

SDARC AGM May 2023 - Secretary's Review

While we continue to hear about Clubs in various locations across the country either reducing their meetings frequency or closing down totally, SDARC continues to be strongly supported by Members in a range of activities.

Looking back, it has been another busy year at SDARC with a full calendar. Thanks go to Viv for his work in populating such a varied calendar and to James for his behind-the-scenes work in making both the calendar and all the other info about the Club so accessible via our website.

As a new committee is about to pick up the baton of helping Members to run our club, let's reflect on some of the activities we have engaged in over the past 12 months and ask everyone to take a moment over the next week or two to provide some guidance and offers of help to the new committee regarding activities for the coming 12 months.

We have maintained the weekly evening nets on 2m, 4m and 6m across 2022-23.

Are they useful? Are they well supported? Should we add/ change/ re-schedule/ cease any of these going forward?

We have continued our very successful activity in the UKFMs on both 2m and 70cm, taking plaudits as National winners on both last year! Do we continue this activity? Do we expand it to place more emphasis on the ACs too? Do we look to expand activity on other UKACs bands such as 6m? Also, how many members are QRV for the 23cm ACs?

Internally we saw 2022 end with Mark KYB, Graham OED and Ian YBY winning various sections of the *Worked All Members Award* and currently there are two parallel Members' Awards running – the *Worked All (Maidenhead) Squares* and the *Worked All (Swindon Borough) Parishes*- the latter thanks to an idea from John VRJ. Are these what you want?... if not what?

The Club took part in the May VHF Contest in 2022 as well as the one-day (for us) 6m contest, the weekend VHF NFD – with a full complement of bands active from Barbury - and the September VHF weekend contest. Thanks to all who helped organise, set up, operate and strip down these Club events. Unfortunately, 2023 got off to a less positive start with the late cancellation of the Club's entry in the May VHF contest for 2023. We have plans set in the calendar for the one-day 6m, the weekend VHF NFD and the September VHF or HF Contests this year. Looking forward, we need to see who can commit to taking on various roles in each of these contests in order to ensure their viability.

Club Members have met on Thursdays at Pinetrees across the whole year - apart from our /P evenings at Barbury during July and August- and we have, since September, extended our hours (and costs!) to end meetings at 10pm again to allow more time after Talks for members to chat and for equipment to be stowed away. Thanks to those who have regularly supplied tea, coffee, milk and biscuits to keep the machinery of meetings well oiled.

With the current summer /P evenings just around the corner, is Barbury still your preferred /P location for these Thursday meets or has someone an idea for an alternative /P location as a 'variation' to Barbury? If so, please ensure the new 2023 committee is made aware.

Out in the air ON the air, several members have taken part in some intrepid SOTA and other /P activations – inc UKACs - and Members have also flown the flag for amateur radio by doing presentations in some local schools.

Finally, returning again to the calendar, we have had 16 Talks over the past year on a range of topics plus a Christmas Dinner, a Quiz, a Construction competition, a test & alignment evening, on-air activity evenings and a members equipment sale ...to name but a few! Thanks to all who took the time to prepare and deliver these informative evenings. Offers and ideas for Talks and other activities are always welcome - be they short "*this is my set-up*" briefings, "*I was here doing this last month*" accounts, technical "*why won't this work?*" investigations, live "*now it's bound to go wrong!*" experiments or that mass of other topics that no-one has yet come up with!

I will close this review by simply reminding everyone that SDARC is YOUR Club and its activities are those YOU want, so please don't sit back passively – be active... join the new committee and bring new ideas in ...OR... don't join the committee and still bring new ideas in! Remember that the committee is only there to provide a structure. It's your Club... decide what YOU want YOUR Club to focus on, roll up your sleeves and help make it happen!

Den M0ACM (2022-23 Secretary)