

T News Letter **TDARS**

G3ZME
G6ZME

TELFORD AND DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Issue 318

Programme

Aug - Oct 2024

NOTE: THIS LIST MAY CHANGE AND CHANGES ANNOUNCED VIA TDARS 'GROUPS.IO'

- Aug. 7 Hamfest - Jobs for the boys and girls 2E0TRO
- Aug. 14 Committee Meeting & Hamfest 7.30pm (Webex) + 2m ragchew 7:30pm
- Aug. 21 International Short Wave League (ISWL) talk G0CER
- Aug. 28 Hamfest - final preparation 2E0TRO
- Aug. 31 Hamfest - Set up on Saturday
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- Sept. 1 HAMFEST Sunday
- Sept. 4 Committee Meeting & Hamfest 7.30pm (Webex) + 2m ragchew 7:30pm
- Sept. 11 3rd Foxhunt 2E0TRO
- Sept. 18 Hamfest Debrief M0JZH
- Sept. 25 Hans Summers - online-talk
-
- Oct. 2 Committee Meeting & Hamfest 7.30pm (Webex) + 2m ragchew 7:30pm
- Oct. 9 Talk by Robin Moseley G1MHU
- Oct. 16 JOTA preparation G7LMF
- Oct. 19/20 JOTA G7LMF
- Oct. 23 Talk by Richard Wilkinson G0VXG
- Oct. 30 DX expedition talk

Newsletter Contents

- Editorial, News & Highlights,
- Events, Contests & Activities
- Tech and Useful websites

9 Sleepford.
May 24.

Dear Friends.

Thank you for the brilliant album that you have collated for us. The photos have brought back lots of memories of the many activities Martyn shared with the Club.

Martyn had already written in important dates in our desk diary, i.e. Marconi weekend, micro-wave contests, NFD and of course the rally.

From May onwards Martyn was busy negotiating with traders. By late July he was convinced very few were coming. A week before the rally he would get several phone calls from traders hoping for a few tables, in a prime position with electric. I hope 2024 proves as successful as ever.

A special thank you to Simon, Paul and Heather & the working party who have worked so hard to sort out & sell Martyn's equipment. The family are very grateful for their support.

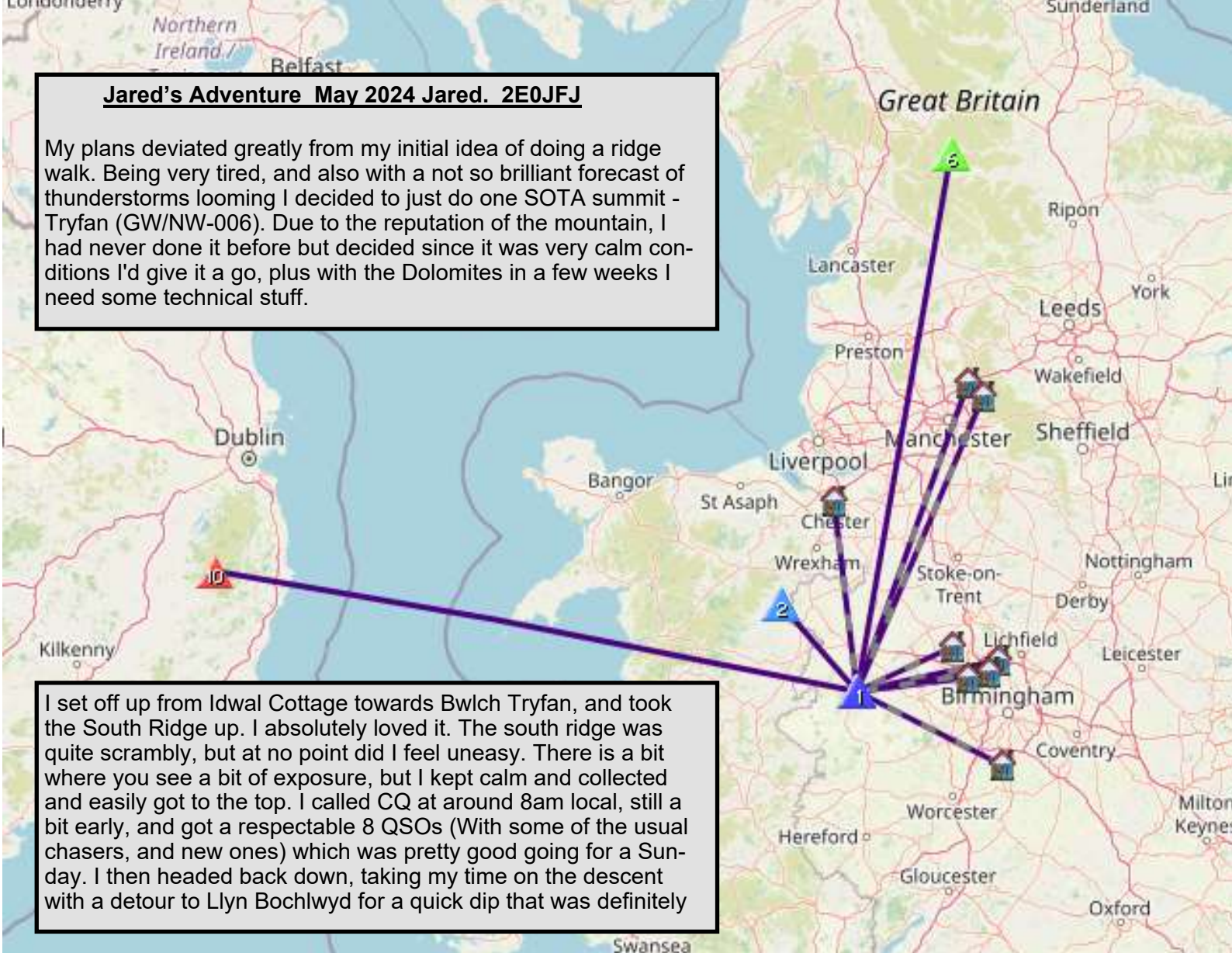
Many TDARs go from strength to strength.
Best Wishes Maz, Ceri and Tim

