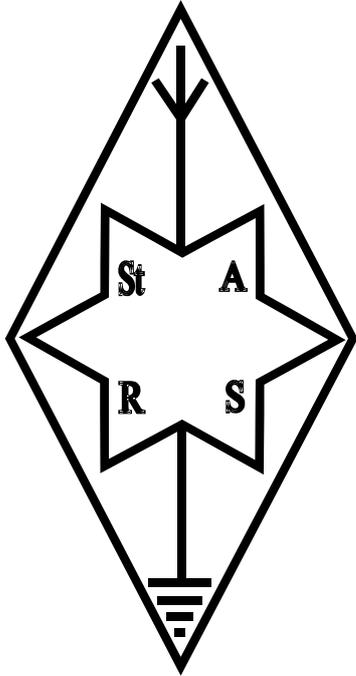


# STARLITE

**G6OI**  
1938

*The Award Winning Newsletter for Members and Friends of*  
**Stourbridge and District**  
**Amateur Radio Society**  
incorporating  
**Old Swinford Hospital School Radio Club**

**G6SRS**  
1938



**G4CVK**

1969

**ISSUE**  
**10/2013**



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# STARLITE

## MEETINGS

Visitors always welcome  
The Society holds its full meetings on the  
1st and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at

**Old Swinford Hospital School  
Heath Lane  
Stourbridge  
(8.00pm – 10.00pm)**

Additionally the shack is open during the same times on the  
intermediate Mondays

Telephone Enquiries to :-  
Hon Secretary  
John Clarke M1EJG  
(01562) 700513

Or by e-mail to :-  
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[www.g6oi.org.uk](http://www.g6oi.org.uk)



# STARLITE

## THIS MONTH'S STARLITE

We were given an interesting insight into our club's history from John Bills (G3KZG). John's talk covered the years leading up to the STARS winning the RSGB National Field Day award. The NFD category the club won, was for multiple stations and all contacts were made in Morse code. At the time there were around sixty members in the club and the standard of Morse operator was extremely high, with two members having used Morse during the WW2 as volunteer interceptor and naval officer. I will not go into detail as I am sure Malcolm will cover the subject in his Roving Reporter article. The talk was very well received, with several members of the audience recalling some of the events and also being able to put names to faces on some of the photographs on display.

We have an interesting first hand account from Robert Vickers (G3ORI) of the 19<sup>th</sup> European Direction Finding Championships (IARU Region 1) that he participated in, in Poland. Turn to the next page for the details.

We also have an article which highlights some of the oddities in the English language and last but not least Malcolm's regular Roving Reporter article.

## NOTICES - JOTA AND SPECIAL EVENT CALL

As part of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations we are attending JOTA at Rhydd which is adjacent to the Safari Park. This will take place on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October 10am to 3pm. Website at <http://www.rhyddcovert.org.uk/>

*Rhydd Covert Campsite & Activity Centre is adjacent to the West Midland Safari Park situated on the A456 between Kidderminster and Bewdley, in Worcestershire, England.*

*The entrance can be found on*

***OS Map No. 38 . Grid Ref. SO 807 759***

*Latitude: 52:22:51 N Longitude: 2:17:06 W*

*For **Sat Nav** users the postcode for the Safari Park is **DY12 1LF** (we don't have our own postcode).*

Please make every effort to attend, we hope to have the special event callsign GB6OI (if it comes back from Ofcom in time)

The club have a number of talks arranged but as always are looking for contacts for other people willing to give talks. We are very open to members giving talks as well. Also we need someone to coordinate this timetable of events. Please speak to any committee member if you can spare some time to undertake this task.



# STARLITE

## THE 19<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN DIRECTION FINDING CHAMPIONSHIPS

September 2013 – Poland  
Robert Vickers G3ORI



*Illustration 1: Picture courtesy of Bernd Hofner (DL1AQ)*

Strictly speaking, the event was the 19<sup>th</sup> IARU Region 1 Championships, but for all practical purposes it was the European Champs. In recent years, the Great Britain team has grown significantly in size and performance, such that the only western European team to outnumber our



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10 competitors was that of Germany. Since the total entry numbered 273, it can be deduced that the countries of eastern Europe (especially Russia, Czech Republic and Ukraine) continue to dominate the event.

