



# RSGB Bristol Group Newsletter



G6YB - Bristol Group Founded 1937

Issue : May 1996



## Last Night in Committee

The committee met a day late this month because of the Easter holiday & with apologies from three members for their absence. After the usual formalities had been dealt with, under matters arising, Robin gave us the latest position regarding the tower & trailer at Winterbourne. It had been made roadworthy & had been transported to where some welding could be done & the possible replacement of a winch. It was decided to hold off selling the tower at Marshfield for a month or so.

We had received no reply from ARIS regarding our recent query. They will have to be chased up. No reply had been received from the GB500JC people concerning the situation there, now that the ship has sailed.

Gordon gave us the latest position concerning Longleat. In the absence of Shaun, the bookings were continuing to arrive & a reminder mailshot will be sent out the 1st week in May. Quite how we compare with this time last year is difficult to establish, but an eye will be kept on the situation.

Stuart, our treasurer, gave the latest financial position but pointed out that the financial position was inflated by the moneys we are receiving for the Longleat bookings. The erroneous subscription we had received instead of head office had been refunded.

Turning to any other business, a long discussion was had about the larger items of equipment that the group now owns, i.e. tower / trailer, very large HF & VHF / UHF aerials etc.

It was felt that as the contest group were maintaining it, they should decide who has use of the equipment. There was some discussion as to whether the group should acquire another callsign e.g. M1BCG for VHF use, no firm decision was made.

We finished up with a discussion about Longleat & the bring & buy in particular. The secretary thought it would be a good idea if the committee members at Longleat could be easily identified by perhaps wearing a hat with committee member printed on it & also their callsign if people liked. G4NAQ will look into this & report back. The rest of the time was taken up with discussing the details of running the bring & buy. It was felt it would be more use to have a meeting of all those people who are going to be involved outside of a normal committee meeting, & the secretary was asked to arrange this. This concluded the meeting which finished at 21:25.



## *Bristol Remote Imaging Group*

The following events have been planned for 1996. All meetings commence 7.30pm at the New Friends Hall unless otherwise stated.

- May 1 - Meteorology Equipment Demo
- June 5 - Basic interpretation of Wefax charts



## The Story of Keith's Round The World Trip - GONHD/MM

### Part II of III

Part 2 covers the trip to Australia and Indonesia. The Story of Keith, GUONHD/MM on 45' Yacht - Kirston Jane

Having said goodbye to friends and relatives in New Zealand and to Hams ZL1BYY, ZL3ZZZ and ZL1ACD with whom Keith had been keeping in contact during his voyage, he set sail for the East Coast of Australia and the Great Barrier Reef.

Having recovered his sea legs, this trip was achieved but not without experiencing some problems. He had to endure some very rough seas and strong winds. During this period of rough weather, his Butternut vertical was lost over board. He still managed to keep in radio contact with his friends using some wire strung between the two masts. I managed to keep in contact with him via ZL1DDY.

The first port of call was Thunderburg where arrangements were made for a replacement Butternut antenna to be obtained. I think it was George W1BDH who had one flown over from the States. Keith was soon on the air again with a good clean signal. I must say that the QSOs with Keith, Barry G4MKT and three ZL stations made it very interesting, conditions were much better 18 months or so ago than they are now.

Having topped up with supplies and diesel, Keith set sail for Indonesia. In so doing he went through the Great Barrier Reef. The reef appeared to be a very interesting snorkelling area with plenty to see. On his way to Indonesia,

he was stopped by the coastguards who were looking for contraband - no trouble with Keith though and he continued his journey to the Arafiora Sea and to Janimbar Islands where he stayed for a short while. He then went to Komado where he spent some time on shore looking for the Kamora Dragons. The only ones he found were in the local zoo living on a diet of dead sheep!! Meanwhile the QSOs with Keith and the New Zealand boys were being

maintained. The equipment - TS120 and the Butternut, were lasting well and giving good performance - all on 14282 Mhz SSB.

The next stop was the famous island Bali. When Keith got there, he found it packed out with tourists. He managed to hire a car so that he could explore inland where he found that the Island was not an expensive place to be.

Keith then started the next leg of the trip - a journey of some 5000 miles to Singapore. Keith had been stationed in Singapore with the RAF some 30 years ago and this was where he had picked up most of his sailing experience. Radio conditions were poor in Singapore due to his being moored with so many other boats and the signal interference caused by their masts and rigging. After a weeks stay to stock up on supplies etc., he set sail to Thailand and eventually settled at a little port near Bangkok. It was here that Carol, Keith's XYL, learned that one of her parents had died, so she decided to fly home.

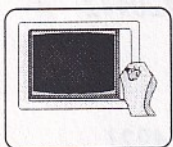
After Carols return, Keith started the next leg of the journey - to Sri Lanka. Radio conditions were still OK but there was little to report from Sri Lanka. At Sri Lanka, preparations were completed for the long haul trip to Serilan Oman - a small port of Salalah, Oman. Readers would be interested to know that visas had to be obtained for most countries, but Keith was unable to get one for the Oman. This meant that he was only allowed on shore between 0800 and 1800. Also, no-one was allowed off the boat on Thursdays and Fridays due to their religion. It was in this port that Bob G0LAJ/MM caught up with them. Evidently he had been following them and was a few hours behind. Another yacht, "Ringo", with a New Zealand couple (not hams !!) on board also entered port. So, with plenty of drink on board, it was quite a party. Hi!

