



TALKTHROUGH

No.31
SUMMER 1988

The newsletter of the UK FM GROUP (WESTERN)
Free of charge to members. Annual Fee £4.00

MARX MY WORD!

It will not have escaped the notice of those who have been members of the Group for more than a year - that TALKTHROUGH has not appeared for nearly 12-months. We cannot claim that its non-appearance has been due to "technical problems" - or even lack of funds - although our Group is always on the lookout for more membership income.

The "problem" has been quite simply that no-one has been available to edit TALKTHROUGH. Bob G8VLJ, who produced the excellent fact-filled last edition (No.30), has been extremely busy earning his living - and no editorial volunteers have stepped forward. Eventually the Group Committee prevailed upon Gordon G3LEQ, our Group Secretary, to put together this basic 4-page edition. Gordon did in fact create TALKTHROUGH back in 1975, and subsequently edited some 26 editions. Unfortunately, the business of producing an issue containing 20-pages or more has become so time-consuming, that it is not really practical for an individual to produce such a tome in their spare time!

Perhaps what we need is an editorial team. Come to think of it - we could do with more volunteers all round! How about some new blood in the repeater building and maintaining departments too?

Since the UKFMGW was formed in 1975, it has been run by an annually elected committee of eight members; and although sufficient nominees have always come forward at the Annual General Meetings, we have never been overwhelmed by volunteers!

For the record, the current 1987/88 committee comprises of the following:-

Chairman	- Ian Leonard	G4UKV
Secretary	- Gordon Adams	G3LEQ
Treasurer	- Peter Kirsop	G4WCE
Members	- Peter Fryer	G4SUB
	- Alan Blears	G4PDX
	- Bob Jackson	G8VLJ
	- John Hibbert	G8LZO
	- Dennis O'Brien	G4WSS
Co-opted	- Frank Charnley	GW6SLO.

It is possibly a little too late to award them any plaudits or brickbats now, since their term of office comes to an end with the forthcoming AGM.

The 13th Annual General Meeting of the UK FM GROUP (WESTERN) will take place at 7.30pm on MONDAY 19th SEPTEMBER 1988 at THE GRAPPENHALL COMMUNITY CENTRE, BELLHOUSE LANE, GRAPPENHALL, WARRINGTON. From the M6 motorway you can approach this venue from exit 20 heading for Warrington for about 1.5 miles in a Westerly direction, and Bellhouse Lane is the second turning on the left.

MARX MY WORD Ctd

How about coming along to the Annual General Meeting yourself and finding out what has been done during the last year?

Maybe you have some new ideas that you would like to put forward - or better still - perhaps you would like to offer yourself for election to the new 1988/89 committee? Whatever, please try and attend the AGM if you are a paid-up member. Non-members can join at the door, but they cannot take part in or vote during the proceedings. As a result of a rather long-drawn out matter which was raised by a non-member during "Any Other Business" at last year's AGM, it has been decided that this rule will be rigidly adhered to.

So, if you have any matters that you would like to raise - please make sure that you are paid-up; and whilst checking up on that - why not enrol someone else too? That way you can come along with a feeling of self-righteousness, and a happy smile on your face! What could be better than a few smiles? Please remember that those who do "work" for the Group are all volunteers and they serve the membership in their spare time. Having said that, CONSTRUCTIVE suggestions for improvements in the running of the Group are always welcome.

During July 1988, John Hibbert GBLZO from Stoke-on-Trent sent us some fairly critical comments relating to the operating condition of some of our repeaters. One of his observations related to the "through audio" on GB3MP. In fact Dave GW4GTE made a similar complaint about the sound of "MP" - and actually volunteered to do something about it! Geoff GW1ATZ also offered his services in setting MP's aerial system sorted out.

The upshot of all this is that at the Group committee meeting held on Monday 11th July 1988, John GBLZO was appointed to chair a Technical Sub-Committee. This sub-committee will comprise of all our repeater builders, and will be responsible for co-ordinating maintenance and interchangeability of component parts between our repeaters.

Dave GW4GTE has been invited to undertake a complete revamp of GB3MP, and Geoff GW1ATZ has already organized the replacement of MP's ailing aerial system. Furthermore Geoff has kindly made available to the Group some useful technical facilities, which will assist our maintenance programme considerably.

Never let it be said that volunteers are unwelcome! How about you? The more you put into the Group - the more you will get out of it; or as Karl Marx put it....."From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs!" Now there's a thought - how about putting a few hours in down at the "collective" aerial farm or doing your bit for repeater group "glasnost" at the next mobile rally!

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR "TALKTHROUGH"

Articles, letters and useful comments for "TALKTHROUGH" may be sent to the Group Secretary:- Gordon L Adams G3LEQ, 2 Ash Grove, KNUTSFORD, Cheshire WA16 8BB - until a new Editor is appointed.

NEWS FROM THE RSGB AND THE DTI

Members of the RSGB will just have received news in their August edition of "Radio Communication" of the new UK amateur radio licence. This new document will come into force on the 1st January 1989. From then on there will be only one type of licence document which will cover all types of licence, e.g. Individual, club, reciprocal and maritime mobile.