The British squad members made their ways by various routes to the attractive spa town of Kudowa Zdrój, right on the Czech border. I flew from Birmingham with two other Midlanders via Munich to Wroclaw, where we were met and driven the two hour journey to the event centre. Everything was based in a single large hotel. In case the reader is wondering who paid for all this, the British team members were entirely self funded.

The ensuing week was full of action. These days, there are 4 distinct competitions, so our first full day in Poland involved the “Foxoring” event. It took place in the pleasant woodlands just across the road from the hotel. Foxoring is the discipline most closely related to standard orienteering, and involves a number of very low power 80m transmitters sending continuously. Their locations are roughly indicated on a map, such that as the competitor navigates towards the marked location the signal will become audible, and the transmitter can be pinned down using radio DF techniques. There is only a small recording box on view for the competitor's chip to record that the station has been located successfully. Different sets of transmitters are specified for the various age groups in order to provide a balanced set of courses for the runners. At this point, I shall refer you to <http://www.ardf2013.pl/> if you are interested in seeing how the GBR team performed: you will find me in the middle of my M70 course grouping.

The “Sprint” event took place the following day. This time, we were running on the steep wooded hillside behind the hotel. Here we were still on 80m, but with more powerful signals which were audible over the whole area. No fewer than 4 frequencies were involved, and it was necessary to retune upwards in frequency as progress was made. As in the Foxoring, the different age categories were required to hunt different transmitters (or foxes) – in any order (except as explained below!). So, starting on the lowest frequency, there was a group of 5 foxes working in a one minute cycle – each sending its identity in CW for just 12 seconds at a time. I had to find just three of these foxes which had been specified, but it was essential to work out the optimal order to visit them. After completing this set of foxes, I needed to get to a “Spectator Control” on the next frequency up, helped by the fact that this one was marked on the map. Then another change of frequency, where there was a second group of 5 foxes – this time sending at a faster speed to distinguish them for ease of identification. I needed three of this set, too. My route led me down from the steep hillside into some scrubby woodland and finally a rough open field to the town park, where a final change of frequency took me to the finish “Beacon” and then a long 400m run along the main park avenue to the cheering crowds at the actual finish itself.

I could then take a look at the provisional results screen. I knew it had gone well, but was astonished to see myself in first position, having already defeated one of the top Germans and the “unbeatable” Ukrainian. But two thirds of the field had later start times than me, so it was a case of waiting...

Finally, all competitors had finished, and I was amazed to find myself still at the top of the screen. You will have gathered that this is a very fast-paced event where seconds count, and quick decisions have to be made and acted on. For once, I had got it all right, and my competitors had got something wrong. I had completed the course in 29 minutes, more than 2 minutes ahead of the second placed German, which is a very wide gap for this event format. The other GBR runner in my class (Bob G3ORY from Leicestershire) was in an impressive 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

The culmination of each event was the Awards Ceremony, with medals presented to the first three on the podium whilst the corresponding national flags were raised and the National Anthem of the winner played. When we began taking part in these events some 20 years ago, it seemed



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inconceivable that we would ever get the Union Flag and “God Save the Queen”, but Bob had achieved this last year, and now it was my turn. Even better, this time Bob was on the podium as well, with the bronze medal. A highly emotional moment, and recognition from the assembly that Great Britain had become a force to be reckoned with on these occasions. The following day gave some respite from competition, with training for the ensuing “Classic” events, and a parade down to the park for the formal opening ceremony (yes, I know we had already had two events).

The two Classic events followed a generally similar format, with some age classes hunting 80m foxes, and some on 2m, so it was rather like two separate competitions running at the same time. My class had the 80m course first. After an early breakfast, we boarded buses at 0730 to be driven high up to a forested mountain about 30 minutes drive away. The spacing of the foxes was much greater than for the earlier events, so an overall time limit was set at 140 minutes. Of the five foxes running in a cycle for one minute at a time, I needed to hunt for three and get back to the finish within time. The climbs were very steep...and unavoidable...and the technical challenge quite considerable, but Bob and I both managed to complete our course within time. Some of Team GBR who were on 2m suffered greatly from the complex reflections on their 2m course, and had mixed fortunes as a result. No podiums for us on this day!