The next stop was at Aden - not a very nice spot (I remember it during the war), en route to the Red Sea. There was a short call at Massawa to pick up Russell - Keith told me that they were not allowed to stop along the east coast of the Red Sea. It turned out to be a very windy passage up towards Port Tufect and the Bitter Lakes where I remember trying to swim in very very salty water! There was a short stop at Ysmalia where I remember being stationed on

an HF/DF station. Old timers may well remember a similar transmitting site at Spenny Wood. It was at about this time that I received the latest video of Keith's trip.

Having passed through the Suez Canal to Port Said without mishap, the next stop was at Cyprus and time to relax, swimming and fishing. I was still having QSOs with Keith 3 days a week on 14.282 MHz.

*Les G2FQZ*



## SSTV News

WinPix Pro was written for Windows 3.1 but also runs quite well under Windows 95 as well. The interface uses the A/D & D/A converters in a Windows compatible sound card to process the audio data to & from your transceiver. No additional electronics are required.

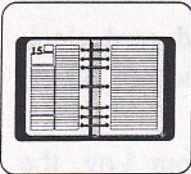
The minimum system requirements are a 486/33 with 8Mb RAM running Windows 3.1 or higher. The interface accesses the A/D & D/A converters in a Windows compatible sound card (16 BIT stereo preferred) to provide the link between the software & your transceiver. While the program can function with a 256 colour video card, a High Colour or True Colour card is much preferred. All Windows monitor resolutions are supported & with 15" or larger monitors I personally prefer 800 x 600. Since printing is also a Windows function, all of your printers will be supported through Windows.

All of the modes in AVT, Martin, Robot, & Robot monochrome, Scottie, & Wraase Colour SC1 are supported plus FAX480. Two experimental modes for 640x480 pictures are also included. The SC2 Colour modes plus the SC1 BW modes are being added at the moment.

Here are just some of the program's features:

- Multitasking - You can run other Windows programs even during transmit & receive.
- WinPix Pro will function in the background.
- Display multiple images on screen. Each image is in its own moveable window.
- Edit the brightness, contrast, gamma & colour balance on any received image
- Automatic calibration of sound card clock frequency using WWV or another SSTV station
- Tool bar buttons to call up your Log, the Sound Card Mixer, or your favourite Windows image processing program.
- Formats - BMP, JPG, TIF, TGA, GIF, WPG, & PCX.
- The program automatically resizes any image you load to fit the needs of the transmit mode.
- Optional automatic date & time titling of received or clipboard transferred images
- The receive process has VIS code filter options to limit the start of reception to modes in the same family as the current default mode or limit the start to the default mode only. These options, which can be changed at any time before or during reception, are quite useful to limit the effects of QRM.
- Both a manual & an automatic restart feature are provided to override false reception triggers. The AutoRestart shares the VIS code filter options discussed above.
- You have the option of receiving single pictures or having the program stay in the receive mode & "stack" the images on the screen.
- An AutoSave option can be selected to allow unattended image reception or reception in the background while you are using another Windows program.
- Software switching between two SSTV channels ( e.g. VHF or HF) using the stereo feature in the sound card.
- Ability to add text to pictures in any installed Windows font & colour
- Monitor a SSTV signal using an "Oscilloscope" presentation of frequency as a function of time

The Shareware version is fully functioning, but is limited to ~40 days use. Send a blank HD diskette with SAE to Mr T Chilton, 127 Nicholls Field, Harlow, Essex CM18 6EB.



## Local Club Diaries

Here is the 1996 agenda for the Bristol Groups meetings which will be held at the Friends Meeting Hall, Purdown, Bell Hill, Bristol. Meetings commence at 7.30pm.

- May 28th      *Direct Conversion Receivers -  
Jan Verduyn G0BBL*
- June 25th    *Mobile Antennas -  
Mike Grierson G3TSO*
- July 30th     *Half-Yearly Meeting*

The following events will be taking place during the next few weeks in our local clubs. Listed next to each club are the respective secretaries who should be contacted for further information.

73's Dave Bailey

### • **BARC**

- Contact Dave, G4ZBT 0117 9654886*
- May 2nd - Club Management Meeting
- May 9th - QRP
- May 16 - VHF/SSB
- May 23 - Round Table - Good Operating
- May 30 - Computers/Packet

### • **Gordano**

- Contact Bob, G8SPC, 01275 874001*
- Meetings held at 8pm, the Ship Inn, Redcliffe Bay, Portishead on the 4th Wednesday of each month.

### • **North Bristol**

- Contact Dave, G0GHM, 01275 855123*
- Meetings held at 7pm, SHE7, Braemar Close, Northville every Friday evening.

### • **Shirehampton (events start ~8pm)**

- Contact Ron, G4GTD 0117 9856253*
- May 3rd - WinPix Pro Demo
- May 10th - Chat Night
- May 17th - Longleat Planning

### • **South Bristol**

- Contact Len, G4RZY 01275 834282*
- May 1 - 20m Activity Night
- May 8- Computer Upgrades
- May 15 - How to Adjust & Calibrate an HF Rig

### • **W-S-M**

- Contact Graham, G8WAR 01934 415700*

### • **Bristol Contest Group**

- Contact Robin, G3TKF 01225 420442*

### • **Bristol Remote Imaging Group**

- Contact Alan, G6TSE 0117 9314921*



## For Sale

Yaesu FT-757GX HF transceiver includes general coverage rx. £480

Contact, Garry G4FRO on 0117 924 7112

Dentron Super Tuner Plus ATU - £55

Timestep Prosat II NOAA/Meteosat PC card & software - £55

Contact Clive, G4NAQ on 01275 851724

If you need to advertise any equipment in this space contact the editor ASAP, there is no cost to you!

Editor - Clive Maby G4NAQ  
(01275 851724)