



# Burnham Beeches Radio Club



Members of the club at a DX Picnic at the QTH of Uri Grunewald G0BBB in 2016. In the picture are (l-r), Uri G0BBB, Paul Shaylor G6TSF, Trevor Clapp M0TDZ then 2E0LDZ holding the Bob Green M0HVY (SK) award for the club construction contest (Bob Green was an inveterate experimenter with magnetic loops using high power), Andy Birch M0YGB, Dave Chislett G4XDU and G8XCK holding the G0BBB award for greatest contribution to the club, James Birch 2E0KRK and Charlie G0SKA. The shield on the grass is the BBRC President's trophy for winning the club VHF/UHF contest, which in 2016 was also won by Trevor Clapp.

**O**n Saturday and Sunday June 24/25th Burnham Beeches Radio Club (BBRC), in collaboration with the Corporation of London, will be operating special event stations on HF and VHF from Lord Mayor's Drive, Burnham Beeches, Farnham Common, Bucks SL2 3LB using the callsign GB80BB. One of the aims of the weekend, in addition to celebrating the Club's 80th anniversary, will be to demonstrate amateur radio to as many members of the public as possible. In addition to HF and VHF stations there will be a satellite station and a display of historic equipment. There may also be a participatory DF hunt.

Burnham Beeches is a 374.6 hectare biological Site of Special Scientific Interest west of Farnham Common. The southern half is owned by the Corporation of London and is open to the public. It is also a National Nature Reserve and a Special Area of Conservation.

The special event is timed to coincide with the ARRL Field Day for maximum

activity on HF bands. BBRC will provide a special QSL card (kindly sponsored by Martin Lynch and Sons) along with publicity material as handouts.

## History

Slough Radio Club was formed in 1937 by a small group of radio amateurs and wireless experimenters. It held meetings in the Nag's Head, Windsor and in members' houses. With the outbreak of WWII, activities ceased when transmitters were confiscated by the authorities but after cessation of hostilities the club reformed.

In the late 1940s and the 1950s the club participated very successfully in contests, especially RSGB National Field Day, **Fig. 1**. Receivers were typically the National HRO and a working example will be on display at the celebration events. In those days transmitters and antennas were usually home-built.

In the early 1960s the club moved to its present premises at Farnham Common Village Hall and adopted its current name. BBRC became affiliated to the RSGB and in 1969 obtained the callsign G3WIR.

## GE3WIR and GB75ER

In 1976 the club obtained permission from HRH Prince Philip, RSGB patron, to run a special event station to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee from the grounds of Windsor Castle using the callsign **GE3WIR**. Subsequently in 1988 the club was involved in running another special event station at Windsor Castle for the 75th Anniversary of the RSGB using the callsign **GB75ER**.

## The Present

BBRC is flourishing with a membership in the region of 45. The club caters for most aspects of the hobby. Meetings are held twice a month on the first and third Mondays at 8.00pm. Activities include club project construction, a construction competition, fox hunts, a VHF contest, junk sales, a quiz, talks on antennas, radio propagation, data modes, use of oscilloscope/spectrum analyser, broken kit evening, Christmas meal and others. The club also organises weekend contest stations and 'DX picnics' on land owned by one of the members with overnight camping available.

## McMichael Rally

BBRC is one of the founder members and a co-organiser of the McMichael Rally, held every July. This year's rally takes place on Sunday July 16th at Reading Rugby Football Club at Sonning.

The rally is named after **Leslie McMichael** whose McMichael factory in Slough produced many domestic and military radio sets in the 1920s to the 1950s. Leslie's callsign in 1912 was MXA, He was present at the founding meeting of the London Wireless Club, later to become the RSGB, at **Rene Klein's** house on July 15th 1913. After WWI he had 2FG as his home station callsign and 2MI as a business callsign, based at Stag Works, Kilburn, London NW6. With the introduction of the G prefix, he became G2FG and the 2MI callsign must have lapsed because in due course it was issued to **Arthur Milne** who for many years ran the RSGB QSL bureau.

## Contesting

Some BBRC members have been active in the monthly RSGB AC cumulative VHF and UHF contests as part of the Triple B Contest Group, formed together with members of Bracknell Radio Club. In the 6m contest Triple B came 14th out of 78 and individual members took 4th and 5th positions out of 291 entrants, plus the leading Intermediate licence entry (**Trevor Clapp**, then 2E0LDZ, now M0TDZ).

On 2m, Triple B came 16th out of 105 clubs and members took the 4th, 18th and 68th positions out of 346 entrants. On 70cm, Triple B took 20th position out of 79 clubs and Trevor again secured the leading Intermediate licensee position.

### Training

The club has a strong tradition of running training courses and examination sessions. Eleven passes were obtained at the most recent Foundation course last autumn and a further Foundation course is planned for later this year. Intermediate and Advanced courses are organised on an ad hoc basis according to demand.

### Scouts Jamboree on the Air

Last October the club put on a station for the 1st Datchet Sea Scouts enabling over 50 Scouts to take to the microphone and there are plans to do this again next October.

The club gives a warm welcome to new members, whether licensed or not and annual membership is a nominal £17.50 per year. All are welcome and further information is available on the club website.

[www.bbrc.info](http://www.bbrc.info)



Outside of the 80th anniversary QSL card.



Inside of the 80th anniversary QSL card.

Fig. 1: National Field Day 1949.



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