

45th Jamboree on the Air Report 2002

JOTA 2002 was in many parts of the UK forecast generally miserable weather. The lucky stations managed to erect their aerials in the dry but taking them down again on Sunday was another story.

UK stations were delighted to report plenty of Scout stations and while some worked a few and others contacted many, most stations were pleased when they could put Scout in contact with Scout, whether he or she was in Alaska or Aldershot. Once again several stations commented on the effects of the German contest, which was active for the most popular JOTA hours.

Although there were fewer UK JOTA stations taking part in 2002, a slightly higher proportion returned reports making it much easier to get a feel for the event.

The UK licence system is undergoing revision with a Foundation Licence open to all after a short course of instruction and an examination. So far some 5000 have gained this licence and quite a few are Scouts and Guides and they were made very welcome at JOTA stations. One such new licence holder M3BIO made his first contacts at JOTA and was delighted that Scout station HB9S was his very first contact.

JOTA often coincides with the mid-term school holiday. Sometimes this means that local stations find their visitor numbers reduced as the Scouts are away; sometimes it works the other way when the JOTA station operates from their holiday destination. Over sixty Brownie Guides found JOTA was part of their Pack Holiday and all gained their Radio Communication Badge too.

JOTA is for making new friendships but equally for strengthening existing bonds. Scouts in GB2TWH talked to Scouts they had met while camping on Jersey while some old timers worked their way round their radio Scouting chums.

Reports have been received from 52 stations which is half the stations believed to have taken part (114 stations on the UK Radio Scout Newsletter website). Assuming that the figures for those stations that have not sent in a report are similar, it appears that about 2730 members of the Scout Association in the UK took part. Also, 500 Radio Amateurs were involved (some of whom are Scouts and Scouters).

Richard Gaskell, G0REL
UK JOTA Coordinator

The front cover is based on the logo designed by Jorge Rojas and Jacobo Olave, two twelve year old Scouts of the Sagrada Familia Chilena group in Santiago, Chile.

Station Reports

GB0BWS - Bishop's Waltham Scouts

With four licensed operators of their own, 2002 was their best year in terms of HF stations worked. This may have been due to the Cushcraft R7000 multi-band vertical supported on a huge wooden tripod built by the Scouts and to the long hours, from the midnight start until 2100 on Sunday. They were delighted to contact Gilwell Park, HB9S and an Omani Scout station A47JOTA. They also had a JOTI station active using a mobile phone as their HQ has no fixed line.

GB0DSR - Dewerstone Scout Centre, Devon

The group of Scouts expected at this residential centre cancelled at the last minute leaving the JOTA operator with no visitors. Undaunted, he operated using his own call sign, G4UTX, and was kept very busy answering the JOTI e-mails which he found every bit as demanding.

GB0EKT - Basildon, Essex

This station was active on Saturday evening and Sunday on 144 MHz and 80 m and the licence holder reports contacts with several UK Scout stations.

GB0FGS - 1st Gosfield Scouts

This station sent a very detailed report. Building on previous experience they had their masts and antennae up in good time for the start and down again before the bad weather threatened.

They had plenty of Scout contacts as well as some more unusual stations including G0BXL whose shack is fitted up like the radio room of the Titanic. During the night they were part of a net of six European stations that lasted over five hours. Scouts camped and cooked, earning badges in the process, while community work and meteorology were also on the programme.

GB0FNS - 1st Newick Scouts

This station is fortunate in having four Scouts with the new Foundation licence who were kept very busy with interesting contacts. As is so often the case the longer contacts often prove most informative. Accepting messages from Hebden Bridge helped these scouts with their Radio Communication badge, while Scouts in Bergen, Norway were camping despite 10cm of snow. PA1AT/JAM in the Netherlands amazed everyone by switching languages from Dutch, English, German and French for consecutive QSOs. The highlight of their weekend was a contact with VY2JAM in Prince Edward Island, Canada. This station commented on the pleasure of hearing young amateurs on the band and their high standard of operating.

