



The season of outside events has started. Congratulations to the winning group at the Fox Hunt. It was a pleasant enough evening as far as weather was concerned. As the evening wore on it became rather chilly. The WX at the Bucket Mill was better than expected. The turn-out was good on both days with Sunday winning slightly. The antenna and first station was set up quickly with the 40 m loop easily fitting into the available space. The noise level was quite low and the loop tuned on all bands from 7.0 MHz to 24.9 MHz. 28 MHz seemed to be a little more difficult. It was not clear if this was a feature of the loop or the tuner. Reports on 40 m were excellent until the skip started to change in the early afternoon. On Sunday morning the TS50S was replaced with a somewhat older rig, the TS440S which gave us the chance to look further up the band to 7.2 MHz. There were a few stations to be worked there and the QRM was a good bit lighter and the loop tuned just as well at the higher frequency. By leaving loops of cord round all the 4 support points the derig of antennas was made very easy indeed and the whole station was removed in record time.

A laptop was used in earnest for the first time and proved a useful addition to the weaponry in the portable shack. 150 stations were logged on it without a hitch and a number of people were able to practise computer logging.

GM3BSQ/P was used last Sunday at Crathes for the Vintage Car Rally Station. It was quite windy in the morning and this made the erection of the tent a little more interesting. However the seven bodies completed the task by around 9.40 am. As we were placed right in the corner of the field downriver of the toilets the public were less likely to trip on any guys. The WX was on the whole not bad with one significant shower of rain coming mid afternoon.

The choice of antenna was limited so it was decided to use an 80 m dipole fed with open wire feeder supported by a single central mast, making the antenna into an inverted V shape. The rig used was an FT897 and after some puzzling over the connections to a Dentron Tuner which was on proper trial for the first time the antenna was found to load perfectly on 80 m and 40 m. The correct settings for 20 m however proved somewhat elusive. No bands above 18 MHz were tried as they appeared to be quite dead. The general comments on the FT897 were favourable. High noise levels were on both the LF bands until GM4OBD discovered the earth lead lying on the tent floor! Attaching this to the ATU brought the noise from S8-9 down to S3-4. Band conditions were far from ideal and having had a weekend on the loop at the Bucket Mill with mostly 59+ reports both ways a total of about 20 stations worked seems pretty poor in comparison. Best DX was probably Minusinsk nr Lake Baykal in Siberia on the 18 MHz band on CW but lots of QSB around.

It looks as though the idea of VHF NFD is out for this year as nobody has come up with a site that would rival "the Cairn" and with the gear being stolen it reduces the available equipment.

A single band site trial is still possible either on the day of the contest or at the VHF QRP field day. We may well have our plate full with NFD, SSB FD and QRP HF FD. It is hoped that we submit proper entries for all three this season.

# SNIPPETS

1. Since the last newsletter Ian, GM8MHU, resigned as president of the Society. This came as a surprise to many members. Ian had his reasons for doing this but we hope that he will continue to enjoy the Club in other ways. Ian has been a great supporter of the Club in many ways in the past and for this we are most grateful.

2. Bill, GM3FRI, come out for a short visit to the Bucket Mill.

Good to see you on the mend Bill after your spell in the hospital and we hope to see you back at the Club before long.

3. You may have noticed on page 12 of the June issue of Radio Communication significant mention was made of the robbery at Club premises. It is unlikely that any of our gear will resurface but keep your eyes peeled and your ears to the ground.

The current situation is that the insurance company have been given a new-for-old assessment from Martin Lynch and they are currently considering our claim.

As a replacement HF only rig the TS570 DGE has been suggested on their list as we ourselves had been considering. Their suggested replacement for the FT847 was a TS2000. Several members have TS2000 rigs and it is planned that we have a demonstration of its many features quite soon at the club premises. Are these rigs happy running on 12 V lead acid batteries??

4. A very big thank you to all members who helped on the two recent outings particularly if you brought gear that was not used. It is important to have standby gear just in case!!

**Ian Munro GM4GVK (01224 316787)**

**For Sale**

- Pair of Magnum–K Speakers 25 Hz to 20 kHz, 3 speakers with 12" Bass unit gives excellent quality. Dimensions 15" x 24" x 11.5"
- Heathkit HW-8 QRP Rig. 80-10m approx 2W o/p. Includes mains PSU and Manual. **£100.00**
- Goldring variable speed turntable, shure 75 pick-up

**Thank you**

to **Ron**, GM8BQY, for the loan of his generator and the stand by power supply at Crathes.

**Thank you**

to **Norman**, GM8CBQ for the loan of his FT897 so that members could try it out at Crathes.

**Thank you**

to **Ellis**, GM4JLZ, for the loan of his laptop computer at the Bucket Mill and at Crathes.

**Thank you**

to **Norman**, GM3WIJ for the use of his new garage style tent, the TS50S and accessories.

**Thank you**

to **Lorraine**, MM0BCR for the use of her tuner and the welcome sheets for issue to visitors.

**Thank you**

to **Adam**, MM0KZV for the use of his FT1000 and tuner.

**Thank you**

to **Peter**, GM3PIP, for coming up with a suitable filter in response to the advertisement.

**Items for the August Newsletter should be submitted by**

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2006**