Illustration 2: Picture courtesy of Bernd Hofner (DL1AQ)

In order to recover, a “cultural” day was programmed between the Classic events. At a more civilised 0900 start time, the buses took us to a Folk Village of reconstructed buildings, from where we could climb high in the hills to visit a labyrinth of rock features. To be honest, the climb up there and back took around three hours, and was the last thing we wanted between two very physical events. However, an open fire barbecue (and unlimited free beer!) awaited us back at the village. This took us to the final day, when we competed on “the other” band, which meant that was the turn

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of Bob and myself to wrestle with the fiendish 2m reflections in a similar forest adjoining that of the previous event. We knew it would be tough, but Bob and I had agreed that whatever happened, we would make sure we got to the finish in time. This is important because there is a Team placement for teams of two, providing they both complete within time even without finding all foxes. Both of us had difficulties with the first fox, and I struggled with several transmissions which led me a merry dance up and down hills and valleys, such that when I eventually found it, there would be a risk of running out of time if I went hunting further, rather than returning to the finish. So it was to the finish I went, with only one fox, but still in the top half of competitors, since half the field had failed to get back in time due to the severe conditions. Bob however, starting around the time when I had finished, had found similar problems at the first fox, but his bearings took him off towards a spot close to the second one, so he was able to nail that before returning to the first one. Although taking a long way round, and finding the foxes in a non-optimal order, he was able to continue to the third fox and still finish in time, in a creditable 5<sup>th</sup> place.

If you recall, I explained the importance of finishing in time to achieve a team placing – and this paid off – because despite my problems the aggregate of our performances put our GBR Team in 2<sup>nd</sup> place; in fact there were only two teams completing within time. Hence it was back to the podium again that evening, more flags and rejoicing, silver medals...but not “God Save the Queen” this time – it was the turn of “Deutschland über Alles”.

So a pleasant evening passed with the celebration banquet, the socialising with our friends from around Europe and the exchanging of gifts – which is the tradition on these occasions. The excitement of two podium appearances and a very active week with fine weather in a pleasant resort – quite a week!

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# STARLITE

## SO YOU THINK ENGLISH IS EASY?

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- 4) We must polish the Polish furniture..
- 5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.
- 6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert..
- 7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
- 8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- 9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- 10) I did not object to the object.
- 11) The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- 12) There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
- 13) They were too close to the door to close it.
- 14) The buck does funny things when the does are present.
- 15) A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
- 16) To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
- 17) The wind was too strong to wind the sail.
- 18) Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear..
- 19) I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
- 20) How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?

Let's face it – English is a crazy language. There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France . Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat. We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig..

And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham? If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth, beeth? One goose, 2 geese. So one moose, 2 meese? One index, 2 indices? Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend? If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it?



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If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat? Sometimes I think all the English speakers should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane. In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? Ship by truck and send cargo by ship? Have noses that run and feet that smell?

How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out and in which, an alarm goes off by going on.

English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race, which, of course, is not a race at all. That is why, when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible.

## SPOTTED ON ARMY LANDROVER



# STARLITE

## ROVING REPORTER

September 2013 Starlite report

I am slowly becoming more involved with my many interests again, which I know Glenys would have liked me to continue. It is not easy, and she is always on my mind and I am sure this will continue for some time, if not forever. I am still taking medication for Polymyalgia Rheumatica and having to make regular visits to Russell's Hall Hospital. I have been there today 30<sup>th</sup> Sept as I am still lacking iron in my blood. I have to start attending a special clinic for blood tests so that the hospital can keep a close check on me. In due course, I may come off the tablets at some time but I cannot say when.

It was great to be able to attend the September STARs meeting and listen and to watch the slides that John Bills had brought along. Most of the people on the slides, I recall in my earlier years of being a member. One person I see from time to time on the Severn Valley Railway where like me, he is a volunteer and that is Mike Bristow. He works at Bewdley where I am based and how could anyone forget Jacque G3AAQ. He had a gruff voice, as a result of which he preferred to operate the Morse key. I often wonder if Ken Davies is still around and if he still lives in the Stourbridge area? The last time I came into contact with Ivan Eamas was at a Leicester radio rally. The rally was held at a college in Leicester and it was a one-off and no similar rallies have been held since. All in all John Bill's talk was very interesting and brought back some interesting memories.