The European CEPT licence agreement has been adopted; and holders of an RAE pass slip and visiting European CEPT amateur licence holders will be allowed to operate your station under your supervision.

There will be a new single sheet licence validation document which will be renewed annually, and also a separate booklet setting out the terms and conditions of the licence. Maritime mobile operation will be included in the standard licence; however it has not been possible to include aeronautical mobile operation due to safety implications. The RSGB hope to press for further consideration of the aeronautical question at a later date.

Restrictions on emergency operation have now been relaxed, and UK radio amateurs will be permitted to communicate with stations in other services in any Country in the event of natural emergencies (in accordance with Resolution 640 of the Radio Regulations). Members of the "user services" (e.g. Police, FIRE and ambulance services, HEALTH AUTHORITIES, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, PUBLIC UTILITIES and Emergency Planning Officers) will be allowed to operate your station under supervision during exercises as well as in live incidents.

The stroke "A" suffix has been abolished and is replaced by stroke "P", whilst the four-week time limit for such operation has been removed. To set up a station at an alternative address WITHOUT the use of the "P" suffix, prior written notice will still have to be given to the local RIS Manager.

The requirements for identification of the station on the air have been relaxed, and the speed limit for Morse code identification has been abolished.

The station log may be maintained on magnetic tape or disc if preferred instead of in a log book, and the record must be kept for at least six months. Certain relaxations are being allowed with respect to the details kept of packet data operations.

The restrictions on the recording and re-transmission of messages have been relaxed. Packet radio disseminating and unattended packet/data operation is now allowed officially. Low power temporary beacons and links at the main station are to be allowed on 70MHz, 436.6 to 436.8MHz and certain other UHF/Microwave bands, subject to written details being given in advance.

To the RSGB and the DTI we say "congratulations on a job well done" - and to those taking the RAE next May 1989 please note that the new licence regulations will be examined with effect from 1st May 1989.

GB3MP (Moel-y-Parc R6) developed an obscure logic fault around 17th July. Dave GW4GTE found this was caused by an LED which was excessively reverse biased, although strangely it must have withstood this design fault for many years! He also made some adjustments to the through audio and removed the audio compression amplifier. In the future he plans to further improve the audio, totally eliminate the slight hum and p.m.r. breakthrough which is occasionally heard, improve the receiver sensitivity, install new logic - and maybe replace the complete receiver. Geoff GW1ATZ replaced both aerials in July.....

GB3MC (Winter Hill RMO) was put back into full operation on 23cms by Phil GBXVV in July and mobiles have been heard!.....

GB3MN (Park Moor, Stockport R2) developed a PA fault and this was remedied by David G4FMB early in July. Apparently the problem was caused by a sticking relay in the amplifier.....

GB3VT (Stoke-on-Trent R5) has been running well for some time and both Geoff G8DZJ and John G8LZO are justly proud of the fact that all our Potteries repeaters continue to operate without trouble. In fact Geoff recently made the first frequency adjustment to the 23cms Tx at GB3SE which had apparently drifted just 600Hz since it was originally put into service!.....

GB3MA (Birtle, Bury RB1) was taken out of service by Bob G8VLJ a few months ago because its operation on RB4 was causing some difficulties to the military MOLD system which was recently installed at Winter Hill on a frequency just 12.5kHz offset from MA's Tx channel. It seems that the military are using 25kHz specification equipment!.....

Gordon G3LEQ has submitted all the paperwork to the RSGB to bring about a local site change from Tottington to Birtle - where it will cohabit with GB3MB. The operating channel will be RB1 when it returns to service - hopefully later in the year. The RSGB RMG "rubber stamped" the changes on Saturday 30th July, and will be submitting the details to the DTI in August for their clearance. In the meantime Peter G8NSS is fettling some new equipment for MA.....

GB3MT (Winter Hill RB12 RTTY/DATA) continues to function well and Gordon G3LEQ sends useful information to those who join him at 12noon on Sundays, but more users are needed.....

OTHER UNITS - We have 15 working repeaters, and as far as we know those not mentioned continue to operate reliably. If you know differently then telephone John Hibbert G8LZO on 0782-771284 - or contact the local repeater keeper - or possibly Gordon Adams G3LEQ, the Group Secretary, on 0565-4040.....

NEW PROJECTS - Frank GW6SLD has continued to press for an infill 2-metre repeater for North Wales (GB3MQ) and Gordon G3LEQ has put forward to the RSGB a tentative suggestion for a low power unit on R5 near the Point of Ayr. This will be discussed further at a meeting in North Wales later in the year. A 70cms repeater has also been mooted for the Clwyd Valley (GB3CV), but a suitable site has not been settled - and support for the project may not be adequate.....

FINALLY - We understand that the RSGB AGM will be held in the North West for the first time on 10th December 1988 in the UMIST building in Manchester.....Don't forget our own AGM on 19th September 1988 when we plan to debate suggestions for the UK "Student" licence; and if you have any ideas of your own tell Mr Richard Griffin of the DTI, Amateur Radio Section, Waterloo Bridge House, Waterloo Road, LONDON SE1 8UA (Tel:- 01-215 2263).