3.30am as the OM reels into bed for a quick kip before getting back on the air, and receives a progress report - 'X has just gone to bed; Y is just getting up and is pounding brass again; Z has made a 6-bander.' Fascinating! Wakened for a second time (again unintentionally) as the OM creeps out of bed to tip-toe downstairs to get back on the air. I'm soon lulled back to sleep by the soft sound of the key busy below. Come nine o'clock, sorry - 2100 Zulu, on Sunday night, suddenly it goes very quiet, and it's all over (except the counting) until next year. [Nettie - G3AAQ/2 4/81]

With Al - G3FXB having taken over the duties of Secretary and News Sheet Editor, and Roger - G3SXW adjudicating the Marathon, longer write-ups began to appear and, for 1986, a four-page supplement was included with the News Sheet giving the full story. Following the Marathon, Al usually penned an overview of the weekend with his typically perceptive analysis of conditions.



Well, what did we do to deserve it? Two auroras in as many years, both in their prime at the start of the Marathon. Switching on just prior to 2100 on the Friday night produced a very high noise level on 7MHz, only watery signals on 3.5MHz and, of course, nothing on HF. It is probably fair to say that the disturbance was not as severe as last year with conditions on the Saturday somewhat better than in '83. By the same token, the bands did not recover as well on the Sunday, largely of course due to the current state of the sunspot cycle. There were a few plus signs. For example, 28MHz opened on the 'crooked' path to the States on Saturday afternoon with signals coming from the direction of South America. Although such openings are a fairly common occurrence in the lower sunspot years, not all our members are aware of them and there were cases of US members going down in QSB when called as they turned their beams on the normal bearing. Here in Europe, it is necessary to beam towards South America under these conditions and, as I understand, the European signals are optimum in North America when W/VE beams are on South Africa. There was also a reasonable opening at sunrise on Sunday morning on 3.5MHz with propagation to the West Coast and ZL. But in general things were pretty grim with signal levels to North America on 7MHz being as much as 30db down on the levels that they had been some days prior to the Marathon. In fact, signal levels were back up there within a couple of days after our weekend which serves to illustrate how unlucky we were.



Roger - G3SXW

One or two members mention that these auroras have only manifested themselves since your scribe took over the duties of Hon. Sec! On a more serious note, there have been suggestions of a change of date. However, we could well jump 'from the frying pan into the fire' with this one, in view of all the other contests these days. In any event, although we have all heard of the 11-year and 27-day cycles, I have yet to hear of conditions repeating themselves on an annual basis. We can only hope that next year will see better things and in the meantime I suggest those of you who got a trifle frustrated with the Marathon conditions give our April QSO Party a go. By then, spring propagation will be with us giving a guarantee that the HF bands will be open longer.

[G3FXB 3/84]



Sig - N3RS, one of the most consistent Marathon operators

Steve - G3VMW undertook the adjudication of the Marathon for the four years between 1988 and 1991. His write-up for the 1989 event reflects conditions on the rise of a sunspot cycle.

I start to write this report, still somewhat dazed, the day after some 40 hours on the key of G4FOC/P, but, what a Marathon it turned out to be!! A new all-time record score was achieved by G3FXB; activity was higher than ever before; conditions were good (apart from a slight auroral effect, particularly on the Friday night); 10m was wide open and, at times, 160m sounded more like 20m with EU and DX vying for attention. From Europe, there were good transatlantic openings on both 40 and 80m throughout the night.

Immediately after the Marathon, as I scanned around the bands, I heard comments ranging from 'the best ever' and 'most hectic Marathon yet' right through to 'band conditions were lousy!'. In 1989, there were more QSOs than ever before; more people were active; more logs were sent in and, it really WAS more fun! Indeed, there were good opportunities for the WAFOC and Augie Nickel chasers to find some of the hard-to-get ones and for the non-combatants, the chance to chat with old friends.

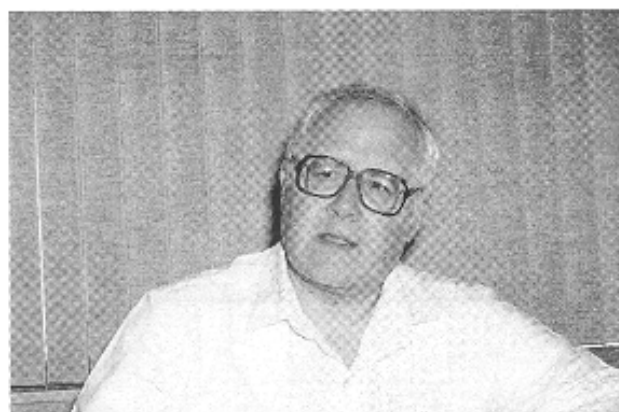
This year, we had a total of 430 members QRV at one time or another which is 90% of our total membership and a record 308 logs were sent in. From Europe, there was a showing of 90%; from North America 91%; from South America 83%; from Africa 82%; from Asia 83%; and from Oceania 89%. The 1989 Marathon will be remembered as a great success.  
[G3VMW 5/89]

From 1990 onwards, the Marathon write-up appeared in the Club's new quarterly magazine, 'FOCUS'. This provided the opportunity for expanded information plus a selection of photos. Also, by this time, tick sheets were being sent out with the January News Sheet which did away with the necessity for log submissions.

In 1990, in commemoration of Ron Perks, the G4CP Trophy was awarded for the first time. This went to the overall leader of the Marathon and the first winner was Mar Dancilla - YO3CD, who had put in a record breaking score from LZ9A.

Fred Laun - K3ZO, frequently operates from Thailand and was on as HS0B during the 1990 Marathon.

It was a pleasure to participate in the 1990 Marathon from HS0B. Sorry for no five or six-banders. When amateur radio was legalised in Thailand in 1986, the 80 and 160 metre bands were not included in the published regulations. Therefore, in order not to endanger the burgeoning ham radio movement in Thailand, I refrained from operating on those bands.



HS0B, one of the Radio Amateur Society of Thailand's five club stations, is located in the headquarters of the Broadcasters' Association of Thailand. This in turn is situated on the edge of the antenna farm of one of Radio Thailand's shortwave transmitter plants, which houses five commercial rigs of approximately 20kW each. The advantage is that the ground conductivity at the site is superb, and the HS0B transmit signal shows it. I got rave notices from some of the gang for the 40m signal which was radiated by nothing more than an inverted vee on a 24 metre tower.

The rig was a TS930S driving a small Japanese linear which showed 400 to 500 watts on the output meter. The down side, of course, was the overloading on the receiver. The poor 930 was severely affected by the neighbouring transmitters, and on 40 metres particularly it was necessary to add 20db of padding in order to hear anything other than Radio Thailand - one of the transmitters is on 7115kHz and another on 6070kHz.

I had originally planned to operate the entire contest period, but the shack is not air-conditioned, necessitating the opening of a window in order to put up with the operations of the linear in Bangkok's 35 degree centigrade weather in January. But the window has no screen, so when night falls, the mosquitoes from the swamp under the antenna field go on the prowl. On this particular occasion, they were gratified to find one juicy 300-pound operator in the HS0B shack and apparently the word in the mosquito colony travelled fast. As QSOs with mosquitoes were running 2-to-1 ahead of QSOs on the ham bands, I decided to forego the operation during the second evening.  
[K3ZO F#3]

If anyone doubts the overall level of activity within the Club, a look at any of the recent Marathon result listings should relieve any concern. During the 90s, the event has regularly attracted up to 320 entries and analysis shows that well over 80% of the membership takes part at some time during the weekend. Conditions around the top of the sunspot cycle enabled Sig - N3RS to set a 1992 record of over 4,000 points from almost 1,600 contacts - a record that will be in many people's sights as the bands pick up towards the next peak.

### FOC Marathon - Roll of Honour

Year	Overall Winner	QSOs	No of entries
1947	G4FN		
1948	G4FN	75*	
1949	G8VG	50*	
1950	G3BDQ	83	19
1951	G8VG	108	27
1952	G3EBH	73	16
1953	G3BRV	118	12
1954	GW2FDF	109	21
1955	G3IEW	101	26
1956	G3HCL	80	15
1957	F3AT	61	15
1958	G3FXB	92	30
1959	G3ABG	86	16
1960	GM3ITN	77	16
1961	G3ABG	114	27
1962	G3IMV	111	20
1963			
1964	GW3OAY	70	13
1965	GW3OAY	82	24
1966	W2MUM	-	35
1967	W3WJD	183	58
1968	W2NZ	276	51
1969	W2MEL	423	86
1970	G3FXB	592	128
1971	K3JH	538	101
1972	W1BGD/2	719	135
1973	W1BGD	-	148
1974	W1AX	-	153

Year	Overall Winner	QSOs	No of entries
1975	PJ2VD	-	166
1976	K4BAI	-	170
1977	K8MFO	707	209
1978	W4QM	940	189
1979	K1ZZ	1084	210
1980	VP2MFC	1392	234
1981	N4TO/KP4	1278	187
1982	W1DA	1130	212
1983	W1DA	831	212
1984	K5MA	818	239
1985	W3LPL	930	239
1986	W2MEL	886	269
1987	W1WEF	1038	268
1988	K5MA	1098	287
1989	G3FXB	1360	286
1990	LZ9A (YO3CD)	1486	295
1991	N3RS	1384	274
1992	N3RS	1582	296
1993	K5NA	1461	300
1994	N3RS	1316	291
1995	K4XU/0	1152	311
1996	P4/K2LE	1229	304
1997	W3FOC (N3RS)	1157	296
1998	G4BJM	1203	303

### The FOC DX Marathon - Roll of Honour

Year	Overall Winner	QSOs	No of entries
1953	ZC4IP	27	10
1954	ZC4IP	43	-
1955	ZC4IP	-	-
1956	ZC4IP	66	21
1957	ZC4IP	102	22
1958	ZC4IP	120	35
1959	W2MUM	53	26
1960			
1961	W1JYH	-	21
1962	K2FC	61	12
1963	W2MUM	24	8
1964	CR6AI	43	18
1965	W1JYH	60	29

From time to time, Marathon entrants have even been moved to poetry!

—ooOoo—

Ode to the '95 Marathon. G4HZV.

It's nine o'clock on Friday night,  
But oh dear what a sorry plight.  
When the bands should be exploding,  
The propagation is appalling.  
Looks like a re-run of ninety-four,  
I wonder what I'm in here for.

Meet old friends and have some fun,  
Oh what a shame about the sun.  
The big guns have all gone away,  
Chasing the bonus the only way,  
Blimy was that a W6?  
Grab a coffee, time for a fix.

Sunday night has come at last,  
It really did go all too fast.  
In twelve months time in early February,  
With rig all primed and fingers ready,  
Perhaps the ionosphere will be fixed,  
For another Marathon in ninety-six.

—ooOoo—

Before leaving the subject of Marathons, mention should also be made of the VK/ZL Mini-Marathon which was first suggested by Bill Windle in May 1972 and was designed to make up, to some extent, for the tough time that those stations usually experienced during the Marathon itself and to help with the four-band bonuses for WAFOC. Bill invited the VK/ZL members to get together and to suggest a date and rules. This resulted in proposals for a 48-hour event to take place during the last weekend of October with VK/ZL members working the rest of the world. The first 'mini-marathon' took place in October 1972 attracting activity from 156 members. For the following year, the date was moved to the beginning of December and then to January 1975 and January 1976. However, support was always very thin and, after four attempts, the Committee dropped the idea.

### TOPS versus FOC Contest

The contest between the two UK-based CW organisations was organised as a short and sharp affair. The first contest took place in January 1950. Teams of around twenty members from each club were nominated and the idea was to work as many of the other team as possible in just one hour on 80m - 1815-1915 GMT - this period being chosen to avoid the risk of TVI which was a real problem at that time. The single UK TV channel did not begin evening transmissions until 2000 GMT. The contest seems to have been a little uneven as only 12 FOC members took part against 15 from TOPS. This meant that the FOC operators had a larger pool of potential contacts and, not surprisingly, won the event - although no mention of this imbalance is made in the write-up. Logs were checked by an 'umpire' and points deducted for inaccuracies.

The event was a clearly enjoyed by everyone and it was proposed to hold a repeat a few months later in April. However, response was poor and the idea was dropped.

### The Pump Handle Parties



Stan - EA6ZY

In the July 1982 News Sheet, Stan - EA6ZY proposed the holding of a 'Pump Handle Party' to encourage the use of a straight key. He based his idea on an idea which originated with the London-based Edgware Radio Club where the participants voted for the winner on the basis of the 'best fist'. This idea received a measure of support and the Committee decided to schedule the first event to coincide with a G4FOC activity weekend in December of that year. There was obviously some apprehension over what might appear on the air as Al - G3FXB found that he needed to note *'.....judging by comments on the air and in the mail, there will be 'wall to wall' straight keys from 020 to 035. Let's hope we all 'limber up' a bit and not make ourselves look too foolish! [G3FXB 12/82].*

As it turned out, the first party seems to have been a great success.

*The Party was a real fun .....was on an old sideswiper and a bit with a Lionel bug made in 1942 - DK8EI. ....can't agree it was fun for the chaps that seemed to have lost the art of using a pump handle, or perhaps never had it in the first place - G3AWL. ....brought back*

*some memories of my early days as sea - GM3KPD. Whilst I would not wish to decry the advent of the electronic keyer era, how nice it was to listen to the many distinctive if not distinguished styles - G4KGG. This weekend, I discovered that I am no longer able to handle a simple straight key. So, here I am sitting now with a red face, being FOC Member and not able to make the most elementary CW. Perhaps I am not alone? In my opinion, the Pump Handle Party has to be continued - PA0DIN. I am afraid if we had to nominate anybody through their ability on the hand key, then I doubt if we would have more than 100 in our ranks - VE7NH. Have urgent requirement for one or more bottles of lineaments. Seem to have an attack of tennis elbow and writer's cramp settled in right wrist. Something seems to have deteriorated - W4TO. Now I remember why I put the pump handle aside nearly 40 years ago - W7WW. I, for one, didn't realise how rusty one could become and am now 100% behind the fostering of pump handle (real CW) keying and I am determined to improve on my own miserable performance - G3FXB.*

Tom, G6HB, donated an old railway telegraph key 'in excellent condition' to be presented annually to the best straight key fist in the party. For the first year, it was awarded to Terry, G3WUX, together with a commemorative certificate. After the second party, in 1984, it was felt that there would be more encouragement towards participation if the event had its own date for exclusively straight-key activity. Consequently the Pump Handle Party became established as a regular activity for the first weekend in December.

Unfortunately, support dropped during the 90s and, following the 1996 party, the Committee decided to drop it from the calendar. However, for the future, it is hoped to restructure a straight-key event in co-operation with other CW organisations in Europe so that this important aspect of the development of CW can be kept alive.

## FOC CLUB AWARDS

Operating achievement awards have been something of a controversial issue within FOC. There has always been a sizeable body of opinion that feels that FOC should provide relief from the competitive environment that exists in other areas of the hobby; and that the concept of 'number chasing' detracts from what FOC should be all about. On the other hand, the various awards that have been introduced over the years have proved very popular with another portion of the membership and they have, undoubtedly, played an important role in maintaining on-the-air activity levels.

The first proposal for an operating award, within the Club, appears in February 1959 when Bill, G8KP, proposes the 'All Band Countries (ABC) Award' which it was suggested that FOC would organise and that would be open to all comers. Each country would count one point per band and the award would operate 80m thru 10m. A basic award would be for 500 points and stickers would be awarded for each increment of 25 points. Interestingly, it was proposed that the points could be collected for contacts made on Phone, CW or Mixed - reflecting the fact that, at this time, FOC did not consider itself *exclusively* a CW organisation. Although the idea received some support, the Committee eventually [6/59] ruled out the idea as it felt that the Club should not introduce additional operating awards into the amateur world.

## WAFOC and WAFOCC

Credit for the suggestion that led to the institution of the Club's first award goes to Ed - W3LMA who put forward the concept of a WAFOC Club Certificate in July 1960. This was thrown open to the membership for views and ideas. During the succeeding months, the Committee deliberated over the scheme and eventually announced, in March 1961, the setting up of the Worked-All-FOC Award. Full details appeared in the following month's News Sheet [4/61] where it was announced that activity for the award would begin at 0001GMT on 29th April 1961.

The overall rules have remained the same throughout the life of the WAFOC - with 500 points being required for the award; the 500 points being made up of 400 'Basic Points' - one point for each contact with another member on each band, with a minimum of 50 and a maximum of 200 points on any one band. At least three bands to be used in all; plus 100 'Bonus Points' made up from:- ten points for working the same member on five or more bands; five points for each separate continent; and two points for each separate country worked. At the time, points could be scored for contacts made on CW or SSB. A few months later, at the suggestion of Ray - VK3RJ, the points requirement for members in Oceania (actually for members in continents which have 40 or less members) was reduced to 350.

WAFOC was an immediate success and the league table which appeared in the news sheet from September, reflected a race to see who would be awarded certificate #1. The 'winner' was Roger Corey - W1JYH, (now W1AX) who passed the 500 point mark before the end of the year. During the eight months, he worked 214 different members in five continents - 122 in Europe, 62 in North America, 15 in Oceania, 10 in Africa, and 5 in Asia - altogether a total of 413 QSOs. It is interesting to note that this took place at a time when the membership of the Club was limited to 350. Roger underpinned this achievement by also winning the DX Marathon for 1961. It was almost a year later before certificates #2, #3, and #4 went to Bill - W5WW, John - G3IMV, and Tommy - G6QB. After the initial excitement, things seemed to slow up and, by August 1966, only 11 certificates had been issued, but 3 holders, W2MUM, G8VG and W4NDU (Augie - W4GK) had already put in claims for their 1000 point stickers. In June 1968, Augie was awarded the first 2000 sticker; and in August 1971, was the first member to receive a 6000 point sticker! To date, 338 certificates have been issued and the highest sticker is for 20,000 points and held by Jack, W2BA.

There have been a few changes to the rules over the years. The most notable of these were the addition of credit for contacts made on the 'WARC' bands with 10MHz being included from August 1985 and 18/24MHz from February 1988.

WAFOCC was introduced with effect from 1st March 1968. The initial award is made for contacts with FOC members in 25 different countries on any one or number of bands; with stickers available for 25 countries on any one band and for additional 25 countries. The first awards were made in May 1968 with certificates going to G8VG, G8KP, GW3PSP, G3LNC, W4GK, G3TIF and G3ABG. By March 1970, 82 awards had been issued and an extra certificate, the *WAFOCC Special Award* was introduced for working 25 different countries on five bands. The first presentation of this special award went to Augie, W4GK, in May 1970. A further certificate, the *WAFOCC DX-100* was introduced in March 1974 for working members in 100 different countries. Yet again, the first claimant was Augie - a month later.

The administration of awards involves a lot of paperwork - or, at least, it did before the widespread acceptance of computers, and the Club has been fortunate in having ready volunteers to perform the associated work.

	In charge of awards	Assisted by
1964	Vic Curling, G6VC	K2ECL, ZS1RM
Aug 1967	John Hunter, G3IMV	W2CY, W2HAQ, G3KMO
Oct 1983	Bill Limehouse, G2FDF	G3KMO
Apr 1990	Chas Bryant, GW3SB	
May 1997	George Eddowes, G3NOH	



Awards Managers Bill - G2FDF, Chas - GW3SB and George - G3NOH



## The Augie Nickel Trophy

1	1978	W2MUM	E. Wolheim
2	1978	G8AX	T. C. R. Littlemore
3	1978	W9VW	H. L. Brooks
4	1978	W4QM	H. D. Stricter
5	1979	G8VG	W. H. Windle
6	1979	G4CP	C. R. Perks
7	1980	W2BA	J. Lannin
8	1980	W1HZ	H. Ferris
9	1980	SM0CCE	K. Edvardsson
10	1980	W4VQ	R. R. Beatty
11	1980	W4WJ	D. G. Murray
12	1980	VK2QL	F. T. Hine
13	1980	W1PL	L. S. Radnay
14	1980	PA0LOU	L. van de Nadort
15	1981	K8MFO	D. A. Karvonen
16	1981	G6CJ	F. J. H. Charman
17	1981	G3PDL	P. F. Linsley
18	1981	G3XTJ	E. C. Hodson
19	1981	G3AZ	J. J. Hunter
20	1981	K4FU	H. F. Zimmerman
21	1981	DL1RK	K. J. Doering
22	1981	SM7MS	R. Rasmusson
23	1981	K1RH	R. H. Hirsch
24	1981	W4DHZ	H. N. Perry
25	1982	K4KQ	C. J. Bolvin
26	1982	EA8QO	C. Amundsen
27	1982	DL8AN	W. Matz
28	1982	W2FC	D. Kintzer
29	1982	W1DA	G. Hitz
30	1982	W1RM	P. Chamalian
31	1982	OZ1LO	L. Ottosen
32	1982	OZ1W	P. G. Wormer
33	1982	W1HX	N. H. Young
34	1982	K4II	W. G. Baird
35	1982	G3GFG	D. R. Payne
36	1983	ZL3GQ	P. W. Watson
37	1983	K6DDO	D. Morgan
38	1983	K2BZT	H. W. Evans
39	1983	N4OO	A. Bowen
40	1983	W3NZ	F. Hauff
41	1983	G6HD	T. L. Herdman
42	1983	W2AO	A. Spiro
43	1984	G3KDB	P. A. Miles
44	1984	N3EA	J. M. Hertzberg
45	1984	VK3KS	Mrs M. Stafford
46	1984	VK3XB	I. Stafford
47	1984	W2GW	G. W. Wright
48	1984	G3WPF	R. E. Unsworth
49	1984	W4AI	J. Beck
50	1984	W1CCN	E. P. Yates
51	1984	W9GW	W. Warden
52	1984	YU3AR	D. Grabensek
53	1985	G3SXW	R. K. Western
54	1985	W1OT	A. C. Berg
55	1986	N5TP	T. W. Pederson

56	1986	G3IAF	M. J. Marlow
57	1986	W1AX	R. E. Corey
58	1986	N4TO	V. A. Dubois
59	1986	G3FXB	A. J. Slater
60	1986	G3DRQ	W. F. Freestone
61	1986	F3AT	I. Pastre
62	1986	K4EWG	P. D. Rhodes
63	1987	W4IF	H. G. Gwaltney
64	1987	W9KNI	R. Locher
65	1987	W1BIH	J. H. Thompson
66	1987	SM3EVR	T. E. Julander
67	1988	K8EJ	S. P. Hart
68	1988	G3LIK	M. Puttick
69	1988	VA3CW	C. Henry (VE79H)
70	1990	W6OV	R. P. Kemp
71	1990	OY7ML	M. Haasen
72	1990	G3KTZ	C. Lindsay
73	1991	W3VT	R. C. Cheek
74	1991	G3FIU	W. B. Gray
75	1992	PA0VDV	J. van der Velde
76	1992	G4BUE	C. J. Page
77	1992	G3MXJ	D. J. Andrews
78	1992	K9BG	J. Brunning
79	1992	I3BLF	V. Mior
80	1992	W2LZX	J. Gutzeit
81	1993	W6TZD	E. G. Dvorak
82	1993	SM3BCS	E. Gustavsson
83	1996	OK1RR	M. Kratoska
84	1996	N4XR	V. Paounoff
85	1996	G0CMM	J. Bell
86	1997	N4UB	J. D. Widener Jr.
87	1997	K9QVB	J. F. Meyer
88	1997	ON4RU	M. Dancilla
89	1998	VE7NH	D. Brabner

Augie - W4GK, died in March 1977. He had a record as one of the Club's most active members. At the time of his death, he was the only member to have worked every other member on the list; and he was at the forefront of the Club's awards programme.

It was very fitting that a commemorative award should have been instituted to mark Augie's outstanding contribution to on-the-air activity in FOC. The Nickel Trophy was announced at the end of 1977, to be awarded to any member who could claim valid contacts with every other member of the Club on at least one band.

As with every other new award, there was keen competition to see who would get #1. This honour went to Elliott - W2MUM, who made his final contact on 18th November 1978.



Augie Nickel - W4GK

### The Bill Windle Memorial Trophy

Following the passing of Bill Windle in December 1983, considerable thought was given to a suitable way of marking a tremendous record of involvement in all areas of the Club's work; and, especially, Bill's role in encouraging and building an active club. At the end of 1984, The Bill Windle Memorial Trophy was announced. This would be awarded to the member providing evidence of having contacted the highest number of other members during a calendar year.

The first year, 1985, was keenly contested with listings of updated scores appearing in the News Sheet each month. The year finished with Jack - W2BA having worked no less than 456 other members during the twelve months. For the first year, the award went to the overall winner. Later, separate awards were added for individual continents and the US West Coast.

Year	Winner	Members worked
1985	W2BA	456
1986	W3VT	442
1987	YO3CD	458
1988	W2BA	452
1989	K4KQ	417
1990	SM6AOU	438
1991	W2BA	413
1992	W2BA	457
1993	W2BA	452
1994	W2BA	433
1995	GM3POI	456
1996	GM3POI	426
1997	W9KNI/6	434

### The Jubilee Award

To mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of FOC, a special Jubilee Award was presented to any member who made contact with 50 members from Europe and 50 members from outside Europe, within a 50-day period beginning on 1st May 1988.

As with any new award, there was considerable enthusiasm and the early days of May saw a huge boost in FOC activity on the bands with competition to see who would get the coveted #1 award. The victor was Peter-ZL3GQ

who completed his 100 contacts at 0206GMT on 5th May, closely followed by Mark - WB4CSK, at 2109GMT on the same day. Logs were received from a total of 154 members.

This format appeared to be popular with the membership and a follow-on event was held the next year as a 'Jubilee + 1' which involved working 51 European and 51 non-European members, a total of 102 contacts, in 51 days. Although entries, at 92, were down on the previous year, the winner, Dave - W2FC, managed to complete his quota of contacts by 2149GMT on 3rd May.

The entries fell to 70 for the 'Jubilee + 2' in 1990. This was again won by Dave - W2FC who improved on his previous performance by making his 104 contacts by 0602GMT on 3rd May.

In 1981, we commemorated the 200th anniversary of the birth of Samuel Morse. It was decided to hold a special Jubilee Activity Period which would be open to non-members. For FOC members, the requirement was 40 European and 40 non-European members within 40 days from 27th April - the actual birthdate of Samuel Morse. Additional points were awarded for contacts with non-members. Although there was a reasonable amount of activity and interest from outside FOC, the number of logs received was small and the Committee decided that this would be the last of the 'Jubilee' events.

## Chapter 7

### The Bill Windle Years (1967-1981)



'The Old Man' - Bill Windle, G8VG

Once he had moved into the central position in the Club, Bill lost no time in making plain the tighter line that he would be promoting over what FOC was all about and how it should be run. His first News Sheet [8/67] contained some of the ideas that would characterise the future years.

FOC was intended at the very outset to be a CW club, in fact, who in 1937 had gone?

It is proposed to clear up any misunderstanding and amend the title of the club to: 'First Class CW Operators' Club'.

A reminder of subs outstanding will appear in our March 1st issue each year and calls will be listed. The need for this is apparent with some members several years in advance and the possibility of their dues being overlooked. Defaulters will whoever, be struck from the records on April 1st. [G8VG 8/67]

Another change that Bill introduced, almost immediately, was to improve the monthly News Sheet by having it produced by a local printer instead of the traditional method that had involved typewriter and hand-cranked duplicator. He also, at long last, dropped the title 'Circular Letter' which recalled the days of the circulation rota and replaced it with the 'News Sheet'.

Bill was very determined that the Club should develop into a well-organised and active organisation. He developed the concept, which continues to this day, that 'activity', in terms of FOC membership, is more than just being on the air. It requires a demonstration of on-going interest in the Club and its full range of activities. He declared war on those who were late in paying subscriptions. Although the effects of this came in for some strong criticism, the problem of collecting dues is one of the biggest headaches in running an organisation that depends on voluntary effort. There is always the 'hard core' who will just not respond to reminders or even personally written 'begging letters'. So, eventually, there is no course but to drop them from the lists.

Bill's policy on this appeared in an early editorial.

I could not possibly list the 200 members who have not got around to sending in their subscriptions for 1968. They may possibly want to resign and if so I would appreciate some information about it. Then too, there are the 27 members who paid in advance last year or the year before who intended to send me the other five shillings, ten shillings, dollar or two dollars. They have perhaps been rushing around and quite forgotten the guy trying to run the Club. They have of course, had their News Sheets etc., paid from the subs already sent in. It is in the interests of all members to try to make the Secretary's job as easy as possible and it will

help him considerably to get your dues in early. I am honing my axe and it will not be a bit of good saying you have not been warned. Although I have mentioned the increase in subscriptions so many times, I have been getting last year's rate from quite a lot of members and have written no end of letters pointing this out. To those who have paid up, my grateful thanks; to those who are waiting till the last minute, I offer this job in order to note their reaction in endeavour to flog a dead horse.  
[G8VG 3/68]

By the following month, April 1968, there were still 106 subscriptions outstanding or incompletely paid, so it is easy to sympathise with Bill's proposal to move the cut-off point forward to 31st January for future years. Even though Bill printed a full list of the defaulters, 49 still remained unpaid a month later and the May News Sheet showed these as being 'deleted from records'. Despite this strong action, the situation in 1969 was only a little better with 78 shown as unpaid in March and 34 deleted in April. In 1970, the end-January deadline was implemented which resulted in 36 deletions in the February News Sheet.



Elliott - W2MUM

This uncompromising policy undoubtedly eased the problem for future years. In addition, Elliott - W2MUM, offered to undertake collection of dues for those paying in US Dollars. He has continued this useful job for 30 years. Apart from making it easier for a lot of members to pay their subscriptions, it also means that the Club receives a single payment, avoiding considerable bank charges. Although Bill's strong line on payment caused considerable controversy over the years, it does mean that it is only a minor problem now. The number of non-payers, by the end of January, is usually in single figures.

Bill next trained his guns on the problem of inactivity. In November 1968, he initiated a discussion, through the News Sheet, aimed at coming up with a set of proposals that would stimulate, encourage, or even pressure, members to maintain a good on-the-air activity level. Part of this action was prompted by the fact that the Club membership list was full and there were 36 fully sponsored stations on a QRX list with a further 40 on the Nominations List. Bill felt strongly the need to pressure the 'deadwood' out of the Club to make way for other people who would be active.

Amongst suggestions that came from this discussion were:

- That all members should be able to work at least three bands, including one LF and one HF.
- That there should be a requirement for the submission of a list of 25 members worked on CW during the previous year to be submitted each year.
- That there should be some form of 'inactive list'.
- That spaces for those on the QRX list should be created by deleting all the very early members up to the number of vacancies required - Bill asked if the originator of the proposal would be prepared to take on the duties of the Secretary as it would mean his own departure!

Bill's first annual report appeared in January 1969.

The past year proved to be a most successful year, firstly because we are solvent. Not only have we sufficient funds to cover all membership fees paid in advance but we have a healthy balance in hand. Secondly, we have more than filled the membership list and at the time of going to press we stand at 231 members in the UK and 291 Overseas making a total of 522. It is necessary to close the Starred List because we have 56 on the QRX List and a total of 34 remain to be sponsored. The highlight of the year (1968) was undoubtedly the Annual Dinner at Lords where we had 184 members and the wives and friends. A wonderful get together indeed with so many overseas and UK members present. How nice too to see all those charming ladies who were finding plenty to talk about.  
[G8VG 1/69]

Bill continued his battle for activity and was outspoken on his views on the sort of person who qualified for membership of FOC.

I would say again that no member has a right to hold on to membership for having done something towards amateur radio in the distant past. The membership certificates are clear in their intent when they say 'Elected to Active Membership' and that means just what it says; and in the context of the rules of the Club, it means on CW. I have a report about a G member who has been absent from the bands for at least two years; and I am aware of a VE member who was enrolled with an address in W4 seven years ago. To my mind, and I am sure the majority of others, this is just not good enough; and I am hopeful that both will do one thing or the other; that is get on the bands or move over and make room for one of the QRX List stations waiting to join us. I have continually stressed the need for members to get on the CW portion of the band for at least a proportion of their operating time. I have no right or desire to stop members using the other modes of transmission, but ask them to do their share towards 'active membership'.

[G8VG 7/69]

The 'Temporarily Inactive' List was introduced in late 1969 and Bill followed it with a strongly worded paragraph on activity.

I have written to a number of stations asking for some proof of activity and the results are seen in the deletion of call signs from records. Once again, I ask all members to face up to it and not to waste either my time or the time of your Committee. If you are inactive on CW then why not let me know that it is only temporary then I will put you on the 'Temporarily Inactive List' or let me know you are dropping out. There are far too many very good operators knocking at the door of FOC and unable to join us because of the very selfish attitude of some of the members who having obtained the great honour of becoming a member of FOC sit back and do nothing whatever about it apart from paying lip service to it and sending along their subscriptions. As your Secretary, I am happy to work for all active members. But I am most unhappy to find that we have members who are sitting on my back. I have told the Committee what I think about them and they agree completely with my efforts to weed out the deadwood.

[G8VG 11/69]

Although Bill's approach was welcomed by the majority of members, it was not without its critics. Don - G2BB, in asking to be transferred to the Inactive List said: '*...the contest minded attitude was steadily pervading the FOC with the consequent lowering of standards of operating and manners, e.g. a flood of applications to join FOC - with some success - by certificate hunters*'. [12/69]. Needless to say, Bill was having none of this and returned to the attack in his first editorial of 1970 and did not hold back from criticism of the founders of the post-war club.

A tiny minority of members have, and possibly continue, to refuse to acknowledge the fact that by activity alone can we maintain our position in the world of amateur radio. To have won the bucket and spade at the seaside is no justification or qualification to retain membership if you are no longer on the bands.....It is worth a thought over one of the questions raised by Fergie, who was number one post-war Secretary when he was asked about 'two of the Committee working any station against whom objections were raised'. Fergie asked 'What happens if none of the Committee are active?' It is my belief that we started out with the wrong ideas in mind and activity should have been the primary object at the outset....surely the Club slipped in those days by letting Fergie get away with the suggestion that any member may be inactive.

[G8VG 1/70]

The beginning of the 70s saw the emergence of regular international travel within FOC following the charter flight which brought a number of US members to the dinner at Lords in 1968. The trailblazers, in this respect, were Al - G3FXB and Maud. Their first visit to the US, during Al's spell as President, included stays with Heinz - N2LK and Dolly, Al - W2MEL and Laura, Sig - N3RS and Mary Ann, and Red - W4ZM and Peggy. Highlights included an 'open house' at N2LK and a 'Turkey Barbecue' at W2NZ. In fact, both QTHs were to see many overseas guests in the 70s with that of W2NZ earning the title of the 'Massapequa Hilton'!

In the same year, Laci - W1PL, reserved a room at the Sheraton Hotel in Boston, during the ARRL Convention for a meeting of FOC members. It was at this meeting that Red - W4ZM, pointed out the immense effort that Bill was making on behalf of the Club and suggested that 'the American contingent should consider bringing Bill to the Colonies'. As a result, Ned - W1RAN, volunteered to send out 150 letters to raise funds and Vic - WA2DIG offered to be Treasurer leaving Red free to organise the trip. The matter was kept secret until Lords of that year, when in his speech, Al sprung the news on Bill and also made the point that Muriel should accompany him. In his account of the announcement at Lords, Bill passed the comment that it 'rather put the skids under me' and recalled that it was greeted with 'great applause'.



The trip took place in the spring of 1971. Neither Bill or Muriel had flown before and for Muriel it was her first trip outside of the UK. It had a tremendous impact on both of them and fond memories of it were often recalled by Bill right up to his passing. It did much to recompense him for all his efforts and Muriel for her tolerance, apart from doing much to cement relationships within the Club. The trip took them to New York where they were met by Mort - W2NZ, the start of a six week trip that took them around New England and Washington DC; to the Dayton Hamvention, where they must have been one of the first UK visitors ever; and to the hilltop QTH of Al Kahn - K4FW, in Tennessee. Along the way, there were big ham parties at the QTHs of Mort - W2NZ, Howie - W1HZ, Bob & Ellen White's, Joe - K3JH, Red - W4ZM, and Steve - N2DAN. In the early 70s, there were still significant differences between the material lifestyles on the two sides of the Atlantic and it is interesting, in Bill's account of the trip, to see some of the things that stood out - Colour TV, New York City, US supermarkets, with their size and range of goods, and the Indian Reservation where the Chief spoke with a 'polished Oxford accent'.

At this time, the new club call, G3YPB, which had been issued in late 1969, was receiving regular airings during activity periods in the first week of each month; and the Club's first Call Book was published in August 1970. Bill, together with Vic - G6VC, undertook to act as a QSL bureau for member's cards - distributing them with the monthly News Sheet.

Although Bill was unrelenting in his crusade for activity, he was also open to criticism directed against the Club.

I have to thank Leo, PA0LXL, for sending me the translation from the German magazine wherein an attack is made upon the Club. The complainant is OE3OLW and he says that FOC members only wish to work amongst themselves. He says 'I am emotionally disturbed....when a CQ call is not rewarded because one is not a member of a special sect. These people calling themselves first operators.....breaking the most essential rule of our hobby.....their only intention to find a partner with at least the same qualification and doing so all other callers ignored after which a normal QSO is developed distinguished from a standard QSO by the exchange of FOC numbers, then we are talking about a practice to which we should make a stand against. In case these practices are likely to increase then we could ask ourselves seriously whether our hobby is on the right way? In my case, I would recommend FOC - if they would like to remain exclusive - to request the Post Office for exclusive frequencies'.

I have cut out some of the not so important bits but in the main I feel it comes back to the previous remarks from some of our members that we are too inward looking. If we accept the above charge, and I feel we must, then I would ask all members to take stock. We have members who say they have no wish to take part in the collection of numbers for points and some who seemingly do not wish to take part in anything even to showing up on the bands. Others appear at contest (not FOC) times and then decline to work fellow members. That they are very good operators one cannot deny but I think they owe something to the Club which carries them along and should appear at intervals even if infrequent. If they do not wish to take part in FOC activities then I am sure they should be on the Temporarily Inactive List. I have sent a suitable reply to the above.

[G8VG 11/70]

In mid-1971, FOC polled its members in the first full-scale questionnaire. This was prompted by a number of potential changes to the make-up of the Club and the opportunity was taken to take soundings over a number of other issues. The form was enclosed with the June News Sheet and the responses from 277 members were reported in September. The overall response indicated that the membership was generally satisfied with the way the Club was being run.