GB0FSA - Barrow-in Furness District

This station operated both days and offered a full programme of activities including designing QSL cards, building radio receivers, morse and semaphore and arranging badge swaps with Scout stations contacted. They were also interviewed for BBC local radio and the local press.

GB0FSE - 7th / 8th Cambridgeshire

Active on both days, this station had contacts in the UK as well as in Europe.

GB0HDS - Horsham West and Horsham Weald

Although the timing of JOTA in 2002 was the weekend the school troop were off for their half term holiday and visitor numbers were down in consequence as far as radio contacts are concerned this was one of the best years with 51 Scout stations in 18 countries including Indonesia, Kuwait and South Africa. Four Cub Scouts gained their Communicator badge.

GB0HS - 1st Hindhead, Surrey

Operating on Saturday, visitors to this station could try SSTV in addition to 70cm, 2m, 40m and 20m SSB. One contact was with the father of a Scout and the station worked JOTA stations in several European countries.

GB0JSA - Jersey Scout Association

An Explorers Weekend Camp with JOTA and JOTI saw a total of 93 badges gained. The International aspects of JOTA were emphasised with a display of International material and an Explorer Challenge was also on the programme.

GB0MKS - Milton Keynes Scouts

Scouts visiting this station were also able to take advantage of the other activities offered by the site such as rifle-shooting, pioneering, camping and hiking. Four Scouts completed their Radio Communications badge and stations contacted in the UK and abroad included Z27JAM in Harare.

GB0PSG - 2nd Pwllheli Scout Group

Thirteen Scouts from this group gained their Communicator badges. While tuning a receiver as part of the badge they heard a JN prefix and asked where it was from. One of the operators returned his set and contacted the station to the delight of the Scouts who had found it.

GB1WSD - Wakefield Scout District, Central Yorkshire

This station managed to contact not only Norwegian stations in Norway but also a Norwegian operating in Latvia. All those who took part are keen to try again next year.

GB2AST - Arbroth District

Another station already planning next year's event, this station combined JOTA and JOTI with a camp and sleep-over. During the weekend 23 badges were gained by the Scouts and Explorers who also made contact with stations across the UK and Europe.

GB2BS - Bewcastle Scouts Group

Although only active on Saturday afternoon they managed contacts with Scout stations in the UK, Europe and the USA. The bad weather put paid to the planned outdoor activities but they too are getting organised for 2003.

GB2BSA - Boy Scouts of America

Not surprisingly this station, located in Harrogate, was keen to work Scout stations in the USA. They also contacted W6RO, the Queen Mary from Long Beach, California and W5LEX, battleship Lexington. Another unusual contact was with W1XYZ on 28 MHz running 1 watt on a handheld rig in Boston.

GB2COS - 25th Chester (Oldfield) Scout Troop

This station operated continuously from Friday to Sunday and was rewarded with plenty of interesting contacts from every corner of the globe, including Scout stations in South Africa, USA, Brazil, Peru, Australia and the Netherlands Antilles. The station was visited by the Lord Mayor of Chester and Phillipa M3PHI made her first DX contact with VA2ZZ. Her enthusiasm rubbed off on some of the visiting Brownies who are now considering the Foundation Licence, as is one of the dads.

GB2DS - Devizes and mid-Wilts District Scouts

All sections were represented at this station who made contact with some twenty UK stations and one in the Netherlands. Some ten Scouts gained their Radio Communications badge and cubs could complete part of their Communicator badge. A Radio Fun Quiz, a Geographical Game and camping were also on offer.

GB2ESG - 7th Epsom Methodist Scout Group

Active on both days, this station had contacts in the UK and Europe and also ran a JOTI station.

GB2FSS - 12th South West Cheshire (1st Shavington)

Back on air after a break of three years this station ran radio based activities and plans to incorporate a wider programme in the future if there is sufficient interest. Six Scouts gained their Radio Communication Badge and one has gone on to gain his Foundation Licence.