Jared's Adventure May 2024 Jared. 2E0JFJ

My plans deviated greatly from my initial idea of doing a ridge walk. Being very tired, and also with a not so brilliant forecast of thunderstorms looming I decided to just do one SOTA summit - Tryfan (GW/NW-006). Due to the reputation of the mountain, I had never done it before but decided since it was very calm conditions I'd give it a go, plus with the Dolomites in a few weeks I need some technical stuff.

I set off from Idwal Cottage towards Bwlch Tryfan, and took the South Ridge up. I absolutely loved it. The south ridge was quite scrubby, but at no point did I feel uneasy. There is a bit where you see a bit of exposure, but I kept calm and collected and easily got to the top. I called CQ at around 8am local, still a bit early, and got a respectable 8 QSOs (With some of the usual chasers, and new ones) which was pretty good going for a Sunday. I then headed back down, taking my time on the descent with a detour to Llyn Bochlywd for a quick dip that was definitely

Great Britain



Overall, an amazing couple of days in the mountains. I'm hoping to get some more SOTA activity after my race in the Dolomites is not my main target, with my sights set in potentially exploring what Scotland has to offer.

Following this, I headed on home but after being in a convoy of traffic for a while and the sights of Stretton coming into view, I pulled into the layby just on the side of the A49 and in a last minute call headed up the Caradoc (G/WB-006). This has had to have been one of the best activations on 2m I have done, getting two of my longest 2m QSOs to date in the same activation! To say I was happy would be an understatement, it was amazing to work a pileup on 2m. Thanks to all those who called in. Thanks to EI4JY, MW0PJE and M0WML/P for the S2S!

73s, and thanks again to those who called. Jared



RSGB 6 Meter Trophy contest

Heather M0HMO Station manager

We had the 6m trophy mid-June. Not such a good turn out of ops,. We only ended up fielding 4 ops over the 24 hours. We had a few teething problems with the ambitious station we put on. We did make use of both of the setups which was a big 7 over 7 and 3 over 3 antennas, Two K3's (Main station and spotting), 1KW for Saturday and then 500W on Sunday

It was the first outing of Jez's Gala tent and Hotspot for internet access. Both worked wonderfully well and we re-used them on VHF NFD to great effect.

We didn't manage to get the third (5 element) antenna up due to the weather and a desire to get on-air on time rather than wait for more antennas to be put up. Overall we came 4th in the Open section - not a bad result for the first time out for this station and bodes very well for future attempts.

Overall (taking into account all UK scores) we came 8th - which compares well with last year when we came 6th in Open and 22nd overall. With luck we can get more operators (and loggers) up to speed with the complexities of this station for next year.

