



FIVE AND NINE PLUS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE APPLEDORE AND DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Club Callsigns: G2FKO and GX2FKO

Website: www.adarc.co.uk

CLUB OFFICERS

President	Terry Adams	G4CHD	Committee	Ben Louder	2E0FTZ
Chairman	Mike Wogden	G4KXQ		Mark Wildig	G6BNB
Vice Chairman	Vacant			Colin Phillips	G8NBO
Treasurer	Alan Fisher	M9NAE	QSL Manager	John Lovell	G3JKL
Secretary	John Lovell	G3JKL	Web Master	John Lovell	G3JKL
			Exam Secretary	John Lovell	G3JKL
			Editor	Mike Wogden	G4KXQ
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EDITORIAL

Thanks to all members who attended the AGM, your vote of confidence in allowing me to continue as Chairman for another year, along with awarding me the Jim McFee Trophy for my efforts in taking over the newsletter from Terry.

Dave Boyles, the previous Club Vice Chairman, stepped down from the role at the AGM. We received no nominations for the position during the meeting, so it has been left vacant for the time being. I did manage to persuade Colin Phillips, with whom I have worked for a number of years, to join the committee. I've included a short bio from Colin later in the newsletter.

I would like to welcome the following new members who joined at the AGM: Chris Denton-Powell and Jeff Tee.

The new committee held its first meeting of the year on Tuesday. The main topic for discussion was the club programme for the year. Following on from last year, the objective is to have a mixture of topics from internal club members sharing their interests, alongside talks from external speakers using Microsoft Teams. I have included a draft programme further in this newsletter. There are still some external speakers to be confirmed for the two meetings in early 2027.

At the AGM, Dave M8KVJ mentioned that he was participating in the RSGB 80m Club Contest and suggested that it would be a good opportunity for more members to get involved. For this month's technical content, I have prepared a short article on the contest, including its various modes, operating dates, and an overview of the rules. I will try to extend my OCFD antenna to provide coverage on 80m and give it a try.

73,
Mike (G4KXQ)

Important – Club Subscriptions were due March 2026

Club bank account details: Account name: Appledore & District Amateur Radio Club, Sort Code: 30-90-78, Account Number: 01047485. The club's membership subscription is £15

Regards Alan M9NAE. Club Treasurer.

LOCAL NETS

2m Elevenses FM Net: Mon/Wed/Fri :
11 - 12.00 noon via GB3DN Net Control ; Mike (G3PGA)

Friday Night 2m Net: Friday : 145.450 FM, 8 -9pm

Sunday Top Band Net: Sunday 1.860 MHz
9.30 - 10.15am
(LSB - 32W pep max)

2m SSB Nets: Wed: 8 - 9pm 144.260MHz USB SSB (Vertical polarised)
Sun: approx 10.30am (follows Top Band Net) 144.260MHz USB SSB (Vertical polarised)

Sunday FM Net: Sunday: 11 to noon via GB3DN
Net Control : Chris (G0FJY)

Note :- FM Nets which use GB3DN as shown above will continue despite the recent changes. GB3DN is disconnected from the Wires-X/ Southern England Room just before the listed start and end of each FM Net

CLUB PROGRAM

Apr 20 th 2026	Natter Night	
May 18 th 2026	What's so Special about VHF/UHF?	Tim GW4VXE
Jun 15 th 2026	Hermes Light 2 – SDR Transceiver	Colin G8NBO
July 20 th 2026	How to Tell a Good Choke	Terry G4CHD
August 17 th 2026	Bring and Buy	
Sept 21 st 2026	LoRa Modulation and Its Uses	Chris G0FJY
Oct 19 th 2026	Club Quiz Night	
Nov 16 th 2026	Shack Remote Operations	John G3JKL
Dec 14 th 2026	Christmas Party	
Jan 18 th 2027	External speaker	TBC
Feb 15 th 2027	External speaker	TBC
Mar 15 th 2027	Annual General Meeting	

Introducing Colin G8NBO your new Committee Member

First, a bit about my background. I've been an electronics design engineer for over 50 years, starting at Marconi in Chelmsford, followed by three years with Multitone designing UHF base station transmitters. I then moved to J&S in Barnstaple (now SEA) over 40 years ago and have been working on military projects for both UK and overseas customers ever since. Starting as a Junior Engineer, I worked my way up to Head of Electrical & Electronic Engineering across all four UK sites for SEA, before deciding I liked engineering too much and returning to a design role for the last few years. One of my claims to fame was working for several years alongside our illustrious Chairman, Mike. I am now semi-retired, freeing up more time for amateur radio.