GB2GCS - Grimsby and Cleethorpes District

Although their numbers were down on last year, 122 from 160, they considered the weekend to have been a resounding success. All Scout sections, Brownies and Guides and an owl of the feathered variety, not the Brownie leader type, visited the station and took part in the activities on offer which included British sign language, invisible writing and Fax machines.

Radio activities included RTTY, PSK31, SSTV and Morse code as well as working towards the fifty radio related badges gained during the weekend.

GB2HDS - Halifax District

The Radio Amateurs at this station provided a full introduction to Amateur Radio enabling Scouts to gain their badges with each Scout passing greetings messages, logging stations and trying Morse code.

GB2JAM - Birkenhead District

Running both JOTA and JOTI provided this station with some interesting contacts as linking up with a JOTI station resulted in working the same location by Radio. This station has Scout Association radio operators and although reported few young visitors is planning to offer a wider range of activities for next time.

GB2LC - Linnet Clough

Widely advertised in Greater Manchester and Cheshire, this station attracted 140 Scout Association visitors and one Guide to its

Technology Camp. This ambitious programme included plenty of radio based activities including Radio Direction finding and constructing Morse practice oscillators and electronic dice. Media skills included video production, digital photography, sound editing and magazine production. The team was strengthened by seven newly licensed M3 operators fresh from a course run by members of the JOTA team. While the youngsters camped in tents the team enjoyed the comforts of the permanent buildings. The County Commissioner has booked the site for next year.

GB2LDS - Lonsdale District Scouts

JOTA was part of a wider programme including Morse games, an Enigma challenge, Countries competition and crystal set building. One young Scout with a brand new Foundation Licence M3BIO made his first ever contact with HB9S quickly followed by TF1Jam and the Faeroe Islands. Next year Andrew G0LWU and the team hope to have the RSGB Fun Bus but are looking for other groups to share the cost of the fuel.

GB2MSG - Mundesley Scout Group, Norfolk

The Licence holder of this single operator station had a fault on the transmitter on Sunday so this station was only active on Saturday working several UK stations.

GB2SPX - Spixworth Sea Scouts

The five Scouts who visited this station all went away with their Radio Communications badge possibly inspired by the example of Andrew Keeble, a former Spixworth Scout and the First Young Amateur of the Year.

GB2SSD - 67th Doncaster North District, South Yorkshire

The preparations for erecting the aerials for this station on Friday sounded quite hair-raising but all went well and the Cubs passed plenty of messages and gained their Com-



GB2LC - Matthew M3CYB, a new operator at Linnet Clough, at work.



GB2LC - Transmitter hunting expedition guided by Oliver, G6SUN.



GB4YOU - Michaela M3MLG and Linden.

JOTA

19 - 20

October

2002



GB2COS - This year's badge.



G0OPZ - Members of the 1st Pudsey Scout Group listening to their newly completed kit radios.



MN0AKU - Trevor MI5TCC, Cub Scout Leader Richard and Cub Scouts Matthew & Jordan.



GX0SCR - Ted G7OBF testing a Caterham Brownie's knowledge of the phonetic alphabet.



GB2SSD - Callam showing David how to lay out his prompt card.



GB8IRS - Keith M3CIY and Scouts of the 10th Ipswich Troop.

munications badge. Attempts to send messages to a mobile station didn't work out as planned when a mum, believing her son to be among the occupants of the said car, gave chase. Back in the shack there were games to play including a Morse Code game where all the participants sends a message in Morse asking them to perform a task while their hands are touching the table or where they are all in contact with one another by linking hands. Everyone enjoyed the event and they made 27 contacts with Scout stations mainly on 40 m.

GB2SVS - Staggs Venture Scouts

Operating on both days and on most bands the team provided a range of radio related activities for their visitors including Morse practice, short-wave listening, a live Automatic Packet/position Reporting System display and PSK 31.

GB2TDS - 1st Pentwyn, Terra Nova District

This JOTA station was part of a Global Challenge International Group Award. The station was active on Saturday and had several QSOs including Scout contacts at home and abroad.