1. The Committee suggested that the ceiling for membership should be increased to 750, accepting that the secretarial workload would be increased. 70% wished the membership to remain at 500. The remainder wanted it increased.
2. It was suggested that membership numbers should be reallocated from 1 to 500, thus eliminating the numbers with four digits and removing the false impression that the current system gave regarding total membership. 57% were opposed to any renumbering.
3. A question on whether the membership would like a yearly or twice-yearly call book - with the acceptance that a twice-yearly callbook would mean an increase in subscriptions. 64% felt one call book a year to be adequate while the remainder wanted it published twice a year.
4. A number of questions on the Marathon - length, frequency and scoring. 45% felt the length of the Marathon, at 48 hours, satisfactory. 36% wanted two 24-hour events and 19% wanted four per year. 58% felt there should

be a plaque for winners only but 42% thought that the runner-up should also receive one. A recommendation was made that a small plate be engraved for adding to the plaque if it is won by the same member for two consecutive years. 96% were happy with the scoring.

5. 52% were in favour of members producing proof of activity.
6. 58% would like a History of the Club.
7. 86% were satisfied with the current sponsoring rules.
8. 75% were satisfied with the current balance of membership.
9. 95% were satisfied with the News Sheet.
10. 68% were satisfied with conduct on the bands; but the rest felt there was bad conduct on the air and wanted definite rules on the subject.

Although Bill could be very outspoken over the direction that he thought that FOC should take, most of the ideas that he pushed forward have stayed with the Club over the years and form the basis on which we now work. A good example of this is his view on what constitutes a good club member. The vast majority of the present day members would be in full agreement.

The value of a member to the Club may be measured by his support. It is not sufficient to end one's liabilities at the subscription stage and if we are to continue to function as the number one CW Club, all members should at some stage get on to the CW end of the bands. It is not good enough to have some 60 to 70% of the members only on CW whilst there are a number who are solely occupied on SSB or even, perhaps, without a rig. The failure to have 100% of the members active on CW must surely begin at the nomination stage. We have, in the past, had stations put up because they are splendid operators in contests; they now do not bother to get on the air in between times. Others have wonderful records in the DXCC ratings and undoubtedly are good operators; but is this fair to the Club? All members have a duty to the Club by getting on the bands and on the CW end. To be engaged in some private capacity apart from radio, however laudable, is grand but again it does nothing for us as a Club. The yardstick must be the air time and if you cannot get on the air, you have no right to prevent a fully sponsored station from joining us. From returns sent in, there are a number of members who have never been contacted at any time and appeals via the News Sheet fall upon deaf ears. I have, during the past three years, written almost 300 personal letters to calls listed and whilst the majority accept this as part of my job, I do have the odd ball who gets very rude in his reply. This may well be, as one who resigned said, 'I have perhaps a guilty feeling about the time I spend on the band'. Most replies are friendly enough and I appreciate them. The end of the subscription period will soon be upon us and I would ask on behalf of not only myself but of every active member who has the welfare of the Club at heart, will you characters who are of so little help seriously give a thought to whether you are prepared to pay up and remain a liability or move over and let the other guy take a crack at it.

[G8VG 10/71]

- and again, on the policy on reissue of membership numbers.

The question was asked, why do we not give a re-joining member his original membership number? This is an oldie, but the answer is that to give a number such as, say, 45 back to a member who has been absent from Club activity for 12, 15 or 20 years would be grossly unfair to those of us who have remained with the Club over the years. It gives a good indication of how long a members has been with us continuously and it is known that members take a pride in the membership number, so much so that a point was raised as to why not give some sort of recognition to members who have remained with the Club for more that twenty-five years. I suppose a chevron might meet the case. But if this was accepted in principle, then there are a few of us who would qualify for, say, a tin hat - 33 years is a very long time and we have some who have been with us that long. There have been many changes in this time and it cannot be challenged that we are going in the right direction. We still have some way to go but we shall make it.

[G8VG 1/72]

By the middle of 1972, Bill clearly felt he was making some progress on the activity front.

Having sat in this chair for five years, I have the feeling that we are getting somewhere with the great improvement in activity. This has been the theme for the whole period and whilst the majority of members agree, and some disagree with me, it is apparent that the News Sheet cannot be entirely ignored. I am happy that the number of members who took part in the Marathon is about the maximum when we consider that with 74.4% active plus say 15% who were bogged down with moving house, on vacation, had illness in the house or other perfectly legitimate reason for not taking part, this leaves us with 10% who are so involved with SSB, are never on the band, have no pump handle or keyer and little interest in the Club to make up the

100%. I am sure all who have the continued prestige of the Club at heart would join me in wishing these a fond farewell. Let us aim for an attendance on at least one of the bands by all members at least once a week. It may be that you will like it and give a little more of your time.  
[G8VG 6/72]

It seemed that, after a crusade lasting five years, Bill had at last transformed FOC into a reasonably active club with good attendances in the Marathon and good activity on the air. The 'Temporarily Inactive' List was in operation, which foreshadowed the Associate Membership List, and provided a resting place for those who did not match the activity requirements. Indeed, pressure for activity appeared to have reached a natural balance when the News Sheet reported two opposing suggestions - that the members should be retired as soon as they have amassed 5,000 points for WAFOC on the grounds that to obtain so many they could not have had many, if any, ragchews; and the alternative proposal that in order to justify membership of FOC, all members should show that they have scored 500 points for each year of membership dating from the introduction of WAFOC. [9/74].

The Annual Dinner in London, having moved to Lords in 1968, had become a major event for the Club with an increasing number of overseas members attending. The North American dinners were gaining in popularity. International travel was very much in favour with Al - G3FXB and family making regular trips to the US. The News Sheet contained many accounts of DXpeditions mounted by members with some relating very amusing incidents.

Perhaps the most amusing incident experienced in St Lucia (by West Indian standards) would be most embarrassing in many other countries. The weekend was set aside to operate on 40 and 20 metres from what had served as a radar control centre for the US forces during WW2. The little Volkswagan bug on its departure from Vieux Fort was loaded with the following: FTDX 560, a portable 400w generator, two five gallon drums of petrol, the operating table (carried on top of the bug with the legs pointing to the sky), a bed roll, the operators' chair, a desk lamp and food for the safari. We left about 11pm on the Friday night negotiating a very winding road, provided by Uncle Sam, up a hill of 800ft. A small building had been chosen and although vandalism had disposed of the windows it did at least afford some protection from the elements. On arrival, the car was parked with full headlights shining into the small building pending the filling and working of the generator. The first item off the car was a small mattress and as entry was made a shuffling was heard from one corner of the room. Closer inspection showed that a local Romeo was busy rolling up his mattress after which he escorted his lady friend to his car. After seating her comfortably, he positioned his headlights to augment those of our own. He then came over to help us set up the station. With the lights on and the station ready, the girl friend joined us and a cup of tea was taken by all. There was no sign of embarrassment from either of them. After a few QSOs they wished us goodnight and slowly drove away.

[VP2LY/VE3EWY 4/74]

Bill was a particularly popular figurehead with the US membership and having sponsored his and Muriel's visit in 1971, they followed this up with an invitation to return. At Lords, in October 1974, Mort - W2NZ, in proposing the Toast to Overseas Members and Guests, read out the following invitation: *'In recognition of the years of unsinting service and devotion to the duties of his office, the members of the First Class CW Operators' Club are pleased to invite the Honourable Secretary and his lady, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Windle to attend the 3rd Annual USA/FOC Dinner as Guests of Honour, Spring Valley, May 17th 1975'*. It is recorded that, for once, Bill was lost for words and could only respond with 'I'm bunkered.'

Perhaps this spell of stability within the Club led members to ponder its overall place in the hobby and its future. There had always been, and still is, some sensitivity over the charge that FOC sets out to be an elitist, even snobbish, organisation. Unfortunately, the on-the-air actions of a minority of members has sometimes tended to support this criticism and it has been necessary to pen reminders.

Let's resolve, in 1976, and after, to try to keep the FOC flag flying high, by conscious attention to detail in our operating habits. Are we guilty of overuse of 'FOC' or 'both FOC', on every possible occasion, regardless of necessity, and thus, perhaps, causing needless annoyance to certain non-FOC critics? Do we often deliberately ignore calls from non-FOC stations and unwittingly earn ourselves the label of being a 'Snob's Club'? Could we maybe find ourselves quieter frequencies on which to QSO (75kHz up on certain bands, is to be preferred) and thus relieve the already overcrowded and popular sections of 025-030kHz up? It is impossible to be 'all things to all men' but let us perhaps give our operating habits a little more thought.

[G3KMO 12/75].

In January 1977, the death occurred of Austin Forsyth, who had been post-war member #1 and supported the reforming of FOC through the columns of Short Wave Magazine.

### Austin Forsyth O.B.E - G6FO



In 1930, G6FO and Jack Hum - G5UM, got to know one another as a result of a mutual interest in developing the then-neglected 160-metre band. They both became members of Group 10A of the Research and Experimental Section of the RSGB and gathered about them a number of like-minded transmitting amateurs whose interest was to see more activity on a band which had become virtually deserted during the great rush to the DX bands of 40 and 20 metres. Their objective was to prove that 160m had DX possibilities that might not be altogether apparent to those who preferred the easier picking of 7 and 14MHz. To this end, a series of trans-Atlantic tests were set up to be conducted just before dawn every day during the winter of 1931 and 1932, a long and painstaking slog which had its reward when G6FO was 'first across the pond' on 1.75MHz from his site in Newport, Monmouthshire. The transmitter was a P650 valve in a self-excited oscillator with a 200v DC mains supply. The receiver was a one-valve detector with a one-valve audio amplifier; aerial

was a quarter wave long wire. Never will those who participated in those tests forget the bell-like note of W1DBM pinging weakly into their receivers morning after morning, followed sometime later by signals from W1BB and ultimately others. It is well worth recording that those who got across first - G6FO, and soon afterwards his neighbour G5WU at Penarth, did it with a meticulously measured 9.7 watts DC input. This was not just because they feared losing their licences by exceeding the regulation 10 watts - it was a point of honour that if it couldn't be done on the licensed power, it was not worth doing at all.

G6FO was also one of the pioneers of the 56MHz band during the 1934-35 period; with one of the first (if not the first) crystal controlled transmitters and an 0-V-1 receiver he maintained regular contacts from Newport with G5JU in Bristol and G5BY in Croydon.

It was during the period 1937-38 that Austin first conceived the idea of starting a magazine to cater specifically for the needs and interests of the radio amateur. He found that he possessed a considerable ability for writing and in fact several articles he had written had already been published in electronic journals of the day. Now a certain 'Short Wave Magazine' had been started in 1937 by others with the same aims, but by early 1938, the Magazine was in a distinctly weak and fragile condition, The first editor, G5GQ, resigned and Austin, who felt sure he could make a success of the Magazine, took the plunge and produced his first editorial in the March 1938 issue. That he did make a success of it is now a matter of amateur-radio history.

However, his first period as editor of SWM was short lived. For in 1939 came WW2. During his wartime career in the RAF, he served with the Technical Branch (Signals) during which his chief concerns were radio- and radar countermeasures. He was part of a team that worked on the design, development and deployment of 'window' strips of aluminium foil which were dropped literally by the million to jam the enemy's radar. G6FO, who had reached the rank of Wing Commander by April 1943, served at HQ Bomber Command from October 1941 to January 1946 and was twice Mentioned in Despatches. For his services during the war, he was awarded the O.B.E.

At the end of the war, he returned to civilian life to take up the reins of 'Short Wave Magazine' again. From that time until his death, he worked continuously and tirelessly for the furtherance of amateur radio in all its forms and for the success of the Magazine, always maintaining a firm and independent view.

Austin was always most helpful to aspiring amateurs and was even willing to lend his own equipment in order to get them started. A man of strong-minded and determined character, G6FO was never afraid at any time or place to make his views on amateur radio matters perfectly clear, and vigorously promoted and defended the pursuit against all comers. As a first-class operator himself, the maintenance of good operating standards was something on which G6FO was very sensitive. In fact, he was one of those telegraphists who enjoyed the gift of talking through the fingertips, something that comes more easily perhaps to those who are naturally articulate - as G6FO was - and as his writings demonstrate.  
[Short Wave Magazine 3/77]

The theme of where FOC would go in the future was addressed by John Bazley - G3HCT, in a speech at the end of his Presidential term, at the 1977 Dinner. It was, without doubt, the most controversial speech ever made at one of these gatherings and the response to it defined the degree of support that the membership would give to change.

John made a number of points which were outlined in the November News Sheet.

1. The Annual Dinner be made the Annual General Meeting where points raised by members present concerning the past year and the future could be dealt with by the Committee. At this AGM, the opportunity could be taken for a ballot to elect three Committee Members for the coming year to cover the vacancies created by the three outgoing members.
2. Use of the reverse side of the News Sheet to advertise member's sales and wants.
3. The subscription was too small in the light of members receiving the Call Book, members lists, Marathon lists and a QSL service.
4. Committee members should be paid for their services. Members who are nominated for the Committee should be from anywhere in the UK and expenses should be paid for attending meetings.
5. A healthy club has a growth factor built in and we should permit 2 or 3% annually.
6. The Club stood for operating ability and consideration of other users of the band. If you were invited to become a member and received the ultimate honour of being accepted, then surely that concept at which you entered the Club applies whether you are active or not; and it is wrong that we should hound people out because they are inactive. With a planned growth we could keep those people whose ideas are the same as the majority of us.

Much of this was totally alien to Bill Windle and the immediate response was predictable. In his reply, he pointed out that it would be wrong to have an AGM at the Dinner as it would not be representative. He pointed out the problems for a Secretary handling an unlimited membership and recalled the pressures on G2ZC, G2DPY and G3JLB. He felt that to increase the number beyond 500 would cheapen the honour and prestige of membership and was of the opinion that John was in a very small minority in wishing to keep members who were inactive.

Subsequent comments from the membership did not reveal much support for the proposals either. At a Committee meeting in November, it was reported that 24 members had written in opposing an AGM at the Dinner with none in favour. 30 were in favour of a maximum of 500 members with none supporting any change. Two were in favour of small advertisements in the News Sheet and two against. The overall message was clear - the majority of members were quite happy with the running of the Club.

Activity once again became an issue at the end of 1977. From time to time, the question had been raised of members submitting an annual return of other members worked during the year as a condition of continuing membership. This was again put to the membership in December with the apparent expectation that it would be approved. However, the response, detailed in the May 1978 News Sheet showed only 134 members supporting the idea with 159 against. Many letters suggested the onus of proving activity should be on those members who were considered to be inactive and that provision for this should be made in the Rules. As a result, the original Rule 7 was proposed whereby the Secretary could call for a list of not less than fifty members worked in a six month period.

At the end of 1979, the effects of the new Rule 7, introduced following the membership survey in 1977, began to bite. The November News Sheet showed a list of members that had been deleted for inactivity with the promise, in the accompanying editorial, that the action would be repeated during the following year. In a follow-up the next month, Bill appears to have given some ammunition to those that felt that the push for high activity was motivated by the 'point chasers'. *'If you want to live on 2 metres or on Oscar, nobody would wish to stop you but in all*



*conscience, are you giving the club the support it so richly deserves?.....Several are sweating on an Augie Nickel Trophy but they have absolutely no chance if you do not help them' [G8VG 12/79].*

The Rule 7 letters flowed during 1980 with a total of 65 being sent out by August. This seems to have been too much for some of the membership. Unfortunately, details of Committee Meetings were not published in the News Sheet during this time. So the exact reasons for what happened next are unclear. However, the August 1980 News Sheet reports some strong reaction to the Rule 7 letters and a decision that, in future, the Committee would involve itself in this activity. Bill did not appear to be totally in agreement with this move as he signed off the paragraph with the comment - *'From this date, the Committee will prepare the lists of members who will get Rule 7 letters. When you wish to blow your top, write to the President who is the Committee Chairman'. [G8VG 8/80].*

During this period, the question of quality of sponsoring again received some attention. It was felt that too many 'contest-only types' were being nominated. There was a tendency to over-sponsor amateurs who appeared on the bands from exotic DX-spots. And there was criticism of the all-time favourite - the 'Old Pal's Act' where a nomination would be agreed between a group of members rather than it occurring 'spontaneously' through on-the-air activity. To address these concerns, the sponsoring rules were again changed to limit the number of nominations from any one member to five in a year; and the rule requiring that sponsors come from a number of continents was introduced.

Apart from keeping members up to date with what was going on, the News Sheet has always provided space for other items on CW.



### It Makes you Think.

The guys who are convinced that CW is on its way out fall into the 'not really with it' category. Or is the OM living too much in the past? I tell the following without apology. As a Boy Telegraphist in 1917, I and others like me had to listen for enemy transmissions. For months we had completed our two or four hours on watch and the log showed the time on duty and off duty with an endorsement 'nothing heard'. I had the Morning Watch and from 0400 and until around 0700 had heard nothing. One can imagine the state of one's awareness after three long boring hours suddenly to hear 'OK number one?'. It put the wind up me and I called to the second operator 'There's someone talking on the receiver'. His reply, interpreted, was 'you must be crazy'. He came into the cabinet and a second pair of headphones hastily joined up. In no time at all, there were some ten or a dozen of the radio ops listening to a transmission in speech. One of the guys in the queue said 'This is the end of morse'. Just about 63 years ago. When World War One began with radio becoming an important factor, the Post Office was asked to produce as many telegraphists as possible and these were classed as 'operators' in radio and they did a great job. Volunteers were taken from the various grades as ratings to become 'radio operators'. Since 1918 many 'know-alls' have repeated that 'CW is on the way out'. In 1938, it was only too obvious that something should be done about the lack of real operators. The Civilian Wireless Reserve was formed and in due time was transferred to the RAF. By the time 1939 came along it was apparent to anyone with ideas that unless we produced many very good operators, things were likely to become very sticky. Amateurs were sought who were able to read and copy (write down all that was read), to form a new set up. It does get one mention in the 'Ultra Secret' and a little more in the TV transmission 'The Secret Listeners' [books and TV programmes about the wartime radio intelligence effort] but neither gives these guys anything like the credit they earned. The world today is in a mess, whether we like it or not; and CW is likely to be called upon to do all it has done in the past. To the 'end of CW' guys it should be pointed out that the carrying of keyboards, Kilowatt amplifiers and multi element beams will have no place with the guys working under cover. The B2 and similar types of transceivers were a great job last time and I can see tiny transceivers doing an even better job in the future. Let us pray we shall not have the occasion to use them in circumstances such as the B2 was used. It may be that the OM has yet to learn that there is a huge reserve of CW men, but due to his advanced years 'ain't with it'. CW in his humble opinion will be with us for a very long time.

[G8VG 7/80]



## Code Ode - from W0ROF

It's more than dots and dashes,  
It's a place.  
A sanctuary for those who've learned  
To love the mysterious magic of  
Thoughts arriving in mile-long strings  
On roads of ether or wire.

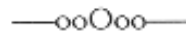
Even more, it's peace,  
A shield from the disordered sounds  
Of traffic, angry people  
And industrial clutter clatter,  
Within its warm mantle  
We find soothing respite.

And the patter of bright ideas it is,  
The sharp focusing of others' thoughts  
From miles beyond our vision's range,  
As in a dream we sit so...still,

It floats in our ears and stirs our minds  
With concern, remembrance, speculation  
And mirth.

And code is music,  
From sounders and speakers it dances  
In the shack to each sender's internal clock,  
And comes butter-smooth, deliciously swinging,  
Or choppy staccato from a 'fist' praising definition,  
Or perfectly metered, flowing exquisitely  
From the gentle hand of an artist.

A place,  
And peace,  
Intelligence and  
Music.  
Code is more than dots and dashes.



For a short period during the 70s, a Certificate of Merit was awarded to recognise outstanding services to the Club. This was intended to be awarded annually on the basis of nominations from members. However, support was poor and the idea was discontinued after 1980.

Year	Callsign		Awarded for:
1973	W2HAQ	Heinz Milark	Services to FOC
1974	W4ZMQ	Marv Carter	DXing activities
1975	G3FXB	Al Slater	Services to FOC
1976	G3HVG	Pete Windle	Services to FOC
1979	W6VD	Jack West	Organisation of W6WASFOC
1980	G3AAQ/2	Mrs Nettie Jacobs	FOC social work
1980	G6VC/2	Mrs Joan Curling	Assistance with committee meetings
1980	DL1PM	Ernst Manske	Operating special stations during the Marathon
1980	W8VSK	Joe Keese	Activating rare states for W6WASFOC

Towards the end of 1980, the first signs of Bill's declining health appeared. This had serious implications for FOC. Bill had devoted an enormous amount of time and energy to organising and running virtually every aspect of the Club. He was strong willed and was not going to readily give up anything. It was to take a lot of persuasion on the part of Al - G3FXB, before Bill would accept that some of the workload needed to be taken off his shoulders.

In the November (1980) News Sheet, the OM reported a very painful attack of 'lumbago' which had been with him for two weeks. The December News Sheet mentioned the fact that he had lost 21 pounds but 'was on the mend'. In fact, just after the publication of that edition, he was admitted to Guy's Hospital, London, to undergo surgery. Together with Maud, the writer visited him and it was apparent that things were not too good. The management of the Club gave cause for concern, for this was the time of year when subscriptions were paid. The Marathon was close at hand and with retirement, N2LK, was no longer producing his 'rosters', whilst the publication of the January News Sheet looked very doubtful. The writer offered help but the situation was delicate and the independent spirit of the OM was still very much in evidence. I tossed a couple of pens and some writing paper to him and suggested that he write up copy from his hospital bed, pointing out that the membership - who were anxious for news of his progress - would appreciate a News Sheet written

from the world famous Guy's in London. I planned to collect the copy within a few days and get the printing and distribution in hand. That was on the 21st December. On Christmas Eve, the telephone rang. It was the OM and he had been discharged from hospital following surgery. He was weak but full of confidence. He declined any assistance with the News Sheet and when I suggested he contact G6JJ concerning plans for Bill to deal with the subscriptions, he again declined, saying he would take care of things for the current year. Unbeknown to Bill, the hospital had given him a life expectancy of between three months and three years. [G3FXB HB84 p69]



Ted - G2HKU

He continued to be active on the air and to write the occasional item for the News Sheet - many of them associated with his life-long ambition of making FOC a truly active club.

Bill attended the dinner at Lords in October 1983 and hosted a Committee meeting on 19th November. Unfortunately, his three years had run their course. He suffered a heart attack just six days later and passed away on the 7th December 1983.

G8VG had been a pre-war member of the Club and exerted the strongest influence over its post-war development. Although often controversial in his preference for strong, rather than perhaps democratic, leadership, Bill had succeeded in transforming FOC into an active and prestigious presence in Amateur Radio. By its nature, an organisation like FOC needs strong centralised direction and this, Bill was certainly able to provide. In his final News Sheet in July 1981, Bill had written *'I am sorry to have to let go of a job that I have enjoyed all these years, but there must come a time when it has to be done and that time is thought to be now'*.

Editorials by the OM had always been signed 'Will E. Win'. This last editorial was signed 'Did E. Win?' The overall view was that he did.

Although Bill saw out his three years, the continuing decline in his health meant that the difficulties of running the Club increased. In typical fashion, Bill stubbornly refused to relinquish the reins until June 1981 when the Committee led by Bob - G0ADE, finally had to insist that the work be split up amongst a number of other people. Unfortunately, during this period, in April 1981, the Club had lost one of its reliable workers in the shape of Vic Curling - G6VC, who had handled the mailing of UK News Sheets for some twenty years, had been a member of Committee for over thirty years and had always been ready to help out with any required assistance. The May News Sheet had reported that Ted - G2HKU would take over the UK mailing. Following a June Committee meeting, Al - G3FXB, took over the preparation of the News Sheet; Ron - G4CP, took over the collection of subscriptions; and Tony - G4GML, took on overseas mailings; Bill Windle was appointed Chairman of the Club.

Possibly as a result of the lifting of the burden of running the Club and maybe with improved medication, Bill's condition did improve and he was able to continue to attend the dinners at Lords and to host the Committee meetings at his home in Dartford. At the dinner in October 1981, Bill was presented with a Rose Bowl and Muriel with a musical jewellery box in recognition of all the work that they had put into FOC over so many years.

## Bill Windle - G8VG



The 'OM' at his last Lords in 1983 with Al - G3FXB and Bob - G0ADE

Bill Windle was born on the 22nd May 1902. He entered the Royal Navy during World War 1, at the ripe old age of 15 years and 3 months. He chose to take up radio and was initiated into the world of spark transmitters and Perikon detectors. According to Bill, he was a better operator than a technician, his technical grading being 98%! Many a time, we would chat and he would recall how fixed gaps were followed by rotary gaps and how the Poulsen arc became a real transmitter that one was proud to operate. According to Bill, 'The Service receivers were a sight to behold. No valve, other than Perikon, and a choice of detector: bornite/zincite or carborundum and steel, and 21 switches and handles to be adjusted to tune to a particular wavelength; 180 to 28,000 metres. To see a glass tank of methylated spirit which slowly drip-fed into the arc chamber would bring bewilderment to youngsters of the present day who see a complete transceiver in a small box.' Bill's duties in WW1 involved listening watches for U-boats in the Thames Estuary and also took him on travels to several overseas spots including South Africa.

He joined the GPO in 1924, operating a sounder on duplex and simplex landline circuits, handling telegram and press traffic. During this period, he got the title of the 'mad sailor'. Teleprinters then came along and thus a source of extremely good operators was closed. Bill was licensed as G8VG in 1937 and was one of the original members of the Club when it was formed in 1938. It is interesting to reflect that at the time, the Club was known as 'The First Class Operators' Club' and both CW and 'phone operators were admissible as members. It was open to British amateurs only and it is interesting that of the pre-war membership the following are still with us: G2SO (now Z23JO), G4CJ, G5RV, G6HB, G6ZO, G6ZY, G8AX, and G8PG [in 1984].

During WW2, Bill served as a Captain in the Royal Signals where he was employed on intercept work. His home was bombed twice, once in London and once in Plymouth and as a result he lost many of his personal records. He was demobbed in 1946 and was soon active again on the bands. By 1967 his card-index filing system was showing

over 30,000 QSOs. He became Chairman of the Committee in 1951 and has held that position ever since and was the Club President from 1960 until 1962. He won the Marathon Cup as it was then in 1949/50 and again in 1951/52.

Bill retired in 1962 and in 1967 took over the Secretaryship of the Club from Les, G3JLB. It was in October of that year that the printed News Sheet as we have now was introduced having been duplicated prior to this. The Dinner in that year attracted 62 but by 1968 we were at Lords for the first time and the total had swelled to 184. This was the first Dinner with a large overseas presence due in no small measure to the charter flight organised by Mort, W2NZ. During the 1970s, the Club went from strength to strength under Bill's leadership. The duties were not split up to the extent that they are today and Bill did the bulk of the work including the distribution of the overseas News Sheets and the collection of the subscriptions - chores which are no longer performed by your Hon. Sec. Nevertheless, he still managed to get on the bands. Together with Muriel, he visited the States twice - visits which were still very cherished in his memory up to the last.

Bill Windle was indeed 'Mr FOC'. He made countless friends. He also made enemies. It was Jim, VK6RU, who told me, just after I took over the Secretaryship, that if I was not incurring criticism from 10% of the membership, chances are that I was not doing my job properly. Certainly, Bill did his job properly and his dedication was second to none.

It was just after Lords in 1980 that Bill was first taken ill. Through the early months of 1981, the Committee watched anxiously, not wanting to make any move either way which would be detrimental to his health but at the same time paying attention to the well-being of the Club. Already, Maud and I were regular visitors to Dartford, trying to bring help and cheer. Finally, with the OM's health continuing to decline, the Committee proposed on 20th June 1981 that he relinquish the Secretaryship but retain the Chairmanship of the Committee and odd jobs associated with the Club. As a result of this and medical attention, Bill's health showed a great improvement. Even at Lords this year, many commented on how well he looked. But alas, it was not to last. For he was smitten down by a heart attack on 25th November - the same day as Vic, W4KFC.

Maud and I visited him a few days later and it was obvious things were not good. There was an air of finality which was greatly disturbing. There was a laugh or two but in the main he wished to thank us for what we had done. In turn, we were able to express thanks on behalf of the Club for all that he had done over so many years. He was tired and weak and we said goodbye. I crept back a few minutes later and we exchanged the 'thumbs up' signal. Bill Windle passed peacefully away on the morning of the 7th December 1983.

The funeral was held today, the 14th, at the Dartford Methodist Church with burial at the Watling Street Cemetery. Sixteen members were in the congregation together with family and friends including Bryan Clarke, our printer, and his uncle G4IC (ex-FOC) who had been a long time friend of the OM. Flowers were not requested by the family but the Club did send a large spray in blue and white.

As one member said on the air, 'you have a big pair of boots to fill now Mr Slater.' In the past two and a half years of my Secretaryship, I had a good teacher - somebody I could always turn to. Together with your help let us maintain the Club to the high standards of 'Ability, Activity and Friendship' that Bill did so much to build over the years. 'A man should keep his friendship in constant repair'.

[G3FXB 1/84]



## Chapter 8

### The Al Slater Years (1981-1992)



Al Slater - G3FXB and Maud

By its very nature, a club such as FOC cannot avoid being centralised. It has no real opportunity to hold an Annual General Meeting, where members might collectively debate future policy; for practical reasons, its Committee has always been drawn from a narrow geographic area. But above all this, the overall character of the Club is very much bound up with the person seen to be at its centre - the Secretary. He is the person who manages the input to the News Sheet; and it is, principally, his words that the membership see.

Bill Windle was able to use his strength of character, coupled with an uncompromising vision of what FOC should stand for, to develop an active and respected organisation. Al Slater's position as a Club figurehead was to come more from his position in the hobby as a whole. At the time he took over as Secretary - three years before the death of Bill Windle - he was already one of the world's leading DXers and contesters. Although FOC had been an important factor in his life for almost thirty years, he balanced club activities with DX-chasing and a wide range of contest activity, including SSB. His future years in the centre of FOC would also be marked by greater emphasis on the social aspects of the Club - and in this, he would be ably assisted by his wife, Maud.

Al's first editorial as Secretary suggested some of the changes in direction that would appear over the forthcoming years.

After being a member now for almost 30 years and during that time having enjoyed personal QSOs with something like 60% of the membership, it is a very real pleasure for me to put pen to paper in the News Sheet; and quite naturally there are a few personal comments I would like to make. Quite obviously we all tend to have our own different ideas of what FOC is all about. To some, it is largely a 'numbers game' for collecting points and as a substitute for DXCC and other awards acquired long ago. To others, it is a social club, providing as it does two major occasions a year and a number of smaller activities in between. To many, it is a club that fosters communications in the mode for which they have a great affection; and to others it might simply be an honour and another certificate to hang on the wall. Currently, we have a membership figure in excess of the broad outlines agreed by your Committee.

Your Committee is constantly under pressure from some who feel that a hard line approach, such as the full implementation of Rule 7, is contrary to the spirit of the Club; and from others who feel that nothing should be spared in efforts to bring in new members. Somewhere there has to be a happy medium; and somehow one feels it should be possible to strike a balance without spoiling the friendly spirit of the Club. To some of you who currently may be a little 'lukewarm' about amateur radio and FOC, might I draw your attention to your own feelings when you were invited to membership, or when you were on the QRX List. Just be honest with



yourself and ask 'Is it time I moved over?' or, 'Do I really participate in the real spirit of the Club and consider that the other chap may well have different ideas than I do of what the Club is all about'.

I can only underline Bill's comments in the last News Sheet concerning the FOC Retired List. Your Committee feel that more publicity should be given to this facility. If, through no fault of your own, you can no longer participate in the 'on the air' club activities, here is your opportunity to remain in touch with the Club and all your friends, and also participate socially in the Club. You will be in eminent company and it cannot be considered as resignation. Your Committee has also been increasingly concerned for some time regarding sponsorship. We seem to spend far too much time discussing objections, which means that the standard of sponsoring leaves something to be desired. The quality and enthusiasm of the membership is directly linked to sponsoring. We would like to appeal for a much more selective approach to sponsoring. Remember, it is not the idea to bring your close friend into the Club regardless of his CW prowess, activity levels or FOC standards. Remember too, to educate prospective members about the Club and what it entails; and that canvassing by mail and telephone for sponsors is simply not part of the game. It is sobering when I look back and realise that the first that quite a few of us knew about being sponsored for FOC was when the letter of invitation arrived. At this time, when some changes are taking place in the running of the Club, might it not be an idea if all of us ponder these things. We all owe it to Bill, who has done so much to make FOC what it is today, to maintain the standard of the Club; and this is something that your Committee and Secretary can only achieve with your co-operation.

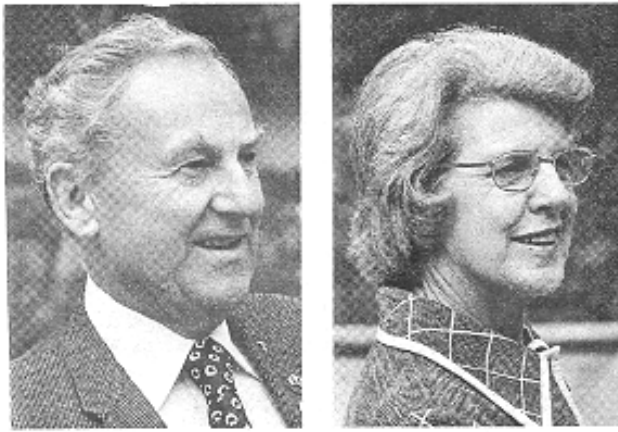
[G3FXB 8/81]

During the next year, the style that Al would adopt began to emerge. It was clear that he was intending to give space to differing and dissenting views on the organisation and running of FOC.

Your Secretary has sat in the chair now for eight months and has received much interesting correspondence. One of the most disturbing things noted from this has been the lack of tolerance and balance displayed by some members. Some of us seem to forget that amateur radio is just a hobby....In the same mail will be letters saying how enjoyable the Marathon was and requesting an additional event whilst another letter will express disgust at operating practices and suggest the competitive element be removed. Many letters will decry our inactive members; but some will defend them. I do feel that a little more tolerance and understanding of one's fellow members is indicated and can assure you that your Committee and Secretary will always try to pursue a fair minded and balanced approach in the running of the Club's affairs.

[G3FXB 3/82]

The monthly News Sheets became much more personal in character with updates on events and the changing English seasons observed at 'Wychwood' - Al and Maud's beautiful house in the Sussex countryside. A wide range of subjects are discussed during that first year. Vic Clark - W4KFC raises the question of '*a basic contradiction between the attempt to achieve a spirit of camaraderie and fellowship in an organisation and being required to maintain a consistent level of activity or being cast aside.....it seems a shame to even suggest that a dedicated member of long standing should 'step aside' for someone newer, younger and more active. [9/81]*' On the air operating standards are examined with a discussion being kicked off in the RSGB Magazine by an ex-member (at the time) Ron - G3YDX, '*No longer is patience and careful listening rewarded by good DX contacts. List and net operations are the way in which most rare DX is worked now, keeping honest achievement well away from honest DXers, and distributing pseudo-contacts to appliance operators worldwide. [10/81]*.' Foreseeing the discussion on code-free licences which would emerge in future years, Gus - GW8PG, makes a plea that, as part of protecting the future of CW, FOC should do much more towards helping the newcomer in offering morse instruction and in making a point of having QSOs with beginners etc. This theme is taken up by Jake - G3AAQ - '*Surely, the answer is in our own hands - to encourage the newcomers to use CW and become competent operators. By this means, we shall protect our own future and encourage others to investigate the delights of CW operation. [12/81]*'. George - G3ZQS, is given space to air some anti-contest views - '*...they not only bring out the very worst operators but swallow up the whole band leaving no space for a normal QSO.....FOC is doing a gross dis-service by staging the Marathon.....[there is] a strong feeling of resentment by good but less privileged operators when some FOCers blandly refuse to acknowledge their calls pointedly repeating FOC only. [2/82]*' This view was supported by Evert - I2XKF - '*...our Marathon has degenerated into a sometimes disgusting display of bad - or not so bad - contest style manners, with which we do ourselves as a club no service whatsoever. [4/82]*'.



One of FOC's husband and wife teams - Ivor, VK3XB and Mavis, VK3KS, who were visited by Al and Maud in 1981.

Another aspect of Al's time as Secretary was the amount of international social involvement that he and Maud were able to achieve, made easier by the growth of relatively low-cost air travel. They were able to continue their regular visits to the US for the North American dinner and other events. At the end of 1981, they made their first visit to Australia which included visits to many FOC members including VK6RU, VK2BPN, VK2AFG, VK3KS, VK3XB, VK3RJ, VK3MJ and VK6WT. In addition, Al was able to meet many of the VK-DX gang with whom he had been in regular contact over the years during early morning 20-metre SSB operations.

....and a rendezvous with VK5WO at Port Pirie when we were boarding the Indian-Pacific train. 5WO is a relatively casual acquaintance of many years standing and when he mentioned a

rendezvous, some doubt was felt as to whether he would drive into town for a fleeting QSO whilst we changed trains. Any doubts were soon gone as a rotund figure grabbed me by the hand and announced 'You're the guy I am looking for.' A willing hand with the bags and cool beers appearing in the 106F heat as if by magic soon led to the fact that 5WO had served in Bomber Command during the war, been stationed at the Grand Hotel in Brighton and had been thrown out of many of the pubs your scribe knew in his younger days. Whilst not FOC, such encounters really underline what a wonderful hobby we have in amateur radio and what facilities we have for communication not available to the general public. Sad to say, not all of the amateur radio fraternity today exploit this potential but at least, one feels that in FOC, we have a pretty good idea what it is all about.

[G3FXB 2/82].

News Sheets carried a much fuller account of Committee proceedings than had been the case in the past; and these provide a good indication of the topics that were causing concern at the time - most of which cause equal concern to the present day Committee. Amongst topics reported from the May 1982 Committee meeting [7/82] are - **Rule 7 (membership activity)**, proposals to replace the requirement for 50 QSOs with a general rule allowing the Committee to 'approach members who appear to be inactive'; **New members** - a proposal to clear the QRX list despite a current membership of 520; **Sponsoring** - concern over quality and manner of nominations; **Balance of membership** - concern over the imbalance between UK and non-UK members.

Sponsoring was, and always has been, somewhat controversial; and it has been necessary to spell out, from time to time, the constraints.