I first obtained my Class B licence while at college in 1977 and mainly worked 2m SSB for several years before family and work took over. I returned to amateur radio about 10 years ago and found my G8 licence now allowed me to operate on HF, so I bought an FT817 and started on HF SSB. I quickly became interested in the newer HF digital modes.



I am far more interested in the technical side of the hobby than rag-chewing, so you won't hear me on many nets or working repeaters. I am more likely to be chasing a special event station on FT8.

I am currently using a home-built mcHF v0.7, an IC705, and my most recent acquisition, a Hermes Lite 2 SDR transceiver, which I am still learning to use. To boost the output of these QRP rigs, I use a Hardrock 50 PA when I want a bit more power.

CONTEST CALENDAR - Data Thanks to WA7BNM Contest Calendar

Contest Name	Date & Time (UTC)
Africa FT4 DX Contest	11/04/2026, 15:00 – 11/04/2026, 18:00
Hungarian Straight Key Contest	12/04/2026, 15:00 – 12/04/2026, 16:00
World Wide Holyland Contest	17/04/2026, 21:00 – 18/04/2026, 20:59
ES Open HF Championship	18/04/2026, 05:00 – 18/04/2026, 08:59
Worked All Provinces of China DX Contest	18/04/2026, 06:00 – 19/04/2026, 05:59
Dutch PACC digi Contest	18/04/2026, 07:00 – 18/04/2026, 19:00
CQMM DX Contest	18/04/2026, 09:00 – 19/04/2026, 23:59
World Time Zone Challenge	18/04/2026, 12:00 – 19/04/2026, 12:00
EA-QRP CW Contest	18/04/2026, 17:00 – 19/04/2026, 12:00
SP DX RTTY Contest	25/04/2026, 12:00 – 26/04/2026, 12:00
Helvetia Contest	25/04/2026, 13:00 – 26/04/2026, 12:59
BARTG Sprint 75	26/04/2026, 17:00 – 26/04/2026, 20:59
RCC Cup	02/05/2026, 03:00 – 02/05/2026, 08:59
ARI International DX Contest	02/05/2026, 12:00 – 03/05/2026, 11:59
VOLTA WW RTTY Contest	09/05/2026, 12:00 – 10/05/2026, 12:00

DX NEWS

Start Date	End Date	DXCC Entity	Callsign	QSL Info	Info / Operators
03/04/2026	20/05/2026	Rodrigues I.	3B9N	VU3OPT	By VU3OPT; 20, 15, 10m; CW.
11/04/2026	01/05/2026	St Kitts & Nevis	V47EM	LoTW	By G0TLE fm Calypso Bay; 80-10m; CW SSB.
16/04/2026	30/04/2026	Bermuda	VP9KF	See Info	By G4BKI fm Bailey Bay; 160-10m; CW. QSL c/o Paul Evans.
17/04/2026	22/04/2026	Fiji	3D2JK	LoTW	By SP5APW fm Lakeba I (OC-095); 20-6m; mainly FT8, SSB.
19/04/2026	30/04/2026	Marquesas	TX9W	LoTW	By K5WE and team.
25/04/2026	08/05/2026	Gambia	C5C / C5D	LoTW	By F4AGG & F5RAV; HF; C5C (SSB/CW), C5D (Digital).
28/04/2026	05/05/2026	England	GB9IOW	ON6EF	Isle of Wight (EU-120); By ON6EF and team.
24/05/2026	01/06/2026	St Kitts & Nevis	V4/WW6W	LoTW	By WW6W; QRV for CQWW WPX CW Contest.

Notes for Operators:

- Rodrigues I. (3B9N): Operation remains active through to 20 May.
- Minami Torishima (JG8NQJ/JD1): This operation is also active from 26 Feb through to 15 May 2026 (spare time operation).

