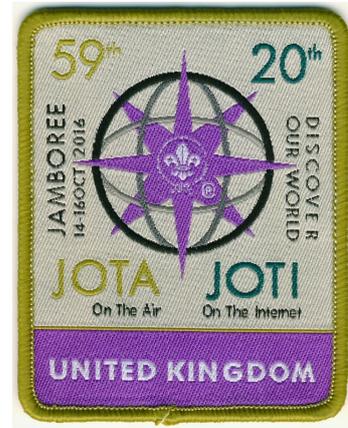


Jamboree on the Air 2016

UK National Report



This year JOTA took place on the earliest possible dates. For some English stations the weekend was not a school holiday while in Scotland it was. To what extent this affects participation is difficult to determine but arranging weekend events with sleepovers is not popular in term time.

Some 55 stations registered on the Radio Scouting UK website. Reports were received from nine. Getting stations to report has never been easy but it seems it is more attractive to report to the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) than to the JOTA co-ordinator. This may be because the JOTA stations are run by Amateur Radio clubs who are keen to have a mention in the RSGB magazine, but it does not make the co-ordinator's job easy with so few accurate numbers registered.

The weather over the weekend was mild, favouring the campers, but very heavy rain on Sunday morning made travelling difficult in some areas. Radio conditions were variable, with rapid fading a problem at times. There had been auroral activity in the days preceding which may have explained some of the problems. Once again the German contest effectively swamped the bands. Even if they restrict their activity to the contest segments, it so reduces the available width on an already crowded bands that combined with the increasing amounts of background electronic 'noise', it makes it difficult for inexperienced youngsters to understand what is being said. The increased interest in digital modes perhaps reflects this. However if the event continues to be promoted as a chance to talk to Scouts round the world, it is not always living up to the hype.

Almost all the stations reporting mention offering Morse code and how popular it was with the young people. Several stations had Morse contacts so maybe it is something to foster as the CW sectors may soon be the only ones available.

With the 60th JOTA in 2017 it would be nice if we could hear one another again as in earlier years without battling contests. JOTA stations are encouraging youngsters to take up the hobby so a 'quiet' JOTA weekend would be to everyone's benefit.

GB0CSC - 1st Jordanstown Scout Group S.E. Antrim District

This station was fortunate in having members of the local Radio Club using their prize as RSGB National Small Club if the year IC7300 transmitter for the first time set up in JT65 mode. They were delighted with some excellent long distance contacts including several in Japan. JOTA was part of a weekend of activities and included kit building and practical work towards the Foundation Licence for 12 Scouts. All the Scouts at the station were able to exchange greetings messages with other Scouts

GB0GDS - Greenock and District Scouts

The Greenock team are all Scout licenced Radio Amateurs experienced in running Special Event stations but in Scotland the JOTA weekend clashed with the school holiday resulting in poor attendance. Thus was unfortunate as this station had plenty to offer including Morse Code contacts with Guantanamo Bay and a DX expedition to Sao Tome & Principe. They also tried Echolink for the first time. The Greenock team are all licenced Radio Amateurs

GB0GUN - The National Scout Rifle Championships

The JOTA station runs as an addition to the Rifle Championships which attract 1000 Scouts. Those who found their way to the JOTA pavilion could try JOTU, Morse Code and electronic construction. New this year was lock picking.

GB0SDB - Spitfire District, Birmingham

Despite operating for Saturday only this busy station had plenty of visitors of all ages. Where possible they offered activities that were part of badge syllabuses but the new programme makes it harder to complete in one session. They had contacts with several UK JOTA stations and after one Scout asked about Morse code they answered a Morse CQ call resulting in an exchange of information all in Morse.

GB1CUB - Bromsgrove District

This station operated from Bromsgrove & District ARC shack and ran for both days attracting large numbers of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts who all gained their Communicator badge. They had plenty of Scout contacts both at home and abroad. Simple Morse keys built for the event proved to be very popular. They also held an Investiture On Air using the Club calls and 2m hand-helds. Although several of the Scout leaders are licensed they expressed their gratitude to those club members who willingly took messages.

GB2GP - Gilwell Park

This station has the advantage of excellent permanent aerials and powerful transmitters which is reflected in the large number of contacts round the world, including a contact with the Chief Scout of Namibia. Over 250 youngsters took part in a programme combining JOTA, JOTI and on-site activities, providing the right mix of technology and adventure. In addition there was kit-building and more than 150 AM radios were built during the weekend. Radar tracking overhead aircraft was also very popular but under the Heathrow flight path there would be plenty to track! There were also video links to Scouts in Texas, South Africa and Nigeria and nearer home, Youlbury. Many Cubs and Scouts completed their Digital Citizen badge. An Internet Café was also popular with the International Department requesting Scouts investigate the water and sanitation conditions in the countries they contacted.

GB4YOU - Youlbury Scout Activity Centre

After a break of a few years the Youlbury call was again in use at the world's oldest Scout Campsite in Oxfordshire. The station was part of an activity weekend with groups booked in for JOTA, JOTI and outdoor activities. All the 100 places were taken and the radio station was kept busy both days. A team of Scout and Guide operators, assisted by Harwell ARS members, offered in introduction to Amateur Radio including message preparation and QSL card design, kit construction, Morse code and Radio Orienteering which proved popular. Once the German contest started it proved very difficult to get contacts and messages were passed using handhelds.

GB8CS - 2nd Clevedon Scout Group

This station camped for two nights and the caterers gained their Chef's badge. Their Radio contacts included both UK stations and Scout stations abroad and they also tried signalling using Morse Code and lamps. The licence holder provided an hour by hour report on JOTA traffic noting the variable conditions and the complete wipeout once the German contest started.

M0MMZ - Leighton Buzzard

With only the Station Operator's report the Scout group and numbers attending are not available. The station had plenty of JOTA contacts in the UK and a couple in the Netherlands.

MX0NBC - Bristol

This station too did not supply a Scout report but was active both days with contacts in the UK and Europe. They also offered Morse Code and obviously had curious visitors as they spent time answering 'technical questions'.

Reports from the following stations can be found in the January issue of RadCom pp 64-67 ...

GB1BEL	GB1OSG	GB2CIS	GB2JAM
GB1GDS	GB1SMS	GB2DSG	GB2TS
GB1HCV	GB100WYS	GB2GP	GB6BBS
GB1HS	GB2CDS	GB2HWC	MX0NCA

... and several other stations with no callsign given.

Richard Gaskell G0REL
UK JOTA Coordinator



GB2GP



**GB4YOU - Radio
Orienteering**



GB2GP



GB4YOU