Whilst it would appear that the majority of members are taking a responsible attitude in this matter, it is also quite obvious that this is not so with a minority. The problem was highlighted recently when five nominations were received in one mail, one of which was for a station known to have solicited through the mails. The remainder did not [conform to the sponsorship rules] and three were for a station never even heard let alone worked by any of your Committee. One can be excused in assuming that in some cases, the nominator has employed the services of an advertising agent with many fine superlatives in evidence and attributes that include duties as a QSL Manager, DX Editor and even the name of the company by whom his candidate is employed. Surely, we should not be considering these things but should be assessing his ability as a CW operator and his intention to make full use of the privileges of membership. The membership is warned that nominations that do not comply with [the rules] are being treated as not valid and that in future all nominations are going to come under the close scrutiny of the Committee. Nominations known to be the result of soliciting through the mail, those that have obviously been 'cooked up' at FOC functions....will be invalidated.

[G3FXB 11/82]

The balance of tradition against modern innovation is just as controversial in amateur radio as it is in other walks of life. Non-more-so than over the introduction of 'new' devices for sending CW. I remember during my days at sea as a commercial operator with the Marconi Company, that 'bug keys' were forbidden virtually under threat of dismissal from the company - although I thought the Vibroplex that I hooked into the system was pretty good at dispatching the traffic. Likewise, within FOC, there was always the discussion over the merits, first of mechanical

bugs over straight keys, then electronic keyers over mechanical bugs, and more recently, the use of computer linked keyboards.

The 'Pump Handle Party' has fallen in popularity in recent years, but was well supported in the early 80s. The annual event was obviously lots of fun, and produced plenty of entries together with favourable and nostalgic comment. [2/83]. However, not everybody was in agreement.

Why object to today's machines in the first place. A good CW operator shows his proficiency on the machine too - witness all the terrible garbage most hams produce on an electronic keyer. Would we use a horse-drawn carriage to commute to work even though trams, trains and cars are available? And secondly, I must say that the majority of the stations I listened to during the event (89 stations) sounded like ambitious novices. Terrible fists, slow speeds and constant griping about elbows and wrists. Dots and dashes were somewhat 'artistically' executed. One must remember that a good pump fist is very close to machine code! All these various swings and personal fists are that, but not good CW! Really, sometimes I felt that I could not really understand why a Club that prides itself on the CW mastery of its membership, insists on sounding sloppy, slow and inaccurate, even though it is only once a year. In other words, to summarise - a pump handle event is fine, but nobody should participate unless he really can set a good example of proper sending with a hand key. It should not become an event at which casual non-member listeners find another occasion for deriding the Club. Anybody who plans to participate should practice extensively first, so that he should ideally be able to come on the air on a straight key and show the gang how beautifully CW can be produced on a hand key. Otherwise, my advice is to stay out. FOC does not need sloppy fists for all the world to hear.  
[OH2BDP 3/83]

This discussion continued in the pages of the News Sheet during the year and was refuelled by a letter from IIGO where he described computer software that he had available that provided a two-way CW interface. *I cannot help feeling that modern computer technology poses a threat to FOC as we know it, reducing CW operating to an impersonal level quite alien to the original and basic ideals of FOC - G3FXB. Any form of CW reader machine is not in the spirit of CW operating.....I don't honestly see keyboard sending as part of the art of CW operating - G3DOJ. The situation is developing where a user of CW does not need to be able to read the code, so long as he has a VDU and keyboard - G3LQI. The new technology is fine, but not in FOC please - G3LWI. Keyers are not more than dedicated computers, so most of us are using them already.....it's not the technology that matters, it is the guy behind the keyer and what he has got to say that keeps us all interested for so many years - G3VNC. We should not be threatened by it, but we should explore the benefits of any new technology.....let's face it, the spark coil had to make room for the tube; the tube moved over for the transistor; the mechanical bug was replaced by the paddle and the electronic keyer; soon the paddle will be replaced by the keyboard. All this in my lifetime. I will not live in the past but keep my eyes on the horizon for new things to excite me - W3NZ.*

During mid-83, the amateur radio world was shaken by an attack on a yacht which was taking a party of amateurs to Spratly. The party included FOC member Baldur - DJ6SI who, fortunately, came to no lasting harm. However, two members of the party were killed in the attack. One of our members, Pat McKeeby, was in a position to monitor the events on the air.

### DJ6SI in Spratly. N0ZO/DU2.

Thought perhaps you would like a factual account of the 'Spratly Group' as I am sure that there have been many rumours circulating on the bands as to what happened. I had a short QSO with the boat prior to the 9th April at 2330Z on 15 metres CW as previously agreed. (The CW operator did not identify himself and am only assuming it was Baldur, DJ6SI). At that time, he stated that they were 18 to 20 miles from the island (no name of island given) and wanted to QSY to SSB on 14320kHz. After changing frequencies, communication was again established with myself and also 9V1VB, Dan from Singapore. At 0552Z on the 10th April, the boat informed us that they were about one mile from an island and they were discussing with us as to what they saw. They saw barracks, antenna masts and also a tower. They were joking about the size of the place and the lack of trees. They could see no people on the island, and were going to take a closer look. We had some problem keeping them on the radio (I suppose they were busy looking at the island) and we told them of the importance of staying on the air with us, and they agreed to do so. At 0626Z they informed us that there were soldiers on the island and that they were proceeding to another island (again no name of the island was given) at 50 degrees and a distance of 40 miles. Dan and I estimated it would take them about 6 to 7 hours to get to the next island. At 0650Z we were informed that there were two shots fired at the boat. No one was injured but that the boat had been hit. At approximately 0652Z, we were informed that the boat was on fire. Communications were lost at this time.

After being informed of their situation, Dan and I were discussing the various people to call in the event of this happening. We had discussed it prior to the event happening. We waited a few minutes to see if they would talk to us again but nothing was heard. A station from Guam (AH2AR) came up on frequency and I asked him to contact the Coast Guard and tell them of the situation. I also called Search and Rescue here at Clark Air Base and explained the situation to them. Dan and I maintained a constant vigil on the frequency the entire night and again listened for them the next day. I had a pre-arranged schedule with the boat for 0000Z each day on 15 metres and kept the schedule for 7 days hearing nothing the entire time. Frank, VK2QL along with Dave K6DDO were helping me maintain the frequency and listening for them. Frank picked up the schedule for me on Saturday and Sunday the 17th and 18th as I had to go to work and could not keep the schedule. Again nothing was heard on these two days.

At about 0800Z I went looking for Werner DL8AN and told him of the situation, asking him to contact the German government and inform them of the situation. I also told him I would be monitoring 14320kHz if they needed any more information on this end. At some point the chaps from Brunei, VS5DD and others were told of the situation and they said that they would see what they could do, and alerted the military in Brunei of what was happening.

On the evening of 14th April, I was informed that there was a SOS signal being received. I listened and could hear very faint signals. I asked everyone to leave the frequency and called Kadena Air Force Base on Okinawa and asked them if they had Radio Direction Finding equipment. They said they did and I told them to listen on 14320 and see if they could locate the signal that was transmitting the SOS and please let us know where it was coming from so that we could get the information down to the Brunei people. The callsign being used to transmit the SOS signal was DK1AA/MM . The message was basically that they were 100 miles north of Spratly Island and that they needed food, water and medicine. There were 4 people aboard the craft and they needed help quickly. AH2G and also K7UQH/MM tried to establish communication with DK1AA/MM but could not. A short time later a station using the callsign UA0LDB/MM said, 'Don't worry a big warship on way to you OK? So rest we take QRX AR'. There were a couple of other conversations being conducted between these two stations, one of them along the lines, 'we will take you to Moscow for treatment etc etc'. I did not hear the entire conversation as I was down band on 14300 trying to keep everyone off the frequency that the conversations were taking place on. At 1618Z on the 14th, UA0LDB/MM transmitted 'CQ CQ DE UA0LDB/MM SOS IS NOW CLEAR AR'. All of these conversations were on CW. I cannot vouch that these transmissions were in fact coming from the boat that Baldur and group were on. Someone will just have to talk with Baldur and find out if, in fact, they actually sent a distress signal. On the night of the 15th, there was a Russian station UA0KAF by the name of Sergy and he told me that he had received the distress call at 1045Z on the 14th and that he had immediately sent a telegram to the Far East Shipping Company in Vladivostok telling them of the distress signal. I made a schedule with Sergy an hour later and he showed up and I talked with him for a few more minutes, then EK9C/0, Igor asked me to QSY to SSB. I asked Igor if he would check and see if Sergy, UA0KAF was for real. In short the next evening he affirmed that Sergy in fact had done what he said he did and that he did QSO me on CW. Igor made attempts to ascertain who belonged to the callsign UA0LDB/MM and he said that it belonged to a man named Alex, who was aboard a Russian vessel, but would not name the vessel. I have no reason to doubt that Igor did in fact help by finding out the above information. Igor speaks English very well and he comprehends it equally well.

I know the above is probably somewhat confusing. There are a lot of questions that need answering and perhaps Baldur, in due time, will give us the information. I feel very strongly about having the ARRL take Spratly off the DXCC list. If the incentive to go there exists, there will be someone wanting to go there, and next time things will be a lot worse. I would like to thank all the gang for their help in relaying information on. They did a superb job.

[N0ZO/DU2 6/83]

Despite the suggestion that the Russian Navy was on the way with rescue, Baldur and the other survivors drifted in the yacht's dinghy for ten days without water and with little food. They were eventually picked up by a Japanese ship which took them to Hong Kong where they recovered. DJ4EI had been lost in the original attack and DJ3NG died eight days later. Baldur, Norbert - DF6FK and the yacht's skipper - Peter Marx, survived.

Following the death of Bill Windle, at the end of 1983, Al took over the work on the first FOC History Book and this was published in October 1984 with copies being mailed to all members. Another issue that occupied the Committee during '84 was the institution of a suitable memorial to Bill. It was Roger - G3SXW, who outlined the initial proposals for the Bill Windle Trophy. The rules for this award were approved by the Committee in November 1984 and published in the News Sheet the following month. There had been some reservations over the

form that a memorial should take. Some felt that an award should be made for outstanding service to the Club, rather than an operating award. There was some feeling that the award would be won by high-power stations, particularly in the US, and it was proposed that the award might circulate between Europe, North America and the rest of the world. However, in the event, Roger's proposals were accepted without change and the first 'Windle Award' took place during 1985 with running scores published monthly in the News Sheet.

A new twist to the CW operating controversy surfaced at the beginning of 1985, which Al dealt with in his usual fairly direct manner. It is remembered that, in private, Al's attitude to this new 'technology development' was expressed in fairly basic Anglo-Saxon phraseology!

On another subject, members will have noted that AEA Inc in the USA, coupled with ICS Electronics in the UK, have introduced 'Doctor DX - the ultimate computer game'. This simulates DXCC, the CQ WW Contest and features AEA's own Sprint and Marathon contests. Whilst recognising that such programs can be an aid in the teaching of CW and also contest operating, your Hon. Sec. does have reservations at the prospect of experienced operators becoming deeply involved with them, particularly as AEA runs an awards programme in conjunction with 'Doctor DX'. Surely, the basis of amateur radio is to communicate with a fellow amateur at the other end of the circuit and whilst not decrying the excellent technology involved in 'Amateur Radio's own version of Solitaire', it can only have some negative impact on Club activity and be a small part of the 'serious challenge to the Club from new technology and interests' referred to by our President - G3HDB, at Lords last year.

[G3FXB 2/85]

Where Bill Windle had promoted a hard line on activity, Al and the Committee became very concerned with the standards of sponsoring and, by implication, the level of new members recruited to the Club. There was particular concern at what was known as 'orchestrated lobbying'.

You will note from the Committee report that a strong stand has had to be taken on the old problem of sponsoring. The plain facts are that FOC is not a substitute for DXCC; it is not simply a certificate to hang on the wall, nor is it a passport to a social whirl in distant lands. It is about FIRST CLASS CW OPERATING and all that it implies. Unfortunately, in certain cases, members have been promoting candidates that simply do not live up to this criterion. The inevitable result is objections based not only on the candidates operating ability but on resentment concerning the promotional methods employed by his sponsors. In the latest case, the Committee has been deluged with letters of support for a particular candidate - obviously part of a highly orchestrated operation that even included canvassing on the bands. As our President noted, such activities are not helpful. They are incompatible with the dignity of the Club and may well be counter-productive. Your Secretary and Committee are unpaid servants of the Club. Their primary function is the administration of the Club, effectively for the benefit of the entire membership. Their efforts carry no financial reward - their reward is the pleasure and satisfaction of seeing a healthy, active and friendly organisation dedicated to the principles in which they believe. That does not include lengthy discussion and correspondence concerning what in some cases would appear to be political 'wheeling and dealing'

[G3FXB 8/85]



Bob Locher - W9KNI

Another issue that had troubled the Committee over the years was the growing imbalance between UK and non-UK members in a Club which was, by tradition, 'British' or at least British-run. Bob - W9KNI, penned some new thoughts on this matter; and in doing so, raised the whole question of how FOC does, or perhaps more often, does not, use its potential influence to affect the way in which amateur radio develops.

In my response to a toast at Lords some years ago, I believe that I was the first to point out that the Club was slowly being taken over by W stations, and that this would destroy the nature of the Club. In months following, someone else did research, found that I was right, and began to further raise the alarm. It would be remarkably easy for any competent G with a decent fist and signal to get into the Club. He need only show up a bit and there would be dozens of Ws sponsoring him. The problem has been discussed here as well, and there are a number of W stations



anxious to get more G members. But where are the potential candidates? If the British members of FOC want to do something to strengthen British participation in the Club, the best thing they could do is to rally together and use all the resources of the Club and its membership to push for the creation of a Novice Licence class in the UK. I am a member of the RSGB and I do not believe the bilge being published in the letters column of RadCom. I read letters about the lowering of standards that would accompany the origination of a Novice licence. But nowhere do I see any reasoned response from FOC members. Most US hams under the age of 50 started in amateur radio as novice class licensees. If such a move lowered standards, which I doubt, in the long run we and amateur radio are far better for it. We got on the air, using CW, and worked something other than 2 metres. Too many of the CW ops in the UK learned their CW from military training and few from amateur radio. The military in the UK, as well as the States, rarely uses CW today, and if we are to replenish our ranks, we must bring new amateurs into CW. There is no better way than through a novice licence.

[W9KNI 10/85]

In the UK, the RSGB has traditionally been accepted as the principle voice in negotiations with the licensing authorities. Unfortunately, it has also always had an air of 'doing what it thinks is right for the membership' rather than formulating proposals based on any kind of structured consultation process, as is the case with ARRL and FCC. In the mid-80s, RSGB support for HF affairs was particularly weak. The question of a novice licence had been on the table for many years and the potential good that it could do in bringing new blood into the HF area had been voiced by many people. The experience of the US and, in some ways more relevant to the UK situation, Australia, had been highlighted. However, those controlling HF activities in the RSGB very much took the view that a novice licence, along these lines, would do more harm than good and was likely to lead to unacceptable congestion on the HF bands. The eventual novice licence that was introduced in the UK was anaemic when compared with those in other countries and, although it successfully appealed to youngsters, did little to stimulate real interest in the broad scope of HF activity.

To be fair to the RSGB, it did try to involve FOC in UK amateur radio affairs. David Evans - G3OUF, then General Manager of the RSGB, wrote to Al pointing out that the Society had been awarded a contract for morse testing within the UK and suggesting *'that as far as FOC is concerned, would it not be a very healthy sign to see members of FOC either helping to train young people in morse, or acting as volunteer examiners. One of the qualifications for a volunteer examiner is that they will have to pass a morse test at 20wpm and demonstrate that they have a keenness and interest in morse which will permit them to carry out the functions of a volunteer examiner. I suspect a large number of FOC members in the UK would be qualified to participate. As you probably know, there are those who would wish to see the morse test abolished from amateur radio. So far, the Council of the Society has strongly resisted this, but as time goes on, one can see that the need to extol the virtues of morse code will become more necessary. It seems to me that this is an area where we can apply the old principle of 'nothing succeeds like success' and must always be prepared to demonstrate to newly licensed amateurs the power and flexibility of this mode of transmission'* [3/86]. Although there were, without doubt, a number of UK members who were involved with morse training, the Club does not appear to have grasped the opportunity to actively encourage this to take place and, perhaps, lost a chance to increase the number of UK-based potential recruits to the Club.

In July 1986, Al's roving ambassador activities took him, Maud and granddaughter Carol, on the first of a number of trips to the USSR. This was just at the beginning of Gorbachev's 'Glasnost' era and not much had changed from the Russia of the old days - a 'no frills' flight on Aeroflot; pressure applied to hotel staff (playing dominoes) results in a customary 'Niet!'; any transaction tends to be a lengthy affair involving queues - yet there always appeared to be staff around doing virtually nothing. But they were impressed with the quality, speed and cheapness of public transport, especially the Metro system in Moscow. A visit to the Central Radio Club has to be helped along as the address 'Box 88' did not mean much to the driver - this is sorted out by the car hire desk calling the KGB! In the light of subsequent changes in that part of the world, it is interesting that Al could sum up his major impressions - *...the lack of materialism, coupled with the authoritarian style of government, results in a virtual absence of crime with no mugging, burglaries and drug abuse apparent. We walked the streets at 1am and felt completely at ease. Income tax is 10% and pensions commence at 55 for women and 60 for men.* However, on the other side, Al's visits to hams in Moscow and Leningrad had not formed part of the 'official' Intourist itinerary and Al felt it unwise to publish callsigns of those that he had met. [9/86]

Late 1986 saw the beginnings of a change in the way of organising the Club. Traditionally, all of the duties had stayed in one pair of hands. This raised a host of problems - the least of them being to find someone to take over the job of Secretary when the incumbent wanted, or had to, step down. Al had raised the topic at a number of



Committee meetings and various solutions had been explored. It was finally decided that, in future, the Club would work away from the concept of a central 'figurehead' even though this had proved popular in the past and provided a focus for the membership. At the Committee meeting held in November of that year, responsibility for administration of nominations and the new membership process passed to G3MXJ. Chris - G4BUE offered to provide secretarial assistance in the longer term and Roger - G3SXW offered to take over the duties associated with the annual dinner at Lords. An overall restructuring of the Club's management system was discussed at Committee meetings during the following year and, at Lords in October 1987, on the occasion of my (G3MXJ) installation as President, I spelt out the changes that were planned. ....*Committee becoming a management body with each member accepting a full role of responsibility for organisation of at least one aspect of the Club's activities. These changes will come into immediate effect with the start of the new Club year [11/87].* As part of these changes, Roger - G3SXW assumed the position of Hon. Sec. while Al - G3FXB, became Chairman of the Committee. Al also retained the position of Treasurer and would continue to edit the News Sheet until Chris - G4BUE took over the role in June 1988.

### Knock on any Door - Al Slater, G3FXB

During my travels around the world, I have knocked on the door of many a ham's QTH and virtually without exception the result has been positive. These visits are invariably remembered for many things ranging from marvellous hospitality to the chance to observe some pretty massive antenna farms and superb locations. One of the most unique, however, did not fit into any of these categories.

The visit in question occurred in 1974 when, together with Howie and Dottie - W1HZ, and our two youngest daughters, we were touring the Maritime provinces of Canada. It was late May, and the weather was not the greatest. In any event, we ended up one evening at a motel in Middleton, Nova Scotia. After dinner, a brief reconnaissance revealed a two element quad just across the road. Needless to say, Howie and I went to investigate and a knock on the door produced an answer from a woman who was certainly getting on in years. We explained ourselves and were immediately invited in and shown into the lounge.

'Fred,' the woman said, 'there are a couple of fellows come to see you - one from England and the other from Boston.' Fred was sitting looking out of the window and was obviously also fairly well advanced in years.

'How old do you think he is?' the woman queried.

'Oh, about 76 years,' I responded, employing all the tact that I had acquired in business.

'I'll go along with that,' was the response from Howie.

'Fred, do you hear what these fellers are saying about you? They think you're 76! Let me tell you, he is 99 - he'll be 100 next September!'

Howie and I were in the company of the oldest active ham in North America - Fred Bath, VE1LQ. And active he was, for we were ushered into the shack complete with one of those huge old fashioned pot-bellied stoves and a brand new FTDX 401.

'You are still active then Fred,' I ventured.

'Sure son,' he responded. 'Check into the Maritime net on 75 every day.'

'What about the HF bands?' Howie asked.

'No, don't bother with that DX stuff any more,' was the reply.

'But what about the quad out back?' I asked.

'Oh, that belongs to my son next door,' Fred said.

'And how old is your son?' asked Howie.

'67,' came the reply!

I then asked Fred for the secrets of his long life. 'Abstaining from alcohol,' said Fred. 'Way back in 1904, I had convulsions and the only thing that saved me was brandy. The Doc said if I had been a drinker, it would not have done the trick.' After some further ragchewing, it was time to go. We said our farewells to Fred and his XYL and headed back to the motel. Apart from the fact that we had enjoyed the company of the oldest ham in North America, there are three other points worth noting. One was the fact that I had omitted to take the camera across the road with me. The second was that despite the fact that it was 'Apple Blossom Time' it snowed the following morning and at least we have pictures of the kids playing in the snow in late May. Finally, Fred Bath never made his century. After our return to the UK, we noted his listing in QST, that September, as a Silent Key!

[G3FXB 1/87]

One of the more pleasurable aspects of FOC is the personal friendships that come about through its unique structure. In July 1987, one of the members who had been particularly special to me, over the years, passed away. He was Ray Jones - VK3RJ. My friendship with Ray went back to well before the time that I joined FOC. I first met him around 1958 - when I was studying for my Marine Radio Officer's ticket and Ray and his wife were in the UK as part of a world tour following his retirement. As might be expected, Ray had invited me to visit him if 'any of your ships ever get to Melbourne.' Well, my /MM debut saw me on a P&O liner on the run to Australia and New Zealand. During this and subsequent trips, I was made very welcome in Box Hill and was also able to visit Ivor and Mavis - VK3XB/KS who lived just around the corner. These visits were nothing out of the ordinary in the context of the way in which FOC works - but they were admirable demonstrations of what makes our Club so special.

It was some years later that I discovered the special part that Ray had played in Amateur Radio in Australia. The story was reproduced in the News Sheets and is worth repeating here. It well represents the major role that many of the 'old timers' played in the early days of radio.

—ooOoo—

**The VK3RJ Story by Maurie Milani, VK3CWB.  
From AMATEUR RADIO, August 1987.**

*This is a factual, historical story about one of Australia's amateur radio pioneers, the late Ray Jones, VK3RJ.*

During early 1986, I had the pleasure of meeting Ray Jones, VK3RJ. Ray had obliged in assisting me with my research concerning the late Leo G Cohen. Most CW operators of old, ex-PMG telegraphists, and other Morse related areas, will recognise the name as being the one which is on the name-plate of the *Simplex Auto*. This device was a mechanical, semi-automatic apparatus for sending Morse code manually, and was often referred to as a 'bug'. The name derived from the American company, Vibroplex, which made a similar device many years earlier and used a small red coloured bug or beetle on the name-plate as its insignia. Some of the Simplex Autos made were unique in that they had a pendulum positioned at a right angle to the finger paddle. There was also a model which produced automatic dashes. Cohen, a telegraphist with Ray in the 1920s and 30s, was the designer of this type of key, many of which still remain in the shacks of radio amateurs today.

During the course of my interview, Ray spoke of the early days of amateur radio in Australia. he mentioned that his callsign, VK3RJ, was obtained in July 1928 and by December, he was on the air. From about 1914 to 1960, Ray was involved with Morse Code in one form or another with his occupation. In 1914, aged 14, he began his career as a PMG 'messenger in training', a position which eventually led Ray to becoming a telegraphist. He enlisted in the Australian Imperial Forces (AIF) Wireless Unit in 1918. After the war, he returned to his position with the PMG. In World War II, he spent five years in the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) wholly in signals and returned to the PMG in 1945 where he remained until his retirement in 1960.

In passing, Ray quickly mentioned that his amateur radio station assisted the PMG in a time of crisis. His radio was used as a means of passing telegraphic traffic. (I later discovered that there were, in fact, five occasions when his radio station was used). What happened was when normal telegraphic links could not pass the traffic, Ray made his amateur station available to the PMG in order to have the traffic passed to the required destination.

The story goes something like this....in April 1929, torrential rains for several days caused intense flooding in central Tasmania. As a result, all rail, road and communication links (including telephone) between the north and south of the State were cut off for at least four days. Ray was working at the Melbourne CTO as a telegraphist when the news came to hand. All lines between Launceston and Hobart had been swept away by the floods with the north and south of the State basically being isolated. The real problem lay with Hobart, which was totally cut off from the mainland - Launceston still had these links.

Ray stated, 'I immediately approached the Assistant Superintendent of Telegraphs, Mr Jim Allen. With the confidence of comparative youth, and zeal for amateur radio, I told him I could provide him with a radio link to Hobart'. Ray remembered Mr Allen as being a man with an iron fist who was brought to the CTO for the express purpose of upgrading the then existing poor service as well as the poor discipline and morale. Mr Allen exercised his power ruthlessly and was renowned for punishments for any slight misdemeanour or failure.

The need for communications to Hobart was becoming desperate, but Ray's radio scheme received great opposition from the Superintendent, as well as the more powerful ranks of the hierarchy. Eventually, Jim Allen took a gamble with Ray's proposal, but in so doing he clearly indicated to Ray that his future was on his shoulders. (In retrospect, one should have said that his future lay in his hands - the ones that sent the Morse).

Amalgamated Wireless of Australia (AWA), who then ran the ship to shore radio service, were also contacted to see if they could render any assistance. Ray explained 'They replied that they were unable to assist as their own traffic demands could not be abrogated to release VIM and/or VIH [Maritime Coast Stations] for PMG traffic'. Thus it seemed Ray's plan was the only viable alternative to normal telegraphic links.

Jim Allen asked Ray to nominate an amateur operator in Hobart who Ray deemed capable enough for the task at hand. Ray immediately thought of Trevor Watkins, then VK7DX. Having spoken to Trevor on many occasions, Ray was conversant with his fine Morse ability. The 'powers' in the Telegraph Branch then requested VIM to send a message to VIH directed to Mr Andrews, the Superintendent of Telegraphs, Hobart. The message was to inform him of what was to take place until normal communications could be restored. It also informed Trevor VK7DX to meet VK3RJ on 7MHz.

Ray was sent home immediately in order to prepare. At the scheduled time, Trevor appeared and contact was made immediately. Ray spoke to the Superintendent, Mr Andrews, through Trevor and told him that he had traffic to pass. Ray had brought a bundle of about 30 telegrams home with him. This was only a small portion of the many hundreds which had begun to accumulate in the Melbourne CTO. He then commenced transmitting them to VK7DX. Mr Andrews, listening in Trevor's shack, was so impressed that he immediately gave the operation his blessing.

Hence, on April 5 1929, the operation commenced just after mid-day and continued until well after 6.30pm when they were instructed by the administration to close down. On the second day of operation, the PMG installed a Morse line between Ray's home in Box Hill (where he lived until his death) and the Melbourne CTO. A telegraphist was positioned at Ray's home to pass traffic from the radio link to the CTO and vice-versa. The second day of operation again commenced about mid-day. This worked smoothly and efficiently until about 9.30pm when conditions on 40 metres were no longer favourable for propagation between VK3 and VK7. After a quick meal-break, the two operators had agreed to QSY to 80 metres. On this band, they worked until well after 2am.

By modern standards, this band change seems quite simple. However, at the time, it posed a problem for Ray. His equipment consisted of Tuned Plate, Tuned Grid (TPTG) self-excited oscillator, with no external or extra amplification. The transmitting valve was a UX112A and power out was about four and a half watts (250 volts at 20 mA). The power supply was made up of a Philips B Battery Eliminator transformer, the output of which was rectified by a Raytheon tube. Antenna was an end fed Zepp (halfwave at 7MHz) with open wire tuned feeders.

Being relatively new to amateur bands, Ray's equipment was not set up for the 80 metre band and at the time of operation he had no materials to construct the required inductances for this band. Ray had to resort to compressing the 7MHz inductance with a piece of string. The variable capacitors in the TPTG, combined with the compressed inductor, sufficed for Ray to obtain a steady signal on what eventuated as the 82 metre band. The late Max Howden, VK3BQ, lived close by and rendered invaluable assistance in getting Ray on-air in the 80 metre band.

Trevor reported that, whilst Ray's signals on this band were weak, but readable, he was suffering from a power leakage. Still, the two operators carried on until after 2am - the third day of activity. Both operators, needless to say, were physically and mentally exhausted after the long hours of continual sending and receiving.

According to Ray, the way in which Trevor put his messages over made him assume he was having no troubles, when in fact Trevor was working under great difficulties. Max Howden's article in the *Listener In* for April 24, 1929, stated that rain had completely wet Trevor's radio apparatus. After having realised this, Trevor took great care to ensure the crystal he was using was bone dry. He then switched on the apparatus, but was unaware at this stage that water had entered the filament transformer which was used to heat the filaments of his UX281 rectifying valves. Max went on to explain that the plates of these rectifying valves are connected directly to the high potential side of the power transformer. The filaments then become centre of the positive HT supply and are connected

directly to the plates of the transmitting valves, and consequently must be very well insulated from any earth connection. One side of the AC mains which feeds this transformer is always earthed so the effect of water in this particular transformer can be realised.

After initial turn-on, and many fizzes, pops and other strange sounds, understood and recognisable only by a radio experimenter, Trevor immediately switched the apparatus off. Luckily no great damage was done. At this stage he was still not on the air, and the scheduled time with VK3RJ was fast approaching. Trevor set to work drying out the filament transformer. He wiped and shook it well then placed it in a hot oven for a few minutes. When he finally got on the air, troubles still plagued him. The aerial feeder condensers started to smoke due to their insulating strips being saturated, but VK7DX could wait no longer and let them burn as he transmitted.

Max Howden further commented: 'Had he used anything but crystal control, it would have rendered his signals unreadable!' The crystal had prohibited any wave change even though the capacitors spoiled. Trevor was of the opinion that his signal, as a consequence, was only slightly down to usual. At the end of the entire operation, Trevor swore that he would encase his entire apparatus in plywood so as to avoid the same sort of mishap in future.

April 7th marked the last day of the operation. It began at approximately 8.45am and concluded at 8pm. Transmission was entirely on 40 metres. Just prior to the day's commencement of transmissions the two operators were informed that a temporary cable had been placed across the flooded area which restored normal communication circuits. Thus, the stint came to an end. Ray had sent 226 telegrams and received 147 from Trevor. Also, about 25,000 press-words were sent to and fro for the major newspapers in each city.

Transmission was all on CW with both parties using 'bugs'. Ray suggests that his may have been a Simplex Auto. To quote his words: 'So concluded an operation which I feel helped to put amateur radio in enhanced public and administrative esteem and to demonstrate its efficiency in times of emergency for the first time in Australia.'

Ray also commented: 'I got no recompense (nor did I expect any) other than that I proved my optimism was well founded. All the kudos seemed to go to Jim Allen, for shortly after he was promoted to Superintendent of Telegraphs, Brisbane. Such is life!

Ray assisted the Telegraph Branch on a further four occasions. However, the operator at the other end was no longer VK7DX as Trevor Watkins became a Silent Key on August 25, 1931. At a guess from those who knew him, they placed his age at somewhere between 45 and 55. His obituary in the *Hobart Mercury*, August 28, 1931, suggests he was afflicted with the illness, which eventually claimed his life, even during the above-mentioned flood situation.

In late December 1931, Ray again assisted the PMG but details are sketchy. After examination of Ray's logs for that time, it seems that the operator in Tasmania was Crosby Walch, VK7CW. The message load handled and exact dates are unrecorded. Official department acknowledgement confirms that the operation took place during the pre-Christmas week. Ray stated: 'Mr Lawrence did not confer plaudits lightly!' There is no doubt to the validity of this operation.

Next operation was from July 1 to July 3, 1932 when the Bass Strait cable suffered a break-down. At this time it is impossible to ascertain who the Tasmanian connection was, but possible candidates are VK7CW and VK7JB. However, it does seem unlikely that it would be VK7JB as he was only licensed on June 12, 1932 and, at the time of the operation, would have been a relative newcomer to the bands and unaccustomed to the traffic load involved. The actual operation lasted for three days, and Ray recalled some hundreds of messages being handled. Unfortunately, no official departmental records exist of this exercise and Ray could find no reference to it in his log book. The evidence however lays within a few personal notes referring to dates, times, etc., written during and shortly after the event. Ray was unable to account for the lack of documentation.

Ray was again involved in another cable breakdown between Tasmania and the mainland from September 29 to October 1, 1934. The Tasmanian connection was Jack (Buck) Batchler, VK7JB. Jack was a proficient CW operator by this time and someone Ray had many contacts with on-air. Jack's home-brew equipment consisted of a transmitter using a pair of 800s (in push-pull) in the final. Permission to use increased power was given by the authorities so the transmitter could be used during this PMG emergency. The antenna was a full 7MHz Zepp and the receiver a five-valve superhet. The Commonwealth Archives in Hobart recorded that the power input at the

time for VK7JB was 70 watts. The frequency designated by the PMG was 7195kHz although the reason for this choice is unknown.

The archives material also revealed the following to the day's operation of October 1, 1934. It states: 'On Monday 1st October, following request from Super of Telegraphs, station VK7JB was again used with a departmental telegraphist, (Mr Haine) in attendance. Mr Batchler was standing by for making engineering adjustments.'

This last comment is quite interesting in that it signifies that Jack did not do the operating on this day but rather ensured that the equipment was working satisfactorily. Initial thoughts were that a departmental telegraphist, who made a living from listening to a sounder, would have great difficulty listening to Morse tones over the wireless. However, after further examination of archival material, and by talking to amateurs of that era, it seems many telegraphists did in fact attach a buzzer unit to their circuit rather than the standard sounder. Also, the PMG did have its own wireless service. Thus, one could assume many telegraphists would have also been proficient wireless operators. The archives note: 'On October 2, the Super of Telegraphs requested the use of Mr Batchler's station. However, this afternoon (Tuesday) the Department of Wireless Services were operating satisfactorily and Mr Batchler was able to return to his civil duties.'

Lastly, on December 24, 1934, VK3RJ and VK7JB were used as an ancillary circuit to discharge the heavy load of Christmas greetings. About 60 messages were handled and more were expected, but the expected traffic load did not materialise.



Fifteen months after their first visit, Al and Maud returned to the USSR in the latter part of 1987. Glasnost and Perestroika had made major changes to the country and this time, Al felt more open about naming the hams that they visited - amongst them, Vlad - UA1CK, one of the leading Russian DXers, and Stan - RB5JZ who was later to become a member of FOC. The lessons of the previous visit had also been taken to heart.

Probably, the most significant was to discover that special requests made to Intourist in London were completely ignored. Another was to not accept a 'no' or 'nyeht' gracefully and never be reluctant to ask. The latter point is best illustrated by my requesting of our stewardess on our Aeroflot flight out for permission to visit the flight deck. One would normally expect such a request to be a waste of time, particularly when such visits are not permitted in the case of some other airlines. But within five minutes, she was back to say that the Captain would be pleased to see me in the cockpit - and there was 'FXB with the crew of a Tupolev TU-154 joking over glasnost, comparing the plane with its western counterparts, being told its history and witnessing a demonstration of the radio in a QSO with the Malmo control tower in Sweden.

The write-up of the trip also revealed that Al maybe missed his vocation somewhere along the line and could have found a place in international relations.

Ever present in our minds was the question - how can we go to war with these people? Members may say that our politics are changing, but I can assure you they are not. I have no wish to live under their system and they probably have no wish to live under ours. But there are 280 million people out there and 200,000 radio amateurs. In the main they are anxious to meet us, to know more about us and to be friends. Maud and I feel we are realists. The weapons around today are no longer bows and arrows. There is no alternative but to learn to live together and get to understand each other; and what better way to do that than via Amateur Radio?  
[G3FXB 11/87]

During 1988, FOC polled the membership on a range of areas affecting the Club's organisation and management. Roger - G3SXW, handled the operation and analysed the results. The findings and Committee decisions on actions were published in the middle of the year.

## The Future of FOC

### 1. Would you like to see the Club more or less involved in the following activities?

	<u>Less</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>More</u>
Social events	12	245	46
Awards	48	249	9
Trophies	47	248	9
Contests	31	230	63
Activity periods	15	210	101
Single-band operating events	20	84	175
Straight-key events	53	166	58
Contact with other ham organisations	10	113	102
Expressing our views on HF, CW etc	25	103	149

A clear majority suggest that the Club should express its views about HF, CW etc and a large number would like to see more contact with other amateur radio organisations. There is also a request for single-band operating events and activity periods. A minority of members suggest we have more contests and social events and less awards/trophies but the majority are content with the present levels. Views were split on straight-key events.

### 2. Would you be prepared to spend more or less money for your FOC subscription in order to change:

	<u>Less</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>More</u>
Frequency of News Sheet	3	300	30
Quality of News Sheet	3	250	78
Frequency of Callbook	9	209	123
Quality of Callbook	5	280	48
Frequency of ticksheets	8	198	122
Quality of ticksheets	8	216	98
Quantity of awards/trophies	48	216	28
Quality of awards/trophies	35	206	37

Broad indication is that members would like subs to remain unchanged. Clearly, however, an increase in fee is thought appropriate by a lot of members, in particular to enable callbook to be published more often, tick-sheets to be circulated more often and with higher quality, and quality of News Sheets to be improved.

	<u>Less</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>More</u>
3. Do you think the total membership of 500 should be more or less?	6	313	49

A large majority want to keep it at 500, but with a minority view that prefers to increase membership.

	<u>Less</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>More</u>
4. Do you think sponsoring rules need changing so that it is more or less difficult to join?	29	265	74

Again, most members prefer to keep the present sponsoring rules but a significant proportion feel that it should be made more difficult to join the Club.

### 5. When deciding on who to nominate, should we place more or less emphasis on:

	<u>Less</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>More</u>
His CW skills	4	163	192
His all-round operating skills	12	119	221
His being a really nice guy	95	156	47
His proven contribution to amateur radio	103	133	48
His being an active rag-chewer	65	164	77

Clearly, CW and all-round operating skills dominate our thinking when considering potential new members.

### 6. Should the content of the News Sheets have more or less of:

	<u>Less</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>More</u>
Editorial comment	56	271	16
Members' news and views	3	178	182
Contest news	67	218	38
DX news	43	178	110

Life histories	39	197	95
Relevant educational articles	44	131	116
Photographs, charts, graphics	29	153	126
Discussion of ham politics	114	131	53
Publicity for ham events	65	173	49

More of members' news and views, DX news, educational articles, with graphics are considered good for the N/S, but the word 'politics' is not so popular!