Data courtesy of Ng3K.com DX Operations : 2026

LOCAL REPEATERS/GATEWAYS

GB3XM – UHF DMR Repeater - Brayford

TX 439.5625 MHz RX 430.5625

Colour code 1, Slot 1 Talkgroup 9 local and direct dial, Slot 2 South West Cluster

GB7MX – VHF FM Tiverton (QRP, Solar powered)

TX 145.075, RX 145.575, Tone 77Hz – Keeper Steve M0ZZT

GB7MZ UHF DMR Repeater - Tiverton, (daylight hours solar powered)

TX 439.5625 MHz RX 430.5625

Colour code 1, Slot 1 Bradmeister Talkgroup 91. Keeper Steve M0ZZT

GB3ND UHF DMR Repeater - Holsworthy Beacon TX 439.7375 RX 430.7375 Colour code 1 Slot 1 local RF, Slot 2 SW Cluster Keeper G1BHM

GB3DN VHF FM/C4FM Repeater - Stibb Cross

Tone 77Hz (for analogue FM) TX 145.6375 RX 145.0375, Default Digital Connection : Wires-X Southern Fusion <http://www.g0rql.co.uk/gb3dn.htm>. Keeper Tony G1BHM

GB7FB UHF DMR Repeater - Bideford TX 439.475 RX 430.4750 Colour code 5 Slot 1 Local RF/DoD Slot 2 SW Cluster . Keeper Drew M0MFS

GB3LZ VHF FM/C4FM Repeater - Winkleigh

Tone 77Hz (for analogue FM) TX 145.6625 RX 145.0625, Digital Connection : Wires-X SOUTHERN ENGLAND. Keeper Phil G6DLJ

GB7LZ UHF DMR Repeater - Winkleigh

TX 430.9125 RX 438.5125 Colour code 1, Slot 1 Talkgroup 9 local and direct dial, Slot 2 South West Cluster. Keeper G4MQQ

MB6DT VHF Fusion Gateway - Barnstaple

Frequency 144.8125 MHz. Gateway. Keeper Darren (2E0LVC)

GB7TG - UHF DMR Repeater - Wembworthy

TX 430.9750 RX 438.5750 Colour Code 7, Default Connection : Slot 1 Local/DoD Slot 2 SW Cluster Keeper G7SOJ

GB3NX VHF FM Allstar Holsworthy Beacon TX 145.7375 RX 144.1375. CTCSS tone 77hz Connection SW AllStar network (SWAN). Wires-X default room: Southern-Fusion, Keeper G1BHM

GB7BU (was GB3BU)- UHF DMR Repeater - Bude

TX 430.9625 RX 438.5625 Colour Code 1

Default Connection: Slot 1 Local/DoD Slot 2 SW Cluster Keeper G1BHM

GB3JH – UHF Analogue Repeater – Tiverton

TX 430.8625 RX 438.4625, Tone 77Hz – Keeper G6ASK

GB3MD – UHF Analogue Repeater – Coldridge, Mid Devon

TX 430.850 RX 438.450, Tone 77Hz – Keeper G4PKZ

South West All Star Network (SWAN HUB)

Frequencies are those transmitted and received by the Repeater .

Getting on the Air: Taking Part in the RSGB 80m Club Contest

For many radio amateurs, contests can seem intimidating—fast exchanges, crowded bands, and experienced operators rattling off contacts at lightning speed. But the RSGB 80m Club Contest offers a perfect entry point into the exciting world of HF contesting, combining accessibility with just the right level of challenge.

Running across several sessions throughout the year, the 80m Club Contest is specifically designed to encourage participation from UK stations. Using the 80-metre band, it provides reliable propagation for domestic contacts, making it ideal for both newcomers and seasoned operators looking to sharpen their skills.

One of the biggest advantages of this contest is its simplicity. The exchange is straightforward—typically a signal report and serial number—allowing operators to focus on improving their operating technique rather than worrying about complex rules. Sessions are relatively short, often just a couple of hours, making it easy to fit contesting into a busy schedule without committing an entire weekend.

Preparation doesn't have to be complicated. A basic HF transceiver, a simple dipole or inverted-V antenna, and a logging method (paper or software) are all you need to get started. Before the contest begins, it's worth familiarising yourself with the contest rules and band plan. Even a quick listen to the band before calling CQ can give you a feel for operating style and frequency usage.

Once on the air, confidence grows quickly. Start by “search and pounce”—tuning across the band and responding to stations calling CQ. This approach helps you ease into the pace of the contest. As you gain confidence, you might try calling CQ yourself, establishing a run frequency and letting other stations come to you. This is where the real excitement begins, as contacts can come thick and fast.

