

RSGB CITY OF BRISTOL GROUP

NEWSLETTER

MAY/JUNE 1993

CHAIRMAN RESIGNS !

Lance Whitelegg GoCCU, Chairman of this Group since last October, has resigned. Lance made his surprise statement at the April meeting, reading a statement which included "Due to pressures beyond my control, I have decided to resign. These pressures include an illness that refuses to go away despite extended courses of dangerous drugs, which have caused a dramatic rise in blood pressure".

Sadly, Lance also stated that he had been discouraged by a perceived lack of support from some of the members of the Group. However, he paid tribute to the majority that had given him help and advice for a job that was "quite unknown" to him prior to taking up office.

I am sure that all members of the Group will wish Lance a full and speedy return to health, and hope that in due course, we may re-enlist his services once more.

In the meantime, your Vice-Chairman Shaun G8VPG has assumed the reins and will do his best to keep the Groups affairs in good order. However, as many of you will know, I am also the Rally Manager for our Rally at Longleat. With the Rally now just weeks away, this is a busy time for me !

REPLACEMENT ?

However, I am pleased to announce that a volunteer has come forward to take over as Chairman. He is Tony Capel G4ROX. I don't think that Tony needs any introduction to

Group members, but just for the record, Tony is a past Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Committee Member and Newsletter Editor/Distributor ! I think that it is true to say that few people in the last 10 years have put more time and effort into this Group than Tony, much of his work unobserved behind the scenes.

Our Constitution allows the committee to replace members that leave prior to the end of their term of office. However, I propose that the new Chairman should be formally proposed, seconded and elected by the members at the next general meeting of the Group. Should there be more than one candidate, an election will be held. I hope that you will all accept this as the most democratic way of dealing with this matter.

NEXT MEETING 24th MAY

The next meeting of the Group will take place on Monday 24th May, commencing at 7.30 pm. The meeting will be held at the usual venue, the Small Lecture Theatre, First Floor, Queens Building, University of Bristol, University Walk, Clifton, Bristol.

The meeting is something new for the Group, a Half Yearly General Meeting. The agenda is as follows ;

- 1 Apologies for absence.
- 2 Minutes of April meeting.
- 3 Matters arising.
- 4 Election of new Chairman.
- 5 Half Yearly General Meeting & AOB.
- 6 Installation of new Chairman.
- 7 Free draw.
- 8 Date of next meeting, followed by free coffee & biscuits.

Item 5, the Half Yearly General Meeting is an idea from our Secretary David G4NKT and will be a discussion session led by the Vice-Chairman. The idea of the meeting is for the committee to listen to the members, and see how we might jointly advance the Group. For this to work, we need your participation. For you to participate effectively, you need to give a little prior thought to the subject.

Why not discuss some ideas with members at your local club, on the local net or repeater? This Group has a long and distinguished history that it can justly be proud of. As the organisers of one of the largest Rallies in the country, we have a national presence and more financial muscle than most Amateur Radio Clubs. Yet despite this, we have had a difficult few years recently;

- Many of the committee members are long time servers who would like a rest. Why can't we get some more "fresh blood" onto the committee. How can we encourage some younger people onto the committee?
- Attendance at some of our meetings is disappointing, and once again the younger people are poorly represented. How can we get more interesting talks? Do you have ideas or know someone who can give a talk? What do you want to hear, see or do?
- With the formation of the Bristol Contest Group last year, we have tried to bring together all the Bristol Clubs to share in contest activity. Is this what you want? Should we organise more DXpeditions, like the recent visit to Alderney?
- The Group has significant financial reserves. In recent years, we have established a library and test equipment loan bank, as well as giving grants and donations to various local clubs and groups. Is this a wise use of

funds? What should we spend our money on?

- What activities are you interested in, and more importantly, what will you be prepared to help with? Contests, picnics, DF hunts, social visits like our trip to Harveys, special event stations: you tell us!
- Our Rally at Longleat has developed into a major national event, with a five figure turnover. Is it what you want? How can we improve it? Should we develop it further? How can we ease the load on the organisers?
- Our newsletter takes a lot of effort to write, print and distribute. The cost to the Group is significant. Do you want it? If so, at what frequency? Why don't more of you contribute towards it? Is there someone out there who would act as Editor?

These are just some suggestions for topics that we can discuss. However, this is meant to be an open forum, and your input is needed. All members are asked to come along to this meeting, participate in the discussion and give some thought to it beforehand.

FUTURE EVENTS

The following future events are planned by the Group;

MONDAY 21st JUNE

The 1993 Bristol DXpedition to Alderney by Robin Thompson G3TKF, including video film of the event.

SUNDAY 27th JUNE

36th Longleat Amateur Radio Rally, and of course your help is needed on the day prior to the event.

MONDAY 26th JULY

MONDAY 23rd AUGUST

To be announced - your ideas are needed!

MONDAY 27th SEPTEMBER

The history and use of oscilloscopes - a practical demonstration by Malcolm Cooper G8KGGH.

MONDAY 25th OCTOBER

Annual General meeting.

MONDAY 29th NOVEMBER

Annual Homebrew Construction Contest.

MONDAY 20th DECEMBER

Christmas Party.

LONGLEAT RALLY SUNDAY 27th JUNE

Our major event of the year is rapidly approaching. On Sunday 27th June, the 36th Longleat Amateur Radio Rally will take place. As always, your help is needed both on the day of the Rally and on Saturday 26th June.

The event will be much the same size as last year. The number and size of the marquees is the same, and we will once again have the very successful Craft Fair. There will be an extensive choice of on-site catering available, and I hope that the mobile toilets work as well as they did last year! The usual camping facilities will be available on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights of the weekend, at the same modest fee of £3.00 per night per caravan or tent.

Your help is required on the Saturday, setting up all the arrangements needed for the event. Tables must be positioned and labelled, signs erected, fences put up etc. As ever, Des & Doreen Iles will provide the customary free buffet spread for lunch, and your Rally Manager will ensure that there are adequate supplies of beer and soft drinks to slake your thirst!

The major task on the Sunday is to run the Bring & Buy stand. This is one of the largest of its type in the country, and helpers are always needed to book items in and out, and show items to prospective customers. Those of you on the lookout for a bargain will know that the helpers get the first pickings!

For those giving help, a free entrance pass will be available. The Rally Manager will do his best to visit most of the local clubs just before the Rally to issue passes, and hopefully encourage you all to come along and lend a hand. Regulars will know that despite the hard work, we always have a great deal of fun over the weekend, and there is the prospect of earning your club a handsome donation, in direct proportion to the number of members helping!

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