GB2TWH - Taunton West Hatch Scout Group

The local group were joined by Scouts from South Somerset District. They contacted several UK stations including the Jersey Scouts they had camped with in the summer. Plans for the pioneering activities were disrupted by the bad weather but nine badges were gained .

GB2USG - Urmston Scout Group

This station had plenty of help and had Scout contacts in the UK, in Europe and in Barbados. The Scouts were able to play games using PMR446 radios, to make contacts using 'echolink', a program that allows worldwide connections between stations and computers and between computers, and plotted landmarks with a portable tracker 'uiview'.

GB2WRS & GB8WRS - 123rd Manchester (Whalley Range) Scouts

This station can call on the services of Scouts and Guides with all types of licences including the new Foundation licence. Their Scout and Guide visitors were active on most bands making Scout contacts in the UK and abroad.

GB4CNS - Central Notts District

With a team of Scout operators this station enjoyed plenty of Scouting contacts both in the UK and around the world. They kept going from Friday night to Sunday with Cubs, Scouts and Explorers passing greetings messages. They were interested to learn from the operator at the site of the 1956 Jamboree that it was 10E warmer there than in Nottingham which was -3EC overnight.

GB4FSS - 86th N E Birmingham Scout Group Cub Pack

This station also ran a JOTI event and were active on Saturday afternoon. They are hoping to offer badge opportunities next time.

GB4HDS - Hartlepool District Scouts

This station saw all twenty six Cubs and three Scouts visiting the station earn their Communications badge with one Scout Global Challenge also gained. They had some interesting contacts with Scouts in St Helena, Kuwait and Italy among others and eighteen Japanese contacts early on Sunday morning.

GB4JLC - Kettering Division Guides

The John Lowther Centre was full of Brownies on Pack Holiday who took full advantage of the JOTA station for all sixty two to gain their Communications Badge. They had contacts in the UK and in Europe, particularly the Scandinavian countries.

GB4LST - 4th Lancing (Methodist) Scout Group

Eight Scouts spent Saturday working for their Radio Communications badge contacting

mainly UK Scout stations. They also tried their hand at Morse code.

GB4NDS - Northampton Scout Amateur Radio Group

With every section represented and with plenty of Scout operators this station celebrated twenty one years of Radio Scouting in fine style with their best ever JOTA. Seven Scouts completed their Radio Communicator badge. Maybe these will be the next in the group to gain their Foundation licences as they already have six M3 members. On Saturday evening there was a birthday buffet for members past and present and the Marconi Explorer Unit was launched, a specialist unit attached to the NSARG. All the celebrations did not get in the way of operating with plenty of contacts in nineteen countries including Japan, South Africa and New Zealand.

GB4WDS - Woodbridge District Scouts

A JOTA and JOTI station that made plenty of contacts at home and abroad despite the German contest. An SSTV receiving station had several Scout images and encouraged by a one way TV link on 23cm with GB8IRS Ipswich Radio Scouts, two way TV is on the planning list for 2003.

GB4WHS - Wallheath Scout Group

Despite problems with an HF transmitter and few visitors the team enjoyed both working and listening to the Jamboree stations and getting the flavour of Radio Scouting.

GB4YOU - Youlbury Scout and Guide Amateur Radio Station, Oxford

This year the station has welcomed Foundation Licence holders and new Full Licence holders as operators, and the youngest operator at twelve years old has both. Most of the operators have Scouting or Guiding connections and both movements provide visitors. Scouts had an introduction to Amateur Radio on Saturday while Brownies completed their Radio Communications badge on Sunday.

GB5BG - Birstall Ranger Guides

Operating from the home of their Radio Amateur, this Guide station operated for two sessions on Saturday. They were delighted to hear the operator's Ranger granddaughter Karen 2E1HMQ operating from PA3GVQ/J and able to talk to the Birstall Rangers.