	<u>Less</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>More</u>
7. Should the News Sheet have more or less pages	4	241	104

Many members suggested that more pages would be a good idea, and indeed many who replied 'same' added comments that more pages would be welcome but they would not expect the editor to take on even more workload. There is a clear request here for a larger publication.

	<u>Less</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>More</u>
8. Should we have more or less frequent Marathons?	17	272	76

9. Should the Marathon have more or less operating hours?	133	225	4
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A big majority would leave the Marathon format alone, while a minority suggested two 24-hour events (in spring and autumn) and some felt that a shorter event would help the older members.

	<u>Less</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>More</u>
10. Are you prepared to pay more or less to change the standards of the Annual Dinner?	6	104	119

11. Should we pay more/less attention to moving it away from London?	69	65	83
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12. Should we have more/less subsidiary events that weekend?	17	122	75
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Members are ready to pay more to improve standards of the Annual Dinner and some would be glad to see more subsidiary events surrounding that weekend. Yet, as to choice of location, we have a complete divergence of views. Only half of the questionnaires included responses to these questions, as many members cannot attend.

	<u>Less</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>More</u>
13. Should it be more or less acceptable to call CQ FOC?	97	91	163

On balance, members feel that it is acceptable to call CQ FOC, yet many are not in favour.

	<u>Less</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>More</u>
14. Should we pay more or less attention to changing the Club's calling frequency from 025?	84	122	142

Many members would prefer a new Club frequency in order to avoid DX-peditions, alternative frequencies being recommended all over the band! A majority would make no change.



The survey also included some 'membership profiling' which provided an interesting overview of the membership. A total of 400 members replied to the survey.

Compared to other hams, I feel that my own particular interests are more/less in:

	<u>Less</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>More</u>
CW	0	26	358
Antennas	20	106	227
HF/LF	14	98	221
DX-hunting	58	90	203
Rag-chewing	35	135	188
Propagation study	81	119	126
Contesting	131	89	119
Visiting hams	72	146	101
QSLing	98	137	98
Teaching beginners	105	119	93
QRQ CW	92	119	89
Rigs	66	166	87
Home construction	127	100	86

Compared to other hams, I feel that my own particular interests are more/less in:

Station records	109	119	71
Computers in radio	169	63	58
Ham social events	108	151	52
Writing articles	158	80	48
Field Days	156	85	41
Running ham clubs	178	70	41
Award hunting	213	67	32
Ham politics	185	63	30
Satellite/EME	227	21	22
VHF/UHF	231	44	19
RTTY	241	26	8
SSB	247	47	7
DF	225	13	1

The survey also provided a snapshot of the age-profile of the membership.

Age Band	Europe	North America	Other	Total
0-29	4	3	2	9
30-39	17	8	1	26
40-49	42	39	5	86
50-59	48	16	5	69
60-69	65	32	6	103
70-79	23	53	8	84
80+	3	11	2	16
Total	162	202	29	393

It was noted that less than one in ten members was under 40 years and one half was over 60. In the USA, a third of members were over 70. Roger surmised that if only two per cent of FOC members were under 30, then it must be that the Club was not seen by those younger red-hot operators as being exciting enough to want to join. The average age of the Club was 58 years; and the average number of years licensed was 38 - suggesting that FOC members were 20 years old, in average, when first licensed.

An interesting postscript to Roger's analysis came in a letter from John - G0CMM and gave a new twist to the often repeated comment that the 'average age' of the membership is 'too high'.

With an average age of 58 for Club members, that means a total of 58 x 500, 29,000 years in the Club. If we gained 50 members who average 25 years old in one year, and 'lost' 25 members who averaged 60 years old, we would still finish up with a total of 27,250 years, which averages out at 54.5 years per member - a difference of a mere 3.5 years for what would be a major upheaval of FOC. From Roger's survey, you will see our ages 'cluster' around 40 to 79. I see nothing wrong in that and suspect it has always been the same. I believe we should build on that knowledge and sponsor people because of their ability, not their age. A glance through the Windle scores will show you that most of the more active members within the Club are the older (and retired) members. I have no axe to grind since I am only 44. But when I am 89, and some slip of a lad of 69 is being sponsored, I shall be all for him so long as he fits the requirements of a first class operator.

[G0CMM 6/89]

Following the questionnaire, the Committee made a number of policy decisions that would affect the Club's future development.

1. The Club should start to play a more pro-active role in promoting CW and operating standards within and outside FOC, and should take positive steps to protect the Club's reputation. Should express our views and establish contacts with other amateur radio organisations. To achieve these objectives we would:
  - create a position on the Committee for a Public Relations Officer and draw up a plan of action.
  - introduce major changes to the News Sheet rendering it a prestigious mouth-piece.

2. A new quarterly magazine would be produced professionally, to include articles on topics of concern to HF and CW. At that time, the monthly News Sheet would be reduced from two to one page and would contain items specific to members or especially topical. For the new magazine, appropriate articles would be solicited from the membership, reprinted from other journals and arrangements put in hand to exchange with other societies.
3. An annual programme of single-band activity weekends would be introduced for 1989, to include WARC bands.
4. The FOC Callbook would be published annually.
5. Ticksheets would be printed to a higher standard and made available to all members annually.
6. Membership of the Club would be held at 500 and sponsoring rules would remain unchanged. Increased levels of high quality sponsoring would be encouraged and the position reviewed as and when all positions are filled.
7. Rules and format of the Marathon would remain unchanged for 1989.
8. The Annual Dinner would remain at Lords and standards would be improved as some additional cost.
9. Members would not be discouraged from using 'CQ FOC' in appropriate circumstances and in appropriate taste.
10. Change in club calling frequency was seen as impractical as many members would be dissatisfied with any alternatives suggested. Instead, members would be strongly encouraged to spread out and to be mindful of DX-pedition activities: Club frequency would now be '020 - 030'.
11. To achieve these specific and also the longer term general objectives would entail increases in annual subscriptions.

The number of members attending overseas events was growing steadily. In addition to the North American Dinner, Dayton was fast becoming a popular gathering place. In 1988, there were over 30,000 amateurs at the event and almost 50 FOCers. Ellen - W1YL, organised a Sunday morning breakfast at the famous Stouffers Hotel in Dayton. Many members were, for the first time, coming to grips with the fact that although the USA was *alleged* to speak English, it was not the English that we outsiders had been used to at home and it took some time to learn how to get what we wanted. Don - ZS5WT, came to the rescue.



Bill - ZS5BK, Ron - K1HZ and Don - ZS5WT

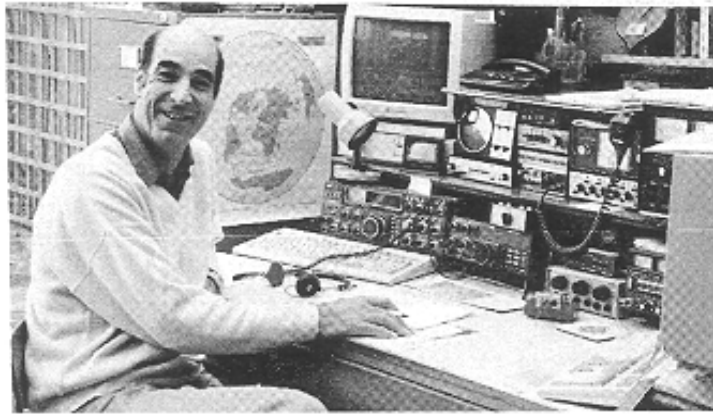
During a recent trip up the East Coast of the USA and back through VE, the UK and LX, Chris - G4BUE asked me to put pen to paper regarding our experiences! This would take about four years to accomplish, so I thought a few 'guidelines' to prospective Stateside visitors might help. If you only have English and do not speak 'American', the following might help:

- 'BIG WHOPPER' - a Hamburger with half an animal inside, at least one and a half hour's eating.
  - 'SLOPPY JOE' - a bread roll with a savoury meat filling. Only to be attempted if you are wearing a plastic shirt as it has a range of ten feet in any direction. Bite carefully!
  - 'TOMAITOE' - a round red vegetable which the rest of the world calls a tomato.
- 'REST ROOM' - certainly no place to rest, particularly if it is at the back of a Greyhound bus.
  - 'TEA' - be careful here. Always stress 'hot tea' unless you want a glass of brown ice water with a straw.
  - 'DRIVE THROUGH WINDOW' - this one really had me puzzled at a couple of fast food road houses until I discovered you pass your order in the first window, and they throw it out the next one.
  - 'RESTAURANTS' - it is best to pick a self service type where you can recognise what you want. If ordering from a menu, point to the item you want, do not order by voice. I ordered bacon and eggs for breakfast and finished up with pancakes.
  - 'BATHROOMS' - dangerous places! Each one has different controls for the shower. You set the temperature on the main outlet, then you press or pull the knob and a icy blast of water belches from the shower and pins you in the far end of the cubicle. Others, you twist various knobs which alternate jets of steam or ice water down your back.

Now, after five visits to the USA, I am beginning to understand our American cousins - they are the greatest!  
[ZS5WT 10/88]

In August 1988, Chris Page - G4BUE, took over as News Sheet Editor. In this role, he began to look at ways of improving the level of communication between the Club and its membership. The overall wishes had been expressed in the recent membership questionnaire. In his opening editorial, Chris said that he hoped to be able to improve the

quality of News Sheet material without involving the Club in additional cost. He said that he would like to see a greater range of articles and he put out a plea for suitable items to be sent to him.



Chris - G4BUE

Details were published of the new quarterly magazine which would provide space for a greater quantity of articles than was possible in the News Sheet. The membership was asked to suggest names for the new publication. From a large response, the title 'FOCUS' was chosen with small prizes going to G2YS, G3CFG, GM3KPD, W4VQ and W9GW who all made the same proposal.

In common with News Sheet editors who preceded him, the style that Chris would adopt became formulated in the following months. In his Christmas News Sheet for 1988, some ideas were apparent. *I am having fun producing the News Sheet every month. There is a great feeling of satisfaction after*

*sitting down at the word processor with a collection of articles, letters and notes and gradually seeing a News Sheet take shape from them. I am now realising what motivated those editors who have gone before me. Even more so, the earlier editors who did not have the advantage of modern technology and printing techniques to make the job easier.....Are you having fun? Does time fly for you? If it doesn't, I suggest you are not having fun. Our hobby was invented and developed by people having fun and exists today to provide fun to those people who wish to participate in it. [G4BUE 12/88]*

Chris brought in the idea of Guest Editorials where members would have the opportunity of expressing their individual views on issues affecting the club and the hobby. An early item came from Jake - G3AAQ.

As we get older, we all seem to get more and more intolerant. If we are not very careful, we can allow our enthusiasm to run away with us and these days it is all too easy to become completely absorbed in those facets of amateur radio which interest us and to become more hostile towards those who do not share our particular interest.

Our special interest of CW operating, in its turn, has more than one facet. The avid contest operator, who rarely appears on the bands unless he is dishing out automatic 599 reports at an incredible rate of knots, seems to have little regard for the rag chewer or the newly licensed operator who struggled to pass his morse test but is still anxious to improve his skills as a CW man. There is the DXer, who never works anyone in his own continent or country; there is the operator who thinks he has an exclusive right to his frequency and that anyone who dares to operate within 1kHz of it is liable to a prosecution for trespass! As for the stations with T7 notes, which everyone still accepts as T9, the key click experts who can clobber 25kHz of the band without really trying, and the tuners who suddenly appear zero beat on top of that weak signal you are trying to work, the less said about them the better.

But even these types have one inalienable right; that is to use the amateur bands. But equally, other stations also have the same right. The contester must realise that there are probably more people who detest contests than there are active contest participants, and that, despite appearances, these people have as much right to their share of the bands as the contesters who seem to think that they have a divine right to grab 95% or more of the available space on the bands.

Life seems to become progressively competitive. One has only to look at the great changes in the standards of driving on the roads and the amount of traffic they carry. The same thing has happened to the amateur bands, but don't forget that the guy with the T7 note may have to contend with unstabilised voltages and lack of components. The fact that he is on the bands at all may represent a personal triumph over adversity. With a little bit of tolerance, life could become much easier. Do not let the high pressure of contest operating become the norm on the CW bands.

[G3AAQ 1/89]

.....and this raised some interesting responses. *I agree with every word...when one listens to a band full of contest activity, and I often wonder what commercial operators think of people who spend up to two days sending 599 to each other at ridiculous speeds, one is left wondering if hysteria is actually a requirement for contest operating - GM3KPD. The FOC, and its membership, should be dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of first class CW operating. We include ragchewers,*

*DXers, contesters, traffic handlers, but we all love CW. The pages of the News Sheet should be used for discussion of how to increase the number of amateurs, improving operating standards and so on, not complaining about contests - K5ZD. Surely, it is the non-contesters who are being intolerant, not the other way round - EA6ZY. I heartily agree with every word of G3AAQ's editorial and with GM3KPD's comments and I profoundly disagree with K5ZD's remarks about contests, which are the bane of amateur radio - GM3GNM. The advocates may claim that the activities may improve an operator's abilities, but I would suggest that this is offset by the bad manners and poor operating standards generated in the quest for numbers and big scores - G3LQI. I don't consider the contest fever a hysteria. Those people fine tune everything and debug their equipment, contest methods, logging etc to the best possible performance for the benefit of all of us - W1PL.*

The guest editorials quickly produced interesting and thought provoking discussion. Another early contribution raised the question of what practical steps FOC should take to promote the continuance of CW as a viable mode of communication. This had been investigated on a number of occasions but had always proved to be a nettle that the Club was, as a whole, unwilling or unable to grasp.

Are YOU prepared to sit around and watch CW die?

Our Club consists of a rapidly ageing population. Even if my own 50 years membership did not bring this home to me, photos from Lords and Danbury certainly would. Amateur Radio could afford to lose the FOC at a pinch, but what I passionately believe it can not afford to lose is the skills and thrills of CW operating. But these will be lost unless good CW operators are prepared to give time and effort to passing on their skills to the next generation, something I believe that by and large, FOC is not doing. Only a massive effort by our own Club and other like minded bodies will ensure that CW operating continues long into the next century.

What then can be done? Perhaps my own small efforts in this direction may give some ideas which my fellow members can act on before it is too late. Around 1970, a complete morse course, starting with learning the letters and ending with simulated morse tests at 14wpm was prepared. It took a hell of a lot of work but it soon began to show its worth, with my amateur exam students queuing up to borrow the masters for copying.

When the G-QRP club was formed in 1975, the opportunity arose to make masters available for bulk copying by one of the members in his recording studio, so that they could be sold to G-QRP Club members. Many hundreds of copies have since been sold. Exact figures are not available, but it is believed that the number of people who have passed morse tests with the aid of these tapes is greater than the membership of FOC.

Later, the opportunity arose with the G-QRP Club and the European CW Association, to activate the CW Novice Award Programme. To gain this award, a newly licensed amateur must work 50 different stations on CW during his first 12 months on the air. To keep it simple, applications take the form of a log extract certified by one licensed amateur and three IRCs. Dozens of these awards have been issued to newly licensed operators all over the world. To quote just one covering letter received with an application, 'As an ex-CB pirate, I used to think CW was for the birds. Since working for this award, I've come to realise it is the best thing since they invented beer!'

Finally, a watch is always kept for those hesitant calls, whether to me or to CQ, made in bad morse by an obviously trembling hand. They are answered, very very slowly, using a straight key (remember those brass things?) and if five or six repeats are required they are given - the object being to make the beginner at the other end absolutely aware that he has achieved satisfactory communication. Comments on QSL cards such as 'I don't know how you read my awful sending but you have given me the confidence to try again' or 'I was terrified but your patience helped a lot. I shall be back', show the success of this approach, particularly when the station concerned is heard later and with much improved operation.

My own efforts are small, and I know others give far more to the hobby than I do. But I also know that many do not. For example, if every FOC member helped just three people a year to become proficient and enthusiastic CW operators, over a ten year period, that would give an injection of 15,000 enthusiasts. But the actual number would certainly be greater if each of the 15,000 infected just one other amateur with his enthusiasm; the total would shoot up to 30,000 and the future of CW would be far more secure.

CW may die; but if it does, it will be because we stood by and let it.  
[G8PG 3/89]

.....and this also produced its responses. *How right he is. I am sure we can positively contribute towards encouraging newcomers to amateur radio to use CW - G3DOJ. What Gus didn't say was that some of us do not mingle even with the established non-member CW operators, except if they represent DX - W1PL. It seems that the key to attracting the young is*

*inexpensive gear.....what about a 'back to basics' movement for ham radio?....Instead of teaching them morse, let's teach them how to communicate with it - ZL1AH.*

Chris injected his own note of controversy by publishing an editorial in March 1989 that again opened the discussion on activity levels and what action should, or should not, be taken over members who were considered to be 'inactive'. Writing about the Marathon that had taken place a month previously, Chris said '*...this year, there were two members I particularly wanted to work, my remaining ones for the Augie Nickel Trophy, but again no luck. I say again, because I have gone back through my previous Marathon logs and have discovered that in relation to one member, I have made over 5,000 Marathon QSOs since he joined FOC and over 3,500 since the other joined. In the case of one of (them) he has been a member of FOC for over ten years....and it would appear he has never participated in any (Marathon). Why is that?*' [3/89]. Later in the year, Chris reported a lot of response to his remarks, all of them on the positive and constructive side. Steve - G3VMW, who had adjudicated recent Marathons and Windle Awards, produced an analysis for the Committee identifying those members who did not appear in either of these events. The suggestion was put forward that lists of these members would be published in the News Sheet together with 'Augie Nickel Wants Lists' from individual members. Chris commented '*...When this list is read in conjunction with the Windle/Marathon listing, everyone, including the members concerned, will know who the inactive members of the Club appear to be.*' [6/89]

John - G2YS, was one of a number of members who expressed unease over the proposed measures.

The practice of putting psychological pressure to 'stir-up' members is to be regretted, and the late lamented Bill Windle was, in my view, too simplistic in his definition. It is impossible to quantify the term 'activity' as it is a subjective concept, one which relates to the persons own estimation and to the number of factors he chooses to take into account. You may consider yourself active if you put in two hours on the band. I might be relatively inactive if I put in six hours....It may even be argued that our many awards are a disincentive to ragchewing because they encourage brief QSOs to catch 'X' before conditions fade, or to get 'Y' while he is in a rare location....We are not all gifted with the best of health or with compliant XYs or expensive 'super duper' equipment which can be replaced at will. But this has no bearing on our enthusiasm for FOC and a desire to promote its aims. These are the only factors which should count. To hound members because their activity level is not what you think it should be is, at best, taking a selfish view of FOC; and, at worst, is downright unkind.

[G2YS 11/89]

One of my own concerns had always been the extent to which FOC was an inward looking organisation, and that the way in which it managed its affairs laid itself open to the charges of being a 'secret society'.

I am always amazed at the outrage that is sometimes expressed at a non-member who has the audacity to call a member on 025. I cannot understand the logic that suggests that our club dinners should be 'closed' affairs. I can see no justification for the often voiced demand that an aspiring new member should be 'blackballed' for soliciting sponsoring on the bands - especially when there is nothing in our rules to prohibit such activity. It seems to me that open interest in FOC and a line of potential members actively seeking sponsorship - if that is what we demand as the price of entry - can only be seen as healthy....I can find little time for the view that suggests that because the hobby is 'not the way it used to be' or that standards are supposedly falling, or that CW is a dying art, we should cut ourselves off from the changing world of amateur radio and ignore what is going on around us....It is the place of FOC, by following a course of 'openness' to assert its views on the wider amateur population, of what good operating practice is and what policies should be followed by the organisational bodies.

[G3MX] 11/89]

At the beginning of 1990, the first issue of *FOCUS*, FOC's quarterly magazine, was published. At the same time, the production and style of the News Sheet was brought up to date. Since 1967, the monthly News Sheet had been typeset and produced by a commercial printer. With the availability of desktop PCs and publishing software, it became possible to handle this in-house. The decision was taken to reduce the size of the News Sheet from its four or eight page format to just two pages containing items of immediate topical interest. *FOCUS* would provide space for a range of longer articles of more general interest and, with the availability of modern technology, allow the inclusion of photographs. In time, these changes produced significant cost savings which allowed the expanded amount of published material to take place without any significant increase in subscriptions.

*FOCUS* #1 contained 36 items mainly contributed by members and covering a full write-up and photo gallery from the 1989 Lords Dinner Weekend; reports from other ham gatherings such as the 1988 Tokyo DX Convention and the 1989 Continental Dinner; news from I0XXR, NR7O and OH2BN of DX activities in HV and XE and 4J1; what would be



regular columns on propagation and contesting; plus a host of operating and semi-technical articles. These represented a range that would never have been possible in the News Sheet and the new magazine was generally well received.

However, a dissenting voice always needs to be heard, especially in an organisation such as FOC where the organisation is, by necessity, centralised. Such a voice, especially where it comes from one of the senior members, quite rightly causes the Committee to pause and take stock. Towards the end of 1990, Evert - DJ0XJ, wrote to raise some concerns.

Dear Chris,

Herewith my sub for FOC for 1991; it may however, well be my last one. I almost resigned early this year. The main reason is that the old friendly spirit of ragchewing with friends has given way for many members to a number chasing competitive spirit. The fault lies in the many FOC awards and in the Committee which glorifies contests. Of ten new members presented in FOCUS #4, seven confessed to a major interest in contesting, and this attitude is not compatible with friendly chats! One example - only recently I was called a lid by a new member who kept on asking for a number during a chatty QSO with another member after I asked him to QSX and QRX.



Evert - DJ0XJ

I hope you will also notice the writing on the wall as evidenced by the ever dwindling participation at Lords. It is not only the high cost! I also feel that the clearly expensive public relations actions of the Club, which in part caused the hefty increase in subs, may well be an end in itself, and mere self-glorification. Why a FOCUS mag on glossy paper when the old four page News Sheet could contain all items now in FOCUS, maybe with the addition of a yearly rogues gallery? Why public relations for a club with a maximum of 500 members and with its quorum filled? Do you really think FOCUS has to spread the gospel of CW?

I am sure I am not the only one with frustrations about the Club, and if I would resign after 42 years of active membership and loyal support, I would do so with tears in my heart and not on a sudden impulse. But I feel that FOC has drifted too far apart from the original standards and objectives of the Club. Maybe I live in the past and the Club is right in its present policy, but if so, I no longer feel at home in such surroundings. I would appreciate it if you

would use my thoughts in an article for FOCUS, or better an editorial in the News Sheet, to find out if I am the only dissident amongst the membership. The reaction might well surprise the Committee in its well screened contest corral!

[DJ0XJ 11/90]

Evert's comments produced an avalanche of mail to both Chris and Al. As might be expected, sentiments fell on both sides of the fence. Eventually, 131 pages of letters from 68 members were circulated to the Committee for discussion at their meeting in February 1991. Before this meeting, Al made an immediate reply in the December 1990 News Sheet.

As Chairman, Vice-President and ex-Hon Secretary, I feel I must put pen to paper over Evert's letter and the correspondence that it has generated. A fair amount is in agreement with some of the points - in particular the competitive aspects of our Club operating today. On the other hand, a goodly number of members feel that he is opposed to change and wishes to put the clock back. Virtually without exception, there is widespread support for FOCUS. Personally, I am inclined to agree that a number chasing competitive spirit in the Club is possibly overdone, what with the Nickel, Windle, Jubilee plus Marathon and WAFOC. But the sad thing is that members seem to need adrenaline from these awards as an incentive to get on the air!

The question is why? Older members hark back to the days of inter-UK ragchewing on 80 metres when the Club did not have such an international aspect as it does today. However, amateur radio is about communication and I wonder sometimes how much we have to communicate about. In the old days, we built much of our gear and antennas. A lot of good talking points here - but alas we now live in the age of all singing and dancing commercial rigs that are returned to the supplier at the first hint of trouble; whilst the G5RV antenna is available in a plastic package at the local amateur radio store.



Our DXing has largely become automatic and impersonal, particularly with the advent of packet radio. Fortunately, in my case, I still use old gear that I can fix myself. I design and build all my antennas and get around the world to meet plenty of people socially - so there is never a shortage of conversation at 'FXB and certainly no need for an incentive to get on the air.

Concerning contests in general, there are many of us within the Club who enjoy contests, either on a full participation basis or just for a bit of fun. Yet we always seem to be contending with the very vocal criticism of the anti-contest lobby. I personally deplore 2 metre repeaters and indeed some other facets of amateur radio such as DX lists - but one man's meat is another man's poison. Surely the answer here is tolerance, not only of contests, but other activities that we might deplore. Unfortunately, tolerance is sadly lacking in the world today, particularly as we advance in years.

[G3FXB 12/90]

The six-hour February meeting was almost entirely devoted to the issues that had arisen. The letters that had been received in many ways complemented and updated the results of the membership survey that had been carried out in 1988.

- A small minority were against the introduction of FOCUS.
- One member resented being 'hounded' on the question of activity and another resented 'continual bullying' but a number of other voices asked for a stronger line on inactive members.
- A majority of letters were opposed to the competitive aspects of the Club and contests in general but there was also a substantial number that took the opposite stance.
- There was criticism of the habit that had arisen of members breaking into QSOs in pursuit of points for the various club awards.
- There was concern over the standard of sponsoring and an apparent relaxation of some of the rules.

Despite the large response and the amount of time taken considering it, the Committee made no major changes. It decided to tighten up the sponsoring rules to discourage 'rigging' of nominations. The single page News Sheet would revert to a four sided edition on a bi-monthly basis. Ways of increasing the attractiveness of the Lords weekend, for example a change of venue, would be investigated. However, the dominant feeling was that many of the concerns reflected changes that were taking place in the hobby and life generally, and did not arise from particular shortcomings within the Club itself.

There were two special landmarks during early 1991. To mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of Samuel Morse, the special callsign MØRSE was authorised, by the UK licensing authorities, for use during a short period in May. It was the first ever use of the 'M' prefix on the amateur bands and a number of FOC members including G3FXB, G3KDB, G3KTZ, G3MXJ, G3SXW, G3TXF, G4BUE, and G4DJX had slots for its usage, making over 7,000 QSOs between them. The following month saw publication of the 500th FOC News Sheet and, to mark the occasion, Chris published a Commemorative Supplement 'as a tribute to previous Editors who had struggled with more primitive methods to produce News Sheets and, before that, the Circular Letters'.

# MØRSE

The first 'M' prefix callsign to be operated from the United Kingdom

MØRSE was operated by members of the:  
Aval Radio Group (IBCA), Cheltenham Amateur Radio Assn.,  
Mid-Sussex Radio Club, First Class CW Operator Club,  
Maple Centre Club, Dartmoor Amateur Radio Club,  
Dorset Amateur Radio Club, Graveland Radio Club,  
IBTS CW Club and the Verulam Amateur Radio Club

QSL to PO Box 293, Heron Hospital, Herts HG5 0SR, UK



Celebrating the  
Bicentennial of  
Samuel F. B. Morse  
1791-1991

## '161'

There has always been a little controversy over the origins and usage of '161'. Without doubt, its modern usage began within FOC - probably in regular skeds between Al - G3FXB and Howie - W1HZ. Its derivation was obvious - a need for a suitable greeting where families at each end of the QSO were known and involved. So '73+88 = 161' was the very obvious solution.

However, discussion in the News Sheets led to note from Laci - W1PL in which he laid claim to being the originator. 'Laci was using the expression 161 in domestic QSOs in Hungary just after the war. Laci went QRT in 1952 and when he obtained his US call in 1965, he didn't hear anyone using it. After joining FOC and receiving invitation to FOC families and meeting "all those lovely FOC XYLS" he started using 161 in correspondence. The first letter he signed in this way was addressed to Heinz - N2LK. In the early 1970s, Laci visited W6VX and on returning home wrote to Dave and thanked him for the visit, signing the letter 73+88 = 161. Soon after that, Laci had a QSO with Dave and Dave used

*the expression when signing off at the end of the QSO. Laci therefore suggests that he was the first to use 161 in correspondence and W6VX was the first to use it on the air'. [8/91]*

Members have, from time to time, complained about the misuse of '161' feeling that it could be taken as one of the 'secret codes' that FOC is sometimes accused of using; or worse, that inappropriate use (where no member of the opposite sex was involved) might be misconstrued!

During 1991, the question of the future of CW began to attract increasing debate. Riki - 4X4NJ, warned of the actions being proposed to IARU by the Israeli Society for 'Code-Free' licences [1/91] and urged that FOC should put together a firm action plan to counter these arguments. In an article reprinted from *Morse Magnificat*, [Focus #9] Roy Clayton - G4SSH, the RSGB's Chief Morse Examiner, was one of the first to point out that although the commercial use of morse code might be declining, this was not of particular relevance in the world of amateur radio where these professional considerations were '*...more outweighed by the tremendous advantages that the use of morse can give, such as the efficient use of the radio spectrum, the ability to use simple low cost transmitters and receivers, its international language capability, and its superiority over other modes in its ability to contact distant stations over weak and fading signal paths*'. He went on to point out that the many potential users of morse code had difficulty making the transition from the test speed of 12wpm to a practical on-the-air working speed of 20wpm and, instead, they would settle for an easy life on the microphone. He called for the various CW interested organisations to play their part in both providing the initial CW training and then to continue to provide support so that the newcomer could gain the necessary confidence to be able to use the mode on-the-air in an effective manner. These ideas were picked up by Gus - G8PG [Focus #9] who related his experiences with the G-QRP Club that had a programme, in which he had been involved, aimed at supporting the CW newcomer. Gus, as he had done so before, called on FOC to become more fully involved with this kind of activity. '*In essence, don't moan about the decline in CW activity, but give up some of your operating time to do something positive about it. If my experience is anything to go by, you will find it to be very rewarding*'.

—ooOoo—

### A Remarkable QSO - Jo Doering, DL1RK



During WW2, I served as a Lance Corporal in a special army signal corps unit in the Afrika Korps. We intercepted the enemy's tactical radio communication in the African war theatre and used to be Rommel's ears. Late afternoon on May 7th 1943, five days before we had to surrender to Tunisia, our company commander asked me if I would like to communicate with the enemy. 'Sure I do,' was my answer. My first thought was that it was the give-up message, the end of the fighting in Africa. But the message to be sent was about a target not to be bombed. Since the allied bombers flew in from the west, the message had to be addressed to the British 1st Army who operated in the area. Therefore, I chose a radio net from the HQ British First Army, noted frequency and call signs, took the message and went to the transmitter van about half a mile from our receiving site.

The British net was very busy that night, and I had to wait for a long time. Meanwhile, I practised with the straight key since I had not used one for about a year or so sitting in front of a receiver taking down the foe's radio traffic. At last the net I was tuned into had worked up all the traffic they had at hand. Now it was my turn. With the 80 watt Lorenz transmitter

carefully set to zero beat and with the 'borrowed' call they had used last, I hit the key: 'QTC' and then I made a big mistake by using the British 8th Army's 'X279' instead of the 1st Army's 'QRK?'. The HQ station came back with a question mark. I started over again, but this time with 'QTC1 QRK? K'. QRK5 was the answer.

*'DADIDADIDAH - To the headquarters allied expeditionary forces in Africa from the HQ of the Axis forces in Africa.'* Then the guy that I had 'borrowed' the call from came in: *'That's not me, it's a propaganda message from the enemy.'* But I broke in with: *'It's not propaganda, but life or death for your own people.'* In the end, the HQ station told me to go ahead with the message. It read, as I recall from my memory: *'Two ships are in the harbour of Tunis. One freighter with 600 allied prisoners in its holds and a hospital ship. Do not bomb those two ships to save the lives of your own people.'*

I received 'QSL' for my message and said I would QRX tomorrow same time, same frequency for a possible reply. No reply was received during the next days. The event faded in my memory during the years to follow until in 1950, I bought a book about the war in Africa. In it, I found the message I had sent and the reaction that took place. General Alexander, Commander of the British 1st Army, met the captured German General von Arnim and thanked him for the message which saved 600 of his soldiers. He agreed to send 600 wounded Germans in a hospital ship to Italy.

In a small way, I had helped to add some human touch to this cruel war. Therefore, I call this my only worthwhile QSO ever.  
[Focus #9]

—ooOoo—

In October 1992, Roger - G3SXW, stepped down from his position as Secretary and also left Committee after a valuable spell of service covering over ten years. Chris - G4BUE took on the combined roles of Hon. Secretary and Editor. These moves would obviously involve some changes in the way in which the Club was managed. However, we were totally unprepared for the changes that would be forced on us following an event that was about to occur.

People often speak of how they will always be able to recall the precise circumstances under which they hear of an event of tragic proportions. So it was on the evening of 11th November 1992, when I returned home after a day away on business. I was met at our door by Anne, my XYL, who was obviously the bearer of bad news. My first thought was that something had happened to her elderly mother. The last thing I expected to hear was that Al had passed away suddenly that morning from a heart attack.

I had first got to know Al during a spell in Zambia as 9J2MX. We had talked frequently on the air and, when we came to live in Sussex in 1972, had become close friends; and over the years, this friendship had extended to the two families. We were all frequent visitors to each other's houses for social events that went outside amateur radio.

Life sometimes seems to conduct itself in such a way that the most gaping holes left are those that result from the unexpected.

—ooOoo—

## Al Slater - G3FXB

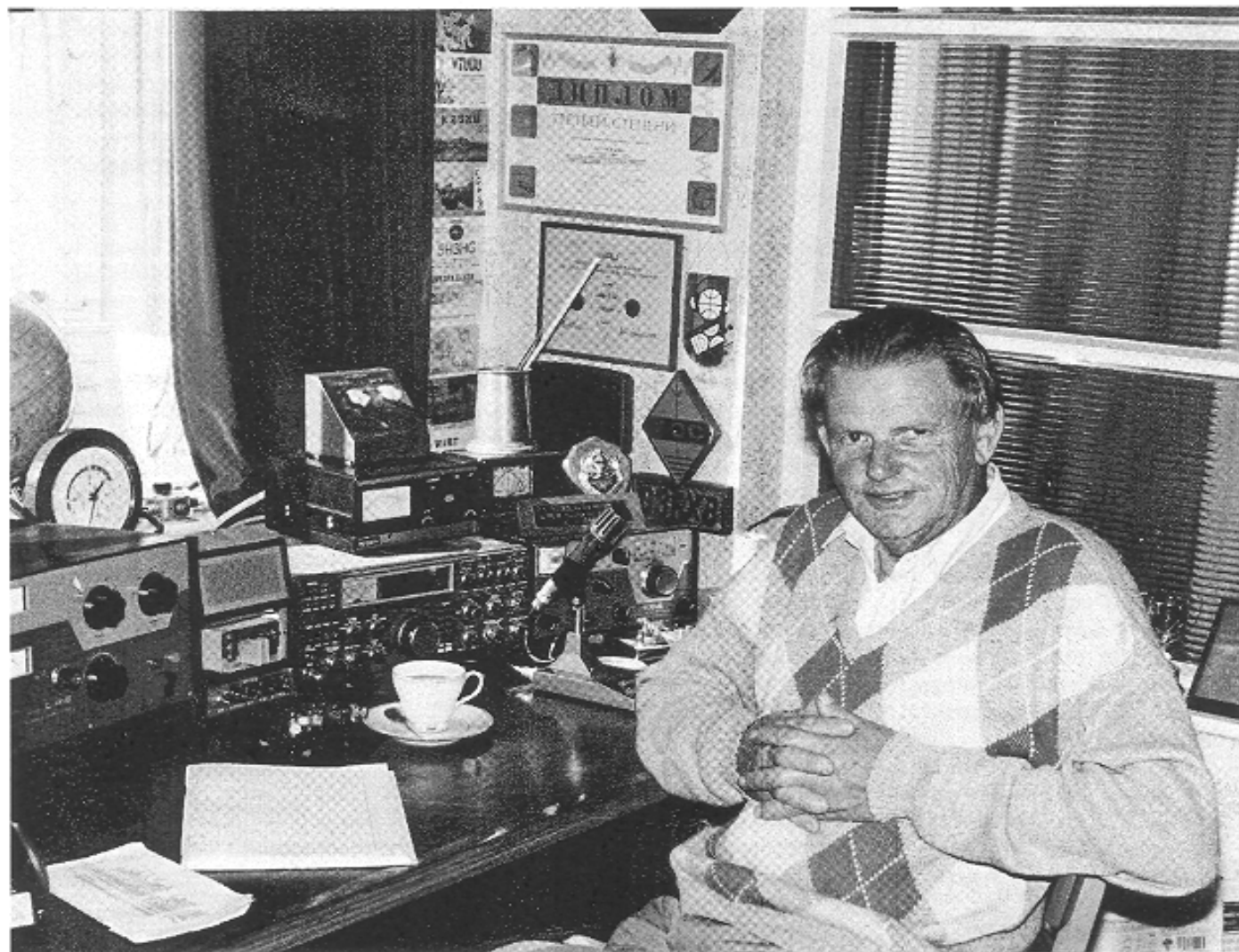
The passing of Al Slater - G3FXB, on 11th November, represents a landmark in the history of FOC and amateur radio. His broad interests covering DXing, contesting and ragchewing, together with his love of the social scene, made his callsign one of the best known on any of the HF bands.

Al joined FOC in 1953 and the club records reflect a developing deep involvement in the Club's activities. In 1970, he was the 10th President of FOC. He joined the Committee in 1979 and, working closely with Bill Windle - G8VG, was instrumental in seeing the Club through some difficult years. He took on the job of Secretary between 1981 and 1987 and was made a Vice-President in 1986. In 1987, he was appointed Chairman and held that post, together with that of Treasurer, at the time of his death. His outstanding achievement was the building of FOC into the world respected organisation that we have today.

Al's introduction to radio was through medium wave broadcast listening in the mid 1930s. He would burn the midnight oil, logging the US transmissions which often carried elements of his other great love - jazz. G3FXB took to the air in 1949 - at first, a restricted setup at his parent's house in Hove. Later, in 1953, he moved to Southwick, close to his TV and radio business. It was from here that his involvement with the hobby really began to develop. Even though the backyard was fairly small, in typical fashion, Al made maximum use of every inch of space. The wire beams and, eventually, a crank-up tower and quad became landmarks along the south-coast road that ran nearby.

Al's style very much emphasised the alternative meaning of FOC - Friends Over Continents.

When Al and Maud moved to Wychwood, in 1974, the house very soon became a centre for all that is best with amateur radio. During the next 18 years, they entertained no less than 303 different callsigns; and Al reckoned that he had personally met over 80% of the FOC active list. No-one who has ever been there on the Sunday after Lords, will ever forget the magic atmosphere. Most years, the sun shone. Old friends would stroll around the garden catching up with the year's news. The group photo was a tradition of the day and a collection extending over many years forms a valuable part of the club records. As well as the parties, there was always a stream of individual visitors. Virtually no DXer or contester of any note, FOC or otherwise, would pass through the UK without calling.