I have made a return to both Severn Valley Railway and to The Buttermarket at Shrewsbury, where on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September the Wurlitzer organ was heard for the first time in three years since the building was put into administration. It was a great concert and five organists gave their performances for free to help with fundraising. The STOT first organ concert will be at 3pm on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October. Organist Dr Kevin Morgan and I would like see some STARs members at some of the organ concerts and we can take a look inside the organ chambers of what I call my adopted Wurlitzer Organ. I have had connections with this Wurlitzer organ for over 23 years and during this time I have attended 200 concerts. See photo of the console on the following page. Amateur Radio was represented at the concert, not only by me but Doug (G3ZLJ) and his wife Jean.

I am pleased to say that the Dudley Hippodrome project is moving in the right direction. There is someone who wants to buy the building and it will still run it as theatre. On Thursday after our meeting in September I was at a meeting also in Stourbridge but at St Johns church [where the Bridge Radio have their studios ] our meeting was about the Hippodrome and was the steering committee with which I am involved.

We went to Blackpool for the last weekend in September. My son Andrew thought it would be good for us to take a break. The trip departed on the Friday and returned on Sunday. As usual, I got a lot done in the short time we were there. Andrew, his friend and I went on a trip to Fleetwood on the new trams. We went to the Blackpool Tower in the afternoon to listen to the president of the Shropshire Theatre Organ playing - Phil Kelsall in his 34<sup>th</sup> year playing the Tower Wurlitzer in the evening. Andrew had tickets for a show at The Opera House which was a tribute band to the BeeGees and ABBA. On Sunday morning, before returning for home we had another visit to the Tower Ballroom to listen to the organ and watch the dancing, where Glenys and I used to go dancing when in Blackpool. Lots of memories. Although I have problems as mentioned I have thought of taking up dancing again.

Well that's all for now.



# STARLITE

Best 73s Malcolm G8BOP your roving reporter



# STARLITE

## ENERGY HARVESTING

### Historical Examples

Automatic watches have been around for over two hundred years, since their invention by the Swiss watch maker Abraham-Lois Perellet in 1770. The watch makes use of the movement of the arm to wind a watch. Incidentally before the battery powered watch I read an estimate that the combined energy required to power all the mechanical watches in the world at that time would be just about enough to power a family saloon car. Nowadays watches are powered by solar cells. Similarly solar power is used to power or provide supplementary power for numerous items from boats and aircraft to water purification. Wind power has been with us for centuries in the form of windmills and ship's sails and numerous other examples. Numerous examples of harnessing water power are water-mills and more recently tidal flow.

### Recent Developments

What about all the radio signals radiating around us? Large amount of energy is expended creating TV, radio and digital signals. Can this unused energy be harvested? A technique called ambient backscatter has been recently demonstrated by Washington University. Electronic devices are often important building blocks in inventions. Providing electrical power to such devices is can become a problem. Batteries run down and are relatively bulky and mains power may not be readily available. Ambient Backscatter offers both a power and signalling source. During operation, signals received are either absorbed or reflected. RF signal energy can be picked up on an external aerial, rectified and stored. The scope of such devices is limited and communication may take place over distances of only a metre or so. With sufficient care in manufacturing and placement such devices can have a long and maintenance free life.

### For More Information

<http://abc.cs.washington.edu>

<http://homes.cs.washington.edu/~gshyam/Papers/amb.pdf>



# STARLITE

## YOUR COMMITTEE

Hon. President	JAMES	G7HEZ	
Vice President	NICK	G6DQN	
Hon. Secretary	JOHN	M1EJG	(01562) 700513
Hon. Treasurer	JOHN	G8UAE	
Committee Members	MARK	G7EDZ	
	MALCOLM	G8BOP	
	KELVIN	M6KTR	
	ANDREW	M6APJ	
	ADRIAN Simms	M3HBA	
	ADRIAN Bryan	G0NLA	

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**It should be noted that the Shack will be open every Monday evening unless shown otherwise in the Calendar**

October	Mon 7th	75 <sup>th</sup> Club Anniversary Events
	Mon 14th	Open Shack Night - Or on air natter
	19/20th	Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)
	Mon 21st	Talk on GB3KD Kidderminster Repeater by Paula
	Mon 28th	Open Shack Night - Or on air natter
November	Mon 4th	Open Shack Night - Or on air natter
	Mon 11th	Open Shack Night - Or on air natter
	Mon 18th	Annual Surplus Sale
	Mon 25th	Open Shack Night - Or on air natter