Beyond the technical skills, the 80m Club Contest is also a social experience. You'll hear familiar callsigns, local clubs, and operators from across the UK. It fosters a sense of community

RSGB 80m Club Contest Dates – 2026

SSB (Phone)	DATA (FT4 / RTTY)
Mon 2 February 2026 – 20:00–21:30	Wed 11 February 2026 – 20:00–21:30
Thu 26 March 2026 – 20:00–21:30	Mon 2 March 2026 – 20:00–21:30
Wed 22 April 2026 – 19:00–20:30	Thu 30 April 2026 – 19:00–20:30
Mon 11 May 2026 – 19:00–20:30	Wed 20 May 2026 – 19:00–20:30
Thu 25 June 2026 – 19:00–20:30	Mon 1 June 2026 – 19:00–20:30
Wed 15 July 2026 – 19:00–20:30	Thu 23 July 2026 – 19:00–20:30
CW (Morse)	
Thu 26 February 2026 – 20:00–21:30	
Wed 11 March 2026 – 20:00–21:30	
Mon 13 April 2026 – 19:00–20:30	
Thu 28 May 2026 – 19:00–20:30	
Wed 10 June 2026 – 19:00–20:30	
Mon 6 July 2026 – 19:00–20:30	

Key Notes

- All contests are on 80m (3.5 MHz band)
- Winter sessions start at 20:00 UTC, summer sessions at 19:00 UTC
- Each mode runs 6 sessions per year
- Autumn series (Sep–Nov) is separate from the main champion

In the RSGB_80m Club Championship, scoring is done at two levels: individual and club. The club competition is where things get especially interesting, as it combines members' efforts into a single team score.

How Club Scoring Works

Individual Score (the building block)

Each operator's score is calculated as:

- Points: 1 point per valid QSO
- Multiplier: Number of unique RSGB Districts (or DXCC entities for non-UK stations) worked
- Final score: QSOs × Multipliers

So if you make 100 QSOs and work 40 districts: → $100 \times 40 = 4,000$ points

Club Score (combined result)

A club's score is not just everyone added together blindly — it's more selective:

- Each club can submit multiple members' logs
- For each contest session, the club's score is the:
Sum of the top N scores from its members

Typical Rule:

- Usually the best 3 scores per session per club count
- (this can vary slightly by section, but "top 3" is standard)

Example

Let's say a club has 5 members entering:

Only the top 3 count:

- $5,000 + 4,200 + 3,800 = 13,000$ club points

The lower scores still matter for participation, but don't contribute to that session's club total.

Operator	Score
G1AAA	5,000
G2BBB	4,200
G3CCC	3,800
G4DDD	2,000
G5EEE	1,500

Across the Season

- Each mode (SSB, CW, DATA) has multiple sessions (usually 6)
- Club scores are added across all sessions
- The club with the highest cumulative score wins that mode's championship

Important Details

- Operators must declare their club consistently when submitting logs
- Only eligible RSGB-affiliated clubs count
- You can only represent one club per season
- Late or invalid logs won't count toward club totals

Strategy Tips for Clubs

- Aim to have at least 3 active operators every session
- Consistency beats occasional high scores
- Encourage newer members—every valid log increase depth
- Try to cover different operating styles (run + search & pounce)

In short: Your best operators win the points, but your whole club wins the contest.

In the RSGB 80m Club Championship, clubs are grouped into different categories to keep competition fair and balanced. These categories mainly reflect the size and activity level of the club.

Local Clubs

- Typically smaller, community-based radio clubs
- Limited number of active contesters
- Compete only against other similar-sized clubs
- Often the most accessible category for beginners

This is where most UK amateur radio clubs compete.

General Clubs

- Larger clubs with more active members
- Usually have stronger contest participation
- May include more experienced operators
- Higher overall scores due to greater depth

More competitive than Local, but still club-focused rather than elite contesting.

Open Clubs

- The most competitive category
- Often includes:
 - Large national groups
 - Contest-focused clubs
 - Highly active and experienced operators
- No real restriction on size or capability

Expect very high scores and strong consistency across all sessions.

DX Clubs (Non-UK)

- For clubs outside the UK
- Scored slightly differently (using DXCC multipliers instead of RSGB districts)
- Compete separately from UK clubs

Key Points

- Clubs choose or are assigned a category based on size/activity
- You stay in that category for the season
- Promotion/relegation can happen between seasons depending on performance
- Each mode (SSB, CW, DATA) has its own standings within these categories