Those who have never visited Wychwood could feel something of the atmosphere, through Al's individualistic editorials in the News Sheet that kept the reader up to date with the changing seasons in the Sussex countryside and the progress, or otherwise, of the environmentally friendly vegetable garden.

The News Sheet also recorded happenings at the local country pub - The Bridge. The landlord, Malcolm, and his usual customers, quickly became accustomed to regular visits from a whole range of people from overseas. Those with an interest in jazz would often be invited to one of the live music evenings. There were also many memorable evenings where the local FOC, DX and contesting group would meet for dinner with a visitor.

From the early 1970s onwards, Al and Maud became ardent travellers. Early visits to the US cemented a lot of close friendships which continued over the air through regular skeds. Al was a great supporter of the Mini-Dinner concept that encouraged groups of members to organise meetings in different parts of the world. The US trips became virtually annual appointments at Spring Valley, Danbury and, later, Washington. On later visits, they went

to the mid-west, Texas and California. In 1981, they visited Australia, enabling Al to meet more of the friends that he had talked to over the years. A subsequent visit, in 1987, took in Hong Kong and New Zealand.

A by-product of Al's supreme interest in the field of contesting was his close friendship with some of the leading amateurs in Russia. The ending of the cold war gave him the opportunity to consider meeting some of those that he had talked to for so many years. In July 1986, Al and Maud were amongst the first western visitors to take advantage of the rapidly thawing situation and visited Moscow and Leningrad. It is interesting to note, in Al's write-up of the visit, that he only felt it safe to mention the callsigns of the 'officials' that he met at the Central Radio Club. This first visit was followed by further trips to the Ukraine and to Leningrad. It was during one of these trips that Al became the first person to put FOC on the air from Russia.

It is difficult to know where to start when one talks of Al's DXing and contesting achievements. He reached the top of the Honor Roll in 1975. In May 1988, he was only the third amateur to be elected to the CQ Contest Hall of Fame, in company with K2GL and KH6IJ. There was no major contest in which he had not attained top honours. The CQ Contest was a special challenge and he had, at various times, held a number of continental records on both CW and SSB. The RSGB Commonwealth Contest, with its unique demands on equipment, antennas and, above all, propagation knowledge, was an annual favourite. He first won the Thomas Trophy, for the leading UK station, in 1973 and went on to capture it on a total of 18 occasions. In 1990, he won the Senior Rose Bowl, for the leading station overall, when operating as ZC4ESB.

It is interesting to reflect that all of his operating achievements were accomplished without massive financial investment. Although a TS-930 appeared in recent years, the Drake C-Line remained the workhorse. Outside, Al took great pride in home made antennas. The homebrew four element quad and the fixed wire beams on 40 metres produced one of the outstanding signals from the UK.

Al constantly confounded the theory that a contester should complete his desired achievements before the age of 40. He was always planning the next event and considering what antenna changes or station modifications would be needed to keep up with the changing demands. At the time of his death, he had just completed his log for the CQ SSB event and was turning his thoughts to the CW weekend and to an overseas participation in the Commonwealth Contest in 1993. Plans were also well advanced for the usual visits to Visalia, Dayton and Washington.

The funeral was held at Worthing Crematorium on 18th November. Al had left a number of instructions and these were carried out to the letter. The chapel was filled to overflowing with relatives and friends, including a large number of amateurs. The ladies wore something colourful and even Al would have been taken aback by the brightness of some of the men's ties. The service was conducted to the music of Glenn Miller. Al's ashes will be scattered at Wychwood, amongst the acres where he spent so many happy hours. About 40 guests returned to Wychwood during the afternoon, where the atmosphere reflected the best aspects of the FOC spirit - friendship and support.

FOC and amateur radio has lost a figurehead. The family, Maud and the children - John, Phillip, Susan, Jackie, Linda and Diane - together with the ten grandchildren, has lost a charismatic head. The gap that is left will take a long time to close. The outstanding contribution to the Club and the influence that was exerted on the hobby will be felt for many years to come.

[G3MXJ Focus #13]



## Chapter 9

### The Modern Era

The sudden removal of Al Slater left FOC with a difficult act to follow. Although we had taken the decision some years earlier to try and end the concept of having a central figurehead around which most club activities revolved, and we had taken steps to spread the various tasks across all the Committee members, Al, through his strength of personality, had effectively retained this role. To ensure continuity in the management of the Club, I was appointed as Chairman of the Club with effect from November 1992.

In the December 1992 News Sheet, Chris paid his own tribute to Al and reiterated the way in which he would continue his role as Secretary.

I first met Al in 1974 before I had been licensed a year, and just after I got the DX and contesting bug. I soon found out that anyone with those interests in Sussex quickly found their way to Al's back door. When they did, they found a person who was ready to listen, encourage, help and advise. A person who always had time for you because you were showing interest in those things that Al believed in so much. Al gave me his time as he did to several others in Sussex who had just become licensed. That led to the formation of G4DAA and the Channel Contest Group and the beginning of a friendship with Al that built up to the position where he was my closest friend outside my family when he died. The accomplishments of G4BUE, whether it be DXing, contesting, as a CW operator, FOC Committee, editor of the News Sheet and FOCUS, or visiting the USA are primarily due to G3FXB. Thanks Al, I wish I could repay you for everything.

One of the ways I'm going to try to repay Al is to continue my positive approach and to use my position on committee and as editor of the News Sheet to try and influence all of you to do the same. If you do, then FOC will continue to be the great club that Al built up and believed in so much. I therefore repeat my warning that if you want to moan or winge, please find someone else! I will continue to welcome constructive feedback and suggestions on how to do things better, as that will help me to help keep FOC great and in turn help me repay my debt to Al.  
[G4BUE 12/92]



Dennis - G3MXJ with Stan - EA6ZY at Lords

A task facing the Committee, during the early part of 1993, was the institution of a suitable and fitting memorial to Al. There had already been a considerable amount of discussion within the Club over what form this could take and, as might be expected, many of the suggestions were associated with various forms of contest activity. However, the Committee felt that, although one of Al's principal interests had been in contests, this really did not represent the full scope of his activities. In any case, there was already an award, in Al's name, that was given as part of the CQ CW Contest each year. Al's interests went way beyond contesting, CW and even FOC itself. After some months, the Committee evolved a format that it thought would enable an annual presentation to be made that would reflect the contribution that Al had made to the hobby.

The Al Slater, G3FXB Memorial Award, will be presented once a year to an individual, group or society, that has, in the judgement of the Committee, made an outstanding contribution to the hobby that reflects the attitude and approach of Al Slater.

At Lords, that year, the first presentation of the award was made to Bill Maxson, N4AR, *'in recognition of outstanding qualities of Dxing and contesting ability, impeccable operating standards, encouragement to others and dedication to worldwide friendship.'*





The Al Slater, G3FXB Memorial Trophy



Bill Maxson - N4AR receiving the first trophy from Maud Slater

#### The Al Slater, G3FXB Memorial Award

Year	Recipient	Citation
1993	W. T. Maxson, N4AR	Outstanding qualities of DXing and contesting ability, impeccable operating standards, encouragement to others and dedication to worldwide friendship.
1994	The Chiltern DX Club, UK	Encouragement and stimulation of HF interest especially within newcomers to the hobby.
1995	A. A. Laun, K3ZO	Outstanding service and achievement in amateur radio.
1996	Northern California DX Foundation	Sponsorship and support of DXpeditions, scientific radio investigation and aid to amateurs in rare countries.
1997	P. W. Watson, ZL3GQ	Outstanding achievements in amateur radio.
1998	L. van de Nadort, PA0LOU	Longtime support to international amateur radio.

In August 1993, Chris announced his retirement from the Sussex Police Force and said that he looked forward to this taking the pressure off performing his FOC duties, in particular, producing the News Sheet and FOCUS. He also announced that he would be setting up his own printing and publishing business - Adur Village Press. Chris would eventually take over most of the printing requirements of the Club at very advantageous rates which resulted in future subscription increases being kept very small. It also meant that the deadline for input to the News Sheet could be extended to almost the actual date of printing and mailing.

During late 1993 and early 1994, the subject of activity again raised its head with concern being expressed from a number of members; not so much on absolute levels of activity, but more on the type of activity. The general style of operating had changed significantly over recent years. In place of the traditional 'chatty' kind of contact, or even the 'chatty rubber stamp' - where at least RST, QTH and Name were exchanged, activity on the air was increasingly becoming just an exchange of a rapid '599' often without any real exchange of callsigns. Much of the blame for this could be laid at the door of the expanding use of packet cluster systems for spotting DX. Coupled with computer driven rigs, this enabled many people who were not really proficient in CW to work CW DX - although they often had a lot of difficulty in knowing whether they had actually worked the DX station or not!

The light of criticism fell on the Windle Award which many considered fostered this type of activity within the Club, encouraged members to 'point chase' and led to unacceptable operating practices such as breaking into QSOs. On the other hand, there were those members who felt that participation in the Windle Award should be made mandatory as a means of proving activity.

When I joined FOC in 1977, Bill Windle - G8VG, was a good and forceful leader of the Club; and upon his passing, Al Slater - G3FXB, provided his unique talents in maintaining and enhancing the high standards of the club rules. The work that these two men did was so time consuming and required such a dedication to the club's business that the possibility of another person to do the job was remote. So, it is quite understandable that the club's activities and the monitoring thereof are now handled in committee. Though this change is all to the good in handling the many functions of the Club, it does tend to make club leadership impersonal and a member feel that his lack of activity will be overlooked. Many club organisations that depend upon a high level of member activity require each member to maintain and prove that he is a real participant. For instance, Rotary Club International has a strict attendance rule that states that, when away from his local club area, the member shall make every effort to attend a Rotary Club meeting, no matter what city or country he may be visiting.



Jack - W2BA

The lifeblood of any club such as ours is membership activity; and each member subscribes to the club activity rule upon joining. Each member who is mostly non-active, in effect reduces the membership by one and, not only adds to the frustration of those seeking the Augie Award, but effectively reduces the club's vitality. There is, on hand, a way to ensure that all members exhibit a fair amount of activity. I would like to see an expansion of the activity rule to state that each member shall submit a written record of Windle Award QSOs each year. A minimum number of QSOs and a minimum number of bands should be stated. It seems that requiring 100 QSOs with different members with activity of three bands would not be unreasonable. A goodly number of members now do this much in the month of January each year. Activity is the goal, and if a small stick must be added to the carrot, so be it.

[W2BA Focus #16]



Clive - GM3POI

The original object of the Windle Trophy, as we all know, was to try and increase 'normal operation' activity. As all active members are aware, there is a significant number of stations who only come on the bands to work a DX callsign and those members are tending to now go to the WARC bands as well. They are never heard on 025 calling CQ. I think the average station trying to work Windle contacts stands virtually no chance of working such members. The member who is most likely to work them is the one that goes on an expedition to a rare spot. I therefore suggest that the expeditionary cannot claim Windle points made whilst on a DXpedition. However, stations working a DXpedition can claim a point. I also suggest that a DXpedition is defined as operation from an alternative country for less than two months. This seems fairer than allowing someone to claim 250+ Windle points for two weeks operation and also working some of those unheard callsigns that home stations cannot hope to work. As to the unheard of DXers, how about asking them to list which members they have worked outside DXpeditions in a given year.

[GM3POI Focus #16]

The records of subsequent Committee meetings show that these issues generated considerable correspondence and discussion. Without doubt, the various 'competitive' events within the Club DID generate activity and were enjoyed by a substantial proportion of the membership. On the other hand, an equally substantial proportion felt that they denigrated the original objectives of FOC and should be discouraged, or at least controlled. Some believed that the situation arose from a Committee that they felt contained too many contesters. But it would seem that the principal agent at work was simply the changing face of amateur radio. The type of on-the-air activity followed by members would, inevitably, be determined by their own wishes and affected more by external influences than anything else. It seemed unlikely that, even if thought desirable, the Committee would be able to change the resulting balance in any particular direction. The real underlying issue was the degree to which an organisation like FOC should seek to

maintain a set of operating standards that had applied in the past and to which, understandably, a proportion of the membership were still attached.

A parallel area of concern remained the question of activity - a question that had remained topical throughout all of the Club's post-war history. In any assessment of opinion, the overwhelming majority of the membership have said that they feel that FOC should be an active club - with all of the members regularly on the air, and in contact with other members. A very small minority have always felt that there should be no such requirement and any that kind of measurement of activity levels is alien to the original concepts of FOC.

The Committee believed that, particularly in view of the fact that the Club had a restricted membership total, it was unacceptable to have members who were never on the air. From 1995 onwards, it adopted a policy that was relatively easy-going compared with actions taken in past years. With a large number of returns being submitted for the Windle Award and the Marathon, it is very easy to identify the small number of members who are, to all intents and purposes, inactive. These members receive a request for details of their activity and future plans. It may be that the inactivity is of a temporary nature - and the Associate Membership rules, which were revised at the same time, allow for this situation. There are also members who become inactive as a result of advancing years or declining health - and the Permanent Associate Membership, awarded at the discretion of the Committee - allows these members to retain links with the Club, but without any requirement for any kind of activity. However, the overriding requirement is that the 500 members who are on the 'Active List' must be able to demonstrate a consistent level of on-the-air activity. This is the policy currently followed by the Committee and for which it believes it has the support of the vast majority of the membership.

The subject of coexistence between FOC and the rest of the world of amateur radio came up for discussion during 1994. Unfortunately, the Marathon in February clashed with a the 3Y0PI DXpedition to Peter I Island. Inevitably, clashes occurred between DXers to whom it was a life and death issue to work the expedition on every band and every mode, and FOCers who felt that they had a right to carry on an activity that had been established for so many years. Naturally, in many cases, the complaints were made when the 3Y0 was not actually active and by stations wishing to keep a frequency clear in case they did come on to the band! It is unfortunate that '025, the same as FOC adopted frequency, has become the 'standard' DXpedition channel. Clashes had also occurred, during the Marathon, between members and the Top Band Brigade who seemed to be of the firm opinion that no other activity apart from '599' exchanges with DX stations should be tolerated on the band. Unfortunately, the 3Y0PI episode resulted in some adverse publicity for the Club in QST and a number of other DX publications.

Phil - G3LPN kicked off a discussion [Focus #25] in which he suggested that FOC was perhaps being a bit too apologetic over such incidents and that it was the DXers that were, to a great extent, being intolerant not only of activities such as FOC, but of almost anything that was not DX. *'Whenever you have bodies which by reason of their amateur status have mainly to govern themselves, to be self-policing and submit willingly or otherwise to self-imposed voluntary restrictions, band plans, philosophies and codes of conduct, you will always have differing interpretations, flexible demarcations, limit exceeding - and occasional friction as people seek to impose their interpretation and occasional self-interests on their neighbours'*. The situation was not helped by the growing power of the Internet and associated Reflectors that allowed subscribers the 'luxury' of being able to broadcast instant and often ill-thought judgements on each and every issue affecting the hobby.

Dan - GW3HCL, added his views in a later edition of FOCUS.

When first I was invited into FOC, I learned that by common consent we met at the bottom ends of the bands, although my recollection is that it was never so established by writ. There was no writ, no newsletter; written communication was by means of Circular Letters, bunches of individual manuscripts sent from member to member by mail. One added a contribution to the top, removed your last one from the bottom, then mailed the lot to the next on the list. Understandably, this took weeks, sometimes months to go the rounds. In fact, the procedure stopped shortly after I was admitted. Dedicated and subsidised DXpeditions had not arrived. When they did come, it suited their purpose to operate at the bottom ends. The reason was very practical in that those bits of the bands were available to all amateurs. Not all administrations gave their amateurs access to ITU bands in their entirety - indeed not all do even now - but all CW licences authorised the bottom end. So partly in a spirit of co-operation and partly in self-defence, FOC moved itself to 25 up.

I believe [the reason the expeditions moved up from the bottom end] was tied up with 'incentive licensing' introduced by certain administrations. One effect of this programme was to exclude the majority of their amateurs

from what had by then become choice DX spots, namely the bottom ends, in the hope that it would give incentive to gain higher licence qualifications and thus access to the forbidden fruit. This was bad news for the professional, DXpeditioners - yes, it was their livelihood - since a great proportion of amateurs could not now work them. Remember RIT clarifiers and twin VFOs had not yet arrived. Equipment of the period, much of it war-surplus, often did not have a VFO at all. So all of us had our collection of plug-in 'bottom-end' crystals. Thus the flow of donations and QSL dollars was much reduced. Globe-trotting at the expense of someone else was a delightful life. The profits even allowed two of them to buy yachts specifically for the purpose. Incentive licensing had put this in jeopardy. So the DXpeditioners abandoned their bottom edges and moved up to the edge of band segments open to all. In the process, they clobbered us again.

I see no trouble in coexistence with the highly organised expeditions. They do not come round all that often. When they do, they cannot use all bands at once and anyway, the operators know what it is all about. I feel the core reason for discontent lies elsewhere. These days, everyone on a business trip or holiday can pack 50w into his airline luggage while, in the interests of tourism income, temporary reciprocal licences are easy to get. These casual operators, finding themselves for once in the driving seat with a DX call, feel entitled to play being 'Big Boys', OK, why not? There is no reason why not. Troubles arise because they cannot handle the pile-up that the 'Big Boys' take in their stride. Their first, and very sensible reaction is to go split and stipulate '2 UP'. But a pile 2kHz up is equally unmanageable. So next, we are told to go '5 UP' or '10 UP'. The pile size is reduced because many RITS on one-VFO rigs will not stretch that far, and callers that remain are spread out because my idea of '5 UP' may be different from yours. The last stage is when the operator still cannot cope and he takes refuge in the vague 'UP' order. Then some 15 to 20kHz is swamped and the chance that anyone operating in that segment suddenly acquires the misnomer 'lid'. If caught like this, it is wiser to move because one cannot get an ordinary QSO anyway. But move up rather than down for fear of landing on or near the possibly inaudible DX station itself.

I've rather run away with myself, but I hope I have shown that history tells us that the answer to our problem, if one really exists, lies in hands other than ours. My strong vote is for staying as we are.  
[GW3HCL Focus #26]

With an increasing number of members connected to the Internet and their e-mail addresses being published in the News Sheet, proposals followed for the establishment of a FOC Website and/or reflector. However, this first proposal, in mid-1996, did not receive the support of the Committee. Only around one-quarter of the membership was connected to the Internet at that time and it was not thought right that a minority of the members should have access to information that was not available to the majority. It was also thought that the News Sheet and FOCUS should continue to be the principal route for communication within the Club; and that this process would be degraded by the existence of a reflector.



John - G3WGV

However, technology moves fast. By the middle of 1997 the proportion of members using the Internet was up to 38% and still rising. John - G3WGV looked at the issue again and came up with proposals for the establishment of a FOC Website. This were accepted by the Committee and the site (at <http://members.aol.com/focuk>) became operational at the end of the year. It is primarily concerned with publicising FOC to the outside world - What is FOC? Where do I find members? How do I join FOC? What does FOC do? It also contains the FOC Code of Conduct, and links to other sites of CW interest. It is intended to expand the scope of the site to include extracts from Focus and other written items of interest. The use of e-mail continued to rise and by the middle of 1998, over 50% of the membership had access and it was decided to begin distribution of the monthly News Sheet by e-mail in addition to the normal posting.

In 1996, the Committee had been forced to begin considering its attitudes to the future possibility of code-free licences and their implication for the future of FOC. The starting point for this discussion was the formation of FASC - 'The Future of the Amateur Service Committee'. This had been set up within IARU to consider changes that might be proposed when the ITU regulations covering amateur radio next came up for discussion and possible change - at that time, thought to be at the 1999 World Radiocommunication Conference. The proposals that FASC were considering included a proposal that the mandatory morse requirement be dropped from the ITU regulations in return for a more structured and recognised definition of the Amateur Service in the international regulations. The FOC Committee had polled the membership of the question of code-free licences a few years previously. Predictably, the responses ranged from the acceptance of the inevitable through to the 'over my dead body' approach. For the time being, the Committee decided to, in effect, sit on



the fence until a proposals process began and then to seek involvement that would ensure that the position of CW remained protected and that any changes took account of the broader interests of standards maintenance within the hobby. In fact, the possibility of the Amateur Radio Regulations being changed at the 1999 WRC was subsequently dropped. So the urgency of the situation relaxed. However, the FOC Committee resolved to maintain a watch on developments and to be ready with relevant proposals when the time came.

The issue re-emerged suddenly in 1998 when, out of the blue, the RSGB announced that it was to propose to the UK licensing authority the launch of a new licence category which would include HF bands access with only a 5wpm morse test. This was in direct contradiction of the findings of the RSGB's own membership survey conducted a few years before. Worse, the Society was proposing to challenge the IARU's policy of not lobbying for any change to the CW requirements in ITU Regulations. Those concerned with IARU Regional bodies knew from long experience that it was essential that the body spoke with one voice to the national administrations that had to put forward the hobby's requirements to ITU. For a major organisation such as RSGB to be seen as a dissenting voice would be potentially suicidal. In the face of concerted opposition from within the UK, the RSGB backed down to a certain extent, and embarked on a process of consultation. FOC moved to join the discussion by submitting a paper containing its views and proposals for the future of CW in Amateur Radio. It made preparations to make its voice heard in the changes that would, without doubt, be proposed during the coming years.

### FOC looks to the next sixty years

So, what of the future? Is FOC likely to still be around in another sixty years? Is it possible that Amateur Radio will still be cultivated as a hobby in anything like its present form?

We hear, increasingly, suggestions that the whole survival of Amateur Radio is in doubt. It is said that the 'average age' of amateurs is increasing year on year. And in an era of personal computers, and immediate, cheap, telephone access across the world, it is said that the hobby does not have the same inherent attraction to youngsters as it did in the past. Our 'organising bodies', who often have a direct commercial interest through sales and membership targets, and advertising revenue, are looking to address these trends. Unfortunately, the solutions that they come up with are usually centred around means of providing 'easier' access to the hobby. So the drive is to make the technical requirements simple, and abolish 'blocking' requirements such as code testing. Even assuming that this course of action brings a new flood of entrants into amateur radio, it has not been shown how this will improve the 'quality' and hence the derived satisfaction of the pastime. Quite possibly, it will do no more than introduce quantities of transient users who, like most CBers, will test the water for a short time before moving on to other interests.

Amateur Radio sees huge changes within almost any time frame that might be constructed; from spark to valves to solid state; from pump handles to automatic keyers to keyboards; from CW to AM to SSB; from listening to 'alerting nets' to DX clusters. RSGB's RadCom magazine is often criticised for a reduction in the amount of space allocated to the reporting of 'conventional' operating - DX and Contests. But during recent years, it has had to find room for a multitude of new interests - LF, Space, Microwaves, QRP, and Internet-related topics to name just a few.

The opening paragraph of my current UK station licence is exactly the same as it was when I was first licensed forty years ago. It defines the station use as being 'for the purpose of self-training in communication by wireless telegraphy'. This harks back to the days when a pool of self-trained radio operators was a valuable resource, contributing to national security; and the maintenance of this pool was seen as a principle justification for support of the hobby at national and international level. While many amateurs still make a valuable contribution in conjunction with emergency services, it is inconceivable that we would be called on to play a role in any future international conflict in the way that was seen in the days of World War II. And it is, perhaps, with this in mind, that changes need to be considered.

The likely future of CW as an operating mode is right at the front in this discussion. Looking back through the years, its imminent demise has been regularly, and inaccurately, forecast. As this new History Book is published, the use of Morse Code is disappearing from the world of commercial radio. Many point to this as evidence that it will become increasingly irrelevant to amateurs. But did the introduction of mechanical propulsion to commercial shipping mean the universal end of sail? Of course not. Millions of enthusiasts continue to be dedicated 'wind-users'.

The same applies to the Morse Code. The suggested link with commercial use is totally wrong. Amateurs see it as a worthwhile and enjoyable skill. But we do see what appears to be a reduction in on-the-air usage. An editorial, by Roger, G3SXW, makes some very salient points.

## CW Activity - Roger Western, G3SXW

During the three or four weekends of the year when there is a major CW contest in progress the (non-WARC) bands are filled with morse signals, top to bottom. At pretty well all other times (around 357 days of the year) it seems to be noticeably easier than even a few years ago to find an empty frequency.

Is there less CW activity these days? Judging from the levels of band occupancy we might be tempted to think so. Even when twenty metres is wide open there are empty holes all over the band, especially above 050. Does this mean that there are fewer CW operators these days? This is being suggested and sometimes used as an argument in the current debate about discontinuing morse-testing requirements.

No, I do not believe that there are fewer CW operators these days. Certainly the number of stations participating in CW contests (a quantifiable phenomenon) never ceases to increase year after year. What could be happening instead, may I humbly suggest, is that operating habits are changing. It would seem that these days there is much less 'talking' on the bands and rather more pouncing on a quick QSO. It seems that there are far more people listening instead of transmitting, only becoming audible to us when they decide to call a rare piece of DX or a particular station, perhaps one needed for an award. There is no doubt that the DX Cluster has contributed significantly to this trend. Folks get on with other things in the shack whilst waiting for their computer to beep before paying attention. This may be a sign of the times; the faster pace of modern life leads people to maximise the 'productivity' of their time.

This shift towards shorter contacts is confirmed by noting that when hearing a rag-chew in progress these days it so often turns out to be a FOC-FOC contact. The skill of rag-chewing at a reasonable speed on CW does seem to be declining.

The issue, I feel, is not whether morse-testing should remain mandatory but whether the CW sub-bands can be protected. If occupancy reduces consistently over time then frequency allocations will also be reduced. There is already a gradual drift, over a long period of years, towards more digital signals occupying the CW sub-bands and this trend appears set to continue.

What to do, if anything, about this? Folks cannot be cajoled in to changing their operating habits; so what can be done to increase occupancy of the CW spectrum? If this does not happen then code-free amateurs may increase their demands for voice and digital sub-bands; and will gradually encroach more and more on the CW sub-bands. This could lead to those CW allocations being reduced. And not, in my view, because there are fewer radio amateurs wanting to use CW in that part of the spectrum, but because their occupancy-rate is lower.

Here are two suggestions. Firstly, more pile-ups, more DXpeditions and more special event stations, more contests and more awards. These are what bring the CW operators on to the bands.

Whilst FOCers will continue to enjoy rag-chewing, along with other aficionados and members of other CW clubs, it is no doubt in our interest to promote operating events that encourage more people to use CW on-air. The Marathon, Augie and Windle awards provide this incentive within the club quite effectively. But let us also promote and support non-FOC events. To 'do our bit' by participating in internal club events is not enough if we wish to secure our own self-interest in keeping hold of our CW bands. There is a tendency amongst some FOC members to denigrate these on-air activities, particularly contests, because they occasionally disrupt a rag-chew. Surely the time has come to realise that they serve a very useful purpose and should, instead, be supported. Or at very least not castigated.

A second way that we might contribute to protecting the CW sub-bands is to go public in support of wider CW frequency allocations for Novices. Is it really necessary to ban them from the frequencies where practically all of the CW activity takes place? Would it not encourage them to use CW more if they were able to find contacts more easily? That would surely be for the long-term good of our favourite mode.

[1/99]

So where does CW potentially fit into a revised licensing structure? Those that suggest that it has no place at all may have a point. But as the discussion continues, it is becoming very obvious that there is a strong body of opinion against an overall simplification, or 'dumbing down' of entry requirements. Again, a comparison with the world of sailing shows that there is no shortage of amateur mariners who are prepared to cope with the increasingly complex, and usually voluntary, requirements for the various available qualifications.



Perhaps, in the rush to answer the assumed problem, we have settled for an easy solution rather than the right one. One way or another, the amateur licensing structure will, without doubt, change in the coming years.

Where does FOC fit into this? Within our ranks, we have many of the best known and active amateurs in the world. We have the potential to make our voice heard to those who make the decisions; and it will be important that we make sure that we do this. Our approach will be to try to ensure that the hobby develops along lines that maintain it as a challenging interest. This may, or may not, include a mandatory CW test as part. It will be for FOC, and similar organisations, to promote CW as an enjoyable and worthwhile part of the hobby. The days in which we could rely on all newcomers to the hobby being 'forced' to learn the code are, without doubt, drawing to a close.

The Sixty Years of FOC has covered remarkable changes in technology, the hobby and, indeed, most aspects of life. Through our ranks have passed many of the best and most respected names in amateur radio. During all of this time, the Club has provided an outlet for the dedicated CW enthusiast - in its support of on-the-air activity and through the broad range of social contact that it stimulates. There should be no doubt over the ability to adapt to the changes that will come in the future. FOC will continue to play an important and worthwhile role - whatever that might turn out to be.

The last word comes from someone who was, in fact, never a member of FOC!

### CW Forever!

You must have, at times, thought into the past,  
Where some things go out, while others last,  
What comes to my mind is the Old Morse Code,  
That has weathered the storms from any abode.

To talk with one's fingers, is surely an art,  
Of any info you are to impart,  
In most conditions the signals get thru,  
While the same about phone is simply not true.

Those dits and dahs cut through the trash  
Of nearby noise or lightning's crash,  
To the sensitive ears of the ham receiver  
Who records this data with ardent fever.

He knows he's doing something unique,  
(In such poor conditions, that's quite a feat!)  
To roger the message that came off the air.  
These brass pounders sure do have that flair.

They say Morse ops are a dying breed,  
But don't despair, there's always the need,  
That when conditions get rough for the automation,  
Be rest assured, there'll be need for your station.

CW is dying? Believe it never,  
This mode will be 'round forever and ever.  
But one thing is sure, what we really need,  
Is to relay our knowledge to the youngest breed.

To carry the torch, long after we're gone,  
To send Morse Code thru the air like a song,  
When at last, Silent Keys pull that final lever,  
We can rest in peace, it's CW forever.

With acknowledgements to Jim Hatherley, WAITBY, and VWOA Newsletter).

# Appendix

## AMATEUR RADIO - THE FUTURE

First Class CW Operators' Club submission to the Radio Society of Great Britain  
August 1998

### I. Abstract

The First Class CW Operators' Club (FOC) offers this submission regarding the future of Amateur Radio in the UK. There are complex issues facing the Amateur Radio service which in essence comprise two major facets, namely:

1. The licensing requirements for access to Amateur Radio. This includes, inter alia, the regulatory environment that might prevail following IARU deliberations at conferences over the next few years;
2. The way in which Amateur Radio actually operates in practice which is not necessarily governed by regulatory regimen nor by commercial practice.

It is proposed that:

- It is inappropriate and undesirable to continue the trend of continual lowering of standards for whatever reason but especially in pursuit of numbers, expressed either as members of the RSGB or as quantity of licence holders;
- Capability in Morse code is no longer a fair sole differentiator between those that have access to HF and those that do not. However, it is an excellent candidate amongst others for demonstration of capability, commitment and worthiness;
- Whilst it may, in time, no longer be an international requirement, ability in the use of Morse code will continue to be a valid Amateur Radio skill;
- The fact that use of CW is rapidly diminishing in the commercial world is irrelevant to its validity as a useful mode for Amateur Radio communications;
- There is scope for a higher class of Amateur Radio license than the current Amateur-A;
- There is no validity to the argument that the standard of entry requirement to the hobby is unattainably high.

FOC wishes to see standards in Amateur Radio maintained and if possible enhanced. Whilst there should be routes into the hobby that are easy, those routes must be merely a beginning and those who aspire to full rights should be willing to work for them. There is especial concern in the membership that unregulated access to the spectrum below 30MHz will result in anarchy akin to that to be heard every day on Citizen's Band frequencies.

FOC as a long established Amateur Radio society wishes to be involved in this debate and stands ready to contribute as appropriate.

### II. Introduction

Authorities throughout the world and notably in the UK, USA and Canada at this time, are considering the basis of licensing for the Amateur Radio service. Key issues in the debate include the matter of Morse code as a requirement for access to the HF bands and the more general considerations of access standards and licence classes.

The RSGB as a primary influence in the Radio Amateur's relationship with the Radio-communications Agency has requested input to the debate from Radio Amateurs and Radio Amateur organisations.

The First Class CW Operators' Club (FOC) is a British club originally formed in the 1930s and with members throughout the world. Many of its members are UK licence holders. FOC is an activity club dedicated to excellence in Morse code operating on the Amateur bands. Membership requirements are stringent and the world-wide active membership is limited to 500.

FOC respectfully makes the following submission for consideration in this important debate.

### III. The role of CW

Morse code (CW) has a distinguished history, which predates radio communication by several decades. To this day it remains an efficient and cost effective means of communication, especially for Radio Amateurs who in many parts of the world operate on limited budgets and with poor access to modern technology. Historically knowledge of CW has

also been perceived as a reasonable prerequisite for access to the HF bands. There are thus two separate issues here, namely *use* and *prerequisite*, that should be considered independently.

#### A. *CW as a means of communication*

It is proposed that CW is a valid means of communication today and will remain so in the future. Although CW has been largely (not totally) replaced by other means of communication in the commercial world, this in no way compromises its validity as a means of *Amateur* communication. Consider the following:

1. At virtually any time of the day or night, a scan across the Amateur bands will reveal as many, if not more stations using CW as are to be found on any other mode. CW contests, for example, continue to attract increasing participation and standards continue to rise;
2. Generally, the extremes of behaviour (e.g. bad pile-up discipline, foul language etc.) are far less evident on CW than on speech modes;
3. There is plenty of empirical evidence that CW operators *enjoy* their hobby more and put more back into the Amateur radio service;
4. CW is bandwidth efficient and can be sent and received with simple equipment;
5. There are many occasions where CW is the optimal mode and sometimes the only mode that will work. Consider, for example, aurora, moon-bounce and QRP activity;
6. The art of good CW is a genuine skill that sets its exponents apart from the norm and validates the concept of self training which is an important part of the *raison d'être* of Amateur Radio.

The argument that CW is no longer prevalent in the commercial sector is thus irrelevant and should be discounted. CW *is* relevant to Amateur Radio and has an important place now and into the future.

#### B. *CW as an access prerequisite*

If CW is a valid means of Amateur communication, then is it also a reasonable access prerequisite for HF operation? FOC considers that it is but one of a range of expressions of capability which might be tested as part of the licensing requirement. Thus:

1. A CW test in isolation is not rational: why not an English elocution test for SSB or a typing test for data modes? The requirement dates back to a period when these other modes were not commonplace. Had they been so, then no doubt the licensing authorities of the day would have specified a need for related tests;
2. The CW test, as it stands, in no way prepares the candidate for CW operation on the air. Very little CW is sent at 12 WPM these days and even less is sent on a straight key. The test is thus something of an anachronism as it stands;
3. Yet the test does have validity in that it requires some commitment from the examinee to meet its requirements and as such imposes a *quality assurance* process on those who wish to operate on HF.

It can be seen then that the CW test is useful as one of a range of access qualifications but that its standard is inadequate given the present-day use of CW on the air.

### IV. Regulating access to the bands

It is clear that CW has been part of an access regulating process. Some factions argue strenuously that it is no longer a valid regulator and in principle, FOC has sympathy with this view. However, it is not acceptable to remove the requirement without considering what might replace it.

FOC considers that the standards required for general access to the HF bands must not be lowered further. The following reasons are advanced for this assertion:

1. Radio equipment is increasingly hard for the home enthusiast to maintain. The self training that used to occur from home maintenance is therefore not readily available and other ways must be found to ensure that the knowledge is extant;
2. The general level of competence displayed on the bands today is much lower than in generations past. This is despite the fact that the hobby has become far more complex in the meantime. A further reduction in competence will compromise the standing of the Amateur Radio service and contribute to its decline;
3. There is a tendency towards *instant gratification* expressed as an unwillingness to work for something that is worthwhile. Yet something that is achieved without effort will tend to have little perceived value and therefore not worthy of protection. Amateur Radio should be perceived as a worthy goal which justifies the effort required to attain it;
4. Radio communication and technology skills are what differentiate Amateur Radio from unregulated services such as CB. De-skilling Amateur Radio will ultimately remove that differentiation, with inevitable consequences.

### A. *Replacing or supplementing Morse code*

FOC considers that competence in Morse is and will remain a core requirement for active proponents of the hobby. However it is also recognised that there are many other competencies that are equally important, most of which are not tested in any way whatsoever under the present licensing regime.

Morse code should therefore be considered one of a set of tests that might be imposed for a given class of license. It could even be that some level of choice might be exercised by the examinee. For example, there might be six (say) components to a given test, of which Morse is one. Candidates are required to pass at least four of these but have a choice regarding which four they attempt.

Examples of components that might be included in such a test regime include:

- Morse code
- Construction skills
- HF operating skills
- VHF operating skills
- Contesting
- Digital modes
- Specialist communications (moon-bounce, aurora etc.)
- Antenna technology
- Propagation
- Safety in the shack

Morse stands its ground as a pre-eminent communications mode and does not require an obligatory test to reinforce its status. It should take its place amongst a family of competence tests that collectively demonstrate the capability of the individual to be a Radio Amateur and to maintain the status of the service.

### B. *Maintaining standards*

From the above, it is concluded that there is a clear case for maintaining standards and that this is, in large part achieved by access controls. FOC considers that there is a strong case for *enhancing* the standards in Amateur radio and this raises the spectre of a range of licensing levels. This might also be called *incentive licensing* and it is a practice that has existed in other countries, notably the USA for many years. It is interesting to reflect on the fact that the highest class of license available in the UK is barely the equivalent of the USA General Class, which in that country is the third in a five level licensing system. Although there has in recent years been a two-tier system in the UK (novice and full) and differentiation between HF and VHF articulated by the need for Morse, this hardly constitutes an incentive licensing system.

### C. *Licence class proposals*

FOC proposes a three level licensing structure with the middle class broadly similar in standard to the present Class-A licence.

#### 1. **Higher or Extra Class**

FOC considers that there is an excellent case for classes of license beyond Amateur-A which keen exponents of the hobby might pursue in return for enhanced facilities. Golden opportunities to introduce such a system were missed with, inter alia, the awarding of 6m and the WARC bands. There is a clear opportunity afforded by the long overdue need to bring UK power levels into line with Europe. The UK "Extra Class" could be the way in which such a move could be made palatable to the Authorities.

This class should carry with it a CW capability requirement that is consistent with standards on the bands today; probably about 20 WPM as a minimum. The class could also confer privileges such as exclusive access to desirable portions of the bands.