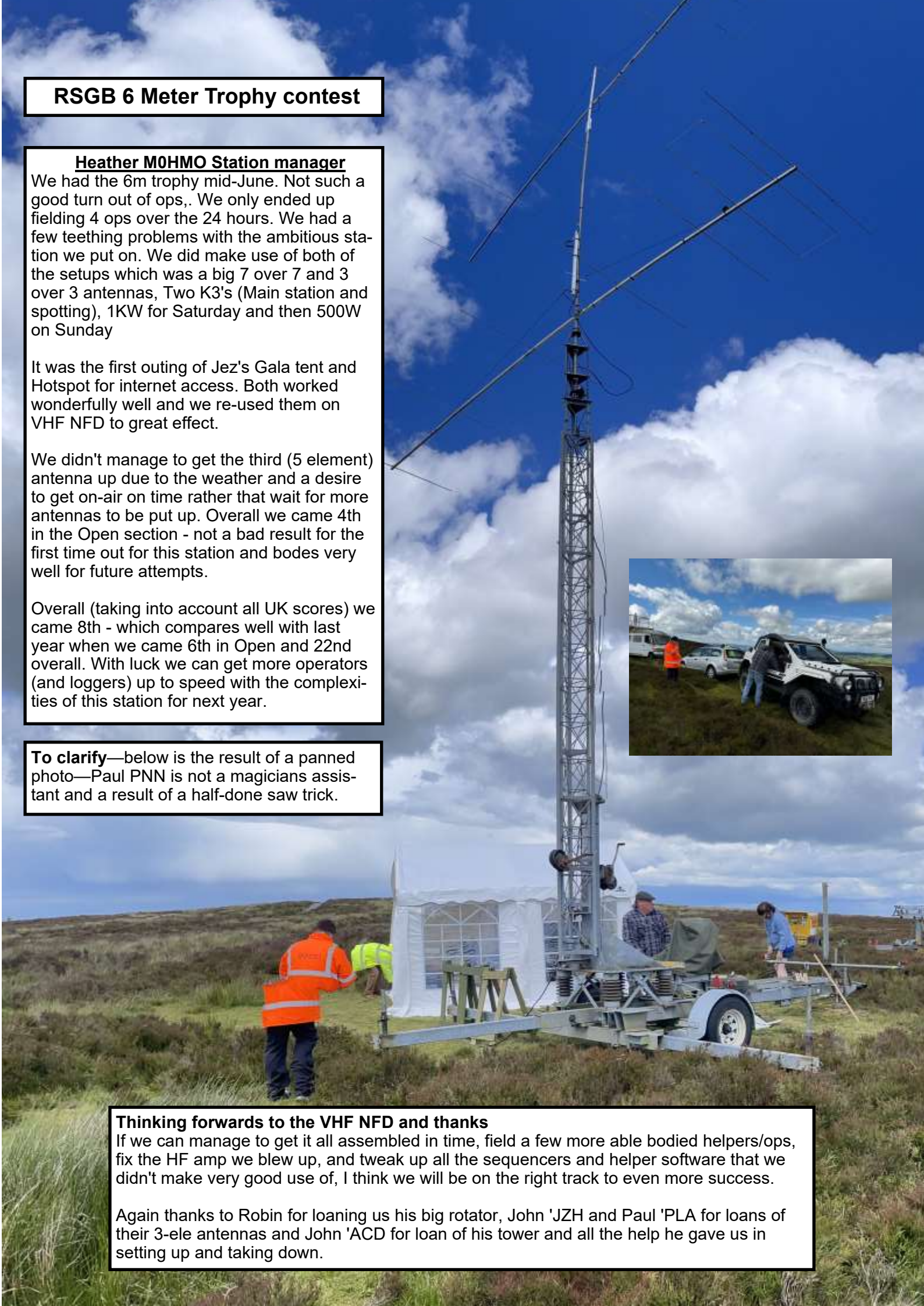
To clarify—below is the result of a panned photo—Paul PNN is not a magicians assistant and a result of a half-done saw trick.



Thinking forwards to the VHF NFD and thanks

If we can manage to get it all assembled in time, field a few more able bodied helpers/ops, fix the HF amp we blew up, and tweak up all the sequencers and helper software that we didn't make very good use of, I think we will be on the right track to even more success.

Again thanks to Robin for loaning us his big rotator, John 'JZH and Paul 'PLA for loans of their 3-ele antennas and John 'ACD for loan of his tower and all the help he gave us in setting up and taking down.