GB5CB - 1st Chesham Bois Group, Bucks

This station put in a token appearance this year so only the real enthusiasts turned up. They had put up their aerials in the dry on Saturday ready for Sunday when they were delighted to work HB9S and talk to the Thailand Jamboree radio team. Taking the aerials down again resulted in a soaking.

GB6DS - 9th Dartford, Dartford District

Cray Valley Radio Society provided Beavers and Scouts with a wide variety of contacts in 22 different countries. They worked 35 Scout stations in the UK and Europe, especially Scandinavia and were delighted with their contact in Iceland. They also had a demonstration of Automatic Position Reporting and several 'learn Morse in 15 minutes' sessions.

GB8IRS - Ipswich Radio Scouts

Sharing their accommodation with West District Explorer Scouts provided not only new visitors but also provided the rent and food. Three Scouts new to JOTA gained their Radio Communications Badge while two old hands were rewarded with the new style badge. One of these hopes to take the Foundation Licence soon. There was a varied programme of radio related activities including direction finding, robot driving, weather satellite pictures and a JOTI station for part of the time.

GB8WS - 4th Willenhall Scouts, Bloxwich and Willenhall

Willenhall District Amateur Radio Club provided the radio expertise for this station which was active for both days. Games and crafts were also on offer and six Scouts gained their Radio

Communications badge. The local DC visited and spoke to the World Bureau station in Geneva.

GN4SIW - Antrim and District Scouts

The team here worked plenty of stations during the weekend including Scout contacts in the UK and Europe. JOTI was also on offer to the visiting Cubs and Scouts.

GX0OSH & GX7OSH - Torbay District, Devon

A large team of amateurs from Nortel Amateur Radio Society were on hand to help over a hundred visitors from all sections. They had Scout contacts at home and abroad and were one of the stations that contacted the Planet Lightship in Liverpool Docks. Other activities included JOTI and web site building, digital photography and pin hole cameras, a campfire and a soap box Derby - a mix of old and new technology!

GX0SCR - Caterham Guides and Brownies

This Guide station never misses an opportunity to put Scouts and Guides in radio contact with one another and provides a very detailed report. This year they could boast a nine year old Brownie, Belynda with her own call sign M3BYL and a Young Leader, Annabel 2EIPAL/M3PYL among the staff. They had a busy programme with eleven Brownies passing their Radio Communication Badge and plenty of interesting Scout radio contacts especially in Australia, New Zealand and the USA, passing a total of 71 greetings messages. The weather was good enough for a barbecue - not every station was so lucky.

G0OPZ/G7JHS - Central Yorkshire Radio Fellowship

Operating from their usual shack at Bramhope Scout campsite, Leeds the team of Scout and Guide operators welcomed Scouts from all sections of 1st Pudsey Scout Group on the Saturday. Making simple radios and Morse

oscillators was on offer. They had JOTA contacts with Oxfordshire and the Boy Scouts of America in Harrogate and also made contacts using PSK 31.

G3BHK

This call sign is recognised by most as a JOTA station and a contact with Les is almost always noted in the reports sent in. This year he worked a dozen UK stations and several abroad often hoping for a chat with his JOTA friends. He was delighted to contacts Yves at HB9S but was puzzled that references to earlier contacts were unrecognised, the reason being it was a different Yves.

G3WNS

Alan divided his weekend between GB2MKS and his home location. Although frustrated by the German contest he did manage to find a Scout station GB0FGS to talk to on Saturday evening. Things improved on Sunday and there were contacts at home and abroad, including 9K2SS Ali from Alan's JOTA days in Kuwait.

M3BIB

Using his own call sign and operating from Cambridge, Alistair had contacts with Scout stations throughout the UK and in Belgium and the Netherlands.

MN0AKU - 11th Londonderry (Newbuildings) Cub Scout Pack

Ten Cubs and their leaders must have worked very hard at this JOTA station as they also assisted with the cooking to count towards the Cook badge, designed thanks cards for Artist badge and wrote thank you letters for their Writer badge as well as the radio activities. Morse code was very popular and the cubs picked it up very quickly. Four are considering taking the Foundation licence.