#### 2. **General Class**

The present A-class license represents a bare minimum in terms of knowledge required vs. benefits conferred. It is clearly preposterous to suggest that this represents too high a level for aspirants to achieve. One need only consider the vast number of people, this author included, who were able to pass the much harder written test of 30+ years ago at the tender age of 15. We are by common consent a better educated nation than we were 30 years ago so what possible logic can there be in *reducing* standards? CW might be one of the optional modules for this class of licence in the manner discussed above.

### 3. Novice Class

Finally, a case does exist for an entry class license to act as a "taster" for those who are unsure whether their interest will mature. In years past this would have been achieved via an *apprenticeship* as a Short Wave Listener. Regrettably this seems to no longer happen, with all too obvious effects on our bands today. The novice license scheme introduced in the UK some years ago seems to provide a fair basis and it should have a place in a new licensing scheme. There is no doubt scope for improvement to the class but that is considered outside the scope of this paper.

### 4. HF/VHF differentiation

There seems little point in perpetuating this class distinction which has, since its inception been divisive. If we accept the provision that CW is no longer the sole prerequisite for access to the HF bands then the need for HF/VHF differentiation disappears.

The same arguments, presented above, for higher levels of demonstrated competence apply equally to VHF. Indeed, it might be argued that VHF is technically more challenging and that indeed even CW has an important place at VHF by virtue of its pre-eminence in aurora and moon-bounce activity.

FOC therefore proposes that there should be no HF/VHF differentiation from a licence requirements perspective.

## V. Transition

An awkward problem to be resolved is transition of existing Radio Amateurs onto a new licensing class structure. As a general principle, it is proposed that retrospective legislation is inappropriate and that therefore it is not feasible to annexe privileges from those that already enjoy them.

Thus, if spectrum segmentation by class were to be adopted, the current Class-A licensee would probably have to be offered the highest class licence in the new structure, simply to keep what he already has. Similarly, should the new licensing regime contain limitations on the use of frequencies above 30MHz, then current Class-B licensees would have to be offered the licence class that did not carry such limitations.

Conversely, if the only differentiator between classes were to be privileges not yet conferred such as higher power then the transition process is simplified and existing licensees would become General Class licensees with the option to upgrade. This is a simpler proposition and is perhaps more palatable.

New licensees or those seeking greater privileges to those currently held would be obliged to satisfy the criteria associated with the enhanced privileges desired.

## VI. Band Planning

Over the years, the CW segments of virtually all-Amateur bands have been eroded by the emergence of new modes and in some cases by encroachment from existing modes. This has broadly speaking been accommodated by the CW fraternity because of the inherent spectral efficiency of CW together with improving selectivity in equipment.

If CW is dropped as a licence requirement then it opens up the prospect of much greater use of the HF spectrum and by definition these new users would be using modes other than CW. A strong case can therefore be made for keeping and perhaps even reinforcing band plans. It might be that compulsory band planning would be required to offset the inevitable tendency for the relatively inefficient voice modes to usurp CW spectrum.

Certain bands may require a review of sub-band edges and there is no doubt that the CW segment could be reduced on some of them, notably 28MHz. This perhaps provides an opportunity to define a class of licence that specifically uses that recovered spectrum. Conversely, the 10.1MHz band would have to be strenuously protected from any encroachment of wide band modes, including SSB.

## VII. Assuring the future of Amateur Radio

FOC asserts that the future of Amateur radio is not aided by the remorseless reduction of standards that seems so prevalent in other walks of society today. Yes, Amateur Radio has to appeal to people of all age groups (not just the young) in order to survive but it is a myth that licence requirements are a barrier to that appeal.

Amateur Radio will survive by remaining a worthwhile pastime that requires commitment and offers a lot in return. That is the route to long term participation. Reduction in standards may bring a short-term influx of new blood but this is unlikely to result in sustained interest, long term. Easy come, easy go.

Unfortunately, there are other very real barriers to the growth of the hobby and the Society would be well advised to focus its attention on matters such as

- The way the RAE is operated. It is preposterous that one can only sit the RAE twice a year and that the results take months to arrive. It is also outrageously expensive. These factors do create a real obstacle to the aspiring Radio Amateur at a time when his commitment is still unclear. Contrast this with the operation of the American tests which is superior in every regard;
- The tendency for people to live in ever-smaller properties, combined with ever more onerous and expensive planning permission issues. This is a real barrier to HF operation in particular;
- The illogical urge to compare Amateur Radio with, for example, the Internet and computers. They are totally different and in many regards complementary. Amateur Radio uniquely provides a way to communicate without needing to use (and pay for) someone else's infrastructure. Amateur Radio's "Internet" is a natural phenomenon: the ionosphere;
- The service element of Amateur Radio. Of course it is true that we live in a country where natural disasters are, thankfully, very rare and a good infrastructure generally exists. Amateur Radio has nevertheless shown its capabilities in recent years in disasters such as Lockerbie and has for many years provided a basis for a productive career in electronics and telecommunications;
- The way Amateur Radio is marketed to and perceived by the general populace.

### VIII. FOC position and recommendations

This paper has sought to discuss the general issues relating to Morse code and expand into areas such as licensing and the place Amateur Radio should occupy. In conclusion a summary of FOC's position and recommendations is presented.

1. CW is and will remain a valid mode for Amateur Radio use, both because of its useful characteristics and for its pure enjoyment;
2. CW can no longer be considered uniquely appropriate as an access control to the HF bands;
3. CW should be one part, possibly optional amongst a group, of access controls;
4. The standard of access requirements must not be diluted and could usefully be increased to take account of the greater technical complexity of today's Amateur Radio;
5. There is scope and pressure for a higher class of licence than the present A-licence;
6. There is scope for a higher speed CW test as part of the proposed higher-class licence requirements.
7. Transition between the current licensing regime and the new structure should be done on the basis of no loss of privileges for those presently holding licenses. Those wishing to upgrade or obtain a new licence do so by obtaining the appropriate qualifications.
8. There is scope for simplification of the *process* by which licenses are granted, in particular by reforming the way the RAE is operated;
9. The issue of take up in the hobby will not be satisfactorily resolved in the longer term by reducing the competence levels required for a licence;
10. There are socio-economic issues that prejudice the continued well-being of Amateur Radio, including population pressures on housing and open space;
11. Inadequate marketing of Amateur Radio has led to it being perceived as a "Geek pastime" with no account taken of its considerable contribution to society and industry;
12. We must stop trying to draw comparisons between Amateur Radio and computers/the Internet.

### IX. Participation

FOC stands ready to participate in the furtherance of this important debate.

[This paper represented the discussed Committee views and was written by John Linford, G3WGV]





## FOC All-time Membership List

Note: Many early records of the club are incomplete. '0047' indicates that the information was not shown in a News Sheet. Some of this information may conflict with other information that was published in the past. However, this has been checked against a number of sources and is believed to be accurate. 'Other Calls' are those that have been registered in connection with address changes and do not include temporary call signs.

FOC #	Call sign	Name	Joined	Left	Other Calls
Pre-war members					
	E15M	W. G. Gillan	0438		
	G2RO	W. A. Roberts	0438		
	G2ZQ	I. Hunter	0438		
	G5BW	R. B. Webster	0438		
	G2AO	F. E. Wingfield	0538		
	G2SG	F. A. Robinson	0538		
	G2UJ	C. H. Allen	0538		
	G3FB	A. L. Cusden	0538		
	G5KV	A. W. Leonard	0538		
	G5LP	Lionel F. Parker	0538		
	G5OQ	E. F. Baker	0538		
	G5UA	J. G. Ward	0538		
	G8AX	T. C. R. Littlemore	0538		
	G8CK	W. E. Bartholomew	0538		
	G8HA	J. H. Emmerson	0538		
	G8IT	E. G. Thomas	0538		
	G8PG	A. D. Taylor	0538		
	G8QR	R. Brake	0538		
	G8WI	C. R. Thompson	0538		
	G5IH	G. C. Turner	0738		
	GI6TK	F. A. Robb	0738		
	G8SD	R. A. Simpson	0738		
	G2CF	W. A. D. Howes	0838		
	G2RC	B. E. P. Sadler	0838		
	G2XG	J. M. Davie	0838		
	G5JM	H. E. James	0838		
	G6PZ	R. F. Weston	0838		
	G6WY	H. A. M. White	0838		
	G8AB	J. M. Raiton	0838		
	G8CV	T. M. Galloway	0838		
	ZB1P	C. J. Peach	0838		
	G5XC	G. Haworth	0938		
	G6GL	G. R. Lee	0938		
	G6QB	L. H. Thomas	0938		
	G6ZO	J. M. Kirk	0938		
	ON4XX		0938		
	G2QO	A. C. F. Dearlove	1038		
	GM3BA	T. P. Douglas	1038		
	GW5KJ	K. M. C. Evans	1038		
	G8VG	W. H. Windle	1038		
	GW2NG	J. R. M. Sutton (?)	1138		
	G5RX	S. Newall	1138		
	G6DK	F. A. Boyce	1138		
	G6LP	J. H. Goodliffe	1138		
	G8IY	T. Toward	1138		
	G8PQ	D. C. Dery	1138		
	ZB1R		1138		
	G2FT	J. W. Wells	1238		
	G2QY	G. P. Anderson	1238		
	G3OI	R. Wilson	1238		
	G6HB	T. H. Beaumont	1238		
	G5II	F. J. Issac	1238		
	G5TR	N. A. L. Timbers	1238		
	G6ZY	S. Ingram	1238		
	G3BQ	H. Banting	0139		
	G3DT	L. R. Crawley	0139		
	G8PF	H. B. Bennett	0139		
	GM3RL		0339		
	GI5NJ	F. R. Neill	0339		
	G8NS	W. D. Johnson	0339		

FOC #	Call sign	Name	Joined	Left	Other Calls
	GW6AA	D. Mitchell	0439		
	G6YR	R. W. Rogers	0439		
	G2SO	Mal Geddes	??39		
	G4CJ	C. Sharratt	??39		
	G5RV	Louis Varney	??39		
	G6FO	Austin Forsyth	??39		
	G5DQ	P. Broom	0739		
Post-war members					
1	G6FO	Austin Forsyth	0047	0273	
2	G2ZC	Fergie Houston-Fergus	0047	0157	
3	GC8NO	Bob Postill	0047	0058	
4	G3VM	F. W. Fisher	0047	0047	
5	G5IH	G. C. Turner	0047	0154	ZB1IH, G5IH
6	G8VG	Bill Windle	0047	0184	
7	G5RV	Louis Varney	0047		VK91V, CX5RV
8	G2VV	Jim Roe	0047	0168	
9	G6PJ	B. Pashley	0047	0054	
10	VP7NI	Dave	0047	0063	
11	G8PG	Gus Taylor	0047		GW8PG
12	GM6RV	Bill Stirling	0047	0657	
13	G2SO	Mal Geddes	0047	0597	ZE3JO, Z23JO
14	G5JP	C. J. Peach	0047	0849	
15	G3BA	Tom Douglas	0047	0063	
16	G3DQ	Cliff Metcalfe	0047	1260	
17	G8UT	Bert Challis	0047	0565	
18	G2NM	Gerry Marcuse	0047	0561	
19	G5IM	H. E. James	0047	0047	
20	G4FN	Jack Wakeman	0047	0375	
21	G2IO	Jack Lees	0047	1275	
22	G3VA	Pat Hawker	0047	1051	
23	G5LH	Reg Mitchell	0047	0356	
24	GM3AWP	David Craig	0047		
25	G5US	J Croysdale	0047	0047	
26	G3FZ	Vin Penfold	0047	0065	
27	OZ7BO	Bo Nielsen	0047	0156	
28	G3ATU	S. A. Herbert	0047	0058	
29	G2YY	Syd Young	0047	1252	
30	G6HB	Tom Beaumont	0047	0386	GW6HB, G6HB
31	G6VC	Vic Curling	0047	0481	
32	G5LC	Leslie Cooper	0047	0774	ZS6BDO, G5LC, ZL2BKC, G5LC
33	G8DV	Joe Morgan	0047	0353	DL2DV, G8DV
34	G2CIW	Jack Moseley	0047	0755	EK1CW, CN2AP, G2CIW
35	G4GF	H. F. Briggs	0047	0047	
36	G5XY	Jack Davis	0047	0058	
37	OZ4FT	P. C. Scheller	0047	0058	
38	G5SK	Henry Maycock	0047	0058	
39	G3VB	Peter Gammon	0047	0047	
40	G3ACC	Meg Mills	0047	0664	
41	G3AAE	John Kay	0047		
42	G6AX	A L Clare	0047	0047	
43	G6PZ	R. F. Weston	0047	0047	
44	G8JI	T. F. Higgins	0047	0058	
45	OZ7T	S. H. Hasselbalch	0047	0754	
46	GM3NH	Jim Gouck	0047	0656	
47	G3QB	H. Nicolas	0047	0047	
48	G6NM	E G Houldsworth	0047	1051	
49	G6NA	'Spenny' Spencer	0047	0269	
50	G3ARM	Dick Ramsey	0047	0058	

FOC #	Callsign	Name	Joined	Left	Other Calls
51	G8AX	Tom Littlemore	0047	0054	
52	G6ZN	Tom Herdson	0047	0063	
53	G6II	Bill Craig	0047		
54	G6GB	G. H. Billison	0047	0270	
55	LA3VA	Egil Larsen	0047	0058	
56	G4IF	E. A. Heaton	0047	0047	ZB1IF, G4IF
57	G2FTU	I. R. Perry	0047	0657	
58	G5PS	Hamish Catt	0047	0756	
59	G8QZ	Harry Sills	0047		
60	G6QB	Tommy Thomas	0047	0666	
61	G6YR	R W Rogers	0047	0047	
62	G2SA	H A Savage	0047	0058	
63	OZ1W	L. P. G. Wormer	0047	0047	
64	HB9AG	E. Huber	0047	0047	
65	G5HU	Bob Holden	0047	0555	
66	G3ABG	John Morris	0047	0176	
67	P9LT	Eric Ludwig	0047		DJ0ZY, F9LT
68	G4DR	D. P. M. Urquhart	0047	0047	
69	G3AJ0	P. C. Dickinson	0047	0054	
70	G6SS	Geoff Kingsbury	0047	0657	
71	G3SB	Chas Bryant	0047		GW3SB
72	W1BUX	Doug Borden	0047	0064	
73	G3WP	Jack Brazil	0047	0588	
74	SM7XV	Boije Mattson	0047	0047	
75	G2FIX	Bert Newman	0047	0897	
76	G3BQ	Hugh d I Banting	0047	0047	
77	G8UK	J. Turnbull	0047	0054	
78	GW8WJ	Phil Evans	0047	0269	
79	GM3AXR	Jack Carr	0047	0058	
80	VK4EL	E. J. Lake	0047	0064	
81	G8ML	L. W. Lewis	0047	0252	
82	GW6OK	Bill Jones	0047	0657	
83	G3ACK	J. W. Hogarth	0047	0062	
84	G8PX	'Jeff' Jeffries	0047	0363	
85	G4AU	A. W. Gover	0047	0047	
86	G5NB	C. A. Harnwell	0047	0047	
87	G8SM	Alan Mears	0047	0365	
88	GW5OD	A. Ogden	0047	0849	
89	G3CAF	R. Tillyard	0047	0047	
90	ZL1MR	R. E. M. Barnes	0047	0047	
91	G3BLN	P. M. Trowbridge	0047	1051	
92	AP5B	Dave Bofin	0047	0657	G3HS
93	G8TP	P. H. Askew	0047	0058	
94	G6HD	Lyell Herdman	0047	0356	
95	G3BUE	John Gomer	0047	0558	
96	SM7HZ	Thure Gyllenkrok	0047	0054	
97	G3AMG	G. G. Jessup	0047	0058	
98	G5VB	Frank Bott	0047	0062	
99	GM6XI	J. Wilson	0047	1051	
100	G3AIL	H. R. Twist	0047	1051	
101	GI5UR	Bob Barr	0047	0568	
102	G2PL	Peter Pennell	0047	0057	
103	LA2UA	Bob Hope	0047		SZ4LW, LA2UA
104	VK3KX	S. R. Coleston	0047	0055	
105	PA0IQ		0047	1252	
106	GM6IH	G. H. Hardie	0047	0047	
107	GI6TK	Frank Robb	0047	0050	
108	G5XC	G. Haworth	1247	0657	
109	VQ4HIP	John	0047	0058	VQ3NIP
110	GM5UT	A. H. Lawson	0047	0047	
111	VK5NR	Noel Roberts	0348	0582	VK3NR, VK9NR, ZL3OZ, VK3NR
112	OZ2NU	Borge Petersen	0348	0867	
113	OZ7BR	J. Rasmussen	0348	0156	
114	G3BIN	A. Bosten	0348	0553	MD7AB
115	G2LI	C. H. Wilkonson	0348	1051	
116	G8QR	R. F. C. Brake	0348	0150	
117	G8PQ	Doug Derry	0348	0062	
118	VS7BJ	Bill Jones	0348	0054	G3BBP
119	G3BPZ	T. G. Mitchell	0348	1049	
120	G8IH	N. T. J. Bevan	0348	0053	

FOC #	Callsign	Name	Joined	Left	Other Calls
121	G8TD	W. H. Dyson	0348	0054	
122	PA0XE	Evert Kalevald	0348	0893	OA7I, OA4KF, PA0XE, I2XKP, D10XI
123	G3ACR	H. C. Harris	0448	0351	
124	G3AKY	A. J. Lloyd	0448	0058	
125	GM5BA	G. F. Steven	0448	0653	
126	ZL4CK	W. F. Self	0448	0053	
127	ZL4BQ	F. E. Frame	0448	0053	
128	W1DTS	W. Gibbs	0448	0956	
129	ZL1BY	W. A. Wilson	0448	0064	
130	G2KF	J. A. Partridge	0448	0259	
131	D2KW	Peter Golledge	0448	0376	G3EDW
132	G2AO	F. E. Wingfield	0448	0568	
133	G3IY	Jim Pollard	0048	0053	
134	G5NP	C. L. Ware	0448	0762	
135	G3CKL	John Bell	0448	0459	
136	F8EX	I. Deminal	0448	0053	
137	G3BEG	P. C. Bond	0448	0063	
138	G3ABB	Cliff Penton	0448	0063	
139	G3CED	George Partridge	0648	1067	
140	G3AGQ	Bob Eldridge	0648		VE7BS
141	LA4NA	B. Barth	0648	0053	
142	G2ATZ	Jim Harris	0648	0657	
143	ZL2GO	Harold Fownes	0648	0557	
144	G3AXV	Reg Freeman	0648	0062	
145	G3CIM	D. Clapp	0648	0454	
146	G6FU	Jimmy Cant	0648	0172	
147	PA0TM	T. O. Cadell	0648	0053	PA0TOM
148	G3APQ	E. Searle	0648	0354	
149	F8EO	F. Bevierre	0648	0053	
150	G3BYQ	W. G. Dunlop	0648	0358	
151	G5LP	L. Parker	0648	0150	
152	SM5GL	G. Eriksson	0648	0459	SM4GL
153	G2PC	Geoff Davies	0648	0066	
154	G4CP	Ron Perks	0648	0290	
155	PA0MM	W. Metzelaar	0748	0053	
156	G5VF	Charles Matthews	0748	0556	
157	G2JF	Jim Foster	0748	0568	
158	G2PFD	Bill Limehouse	0848		GW2FDF, G2PFD
159	G2DAN	E. Whiteley	0848	0053	
160	G3BFG	G. F. Grenyer	0848	0058	
161	GC2FMV	E. S. Chapman	0848	0277	G12FMV
162	VK3NC	Norman Cameron	0848	0469	
163	HB9ET	K. Ruesch	0848	0053	
164	G2HDT	Ted Crouch	0848	1270	
165	G2YS	John Swinnerton	1048	0991	
166	LA3BA	I. Tonnessen	1048	0054	
167	G6LD	Larry Lamb	1048	0058	
168	OZ7FP	E. Phillip	1048	0053	
169	G3CYL	G. J. Bennett	1048	0053	
170	G3BIU	Jack Dunn	1048	0053	
171	G3DHZ	R. Penfold	1048	0653	
172	G3DFI	Vic Thorne	1048	0053	VS1BX, G3DFI
173	G3COI	John Worthington	1048	0062	
174	ZD4AB	T. F. Hall	1048	0054	G2TH
175	G8WI	C. R. Thompson	1148	0053	
176	F3AD	Jean Juniet	1148	0053	
177	G3ATL	D. I. Wiggins	1148	0053	
178	G3DKZ	Frank Lynes	1148	0253	
179	G3DFL	G. C. Hill	1148	0851	
180	G8AV	Frank Goodman	1148	0455	
181	G8CK	Bill Bartholomew	1148	0469	
182	ON4QF	Mick	1148	0062	
183	G4RS	W. E. Corbett	1148	0756	
184	G3DCN	F. A. Barrell	0249	0852	
185	LA2OA	Vic Iversen	0249	0053	
186	D2CH	Bob Roberts	0249	0058	G2HIL, DL2CH, G2HIL
187	ZL4GA	Alan Frame	0249	0174	

FOC #	Callsign	Name	Joined	Left	Other Calls
188	G3DOZ	Jack Smith	0249	0254	
189	G3AH	John Wightman	0249	0062	ZLIAH
190	ON4TW	Jules Janssens	0249	0956	
191	G3AIX	A. E. Parsons	0249	0351	
192	G5UW	S. H. Pattison	0249	0053	G5UW
193	PA0LJT	Jan	0249	0058	
194	G6QA	J. A. Whiteley	0249	1051	
195	G6NB	D. N. Biltcliffe	0249	0756	
196	W4KFC	Vic Clark	0249	0184	
197	G3AUR	J. Bradbury	0349	1069	GM3AUR, G3AUR, G13AUR, G3AUR, GW3AUR, G3AUR
198	G2D1V	George Haylock	0349	0270	
199	G3BYF	P. Sawyer	0349	0053	ZS8YF, G3BYF
200	G2BTO	Gerry Openshaw	0349	0058	
201	G6AT	Frank Aughtie	0349	1269	
202	G3CSH	Harold Sear	0349	0752	
203	G8MU	Justin Egerton	0349	0568	
204	G8HH	H. T. Jeal	0349	0555	
205	G3PU	Ernie Orchard	0349	0156	
206	G3AW	T. Arnold	0349	0651	
207	LA5B	Erling Karlson	0349	0053	
208	G3DAO	Pete Cutler	0349	0756	
209	G3BGP	John Wilson	0749	0755	
210	G3CTE	Rolly Duesbury	0749	0657	
211	GM5JK	L. R. Harper	0749	0058	
212	EI9J	Paddy Smyth	0749	0291	
213	G6LF	I. H. Goodliffe	0749	0053	
214	G3EQQ	C. W. Dickinson	0749	0351	
215	G2CG	C. W. Howes	0749	1267	
216	G2CLL	G. F. Eglesfield	0749	0058	
217	G4NB	G. B. Moss	0749	0058	
218	VK4RC	R. Campbell	0749	1150	
219	G3BKO	J. C. Evans	0849	0751	
220	G5RZ	Alan Wood	0849	0063	
221	EI9Q	R. W. Madigan	0849	0053	
222	G3CRF	A. W. Jones	0849	0054	
223	ON4IE	S. Houbaert	0849	0062	
224	G6LH	Len Hodge	0849	0054	
225	G3DGO	Angus Campbell	0949	0054	
226	G3EIZ	Stewart Lyon	0949	0062	
227	W2QHJ	Howy Bradley	0949	0293	
228	ZS6KK	Marie Kramer	0949	0053	
229	XZ2FK	F. E. King	1049	0053	G2FK
230	G6QN	Reg Baker	1049	0955	
231	G2OQI	J. Harvey	1049	0955	
232	G3FEX	B. C. Oddy	1049	0054	
233	G3FAB	A. Bowman	1049	0955	
234	G3AAM	Jack Mann	1049	0654	
235	G8QJ	Dan Gledhill	1049	0058	
236	G3AWL	Tom Luxmore	1049	1092	
237	KG6DI	C. W. Cox	1049	0053	
238	G3BKY	L. P. Barnes	1049	1272	
239	G3EXR	A. R. Allen	1049	0058	
240	G3COZ	Stan Kelly	1049	0058	
241	G5HB	Harry Biltcliffe	1049	0062	
242	G2FSR	J. A. Hunt	1049	0053	VS6JH
243	G3ECB	J. Jardine	1049	0053	
244	G3DYQ	P. R. Smith	1149	0762	
245	W4NNN	Bob Denniston	1149	0373	W0NW, W0DX
246	KV4AA	Dick Spenceley	1149	0982	
247	G3AAU	Bob Kenny	1149	0058	GM3AAU, VELAYE
248	G2QB	Bill Bailey	1149	0976	
249	G3BQM	J. F. Winter	1149	0054	
250	ZL3GU	Jack Keys	1149	0062	
251	G8GB	J. F. Salisbury	1149	0053	
252	G3DCS	Enver Chaudri	1149	0762	
253	G2BGG	John Garner	1249	0053	

FOC #	Callsign	Name	Joined	Left	Other Calls
254	G3CPZ	S. C. Gousens	1249	0058	
255	GM3XO	I. R. Macpherson	1249	0282	
256	G3EFF	P. G. West	1249	0054	
257	PA0DV	D. de Vries	1249	0058	
258	PA0IF	Ian Kroon	1249	0359	
259	G2MX	A. R. George	1249	0053	
260	HB9BX	Werner Salquin	1249	0058	
261	G3DMG	Syd Johnson	1249	0062	
262	GM3CXE	D. Brabner	1249	0053	
263	G8IP	George Barrett	1249	0469	ZC4IP, 5B4IP, ZD7IP, G8IP
264	G13AXI	Bob Boal	0150		G3AXI
265	G3DGG	Bill Henson	0150	0756	
266	G3EIX	Peter Naish	0150		VK2BPN
267	G3LP	Norman O'Brien	0150	0391	
268	G2XG	I. M. Davie	0150	0053	
269	PA0LR	Rien Smit	0150	0062	
270	VS7NX	I. C. White	0150	0867	4S7NX
271	G2AIU	Jack Cowles	0350	0968	VK6EJ
272	G3DTF	Tom Bone	0350	0657	
273	G5XB	Stan Cook	0350	0062	
274	G6QC	E. Pethers	0450	0054	
275	VK4RF	Fred Lubach	0450	0051	
276	G1DQE	E. Boran	0450	0053	
277	G3PGT	Leon Crosby	0550	0376	
278	G3EYO	Judy Duesbury	0550	0657	
279	G4LV	B. M. Selby	0550	0553	
280	GW3ZV	John Banner	0550	0062	
281	ZL4FO	S. T. Hudson	0650	0453	
282	SM5IQ	Alf Lindgren	0650	0053	
283	ZS6DO	O. W. Reid	0650	1152	VQ4ERR, VQ4DO
284	G5FA	Percy Solder	0650	0577	
285	G2QC	F. Dearlove	0650	0053	
286	G3ESY	Peter Jones	0650		
287	PA0GS	G. A. I. Schiere	0750	0053	
288	G3BGD	F. Ward	0750	0053	
289	GD3PBS	Harry Grist	0750	1276	
290	G3BRV	Bob Bennison	0750	0762	
291	EI6U	Ian Morris	0750	0657	
292	G3FTV	F. A. Grant	0750	0873	
293	G2HKU	Ted Trowell	0750		
294	VQ3SS	Ernie Lawden	0750	0060	VQ4SS, VQ3SS
295	VE1PA	G. H. McKenzie	0850	0366	
296	G3DSW	Don Wood	0850	0066	
297	G3FGR	Pete Wingrave	0850	0259	
298	G3BHE	N. H. Gwynn-Jones	0850	0054	G4VH
299	SM5DZ	E. Jacobsson	0850	0058	
300	G2IN	J. G. Stonestreet	0850	0064	
301	G3BDQ	John Heys	1050	1269	
302	OZ6M	N. A. K. Albret	1050	0252	
303	GM3FXM	Jim Christie	1150	1174	
304	F3NB	Andy Bartemes	1150	0064	
305	G3DXJ	Tom Holbert	1150	0557	VS6CQ, G3DXJ
306	G4RJ	B. Farleigh	1150	0376	
307	G3JNY	G. N. Roberts	1250	0053	
308	VK3FH	Doug Paine	1250	0064	
309	G3GBB	Alec Munro	1250	0368	VQ2W, ZB5JU, G3GBB, VQ2W, G3GBB, VS9AAM, MP4BCO
310	G3CXA	Keith Ormerod	1250	0156	
311	G2OG	J. Hogg	1250	0054	
312	PA0PN	Piet Neve	0151	0053	
313	G8PB	Peter Tremaine	0151	0657	
314	G8PS/1	Mrs D. Catt	0151	0756	
315	G3AKU	R. A. Harding	0151	0063	
316	GC2CNC	'Monty' Banks	0151	1179	G12CNC
317	HB9HT	Hans Waldvogel	0251	0058	
318	SM4ALB	Helge Sioberg	0251	0657	
319	SM5AQW	Ian Gunnar	0251	0753	

FOC #	Callsign	Name	Joined	Left	Other Calls
320	G2LU	Bert Clater	0251	0194	GC2LU, G12LU
321	G3FCW	G. Denby	0251	0058	
322	SM5HD	I. Persson	0251	0657	
323	SM5LL	Hil Andersson	0351	1067	
324	G3GVA	Johnny Bratby	0351	0058	
325	G3FXA	Bill Spray	0451	0454	
326	VE3BWY	'Ham' Whyte	0451	0788	
327	G2AAS	H. E. Sutton	0451	0762	
328	GM3COQ	Dave Oswald	0551	0058	
329	G6HW	F. James	0551	0053	
330	G3CPT	D. A. Capp	0550	0462	
331	G3HVG	Pete Windle	0551		VS7XG, 4S7XG, G3HVG, VU2XG, VP5XG, 6Y5XG, G3HVG, HC1XG, G3HVG, G8VG, GW8VG, G8VG
332	G3AIW	R. C. P. Earwell	0551	0053	
333	G3DRE	P. H. H. Jones	0551	0768	
334	G4GT	L. J. Groves	0551	0955	
335	G3GRL	John Bonser	0551	0156	
336	G1FZQ	Adam Forsythe	0651	0156	
337	VQ2AB	Buggy Burgoyne	0651	0053	
338	G2DPY	Stan Mercer	0751		
339	PA0ZQ	P. v d Valk	0851	0058	
340	G5OQ	Ern Baker	0851	0054	
341	GM3EST	Andy Sinclair	0851	0363	
342	G6NV	A. Hargreaves	0851	0955	
343	OZ7BG	B. Storer	1051	0156	
344	G8KP	Bill Pickard	1051	0689	
345	GM3GOF	Tommy Macaulay	1051	0457	
346	G6GN	Harry Gratton	1050	0060	
347	G3HUD	Peggy Holden	1051	0062	VS1FY, G3HUD
348	G3GIO	Dave O'Connor	1151	0566	
349	G3HGE	Tom Withers	0152	0060	
350	G6ZG	Hugo Lawley	0152	0269	
351	GW3HEU	Denis Rickers	0152	0064	
352	G3FXB	Al Slater	0152	1292	
353	G3EBA	Dave Wilde	0252	0058	DL2BA
354	G3GOX	Ann Walford	0252	0867	
355	ON4AZ	L. Sanders	0252	0756	
356	G3EDE	N. Clark	0252	0054	
357	OZ4SM	Bert Anderson	0252	0657	
358	SM7BLF	Alf Persson	0252	0657	SM4BLF
359	G2CFS	Dick Howard	0352	1173	
360	G3EBH	Cliff Newby	0352	0559	
361	4X4BX	Sam Monastinsky	0352	0064	
362	OQ5RA	Andy Roba	0352	0062	
363	VE2BV	Don Murphy	0452	0755	
364	G3ETU	Les Toke	0452	0657	
365	GM3DJT	Jim Mitchell	0452	0058	
366	PA0DN	Fred Gerlings	0452	0956	
367	ZB2I	Edwin Wills	0452	0263	
368	G3GYQ	Chris Spackman	0452	0753	
369	G3HMB	Ian Elliott	0552	0062	
370	G3CKF	Geoff Mason	0652	0358	
371	G3EKG	Ricky Prevett	0652	0058	
372	G3AET	John Watson	0652	0062	
373	G5ML	Fred Miles	0752	0657	
374	ZS5AM	Allan	0852	0071	
375	WB8RA		0852	0062	
376	GC3HFE	W. Breton	0852	0054	
377	OZ7KV	Kaj Andersen	0852	0062	
378	KH6ES	Melvyn Ellison	0952	0058	
379	GM3AEL	Sandy Smith	0952	0375	
380	MF2AG	Duncan Doleman	0952	0053	VQ4ALF
381	ON4DX	Jo Duchene	1152	0155	
382	ZS2BC	Eric Lowe	1152	0373	ZS5ND, ZS1A
383	G8KC	H. T. Jonguehaye	1252	1067	
384	G6XY	Roger Webb	0153	0762	
385	G3US	Ron Shadlock	0153	0062	

FOC #	Callsign	Name	Joined	Left	Other Calls
386	G3BDS	Ken Whithorn	0153	0561	
387	G12DYF	Cyril Butler	0153	0658	
388	HB9EU	Rudy Faessler	0153	0053	
389	G2FFY	Wally Evans	0153	0156	
390	G2MI	Arthur Milne	0153	0462	
391	G2ZZ	Bill Peek	0153	0173	
392	G3RD	Eddie Stevens	0353	0365	
393	GM3IDR	Don Robertson	0453	0657	
394	OH2YV	John Velamo	0553	0459	
395	W1NLM	Ey Erickson	0553	0960	
396	OH2NB	Armas Valste	0653	0156	
397	FF8AG	Ivan Plastre	0753	0059	F3AT
398	OZ4KT	Knud Thomsen	0753	0053	
399	G3IEW	Stan Heard	0753	1272	
400	G3HQQ	Lew Ely	0753	0464	
401	GM3GUS	David Scott	0753	0174	VK5DS
402	GM3HXT	Bob Innes	0753	0272	VK2NF
403	G3ANK	Alan Swindon	0753	0792	
404	G3IPC	'Ben' Benstead	0853	0058	
405	G3HSL	Fred Peppert	1053	0058	
406	OZ9DX	Ben Jorgensen	1053	0657	
407	G3IXX	Ernie Hamlet	1053	0857	
408	G4VF	R. Ferguson	1053	0568	
409	G3INR	Peter Buchan	1053	0671	
410	IIAIV	Giuseppe Cannito	1153	0060	
411	DL3SZ	Adi Vogel	1253	0060	
412	G3IV	T. Orr	1253	0657	
413	G3IPN	Ken Norwall	0154	0657	
414	DL7AH	Harry Lilienthal	0154	0359	
415	DL7AA	Rudi Hammer	0154	0657	
416	G3HCL	Danny Lockyer	0154		9M2LO, GW3HCL, VR1AA, GW3HCL
417	OH2MA	Eero Ollikainen	0154	0156	
418	G3IOE	Joe Brown	0354	0062	
419	DL9PR	Hermann Pratsch	0354	0168	
420	G3IND	Derek Boyle	0354	0065	ZD2IND, 5N2IND
421	G2XB	Phil Barnes	0354	0657	
422	G3GZB	Stuart Radcliffe	0354	0760	
423	SP3AN	Wes Wysocki	0454	0058	
424	G3CFG	Dick Lancaster	0454	0756	
425	G3PR	S. Jeffs	0454	0062	
426	G4IC	H. Clarke	0454	0158	
427	OZ4HF	Frans Hermanson	0554	0657	
428	G4TM	Tony Maguire	0654	0469	
429	VQ4EI	Doug Taylor	0654	0159	ZC4DT
430	W5FXN	Jim Price	0754	1284	WA4DGI, WA9USM, W8FXP, W4TO
431	DL1CO	Eugen Englert	0754	1058	
432	HB9OP	Theo Vogel	0954	0657	
433	G3IHF	John Harris	0954	0060	
434	DL3RK	W. Geyrhalter	0954	0060	
435	CR7LU	Dona Santos	1054	0568	
436	E19Y	Sim Farrelly	1054	1164	
437	DL1XA	Dick Dargatz	1154	1272	
438	SM5WI	Harry Akesson	1154	0374	
439	W2ESO	Gene Black	1154	0062	
440	VQ2GW	George Wafer	1254	0568	9I2GW
441	G3IDI	Ken Stellis	1254	0462	
442	YO3RF	George Craiu	1254	1286	
443	DL1EE	Igor Falster	1254		
444	G2FT	John Marlow	1254	0756	
445	G3GUV	T. Griffin	1254	0058	
446	G6GM	Harry Merriman	1254	0657	
447	VK4FJ	Roy Baxter	0155	0484	
448	SM5AHK	Curt Israelsson	0155	0568	SM0AHK
449	G3JJZ	Dave Newton	0155		
450	G3RF	David Harries	0355	0568	
451	DL6TQ	Hans Bohmer	0455		