VHF NFD 2024



VHF NFD 2024 Heather M0HMO

Paul G8AQA completed the VHF NFD which Mick 'FQA was unable to continue due to work although made a great organisational base for the contest stations.

We put on all 5 bands - something that definitely gave us a strategic advantage over other stations that could only muster 4 of the 5 bands.

Stations;

- Mick 'FQO & Tony 'TZM on 6m on Sat. afternoon & 4m Sunday morning,
- Paul 'PNN on 2m for full 24 hours
- Robin 'MHU on 70cm for 16 of 24 hours
- Heather 'HMO on 23cm for 16 hours of 24 hours.
- Special thanks go to Paul 'PNN for also being our resident roaming CW op - I know I challenged him a couple of times with barely audible signals - and he certainly managed the DX on the 23cm station!

Setup was very efficient, with all stations being on-air an hour before the start of the contest. The weather was OK to us with just a bit of drizzle while setting up and the odd wind and rain (and hail) interrupting the silence.

Special thanks to John 'ACD and XYL Nikki who brought a chip supper for us all which definitely cheered us up a bit in the dreary evening hours. Conditions were fairly flat on most of the bands, most of the time. I think we mostly had a good time, take down was a bit like hard work with some very tired ops but we all got home OK and, judging by the claimed scores, we are in the top 3 for our categories for everything and are certainly in with a good chance in the Mix & Match category. Results should be available in a few weeks time.
chance in the Mix & Match category. Results should be available soon.

Robin G1MHU's 70cm station report for the VHF NFD

Operators were myself G1MHU and M0PNN for CW support (Thanks for that!!) .

Thanks to support folks M0OSE from Eaton Manor with his owners who supplied a chip supper, thanks a million for that John G7ACD and Nicky. Chris M0PGE for general support and breakfast. Debbie for moral support (her first time sleeping in a noisy tent), Daniel Cadden for cycling from Stafford to come and say Hi!! Thanks to my Dacia Duster for providing me with a comfy chair to sleep in for 5 hours.

I operated for 16 of the 24 hours, 1 hour break at 17:00, took 5 hour break at 11:00UTC as per 70cm entry rules.

First couple hours were plagued with issues that turned out to be the rotator was turning CW when it should have been CCW, A 2 minute job to fix by swapping pins 1/2 at rotator end. Rotator and all other equipment performed well. A slight issue with CW key wiring.

I used my Rohde Schwarz ex-Ofcom EB -200 monitoring / surveillance / measurement receiver to check all stations.6m/4m no issues. 2m lots of phase noise/composite TX noise, raising local noise floor by 15-20dB. Maybe something to look into for the future? (HF rig and transverter would be a cleaner). 23cm TX was relatively clean, some IMD products clearly visible, a loud clunk at the start of TX (my 70cm TX was similar) CW signal. TX signal drift over time, short term drift not an issue.

70cm signals this year, there were no local stations that gave us any issues other than the 2m station where we had occasional 3rd harmonic crud.



6M Trophy RESULTS



Open																	
Pos	Group	Callsign <small>FILTER</small>	Category <small>FILTER</small>	Loc	QSOS <small>UBNs</small>	Score	Mults	Total	Norm	ODX	Krms	Power	Ant <small>show</small>	Equipment <small>show</small>	Comments <small>show</small>	Operators	Pos Cert
1	Blacksheep CG	G8T	HIGH	IN79JX	304	396,327	152	60,241,704	1,000	US4MAO	3,187	1,000				G8TIC G4LOH M0MUX G0XDI G7RAU M0BTZ	
2	Cockenzie & Port Seton ARC	GM2T	HIGH	IO85SS	223	313,692	112	35,133,504	583	4X2M	3,852	1,000				MM0CCC GM0OQV MM0CJT	
3	Reigate ATS and Crawley ARC	G3M	HIGH	JO01QD	238	228,763	130	29,739,190	493	D4L	4,470	800				G0VVE G8DOH M1YAP	
4	Telford & DARS	G3Z	HIGH	IO82NN	267	233,427	120	28,011,240	464	ER5GB	2,355	500				M0PNN M0TZM M0HMO G3YKI	
5	Chesham & DARS	M0N	HIGH	IO91TU	247	209,034	122	25,502,148	423	LZ1JZ	2,177	1,000				M0NVS G7LRO	



Thanks to everyone who helped large and small for the VHF NFD and 6M trophy. We will come back better and stronger having learnt from the past.