FOC #	Callsign	Name	Joined	Left	Other Calls
452	SM5AWJ	Karl Ljunge	0455	0364	
453	G3JLB	Les Belger	0455		
454	VQ4RF	R. F. Featherstone	0555	0657	
455	G3JRL	S. Sawyer	0555	0167	
456	IT1AGA	Guis de Luca	0655	0683	IT9AGA
457	FA9RW	Gaston DeVille	0655	0657	
458	CE3DZ	Alfredo Quintana	0655	0762	
459	MP4BBL	Gerry Gayton	0655	0071	
460	G3PST	Eric Woods	0655	0063	
461	G3ELZ	Pete Peterson	0855	0062	
462	DL6YE	Willy Sanner	0855	1162	
463	VK5BY	Doug Whitburn	0855	0658	
464	W8NBK	Earl Reichman	0955	0270	
465	D11SZ	Kurt Steinger	0955	0469	
466	ZS6WJ	Mrs Ella Dunkerley	0955	0269	ZS1WJ
467	W2CC	Al Scarlett	0955	0374	K1CC
468	VK4YP	Ingram Patterson	0955	1174	
469	G3GMY	Frank Green	0955	1272	
470	P9RS	Chas Saniez	0955	0657	
471	W9IOP	Larry LeKashman	1055	1178	W2IOP, W9IOP, W2IOP, W9IOP, W8AB, W2AB
472	F3CT	Marcel LeBrun	1055	0062	
473	G3ILL	Arthur Mabbutt	1155	1278	
474	G2RF	H. D. Bramwell	1155	0164	
475	DL9TJ	Gerry Blechert	1255		
476	G3HHT	John Bastord	1255	0685	ZC4GB, G3HHT, W1QK, G3HHT
477	SM5OCE	Kjell Edvardsson	1255		SM0CCE
478	G3CGD	John Yeend	1255	0373	
479	G3IMV	John Hunter	1255	0295	
480	SM5ALM	Hans Malmston	0156	0058	
481	OH1RX	Mauri Luukkala	0156	0461	
482	VK3CX	Alan Brown	0256	0170	
483	W5GEL	Bob Douglas	0265		
484	SV0WL	Ted Beyer	0456	0060	K1ASW, DL4HP
485	VU2MD	Dady Major	0456	1276	
486	VU2JG	Jalesh Ganguli	0456	0568	
487	W4ML	Tom Stuart	0556	0064	
488	YU3BC	Franc Bogataj	0556	0657	
489	DL1YA	H. Schleifenbaum	0556	1283	
490	W8OCT	Bill McNeil	0556	0278	W8IG
491	VP7NG	Glen Van Voorhis	0556	0373	KP4AGR, W4PDZ, KX6AA
492	G13BH	George Henry	0556	0568	
493	W8DAW	Russ Whitehurst	0756	0378	
494	LA5HE	Rag Otterstad	0756		OZ8RO
495	CR6AI	John Chaves	0756	0793	D2AA1, CT1REP, CT1AIU
496	DI2DP	Horst Birow	0756	0259	
497	VK5BO	Bert Williams	0756	0064	
498	W8DUS	Al Kahn	0756		K4FW
499	VQ5GC	Neville Jackson	0756	0062	VQ3GC
500	ZS3Q	P. B. v Heerden	0756	0762	ZS6SR
501	ZD2DCP	Don Piccirillo	0856	0060	
502	GM3WU	D. Monteith	1056	0062	
503	OK1MB	Beda Micka	1056	0062	
504	ZD6BX	Vic Thorne	1056	1161	VQ3HD
505	OY7ML	Martin Haasen	1056	0375	
506	K5ABW	Jim Price	1056	0062	
507	W6KG	Lloyd Colvin	1056	0062	
508	G3JEO	Cecil Sadler	1056	0060	
509	G3GNR	Bob Short	1056	0064	
510	SM5BCE	Erik Soderberg	1156	0177	SM0BCE, SM5BCE
511	DL7AB	Gerhard Raz	1156	0568	
512	VK3RJ	Ray Jones	1156	0787	
513	K2BZT	H. W. Evans	1256	1290	
514	W2HMI	Aug Nickel	1256	0777	WA4STL, W4NDU, W4GK

FOC #	Callsign	Name	Joined	Left	Other Calls
515	K6DDO	Dave Morgan	1256		
516	HB9KB	Ernst Hausheer	0157	0762	
517	VK3XB	Ivor Stafford	0257		
518	SM5KV	Olle Ekblom	0257		SM0KV, OA3Y, SM0KV
519	W1CWX	Willis Johnson	0257	0062	
520	F3DM	Antoine Mercader	0257	0674	
521	G3KMO	Mike Birch	0357	0293	
522	G3ABS	D. Heath	0357	0064	
523	W8KPL	W. Simpson	0357	1083	
524	W6NNV	N. F. Wasson	0357	0762	
525	ZL2AFZ	George Studd	0357	0373	
526	VK3PG	A. C. Zander	0357	0461	
527	HA5AM	J. Emmer	0457	0062	
528	GM3ITN	Les Hamilton	0457	0064	
529	W8DLZ	N. C. McPhail	0457	0660	K7GNA
530	W8ESR	W. Barnes	0457	0364	WA6AMZ
531	G3KKZ	P. Champion	0457	0558	
532	G3IEA	Eric Alban	0457	0373	
533	VS9AG	Lee Grant	0457		ZD3G, MP4BCN, VQ6NG, 6O2NG, G3XNG
534	SM7MS	Rune Rasmusson	0457		
535	W9FKC	Mike Hexter	0457		
536	G5JU	J. N. Walker	0457	0159	
537	W3KIF	R. Stephenson	0557	0172	
538	VK3KB	A. L. Kissick	0557	0867	
539	KP4BU	Luis Gandia	0557	0066	WA4EWS
540	ZL3JA	H. J. Rowe	0657	1057	
541	PA0LZ	M. J. v Schagen	0657	0270	
542	T1BLF	Jack Mior	0657	0762	
543	G3WL	S. Rance	0657	0568	
544	G3INQ	W. J. Fuller	0757	0175	
545	G5BZ	George Bennett	0757		
546	SM6AMR	L. Edebrink	0757	0065	
547	GW3BQY	R. Edwards	0757	0374	
548	W6RW	Roger Mace	0857	1058	
549	VO2NA	Jack Willis	0857	0469	
550	XE1PJ	Arnold de Jager	0857	1165	
551	UB5DW	Anatoly Chichko	0857	0064	
552	T12PZ	Jose Zuniga	1057		
553	G3KMQ	R. G. Heslop	1057	0885	ZC4PB, 5B4PB, G3KMQ, 9N1NV, G3KMQ, GM3KMQ
554	G3FNF	Ray Hargreaves	1057	0379	EP2RH, ZD7RH, G3FNF, JY9PC, G3FNF
555	W1YNP	Bob de Bragga	1157	0062	
556	W2CTN	Jack Cummings	1157	1272	
557	YU3EU	V. Svetopolk	1157	0867	
558	EA1BC	A. Maitrot	1157	0060	
559	W2DGW	J. Lubinski	1157	0062	
560	W2GT	Ed Hopper	1257	0488	
561	W8UPN	Newt Grieson	1257	0595	KP4UPM, KP4BET, W8UPN, W2DNG, W2HH1, W9JK, W8RT
562	EA4BH	Luis Viguera	1257	0358	
563	D11VC	Hans Fischer	1257	0762	
564	LA5S	Emil Standal	1257	0279	
565	W2JDR		0158	0568	
566	W2MWY		0158	0568	
567	G3FIQ	David C-Dutton	0158	0171	
568	G3INE	Bob Conway	0258	0063	ZB1FA
569	DL4AAP	S. Fason	0258	0762	W6GHM
570	G3IIE	D. E. Tomkinson	0258	1271	
571	G6IC	D. Rains	0258	0377	



FOC #	Callsign	Name	Joined	Left	Other Calls
572	G3IQE	J. E. Fuller	0258	0060	
573	K2ECL	Neil Morris	0358	0568	
574	G3IOR	Pat Gowen	0358	0393	
575	OY2H	Hans Egholm	0458	0671	
576	G5OW	Bill Wigg	0458	1278	
577	W1QVZ	T. D. O'Conner	0458	0366	
578	W3VKD	Art Lewis	0458	0762	
579	G3MD1	M. F. Plummer	0458	0885	
580	F8CS	Jean Malnaty	0458	0060	
581	G3AIP	John Baker	0558	0175	
582	GJEHO	W. G. Walton	0558	0064	
583	JT1AA	L. Kloucek	0558	0762	
584	LA3DB	T. Soloy	0558	0463	
585	G2CBA		0558	0460	
586	G3CQE	W. M. Brennan	0558	0372	
587	ZL1MT	Arthur Stevens	0558	1289	
588	G3JIG	Gerry Gearing	0658		
589	KL7MF	Hal de Voe	0658	0568	
590	W2MUM	Elliott Wolheim	0658		
591	W6OZ	R. W. White	0658	0062	
592	W6YMD	W. B. Guimont	0658	0060	
593	W5ADZ	B. A. Beard	0658	0194	
594	11FO	F. C. Orefice	0658	0879	12FO
595	G3LWS	Ted Ross	0658	0387	5B4CZ, GM3LWS
596	G3FAS	Alex Dixon	0658	0185	
597	G8GP	Eric Neal	0758		
598	PA0LOU	Louis v d Nadort	0758		
599	SM2BCS	'Gus' Gustafsson	0958		SM3BCS
600	G3FIU	R. Crowther	0958	0568	
601	G3JVC	John Cleeve	0958	0365	
602	G3FUR	F. K. Parker	0958	0064	
603	G2LB	T. Martin	0958	0673	
604	G3BQR	C. Lennox	0958	0871	
605	G2FXB	S. Brigham	0958	0066	
606	W5KF	K. F. McKesson	1058	0460	
607	W3LMA	E. Dillmeier	1058	0579	
608	G8KW	Rowley Shears	1058	0380	
609	SM7QY	Gunnar Ekstrom	1058		
610	W2FSN	J. Walker	1058	0062	
611	G3IPB	Frank Bliss	1158		
612	E141	P. Halpin	1158	0164	
613	PI2ME	V. La Bega	1158	0469	
614	W1JYH	Roger Corey	1158		W1AX
615	G8KS	S. L. Hill	1158	0376	
616	W8ZY	K. A. Duerk	1158	0464	K4CT
617	G3HDB	Jim Whitby	1258	0690	
618	G3KHZ	D. Cox	1258	0567	
619	DL1QT	Helmut Baumert	1258	0380	
620	W8JIN	J. W. Ringland	1258	1275	
621	UO5AA	G. V. Petrovich	0159	0062	
622	4X4KK	M. M. Minzari	0159	0064	
623	G3JUL	Geoff Voller	0159		
624	W2HWA	S. Belcher	0459	1271	
625	UC2AA	Val Benzar	0559	0062	
626	DI2RT	K. Iochum	0559	0062	
627	W2EQS	Chas O'Brien	0559	0882	W9NEC, W2EQS
628	UF6FB	S. Kiknadze	0559	0065	
629	G13GPE	K. Smethurst	0559	0568	G3GPE, VQ4IN, G3GPE, 9M6KS
630	W1TYQ	V. L. Crawford	0559	0679	HZ3TYQ, W1TYQ, W8NUV
631	G3HIS	George Berrisford	0559	0289	
632	SP5HS	Chris Slomczynski	0759	0373	
633	W4D1HZ	'Nap' Perry	0759	0469	
634	N/I				
635	G3KLIH	Dave Alexander	0759	0062	
636	ST2AR	Eric Dowdeswell	0759	0270	G4AR
637	G3KLM	P. J. Lemoine	0759	0179	
638	W3PZW	R. A. Young	0759	0386	

FOC #	Callsign	Name	Joined	Left	Other Calls
639	GM3IAA	Jim Macintosh	0959	0183	
640	G6ZY	Stanley Ingram	0959	0379	
641	VQ3CF	H. A. Seaman	0959	0065	VQ4CF, ZL1AYO
642	G3IAF	Art Trigell	1059	0180	
643	G5LO	H. I. Long	1059	0064	
644	VE7KX	I. T. Hepburn	1059	0269	
645	G2BB	Don May	1159	0272	
646	G3BRE	R. Jones	1259	0272	
647	G5CG		0160	1168	
648	G5VU	Stan Henton	0260	0373	
649	G3DCV	Alan Watson	0260	0398	
650	W2WS	J. M. Jeffords	0260	0065	
651	G4IA	A. D. Stenning	0260	0270	
652	W4HYW	T. Moss	0260	0374	
653	G3ADG	H. Swift	0360	0463	
654	G3CHN	Roger Thorn	0360	0693	
655	DL6PI	W. Scheidweiler	0360	0689	
656	SP2AP	Alfons Strzelecki	0360	0064	
657	W2PZI	R. Malanowicz	0460	0484	W2CY
658	ZS1AL	Vidi La Grange	0460		ZS6AL
659	G3LIG	J. W. Sole	0660	0269	
660	K5ADQ	Mrs N. Boyd	0660	0671	
661	W5QVZ	T. J. Boyd	0660	0671	
662	GM3LYS	D. McCansh	0660	1067	VE2ALV, GM3LYS
663	ZS1RM	Mrs M. Snyman	0660	0172	
664	G3KGB	Ron Robson	0760		ZC4BI, G3KGB, ZC4BI, G3KGB
665	W5LEF	W. E. Petty	0760	0469	
666	DU7SV	V. Sotto	0860	0773	WB6EFY
667	OZ4FF	Karsten Tranberg	0860	0270	
668	DL9PF	Walter Vedder	0860	0382	
669	ZE8J	W. Buxton	0860	0270	
670	K6ENL	A. B. Cash	0960	0165	
671	G3LKZ	Owen Jackson	0960		5N2LKZ, OA4MS, G3LKZ, A9XU, G3LKZ
672	VK3AZY	T. Hunt	0960	0365	
673	W1BIH	John Thompson	1060		
674	W3GJY	J. F. Wojtkiewicz	1060	0568	
675	K2UYG	W. R. Scheider	1160		K2YT
676	PA0BW	Hein Spootenberg	1160		
677	G5DU	H. Percy	1260	0568	
678	G3CFX	O. J. F. Davidson	1260	0568	
679	W2AMS	H. J. Treger	1260		
680	G3LCG	Peter Bateman	0161	0296	5B4PB, G3LCG
681	K6CQM		0261	0064	
682	G5BJ		0361	0470	
683	W4IMI	Ken Cole	0361	0476	
684	K2PC	Sid Shore	0461		K1SS
685	VK3ARX	C. Serle	0461	0270	
686	K2CPR	Jack du Bois	0461	1175	K2OO
687	G6CL	John Clarricoats	0461	0469	
688	GM3KBZ	J. Dunlop	0461	0064	
689	F9MS	C. Ronsiaux	0461	0280	
690	YN4AB	H. G. Heinrich	0461	0170	HK3NQ
691	G3LPQ	P. C. Frizzell	0461	0469	
692	SM5BPJ	S. Ericsson	0461	0374	
693	W5LGG	L. G. Parsons	0461	0065	
694	K2UKQ	Kay Gaynor	0461	0375	
695	GM6RJ	Walter Robertson	0461	1187	
696	K8GHC	R. Bernstein	0561	0173	W6IDR
697	ZS6DM	D. Bernhard	0561	0172	ZS5ND
698	K9KD1	Gene Socher	0561		N9SW
699	W6CG	Bud Schultz	0561	0985	
700	W5WW	W. W. Adams	0761	0568	
701	LA2YE	Arvid Sending	0761	0381	
702	G3JFF	Mike Matthews	0761	0597	ZB2AM, G3JFF
703	W2RA	R. Anders	0761	1271	
704	KH6ACU	D. E. Barhart	0761	1272	W6UNP

FOC #	Callsign	Name	Joined	Left	Other Calls
705	YU3OS	Lado Catar	0761	0272	
706	W6TPJ	G. A. Edmisten	0961	0568	
707	W4BPD	Gus Browning	1161	0568	
708	DL9KP	Paul Kleinholz	1161	0381	
709	G3AWZ	G. Pearson	1161	0066	
710	GW8WJ	Phil Evans	1161	0363	Reissued with #78
711	G8PL	L. A. Kippin	1161	0173	
712	DL1GV	H. Soujon	1161	0172	
713	SM7BVO	Rolf Carlson	1161		
714	W3KDP	R. W. Collins	1161	0271	
715	JA5AJ	B. A. Yamasita	1161	0063	
716	SM4BZH	S. J. Lilya	1261	0496	SM5BZH, SM6BZH, SM0BZH
717	LA6CF	J. S. Aabech	0462	0066	
718	W5CK	G. H. Pickett	0562	0469	
719	W5LAK	John Garrett	0562	0469	5A5TA, MP4QBB, OD5EE, W5WC, A9XW, G5APC, AM5APC, LA0BW, GM5APC
720	WA2BQK	K. B. Schaffer	0562	0065	
721	G8JR	N. P. Haskins	0562	0374	
722	G2UX	George Edwards	0562	0179	
723	PA0LXL	L. Haas	0562	0773	
724	W9IHN	C. R. Pendl	0562	0380	W9IA
725	OD5LX	Ted Truskowski	0562	1295	
726	FA9UO	R. Fritsch	0562	0469	F9UO
727	W1JNV	A. Burnett	0562	1175	
728	VE3CJO	H. D. Gray	0562	1169	
729	W8EWS	G. Fuller	0562	0065	
730	K5BGB	Rod Hotz	0562	0467	
731	K5UYF	John Kanode	0562	1179	W4WSF, KZ5II, W4WSF, N4MM
732	W2SAW	A. N. Ringle	0562	0291	
733	W1MD	S. J. Connolly	0562	0668	
734	G3GUP	Ted Howell	0762	0772	
735	W4CKB	Bev Cavender	0762	0380	K4VW, W4ZD
736	ZL2GX	Jock White	0762	0469	
737	DJ4KW	G. R. Sapper	0762	0270	
738	G8J	R. H. Farr	0762	0569	
739	G3GIQ	R. Handley	0762	0469	
740	G2GM	Don Cawley	0762	0875	
741	GW3OAY	Neil Graham	0762		G3OAY
742	G6VQ	T. E. Wilson	0862	0779	
743	G3HIW	Fred Jarvis	0862	0583	
744	G3MXI	Dennis Andrews	0862		9J2MX, G3MXI
745	W3KA	R. B. Ladd	0862	0671	
746	G3PLQ	John Walton	0862	0274	
747	GM3NYY	Walt Davidson	0862	0469	
748	W4BI	R. Farwell	0962	1074	
749	VP8GQ	Peter Hobbs	1062	0867	G3LET
750	SA3BC	P. Crosbie	1062	0366	MP4DAH, SA3TQ, G3NMQ
751	GM3MCH	N. Stewart	1062	0775	
752	G3FPK	Norman Fitch	1062	1072	
753	GM8CH	G. M. Reston	1062	1082	
754	ZS1OU	I. Snyman	1062	1179	
755	G3MRP	Stan Butlin	1162	1268	VS9MP, G3MRP, 9V1PA
756	GM3KTZ	Ron Lindsay	1162	0365	
757	VK3AXK	Russ Coleston	1162		VK3KX, VK4XA
758	W5VA	Frank Smith	1262	1072	
759	VR2DK	Owen Marshall	1262	0391	VK8OM, ZL1BKF
760	W1WLW	J. Watson	1262	0469	
761	W5PM	Jack Swanson	1262	0378	
762	K4JYQ	Mrs E. Field	1262	0568	

FOC #	Callsign	Name	Joined	Left	Other Calls
763	W0DU	R. Keller	1262	0373	
764	G3PRM	Jim Forsyth	0163	0873	
765	W6ISQ	John Troster	0263		N6IQ, W6ISQ
766	G5RS	E. W. Rawlings	0263	1176	
767	G3FKM	John Allaway	0263	0283	
768	G3KGV	Ken Bates	0263	0071	
769	ON4IZ	Doc Von Kets	0263	0978	
770	W3CXX	R. F. Mihalick	0263	0374	
771	GM3HUN	Bill Hunter	0263		
772	G6LX	Ron Glaisher	0363	0579	
773	W4CZ	J. Martineau	0363	0370	
774	W1HGT	Ralph Green	0363		W1HT
775	SP6BZ	W. Ziolkowski	0363	0064	
776	W6YY	John Knight	0363	1279	
777	G5VM	Vic Desmond	0463	0469	
778	W7HKT	E. Squier	0463	0568	
779	W1RAN	Ned Raub	0463		
780	K6EC	E. Thatcher	0463	1275	
781	W0MLY	G. McKecher	0463	0373	
782	G3LQP	R. Brown	0463	0671	
783	W1BGW	J. Berman	0463	0373	
784	K4OYR	S. Hummel	0463	0671	
785	G3IGW	Mike Whitaker	0663		
786	G3ORH	Colin Harris	0663	0469	
787	6O1ND	Norm Duxbury	0663	0883	W1W1Q, K4CTY, VU2AAA, K4CTY, YB0ACT, K4CTY, WD4K, KN1D
788	W4W1N	M. Arnold	0663	0175	
789	K9EAB	C. Corne	0663	1269	
790	G3NOZ	W. Bailin	0763	0568	
791	GW3KSQ	C. Jay	1063	0878	
792	G3OZU	A. Brind	0664	0469	
793	G3LGV	Gordon Spencer	0664	0173	
794	EI5AJ	E. Cassidy	0664	1179	
795	GW3MOP	L. D. Watts	0664	0376	
796	GM3KLA	W. A. Sinclair	0664		
797	G3PEK	Barry Simpson	0664	0276	
798	F2MA	Andy Marney	0664		
799	W7PHO	Bill Bennett	0664	0484	
800	VQ2IE	Ian Emslie	0664	0184	9J2IE, ZS2EM, ZS1QD
801	PA0VG	P. v. Geffen	0664	0568	
802	W5PSB	Pat Parrish	0664	0283	K4HXF, K4YR
803	W3MSK	Ed Bissell	0664	0590	W3AU
804	VK6RU	Jim Rumble	0664		
805	G8TP	Bob Askew	0664	0672	
806	W1BPW	Pete Butler	0664		W1LU
807	VK2AGH	G. Hall	0664	1071	
808	W4DQS	Dale Strieter	0664		W4QM
809	W2IDL	M. Waters	0664	0291	W2NZ
810	W2JAE	Clem Colman	0664	0492	W2NQ, W5VQ
811	GW3JI	R. Jones	0664	0271	
812	G3ALI	R. S. Small	0664	0469	
813	W2AGW	Howie Wolfe	0664		
814	G3PFB	E. Milne	0664	0568	ZC4IM
815	G3RIX	M. R. Tetley	0764	0773	
816	W5KZA	A. Walker	0764	0375	W3BMX, W4CXA, W4BW
817	N/I				
818	K3KHK	Bill Opdyke	0964	0477	
819	W3KVQ	Ed Blaszyk	0964	0279	KX6DC, KX6EB, W3KVQ, KX6EB, W3KVQ, W2KV, W3KVQ
820	GW3FSP	Dewi Davies	0964	0279	
821	G3LYW	John Weston	0964	1275	
822	GW3AHN	Tom Higginson	0964	0266	

FOC #	Callsign	Name	Joined	Left	Other Calls
823	KJSDS	Bob Le Page	0964		G5ADE, G0ADE
824	G3OUV	P. Perkins	0964	0568	
825	I1GO	Joe Riera	0964	0285	I0GO
826	D13HW	B. Kaiser	0964	0270	
827	ZL3AB	L. C. Evans	0964	0568	
828	W6EBC	H. E. Royer	1164	0983	
829	D11UE	E. Fleig	1164	0467	
830	XE1AX	Paco Herrera	1164	0173	
831	G3POI	Clive Penna	0165		GM3POI
832	G3HLW	Dave Pilley	0165		DJ0TU, G3HLW, N3AFU, VK2AYD
833	VO1AW	Mitch Mitchell	0165	1291	
834	W1FH	Charlie Mellen	0165		
835	SM3TW	N. Astrom	0165	0469	SM0TW
836	DJ5DT	T. Dambolt	0165	0689	
837	K2AGJ	Eileen Holmes	0165	0197	
838	OX3BZ	S. Maagoe	0765	0867	
839	ZS1XR	E. R. Dalton	0765	0469	
840	G3SWH	Phil Whitechurch	0765	0469	
841	G3LHJ	Derrick Webber	0765		
842	G3BFP	John Headland	0765		
843	W1ZW	Phil Baldwin	0865	0388	
844	W4ZM	Red Redington	0865	1279	
845	K6VVA	R. Hilding	0865	0671	
846	MP4BEQ	Steve Gibbs	0865	0373	GM3MBS, VQ8CC, GM3MBS
847	G3SXW	Roger Western	0865		EP2IA, G3SXW
848	W1BB	Stew Perry	0865	0690	
849	W2BO	'Mac' McIntire	0865	1279	
850	W2GHK	Stuart Meyer	0865	0868	
851	9M4LP	Bob Snyder	0965	0883	9V1LP, W0GTA, LA0AD, LU5EVM, W0GTA, W9GT
852	W1EVT		1265	0568	
853	G3GNM	A. C. W. Biddell	0166	0194	GM3GNM
854	G3ILT	John Williams	0166	0673	
855	D18FW	B. Muller	0166		
856	K1KOM	Dick Cormier	0166	0172	DL5CR
857	W4QVI	Ed Cushing	0166	0296	W1WW, W4GW
858	G3RTE	Jim Kellaway	0166	0469	
859	HA5FW	Racz Andre	0266	0568	
860	W8FGX	I. W. Schott	0266	0171	W8DZ
861	G3UKI	B. J. Curnow	0266	0172	
862	W6PLS	Gene Mathews	0266	0273	W6VK, W7QL
863	G3JQS	Jos Guttridge	0266	0273	
864	G2DC	Jack Drudge-Coates	0266	0669	
865	VK2QL	Frank Hine	0266	0594	
866	G3US	Ron Shadlock	0266	0498	
867	G3RPB	Keith Spicer	0266		
868	9M8RS	Ron Skelton	0366	0782	G3IHP, 6Y5SR, G3IHP
869	G2PL	Peter Pennell	0366	1072	
870	G3RFE	Tom Bell	0366	0283	
871	9H1R	Ron Meachen	0366	0568	
872	G3LNC	Jack Batham	0366	0272	
873	GM3PFQ	John Balfour	0566		
874	W6HAW	I. E. Olsen	0566	0476	
875	W1YYM	Ellen White	0566		W1YL
876	G3SWK	Alex Shearer	0666	0477	
877	G3LIV	Bill Robinson	0666		
878	9V1MT	Harry Pain	0666	1171	G3ATH
879	SM4CLU	L. Lonnqvist	0666	0173	SM5CLU
880	N/I				
881	ON4IB	L. Lafere	0666	0172	
882	SM1CXE	R. Engberg	0866	0572	
883	W2JB	B. N. Lazarus	0866	0570	
884	D18GN	C. Holzhausen	0866	0568	
885	K4SCT	H. Silman	0866	0381	
886	VK3NC	N. Cameron	0866	0469	

FOC #	Callsign	Name	Joined	Left	Other Calls
887	W1TX	R. C. Fosberg	0866	0877	
888	W3WID	'Sig' Sigismonti	0866		N3RS
889	G3UJW	K. Hooper	0866	0981	
890	G3HS	Dave Boffin	0866	0490	
891	ZS1NQ	Miss G. E. Smith	0866	1173	ZS6NQ
892	K3WNL	F. Burdge	0966	0679	
893	G5AAD	Phil La Fantasie	0966	0278	W6DLX
894	DJ0NH	Frank Ellesmere	1066	0373	VK2BFE
895	PY1MCC	R. G. Rolim	1066	0469	
896	VK3KS	Mavis Stafford	1066		
897	WA2DIG	V. C. Ulrich	1066	1092	
898	9H1AD	D. Davies	1066	0270	G3SIQ, GW3SIQ
899	PY2SO	Sonia Rotenberg	0167	0881	
900	W9WNV	Don Miller	0167	0567	
901	W0OAO	Bud Dolsberry	0267	1274	
902	OK1BB	J. Kadlcak	0267	0579	
903	W2HAQ	Heinz Milark	0267	1285	N2LK
904	G4CJ	Cliff Sharratt	0267	1291	
905	OK1AFN	Vrata Vaverka	0267	0376	
906	G3TJD	Nigel Hardy	0467	0185	ZL2BID, ZL2BJZ, ZL1SV, ZL2TX
907	G3ETU	I. Yoke	0467	0184	
908	SM0BDS	Lars Forsberg	0467		
909	WA2YBR	Steve Nurkiewicz	0467	0697	N2DAN
910	W1HX	Norm Young	0467		
911	VK3AXQ	H. Denver	0467	1283	
912	F3CT	M. Le Brun	0467	0581	
913	W1WFO	Bob White	0467		W1CW
914	YU3AR	Drago Grabensek	0467		S59AR
915	G3HZL	Don Walmsley	0467		
916	W1HZ	Howie Ferris	0467	0988	
917	G3OHP	Mike Winter	0467		
918	G8DN	G. E. Dakin	0467	0469	
919	VU2JA	J. Faithful	0467	0573	
920	G3SWV	E. Tompkins	0467	0376	
921	G3PUW	S. Pennington	0467	0883	
922	G8TD	W. H. Dyson	0467	0473	
923	W1VG	L. A. Morrow	0467	0469	
924	G3HCT	John Bazley	0667	0696	
925	9LITL	T. H. Lloyd	0667	0568	
926	ZS6OS	Dan Mahony	0667	0590	
927	VK7SM	Sam Moore	0867	0373	
928	W9SZR	Fred Laun	0867		H18XAL, H53AL, H55ABD, LU5HF1, K3ZO, H51ABD, HK3NBB, K3ZO
929	G3INA	Ron Robinson	0867		
930	GW3NIW	Clive Whelan	0867		
931	G3FJM	C. M. Cummings	0867	0674	
932	K3IH	Joe Hertzberg	0867	0392	N3EA
933	VE3PXR	Rodger McNicoll	0867	0172	
934	VK2VN	Morrie Meyers	0867	0775	
935	SM6CUK	L. G. Persson	0867		
936	G3PNU	E. M. Clark	0967	0568	
937	OH2BDP	Hans Boeltzig	1067		EL0AN, OH2BDP, OH2EA
938	W2DXX	C. P. Sweeny	1067	1175	K2KL
939	G1JEX	David Butler	1067	0182	
940	G3UEN	Rex Stiles	1067		
941	G3DOJ	Bill Omer	1067		
942	EI4BK	T. Deegan	1067	0391	
943	GM3SVK	Fred Curtis	1067	1179	G3SVK
944	G3COI	J. Worthington	1067	1271	
945	K8ONV	Mary Ryden	1067		
946	K8OHG	Ken Ryden	1067		
947	G3DYY	Ross Cary	1067	0289	9L1GC, G3DYY
948	W6HOC	Bob Schmidt	1167		N6EA
949	G3WAU	Don Smith	1167	1275	
950	G8AX	Tom Littlemore	1167	0188	

FOC #	Callsign	Name	Joined	Left	Other Calls
951	DL5YW	Maurice Caplan	1167	0278	VS6AA, G3NWQ, DA2YW, VSSMC, G3NWQ, VSSMC
952	G3KZC	R. F. Harknett	1167	0174	
953	G3TIF	Bill Metcalfe	1167		VE6APN, VE6BF
954	DL4SA	Larry Stracqualursi	1167	0372	
955	W0IDW	John Gray	1167	1273	
956	G3FBN	John Bolton	1167		
957	SM0KY	Per Waland	1167	0398	
958	4X4CI	Bob Avigor	1167	0469	
959	TJ1QQ	Herman Olarte	1167	0279	HK1QQ, HK3QQ
960	G3HBN	L. R. Bolton	1267	0171	
961	G3IAF	Mike Marlow	1267		
962	G2FFO	Dick Johnson	1267	0373	
963	G3OHG	Eddie Simkin	1267	1272	
964	9H1AZ	Ray Thomas	1267	0373	G3IRE
965	G3IHF	Les Easter	0168	0897	
966	W5WZ	Louis Meador	0168	0175	
967	G3PIW	Unsworth	0168	0175	
968	G3IPL	D. Winters	0168	0671	
969	G2PYT	Eric Chambers	0268	0185	
970	G2CJW	Jack Moseley	0268	0788	
971	VE3EWY	Bob Kenny	0268	0178	VP2LY, VE3EWY, VP2LY, VE3EWY
972	G3SII	Chris Burbanks	0268	0175	
973	G3TZM	Bill Mahoney	0268	0378	
974	G3WDA	Mrs L. Lewis	0268	0270	
975	G2ATM	Stan Read	0268	0272	
976	YU2RAK	Neven Megusar	0268	1169	
977	LA9LE	T. Anthonson	0268	0880	
978	ZS5QU	Roy Larsen	0268	0374	ZS6ARS
979	G3SMI	Cliff Birkett	0368	0878	
980	GW3TOW	A. D. Hirst	0368	0372	
981	D13GN	Horst Toemter	0368	0374	
982	G3WSI	Alex Evans	0368	0172	
983	W6WX	David Baker	0468	0871	
984	W3QT	Chas Colman	0468	0272	
985	W4BRB	Gene Sykes	0568		W4OO
986	W1FTX	R. M. Smith	0568	0469	
987	G3TYI	Dave West	0568	0269	
988	G3WPF	Reg Unsworth	0568		
989	G3SXZ	Don Sargent	0568	0791	9I2XZ, ZS5WT
990	G3AAM	Jack Mann	0568	0185	GU3AAM
991	OZ4FF	Karsten Tranberg	0568	1179	
992	DL7DO	Ralf Herzer	0668	0381	
993	G4QD	Ron Delahunt	0668	1173	
994	G3LZE	M. J. Henry	0668	0390	
995	G3UDU	John Walker	0668	1282	DL5ZU, G3UDU, GW3UDU
996	G16TK	Frank Robb	0668	0172	
997	I1SCI	Scian Renato	0668	0469	
998	LA7Y	Chris Amundsen	0668	1292	EA8QQ
999	ZS6MM	H. G. Williamson	0668	0380	
1000	G3TLX	R. Goodman	0668	0296	
1001	W0OAO	"Fritz" Fritts	0668	0179	W0ID
1002	W1MDO	R. Entwistle	0668	0671	
1003	ZD8I	John Beck	0668	0671	
1004	W1BV	Bill Holt	0668	0978	
1005	W2MEL	Al Bry	0668		
1006	VS6FX	Bob Ioll	0668	0477	G3OSY
1007	W1BUX	Doug Borden	0768	0291	
1008	W9VW	Hal Brooks	0768	0193	
1009	W5AE	Lou Peine	0768	0370	
1010	HB9KB	Ernest Hausheer	0768	0381	
1011	G2BOZ	J. E. Bazley	0768	0276	
1012	G3PDL	Peter Linsley	0768		

FOC #	Callsign	Name	Joined	Left	Other Calls
1013	G2KK	Ken Cook	0768	0197	ZL1AXM
1014	D11BZ	Lothar Worner	0768	0469	
1015	PA0FLX	Luc Nijhof	0868	0269	
1016	OZ3CV	E. Cohrt	0868	0488	
1017	G2ACG	F. D. Adalian	0868	1071	
1018	WB2VTM	J. Goldsmith	0868	0469	
1019	W6ZY	George Shields	0868	0579	
1020	K1LWJ	Wendell Boyden	0868	0884	
1021	WA1FHU	Laci Radnay	0868		W1PL
1022	W4ZXI	Russ Wicker	0868	0378	W4WD
1023	W2HZY	George Wright	0868		W2GW
1024	P9OE	Clo Landereau	0868	0376	
1025	Z13S	Gil Sounes	0868	0386	
1026	G8IJ	R. H. Farr	0868	1168	Reverted to #738
1027	G2FN	A. Pollard	0868	0477	
1028	G3ESF	Alex Harrower	0968	0477	
1029	W2NIN	George Miller	0968	0372	
1030	WB2SSK	Bill Steene	0968	1274	WB4VXI
1031	G5RI	Derek Ritson	0968		
1032	W5IAW	J. Parnell	0968	0374	
1033	G3AAQ	Jake Jacobs	0269	0596	
1034	G3TTN	G. H. Haselden	0269	0477	
1035	G3IMP	Syd Poole	0269	1280	
1036	G3NOH	George Eddowes	0269	1275	
1037	G3VNR	Steve Delahunt	0269	1175	
1038	G3OLB	Tom Boucher	0269	0875	
1039	G3OBW	Dave Hobbs	0369	0874	
1040	G3GPG	Don Payne	0369		
1041	G3VMK	Dale Chadwick	0569	0274	
1042	G3TUM	John Stuart	0569	0273	
1043	G5WP	Rusty Russell	0569	0780	
1044	G2FRY	Alex Shillito	0569	0374	
1045	G3XIH	W. R. Dixon	0569	0172	
1046	DL1PM	Ernst Manske	0569		
1047	DJ9SB	Renata Krause	0569		
1048	DL1FL	Alfred Muller	0569	0597	
1049	OK2YL	Svatava Janickova	0569		OZ2YL, OZ7YL
1050	G2RO	Bob Roberts	0569	1274	
1051	G3WMX	Clive Knott	0669	0671	
1052	K4ASU	Bob Webb	0669	0378	W1HOA, W9OCL
1053	K1ZND	Dave Sumner	0669		K1ZZ
1054	XE1TQ	M. I. Graham	0669	0671	
1055	ZD5X	Vic Thorne	0669	0377	3D6AX
1056	W8BOI	Morris Brown	0669	0774	
1057	K4FU	Hank Zimmerman	0669		
1058	W6NWI	Bill Iago	0669	0276	K6WC
1059	K2KUR	Gene Walsh	0669		N2AA
1060	W6CUF	Jim Maxwell	0669		K6AQ, W6CF
1061	VK3MJ	Wally Matters	0769		
1062	W5UX	R. W. Carr	0769	1071	
1063	VK5FM	H. N. Bowman	0769	0987	
1064	ZD8Z	Jim Neiger	0769	0175	9Y4AA, W6BHY
1065	W3NZ	Fritz Hauff	0769		
1066	PY2BGL	Manoel Castillo	0769	0373	
1067	K3MNJ	Jim Talens	0869		K4ABA, N3JT
1068	VP7DX	Don McVicar	0869	0374	
1069	VU2OLK	D. W. Dalrymple	0969	0270	
1070	SV0WP	Vic Tervola	0969	0387	WA3KXA, W3CDM, W4OLR
1071	SM5TK	Kurt Franzen	1069	0379	
1072	HA5DI	Laslo Gogh	1069	0173	
1073	W9AE	Joe Rohrer	1069	0378	
1074	SM0CBC	Einar Lundborg	1269	0881	SM5CBC
1075	W2BAI	Ray Van Handle	1269	0292	
1076	W2AQT	Bob Powell	1269	1287	
1077	YO9APJ	Ady Smitaru	1269	0793	YO3APJ
1078	WB2OZW	Paul Atkins	0170		K2OZ
1079	W0QGI	Lloyd Harvey	0170	0273	
1080	W4NG	Earl Tonjes	0170	1080	



FOC #	Callsign	Name	Joined	Left	Other Calls
1081	W4GRG	Oli Karpathy	0170	0380	K4ON, W9II, K4ON
1082	W1DAL	George Hitz	0170	0588	W1DA
1083	W4AX	Dave Shafer	0170	0979	
1084	W6TZD	Gene Dworak	0170		N6GD, W6TZD
1085	W7SEA	A. Gordon Norris	0170	1289	W7FU
1086	VE2NV	Jim Ravenscroft	0170	0177	
1087	KV4FZ	Herb Schoenhohm	0170	0372	
1088	K4T11A	Jim Roux	0170	0375	
1089	VE2LJ	George Elliott	0170	1170	
1090	KP4CRT	Sergio Rubio	0270		KP4L
1091	DM2ATD	Detlef Lechner	0270	0378	
1092	ZL1AFW	Doug Whillans	0270	1281	
1093	G3XSN	B. Donn	0770		
1094	ZL2AFZ	G. C. Studd	0770	0373	
1095	W1TW	Jeff Borden	0770	1290	
1096	W9BR	A. J. Schultz	0870	0373	
1097	W6VX	Dave Atkins	0870	0194	
1098	G3GJQ	R. Handley	0870	1174	
1099	VK8HA	Henry Andersson	0970		
1100	W4GF	Bill Grenfell	0970	0183	
1101	PJ2VD	Joeke v d Velde	1070		PA0VDV, PJ2VD, PA0VDV
1102	G3YDX	Ron Stone	1070	1274	
1103	VE3AR	Bill Loucks	1070		
1104	W9VNE	Jim Danehy	1070		W8VW, W9VNE
1105	9I2RQ	Alan Carpenter	1070	0375	G3RQT
1106	WA2EGL	Jim Price	1170	0490	WA3QLT, K5ABW
1107	W4UF	Dorethy Saunders	1170	0183	
1108	YU2PG	Rosic Mladen	1270	1284	EL0P
1109	OZ1W	Peter Wormer	1270	0588	
1110	W6LYC	N. L. Brozman	0271	0186	W7XC
1111	9H1BL	Al Cake	0271	0174	G3MOJ
1112	P9RO	Oliver Robert	0271	0386	
1113	W2HI	Alex Ekblad	0271	0572	
1114	W2SUC	Ron Spiro	0271	0287	W2AO
1115	G3KVV	V. Bridport	0271	0272	
1116	K4FP	Jerry Smith	0271	1173	
1117	VK2NS	Trev Evans	0671	0276	
1118	W4PRO	Trace Levy	0671	0582	WA3TLX, W4PRO, W3DA, AB1Y, KA3N
1119	CT1VX	Hel Stubing	0771	0397	DL8CT
1120	W2AIW	Chas Rogers	0771	0781	W4ELM
1121	K4BAI	John Laney	0771		
1122	YU3EY	Tine Brajnik	0771		YT3AA, S52AA
1123	K6OU	Bruce Henke	0771		
1124	K4SHB	Vic Dubois	0871	0274	
1125	W2TA	John Doremus	0871	0375	
1126	G5WQ	Reg Witty	0871	0375	
1127	G3KFB	Ken Parkinson	0871	0373	
1128	G3UAA	Alf Ramsey	0871	0182	
1129	K6RA	Roy Ferren	0871		
1130	W3ML	George Reifenstein	0871	1196	
1131	DL1RK	Jo Doering	0871	1093	
1132	UR5CV	Slav Urus	0971	0375	
1133	GM3CFS	Jim Robson	0971	0278	
1134	G3BA	Jim Maddox	0971	0695	
1135	G3CXE	Doug Brabner	1071		VE7ACZ, VE7CXE, VE7NH
1136	W9HUZ	'Van' van Voorst	1071	0774	
1137	WA2MEQ	Lou Wilson	1071	0387	
1138	G5XB	Stan Cook	1171	0284	
1139	ZD8CW	Paul Ferris	1171		K2UME, W4XF, K2UME, W4MI
1140	K2CD	Norman Bauman	1171	0387	
1141	W5OB	Bob Robertson	0172	0488	
1142	EI9BG	Tom Donnellan	0172		
1143	GM3RFH	Ken Randall	0172	0177	GD3RFH

FOC #	Callsign	Name	Joined	Left	Other Calls
1144	F3AT	Ivan Pastre	0172		
1145	D15ZN	Klaus Beck	0172		
1146	G3DRQ	Eric Freestone	0172	0497	
1147	OZ4UN	Paul Karlshoj	0172	0274	
1148	SM6CMU	Ingemar Olsson	0172	0380	
1149	K3YUA	David Hawes	0172		N3RD
1150	K1LPL	Frank Donovan	0172		W3LPL
1151	W0SMV	Dale Russell	0172	0289	
1152	ZS5BS	Milt Roseveare	0172	0980	
1153	YO3AC	Andy Guirgea	0272		
1154	W4NO	Doc Westervelt	0272	0984	
1155	W3AIZ	Frank Wise	0272	0280	K4AIZ
1156	W2DXL	Arthur Wildblood	0272	0486	W2IB
1157	W8KIT	Paul Darwactor	0272		W8ZD
1158	W3OV	Sam Rotondo	0272	0378	
1159	W1BGD	Pete Chamalian	0272		W1RM
1160	G6ZO	Jim Kirk	0372	0489	ON5ZO, G6ZO
1161	W3DBT	Dick Price	0372	0373	
1162	W9NN	Bob Baird	0472		
1163	W3AXW	Buck Lewis	0472	0686	W4BV
1164	K4GSU	Bill Maxson	0572		N4AR
1165	G3TTH	Tex Colman	0672	0278	
1166	OH2BH	Matti Laine	0672	0373	
1167	W6VD	Jack West	0672		
1168	W8ME	Stan Stansfield	0672	0186	W7ZI, W8ME, AG4S
1169	W9FD	Walt Jöhler	0672		
1170	VE2DR	Bill Skarstedt	0672	0176	
1171	G4AJS	Terry Bucknell	0772	0484	
1172	G3ZYV	Dave Ferigan	0772	0379	
1173	W6ALO	Tom Jentges	0772	0379	
1174	B3OA	Mike Lagrot	0772		
1175	KL7MF	Hal De Voe	0772	0588	
1176	W2WS	Jeff Jelford	0772	0375	
1177	WB2JYM	Tom Warren	0872		WA1REG, WB2JYM, K3TW, SO5TW, DL8TWA
1178	VK6RS	Ron Stirfold	0872	0484	
1179	GW3SYL	Roy Price	0872	0477	
1180	OK1GT	Jiri Zizka	0872		
1181	G3ZWH	Doug Hill	0972	0381	
1182	ZS5KI	Robbie Hill	0972	0582	
1183	K4KSB	Frank McCormick	1072		N4WJ
1184	K4KQ	Chuck Bolwyn	1072		
1185	W4ZMQ	Marv Carter	1072	0386	EP2PZ, W4ZMQ
1186	K8MFO	Don Karwonen	1072		
1187	W3IV	Art Lewis	1272	0495	
1188	8P6DR	Richard Limebear	1272		G3RWL
1189	G3WUX	Terry Robinson	0173		
1190	G3XTJ	Ed Hodson	0273	1083	
1191	G3IAS	Andy Smith	0273	0382	
1192	G3LIK	Mick Pattick	0273		
1193	DJ5AZ	Fred Koschmieder	0273	0593	
1194	K4II	Bill Baird	0273		
1195	VE9GJK	Jim Peters	0273		
1196	VE3BHZ	Dave Lott	0273		
1197	ZS5DE	Bob Batten	0273	0276	
1198	G3XTL	Chas Barlow	0373	0379	
1199	GM3KPD	Alf Coultts	0373	0197	
1200	VK6WT	David Couch	0373		
1201	G3LCJ	Ray Mills	0473	1190	
1202	JA1ANG	Haruo Yoneda	0573	0186	
1203	W4JF	Gee Gwaltney	0573		
1204	K6DC	Merle Parten	0573		
1205	OZ1LO	Leif Ottosen	0673		
1206	K3NPV	John Wilson	0673	0587	K4YF
1207	W4ZSH	Bill Nighman	0673	0391	W4XR
1208	W6OV	Dick Kemp	0673		
1209	W2JVU	Frank Frisch	0673	0891	
1210	ZS6YK	Ray Primack	0673	0477	

FOC #	Callsign	Name	Joined	Left	Other Calls
1211	OZ5DX	Hans Pynct	0773		
1212	W8QXQ	John Comella	0773	0582	N8AA
1213	W5RBB	Mike Marinaro	0773	0486	W1HNI
1214	G3JFC	Brian Stones	0873	0178	
1215	G3UGK	Phil Cragg	0873	0276	
1216	G3GXQ	Wally Roberts	0873	0281	
1217	W4YZC	Bud Smith	1073		W4YE
1218	W2SR	Rob Robinson	1073		
1219	W3RKF	Tony Chizmadia	1173	1174	
1220	ZL2AJ	Doug Sandford	1173	0380	ZL4AX
1221	SP5EXA	Chris Dabrowski	1173	0378	
1222	WAIINN	Jim White	1273		K1ZX, K4OJ
1223	G3JZV	Mort Mortimer	1273		
1224	W7COB	Ed Hart	0274	0178	
1225	G3RTE	Jim Kellaway	0274		
1226	G6HD	Lyell Herdman	0274		
1227	OH2RY	Ed Lindstrom	0274	1177	
1228	W1SG	Cliffe Smith	0274	0476	
1229	K1SHN	Chuck Banta	0274		W6SDO, N6FX
1230	G3ZQS	George Longden	0374		
1231	GM3UA	Stew Pairman	0374	1282	
1232	G3JOI	Ray Pascoe	0474	0683	
1233	W9IV	Mac McDougall	0474		
1234	HS4AGN	Pete Pederson	0474		W5ZSX, N5TP
1235	W6MAR	Glenn Rattmann	0474		K6NA
1236	W6DQX	Phil Goetz	0474	0285	N6ZZ
1237	PY1RO	Rolf Rasp	0674	0195	
1238	DK3BQ	Bert Kueppers	0674	0483	
1239	GD4AM	George Danielson	0674		
1240	G3BYD	Ted Green	0674	0386	
1241	OK1DOK	Milan Cok	0674	0177	
1242	W3VW	Bill Taylor	0674	0979	
1243	W9GIL	John Scarvaci	0674		
1244	YU3CV	Jare Janez	0674	0376	
1245	VK2NY	Derek Hallam	0774	0179	
1246	K4E2L	Doug Wooley	0774		EP2AW, EP2VW, N4PW, OA4DW, ZP6XDW, ZP6CW, N4PW
1247	HC1CW	Chuck Hutchinson	0974	0391	K8UDJ, K8CH
1248	G3LNC	Jack Barham	0974		
1249	G3LNS	George Beasley	1174		5B4AGC
1250	9H1CH	Leo Snowden	1274	0187	G2BW
1251	VE1CD	Bill Harrison	1274	0380	
1252	DJ6SI	Bal Drobnica	1274	0394	
1253	W3ABC	Hugh Turnbull	1274		
1254	G2ALM	Roy Wilkins	1274		
1255	W2QM	Dave Beckwith	1274		
1256	W5SBX	Jan Carman	1274		K5MA
1257	DL8AN	Werner Matz	1274	0394	
1258	W2YYF	Dave Kintzer	1274	0195	W2FC
1259	LU6EF	Raul Diaz	1274	0378	
1260	W9SFR	Steve Hritsko	1274	0492	
1261	KG6JAR	Joe Frekot	1274	0188	AH2G
1262	W9KNI	Bob Locher	0175		
1263	K4EWG	Pete Rhodes	0175		
1264	G3FEW	Stan Heard	0275	0286	
1265	G3KTZ	Ron Lindsay	0275		
1266	G3TXF	Nigel Cawthorne	0275		
1267	W0ELA	Clyde Norton	0275	0392	
1268	W1POC	Dick Frey	0275		W4RJ, W1POC, K4XU
1269	VK2AHK	Jeff Moss	0275	0783	
1270	W1WH	Len Haeseler	0275	0590	
1271	WA1DRS	Dave Ring	0375	1179	N1EA
1272	G6CI	Dud Charman	0775	0193	
1273	JH1WIX	Taroh Yagi	0775	0295	
1274	W6PAA	Ken Keeler	0775	0378	W6RO
1275	G2RF	Bob Bramwell	0875	0185	
1276	K5KEZ	Vince Thompson	0875		K5VT
1277	K7NHV	Al Francisco	0875	0191	

FOC #	Callsign	Name	Joined	Left	Other Calls
1278	G3IBB	Roy Walmsley	0975	0383	
1279	W3RF	Guy Flower	0975	0688	
1280	W1VAH	Tony Berg	1075		W1OT
1281	K1AGB	Ed Meade	1075	1278	W1OX
1282	G3KDB	Pete Miles	1075		GW3KDB
1283	K4MOJ	Tom Neill	1075		K4XG
1284	G4BVH	Peter Reed	1075	0380	A4XVK, G4BVH
1285	W8VSK	Joe Keese	1075		
1286	I3BLF	Jack Moir	1175		
1287	W2CP	Gene Walter	1175		
1288	K4DAS	Al Wessell	0176	1083	N4OW
1289	G3MRP	Stan Butlin	0176		
1290	DL1BU	Gun Schwarzbeck	0276	0495	
1291	VE2AH	Chas Henry	0276		VE3DXR, VA3CH
1292	ZL4NH	Pat McRodden	0276	0279	
1293	D13KR	Jurgen Rostger	0276		
1294	PY7PO	Alex Filho	0376		PR7PO
1295	VK3ABR	Dave Jenkin	0476	0287	VK7XO
1296	W4DHZ	Nap Perry	0476		
1297	9V1SH	Don Hall	0676		K5AQ
1298	SM0FY	Nils Sjoberg	0676	1179	
1299	K4JEX	Bob Beatty	0676		W4VQ
1300	K4KA	Frank Mitchell	0676	0284	
1301	K6AHV	Bob Ferrero	0676		W6R1
1302	D1HVC	Hans Fischer	0676	0378	
1303	GM4CMO	Lin Pairman	0776	1178	
1304	VK2AFG	Les Weldon	0776	0196	
1305	I0ALE	Sandro D'Onofrio	0776		I7ALE
1306	K9DDA	Jim Rounds	0776		K9WA
1307	ZL3GQ	Peter Watson	0776	0498	
1308	G4BUE	Chris Page	0876		
1309	G3KGV	Ken Bates	0876		GW3KGV
1310	HK0BKX	Francisco Velez	0876	0781	
1311	G3ASM	Hank Hincks	0976	0496	
1312	WA4LDM	Jack Jackson	1076	0582	
1313	F2CA	Bob Mallory	1176	0380	W7AB
1314	ZL1AH	John Wightman	1276		
1315	W9MR	Wayne Warden	1276		W9GW
1316	K7GE	Jim Larsen	0277		
1317	G3VMW	Steve Wilson	0277		
1318	G3KFB	Ken Parkinson	0277	0591	
1319	OH2BN	John Jaakola	0277	0491	
1320	GM3OXC	Stan Crabtree	0277	0593	G3OXC
1321	G3FIU	Bill Gray	0377	0895	
1322	9I2BO	Brian Otter	0377		
1323	PY1ZAE	Hal Harris	0377	0287	
1324	OE1ZGA	Tom Gabbert	0377	0985	K3TG
1325	GD4BEG	Mike Farrant	0377	1289	
1326	F8RU	Ted Robinson	0377	0197	
1327	W2BA	Jack Lannin	0577		
1328	G4EHF	Kevin Smith	0577	0280	
1329	DJ2BW	Herman Samson	0577		
1330	JA0CUV	Tack Kumagai	0577	0295	JE1CKA
1331	K1NA	Jim Power	0677		
1332	G3VMK	Dale Chadwick	0677		
1333	VP9BK	Colin Dumbille	0677		VP9C, VE7FZQ, VE7NN, VP9C
1334	W4WJ	Don Murray	0677	0198	
1335	K4LRA	Jerry Kratz	0677	0979	AF4M
1336	P9UC	Rene Fritsch	0777	0685	
1337	N9DX	Larry Higgins	0777		
1338	K5BGB	Rod Hotz	0877		
1339	DJ6RX	Klaus Heintzenberg	0877		
1340	K2MGR	Kurt Strietz	0877		
1341	WA4ZHU	Randy Thompson	0977	0193	K5ZD
1342	G3VTT	Colin Turner	1077		
1343	G4BKU	Ron Foot	1077	0285	
1344	DK8EI	Klaus Gries	1077		
1345	OZ1VY	Hal Peldthaus	1177	0197	
1346	G3AZ	John Hunter	1177		



FOC #	Callsign	Name	Joined	Left	Other Calls
1347	VK4RF	Fred Lubach	1177	1286	
1348	N4GG	Hal Kennedy	1177	0987	
1349	G3FKH	Don Roberts	0478	0691	
1350	E13CP	Colum Clarke	0478		
1351	HB9HT	Hans Waldvogel	0478		
1352	SV0WTT	Jack Jackson	0478		SV0AA
1353	W8GT	Glen Thayer	0478	0490	
1354	VP8PL	Mac Dry	0478	0381	G4CSW
1355	WB2CST	Fred Belghaus	0478	0197	N2EEC
1356	GM3ITN	Les Hamilton	0478	0179	
1357	W4BTZ	Al Smarr	0478	0380	
1358	W8ZC	Merle Reamsnyder	0578	1096	
1359	YU2DX	Tom Ducej	0578		YU2AA, 9A2AA
1360	G4EM	Dick Kelsall	0578		
1361	K1RH	Ralph Hirsch	0578		
1362	WB6ZUC	Jo Clarke	0578	0795	
1363	G3LWI	John Francis	1178		
1364	W4HY	Larry Sutherland	1178		
1365	GU5CIA	Dale Jones	1178		K5MM
1366	PA0INA	Frans Oosthoek	1178		
1367	K4DL	Jens Ienson	1278	0285	
1368	N4OO	Ink Bowen	1278		
1369	K8EJ	Steve Hart	1278		
1370	W7TC	Dean Lewis	1278	0185	
1371	YU1FD	Rod Rankovic	1278		YZ1AA
1372	W6WU	Ken Sulger	1278	0380	
1373	G3OPW	Tony Blake	0379	0388	
1374	K4EPZ	Chris Eshensen	0579		
1375	N5VV	Kurt Black	0579	0793	
1376	OZ6XT	Peter Thulesen	0579		OX3XR
1377	W6TD	Terry Downey	0579		
1378	K4NV	John Robinson	0579	1188	
1379	OY7ML	Martin Haasen	0879	0495	
1380	K17PJ	Chuck Sappah	0879		
1381	SM5AHK	Curt Israelsson	0879		
1382	SM0GMG	Lars Mohlin	0879		
1383	W4AI	John Beck	0879		
1384	W4CXH	Dick McGarry	0879		
1385	G3SGX	Ray Bona	1179	0296	
1386	G6ZY	Stanley Ingram	1179		EA6ZY
1387	G3SYL	Roy Price	1179		GW3SYL
1388	GU4CIHY	Dick Allisette	1179	0984	
1389	W2HI	Alex Ekblad	1179	0695	
1390	N4TO	Vic Dubois	1179		
1391	K4OAH	Gary Barrell	1179		
1392	W5VE	Dan Dantby	1179	0686	
1393	K1MA	Clif Power	1179	0193	
1394	K9BG	Jerry Brunning	1179		
1395	W8TPS	Ralph Schoener	1179		
1396	W2ZZ	Lou Amoroso	1179	0593	
1397	W5XJ	Terry Burkholder	1179		NP3G
1398	DL8CM	Harry Jakob	1179		
1399	W2XN	Bob Scully	1179	0498	
1400	ZS6ME	Eric Meyer	1179	0187	
1401	TF3CW	Siggi Jakobsson	0180	0582	
1402	SM3EVR	Tord Julander	0180		
1403	K4EF	Ev Brown	0180		
1404	K2UKQ	Kay Stine	0280	0883	
1405	ZD8TC	Ted Collins	0280	0583	
1406	G4AWI	George Cole	0280	0590	
1407	G3RVM	Jan Trusson	0380		
1408	HB9QC	Bruno Bossert	0380		
1409	WA7JRL	Tony Franc	0380		NR7O
1410	VU2GO	Go Rajagopalan	0380	0680	
1411	4Z4OL	Daniel Yaari	0380		4X1PC
1412	W6GTI	John Stewart	0380		
1413	G3RRX	Ted Bone	0480	0794	
1414	G3SYM	Dave Coltart	0480		
1415	PA0ABM	Wim Paas	0480		
1416	VK1PG	John Gore	0480	0596	
1417	G3SII	Chris Burbanks	0580		

FOC #	Callsign	Name	Joined	Left	Other Calls
1418	SM4GLC	Lasse Moell	0580		SM5GLC
1419	G4GML	Tony Watson	0580	0590	
1420	G3KXF	Chris Vine	0580	0296	
1421	G3VNC	Nick Van Weede	0580		
1422	W0XGJ	Steve Russell	0580	0386	
1423	W1HL	Jim Pisk	0680		
1424	I0XXR	Chas Martelli	0680		
1425	WB4OSN	Joe Picior	0880		
1426	W6WU	Ken Sulger	0980	0495	
1427	YV1NX	Fergus Walsh	0980		
1428	G3KSH	Alec Gilding	1180	0195	
1429	G3BIQ	Buggy Burgoyne	1180	1096	
1430	GM3YTS	Rob Ferguson	1180		
1431	G4IP	Syd Shacklock	0281		
1432	K1MM	Bill Poellnitz	0281	0394	
1433	W9LF	Mike Hunter	0281	0393	
1434	VP5FP	Fred Perkins	0281		K4LQ
1435	WA4SNJ	Dick Rutan	0281		
1436	K9EF	Woody Minar	0381	0182	
1437	OK1RR	Martin Kratoska	0381		
1438	G3LQJ	Stan Williams	1281		
1439	G3FXA	Bill Spray	1281	0595	VS6UO, G3FXA
1440	G4GLL	Geoff Rodwell	1281		
1441	G4DIX	Alan Gray	1281		
1442	G3BKF	Jack Ivison	1281	0795	
1443	W1OCN	Elmer Yates	1281	0697	
1444	N6RA	Tom Gallagher	1281		
1445	K1JD	John DePrimo	1281	0489	
1446	PA0DIN	Din Hoogma	1281		
1447	W6THN	Rad Leonard	0182		
1448	N4LS	Lin Sikes	0182		
1449	N4VZ	Bob Peterson	0182	0295	
1450	N8ABL	Bill Bischoff	0182		N8BR
1451	W2JB	John Burgio	0182		
1452	G4KGG	Peter Crooks	0782		
1453	G2FFO	Dick Johnson	0782		
1454	K1HZ	Ron Ferris	0782		
1455	W7WW	Al Bishop	0782	0784	
1456	W1AXA	Ralph Pierce	0782	0495	
1457	G3ZWH	Doug Hill	0882	0394	
1458	VE1ASJ	Andy McLellan	0882	0988	
1459	K1MEM	Jim Dionne	0183		
1460	W0KZV	Tom Lutz	0183		W0ZR
1461	K2LE	Andy Bodony	0183		
1462	W3NX	Roy Belair	0283		
1463	YB4AES	John Sharpe	0283	0689	YB5ASO, W5AB
1464	N0ZO	Pat McKeebey	0483		EL2Z, N0ZO, 5H3ZO, N0ZO
1465	GM3VAI	Paul Carter	0683	0292	G3VAI
1466	G4OEC	Mac McPheat	0783	0296	
1467	NL7G	Mike Baker	0983	0597	
1468	HH2VP	Vic Paounoff	1083		N4XR
1469	G3RPS	Nev Bethune	1183	0496	
1470	G5VS	Alec Allan	0184	0294	GM5VS
1471	GM4SID	Sid Will	0284		
1472	G4UPS	Ted Collins	0284		
1473	YU2TS	Davor Milosevic	0784		9A2TS
1474	KC7UU	Chuck Taylor	0884	1088	
1475	SP5EXA	Chris Dabrowski	0984		JX0EQ, A71CW, A45XR
1476	4X4NI	Riki Kline	1084		
1477	W4DGJ	George McBride	1284		
1478	G3CWW	Tony Timme	0185		
1479	G3LPN	Phil Hunt	0285		
1480	LA3JL	Per Mikalsen	0385		
1481	ON4WD	Jules v d Wijngaert	0385		
1482	G3BEX	John Short	0385		
1483	N2UU	Bob Weiman	0385		
1484	SM6BGA	Hans Johansson	0885		
1485	W8NBK	Arkie Reichman	1085	0594	
1486	G4BUC	Dave Lawley	1085		

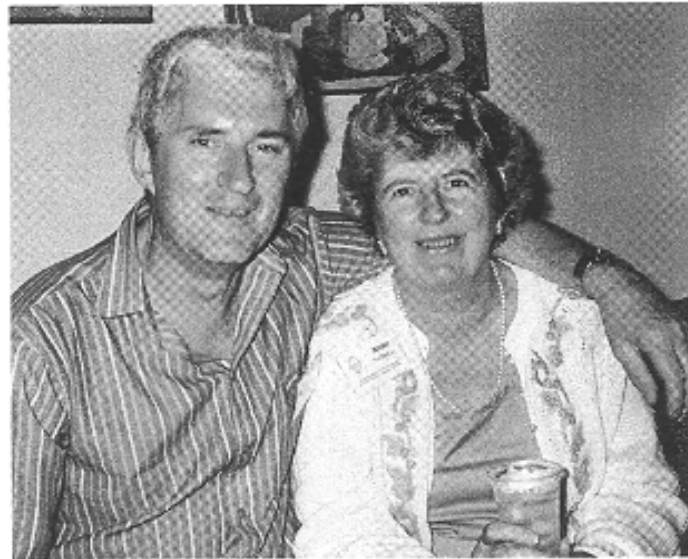
FOC #	Callsign	Name	Joined	Left	Other Calls
1487	W3VT	Bob Cheek	1185		
1488	D10OS	Cliff Hartles	1285		
1489	G3IY	Jim Pollard	0186		
1490	N4UB	Don Widener	0286		
1491	G4ITP	Taff Owen	0586	0292	
1492	VK6LW	Kevin Smith	0786		
1493	YO3CD	Mar Dancila	0986		
1494	K2SG	Tony DeBiasi	0986		
1495	W8JBI	Ted Drake	1286		N8XU, N8GZ
1496	KN0V	Gary Reichow	1286		
1497	W1WEE	Jack Schuster	1286		
1498	VE3FXR	Rodger McNicoll	1286		VE3MS
1499	ZS5BK	Bill Smith	1286	0391	
1500	G3XAC	Alan Ibbetson	0187		
1501	G4PTX	John Andrews	0187	0296	
1502	G3AJF	John Baker	0187		
1503	G4SIE	Richard Mason	0387		
1504	N6QR	Adam Mendes	0387		
1505	W1NV	Carl Watson	0487		G0VLW
1506	PA3BTH	Teun den Ouden	0487		
1507	K9QVB	John Meyer	0487		
1508	YO4PX	Fery Grunberg	0687		
1509	W2LZX	Jack Gutzeit	0687	0496	
1510	G3CFG	Dick Lancaster	0687	0297	
1511	G0CMM	John Bell	0787		
1512	W6DU	Eric Edberg	0787		
1513	G3SWH	Phil Whitechurch	0887		
1514	SM0COP	Rune Wande	0987		
1515	WB4CSK	Mark Clark	0987		W4CK
1516	HB9BFQ	Bo Lofstedt	0887		FSVCT
1517	ZS1AAX	Al Smith	0987		
1518	G0AYN	Ian Dent	1087	0398	
1519	VP2MDY	Ursula Sadler	1187		VP2MT, G0IHM
1520	DL7AKC	Jens Sperling	0288		
1521	SM6AOU	Phil Lennervald	0288		
1522	G4WQN	Mick Hickling	0388	0391	
1523	IE1JKL	Saty Nakamura	0388		9M2NK
1524	VS6DO	Paul Bailey	0388	1296	
1525	OZ3QN	Ole Nikolaisen	0788		
1526	VK8AV	Alan Viegas	0888		
1527	G3WVG	Ian Pritchard	0888		
1528	K1AR	John Doer	0988		
1529	JA1NUT	Shin Onisawa	1088		
1530	GW3AHN	Tom Higginson	0988		
1531	I6BQI	Angelo Brandolini	1088		
1532	W1FI	Al Rousseau	0189		
1533	F2CW	Jacky Calvo	0489	0593	
1534	F9VN	Herve Choliet	0189	0498	
1535	G3JVC	John Cleeve	0389		
1536	W1HMD	Larry Stracqualursi	0389		
1537	PA3GCF	Kees Englehard	0389		
1538	G3RXP	Dave Mason	0589		
1539	K5NA	Richard King	0789		
1540	W17E	Joe Jeffries	0989	0795	
1541	JA5DQH	Akito Nagi	0989		H18A, JA5DQH
1542	G3JKS	Frank Clayton-Smith	0989		GM3JKS
1543	EA8AB	Paco B Perez	0989		EA5BS
1544	VE7CC	Lee Sawkins	0989		
1545	W8EGB	Clyde Niles	0989		
1546	G4APU	Paul Rollin	0989		
1547	OK1CZ	Petr Doudera	1089		
1548	K4LTA	Bill O'Kain	1089		
1549	K8ZH	Rick Chilcote	1089		
1550	K8NW	Mike Wren	1089		
1551	LA1IE	Otto Vinje	1289		
1552	N7EB	Ed Blaszczyk	0390	1094	
1553	G4BIM	Fraser Robertson	0390		
1554	OZ4UN	Paul Karlshoj	0390		
1555	ZL1AMO	Ron Wright	0390	0495	
1556	OH2BDA	Seppo Kaariainen	0390		
1557	OH2KI	Jorma Saloranta	0390		

FOC #	Callsign	Name	Joined	Left	Other Calls
1558	G3RB	Ken Smith	0390		
1559	G0DMN	Steve Langham	0490		
1560	W8XM	Dick Moser	0590		
1561	K2VUI	Joe Green	0690		
1562	K2QAR	Page Taylor	0890		
1563	W6RGG	Bob Vallio	0890		
1564	G4ZVI	Andy Chadwick	0890		G4ZVI
1565	G4MVA	Glynn Burhouse	0890	0697	ZC4CZ, G4MVA
1566	JP1BR	Hal M Okochi	0890	0398	
1567	DK4LX	Holger Matthiessen	0890		
1568	G4HZV	Bob Bagwell	0890		
1569	G8AX	Tom Littlemore	0890	0194	
1570	PA8OL	Bob Ackx	0890		
1571	SM6CPY	Carl Jonsson	0890		
1572	N7BG	Tony Rogozinski	0990		
1573	G3NKS	Derek Thom	0990		
1574	U3DR	Vlad Mitkevich	1090		
1575	OZ1GAR	Iens Nohns	1090		
1576	WD8AUB	Doug Klein	1090		K4LT
1577	W4DA	Fred Pharo	0191	0592	
1578	G4BKI	Paul Evans	0291		
1579	G3RFE	Tom Bell	0291		
1580	G4EDG	Steve Taylor	0291	0394	
1581	SM0AQW	Jan Gunmar	0291		
1582	Y6ZQH	Joe Vollbrecht	0291		DL2HQH, DL4CF
1583	W4XJ	John Day	0291		
1584	W2DX	Jay Altman	0291		
1585	W2CY	Dick Malanowicz	0291	0792	
1586	N2KW	Allen Singer	0291		
1587	G4SPY	Arnold Kay	0291		
1588	G2HPE	Harry Lowe	0491	0297	
1589	G3ZYV	Dave Perigan	0491		
1590	G3LZK	Barry Steele	0691		
1591	K1JKS	Bill Bithell	0691		N1BB
1592	K1RM	Vince Sgroi	0691		
1593	K1GUP	Jerry Burns	0691		
1594	KP4P	Tele Figueroa	0691		
1595	U0SON	Vic Lobicov	0691	0496	ER1CW
1596	KC9T	Craig Wheeler	1091		
1597	SM0OIG	Olle Hagg	1091	0296	
1598	KM9P	Bill Fisher	1191		N4VI, W4AN
1599	K2SX	Dennis McAlpine	1191		
1600	G3WGV	John Linford	1291		
1601	K7UOT	Tom Chandler	0192		
1602	G4ZDB	Robbie Robinson	0292		
1603	G3NOH	George Eddowes	0292		
1604	G4YNU	John Scriven	0492		
1605	K6TS	Tom Jones	0592		
1606	WB2YQH	Bob Nadolny	0592		
1607	GW0EJT	Jon Hanson	0992		
1608	ZL1MH	Mike Hutchins	0992		
1609	W1FZY	Paul Pralinsky	0992		
1610	SM6DHU	Matt Alfredsson	1192		
1611	GW3YDX	Ron Stone	0193		
1612	K1JD	John DePrimo	0193		
1613	W6CYX	Bob Warmke	0193		
1614	VK6AJ	Ieff Jeffrey	0193	1196	
1615	KL7HF	Del Seay	0193		
1616	WB3EPC	Bill Emey	0193		W3IL
1617	G4BLX	Derek Austin	0493		F5VEX
1618	W1EYT	Bill Ewing	0493		K1YT
1619	WB2DND	Don Greenbaum	0493		N1DG
1620	AA5DX	Ron Marra	0493		
1621	RB5IZ	Stan Sychov	0493		AC6CI, K6WG
1622	G3DYY	Ross Cary	0793	1295	
1623	G4VXE	Tim Kirby	0793		
1624	DF2IC	Greg Fismer	0893		
1625	N9RD	Jurgen Nittner	0893		
1626	PJ2AM	Art Mayer	0893		
1627	K9UIY	Vic Shields	0893		

FOC #	Callsign	Name	Joined	Left	Other Calls
1628	VK2BJ	Barry Simpson	0893		
1629	W0IAK	Earl Chiswell	0893		
1630	OZ1LQH	Rene Olsen	1293		
1631	G4FNL	Graham Bubloz	1293		
1632	G3MEW	Stan Heard	1293		
1633	KR0Y	Jeff Steinman	0194		N5TJ
1634	KC7V	Mike Fulcher	0194		
1635	WA1G	Bruce Marshall	0194		K1AJ
1636	KT5X	Fred Maas	0394		
1637	G4ODV	Brian Coyne	0494		
1638	GM3UA	Stew Fairman	0494		
1639	G3MCK	Gerald Stancey	0594		
1640	G3UOF	Mike Wadsworth	0594		
1641	K5XK	Ron Evans	0994		
1642	G4PKT	David Lewin	1094		
1643	G4SFO	Norman Chiverton	1294		
1644	G4CBO	Bob Leask	1294		
1645	ZI2AGY	Tony Marr	0195		
1646	G3KKQ	Dennis Booty	0195		
1647	G3VCN	Paul Kalas	0295		
1648	G3ZWH	Doug Hill	0295		
1649	G4RMV	Mike Buckle	0495		
1650	G4XRV	Rupert Bullock	0595		
1651	E15BW	Peter Farrell	0595		
1652	W16O	Tommy Farr	0695		W6UJ
1653	VE1BN	Don Watters	0695		
1654	N3SZQ	Joci Skultety	0795		
1655	OK1KT	Vrata Vaverka	0795		
1656	EA8CN	Anders Nyberg	0995		
1657	WD8LLD	'Goose' Steingass	1095		W8AV
1658	G4PKD	Jack Addison	1195		
1659	VE3DZZ	Pat Nicholls	1195		
1660	K5DQ	Peggy Wiseman	1195		
1661	K4DL	Jens Jensen	1195		
1662	AC5K	Wes Spence	1195		
1663	W4TAJ	Jack Maddox	1295		
1664	G3RCU	Chris Jones	0196		
1665	W8KJP	Del Clouser	0496		
1666	G0IVZ	Jan Fisher	0896		
1667	AA5TN	Bill Wise	1096	0698	K5VO
1668	OY1CT	Carsten Thomsen	1096		
1669	AA6KX	Bruce Sawyer	1196		N6NT
1670	G3ZEM	Bob Henderson	1196		
1671	N4YGP	Karen Whall	0197		NP3F
1672	W4FOA	Tony Burns	0197		
1673	G3JZD	Ivan Davies	0297		
1674	N4JT	Jeff Hutchinson	0297		
1675	W0HIZ	Jack Chapman	0397		
1676	JA7SSB	Jun Saito	0497		
1677	G0BQV	Mary Ashdown	0597		
1678	G3SED	Mike Devereux	0597		
1679	G0EBW	David Agar	0597		
1680	ZS6QU	Roy Larsen	0597		
1681	K9DX	John Battin	0597		
1682	G3PQC	Doug Turk	0697		
1683	G3MRC	Joe Poole	0797		
1684	G0ORH	Ken Chandler	0997		
1685	G3YXX	Dave Wood	0997		
1686	KF2AT	Percy Jones	0997		
1687	W4PM	Puck Modley	0997		
1688	N3BB	Jim George	1197		
1689	N4KG	Tom Russell	1197		
1690	VA3LK	Larry Kayser	1197		
1691	K2VCO	Vic Rosenthal	1297		
1692	G0CHV	Mike Sherriff	1297		
1693	VK6VZ	Steve Ireland	0198		
1694	K2ZR	Dick Stein	0198		
1695	W17E	Joe Jeffries	0198		
1696	G4OEC	Mac McPheat	0498		
1697	K5AX	Tom Dixon	0498		
1698	G3HEJ	Derek Stanners	0498		

FOC #	Callsign	Name	Joined	Left	Other Calls
1699	N4TY	Tyler Barnett	0498		
1700	W4ZYT	Don Lynch	0598		
1701	DK8IT	Gerry Emig	0798		
1702	K1AO	Ron Simonton	0998		
1703	G3KMQ	Gerry Heslop	1198		
1704	SV1AOW	George Thanos	1198		
1705	9H1EL	Jeff Morris	0199		

## The Author



Dennis - G3MXJ and Anne

I was born and brought up in the Thameside town of Gravesend, Kent - about 25 miles to the east of London, which had always been a strong centre of CW-oriented amateur radio. My first licence, G3MXJ, came in 1958 at the age of 16. The local club had a record of success in Field Day events and it was little wonder that the contest bug quickly bit. In those days, Gravesend was the entry to the great ports of Tilbury and London and I had always been accustomed to seeing a flow of cargo and passenger ships passing the door on the way to and from various parts of the world. This, combined with an interest in radio, provided the path to my first job - four years as a radio officer with the Marconi Company. This took me to all parts of the world on a range of vessels - passenger liners, oil tankers, coasters and tramp cargo ships. Coming ashore, I began a career in computers and telecommunications - and also got married to Anne.

1967 saw us with two small children and, in common with all young couples, pretty short of money. So a job advertisement for a position in Zambia looked very attractive. In no time, we were in the heart of Africa and I enjoyed three years operation with a DX callsign, 9J2MX. In 1972, two years after our return to the UK, we moved to our present location in the heart of the Sussex countryside where I was able to build what was, for a time, a reasonably competitive contest station. This was period of great enjoyment of amateur radio; a close friendship and rivalry with Al Slater, G3FXB; the establishment of a local contest group, G4DAA, which achieved some good success in multi-operator events; and a growing involvement with the organisational side of FOC. But eventually, this competitiveness disappeared as a growing number of stations were established with antenna systems superior to those that are possible from a relatively restricted plot.

Since our return from Zambia, I have worked for a number of computer and telecommunications organisations, beginning with fixing large IBM mainframe hardware and progressing through software engineering to a variety of sales and marketing support roles. In 1992, I began working for myself in telecommunications market research. Our two girls have grown up and left the nest and we now also have two grandsons - who will, hopefully, eventually show some interest in our great hobby.







