

TDARS

Newsletter

Issue 247

www.TDARS.org.uk

Programme

August 2011

www.telfordhamfest.co.uk

July 27 Guernsey Trip preparation. Oscilloscopes in Practice. (Bring one along!)

August 3 Committee & HamFest Meeting @ Stafford Park (LWVH closed)

August 10 Radio Competition with G3UKV

August 17 HamFest Planning—Jobs for the boys (and family ?)

August 19-24 Guernsey Expedition (IN89 locator square)

August 24 G3ZME on Air and Informal evening.

August 28 (Sun.) Proposed visit to Bletchley Park Museum & Milton Keynes Radio Rally. Make own arrangements for car-share, travel times etc.

August 31 HamFest Final Planning. (dotting the Is and crossing the Ts)

September 4 “TELFORD HAMFEST “ at Enginuity. Doors Open 10:30 (or earlier)

September 7 Committee & HF/VHF on air at LWVH.

September 14 HamFest de-brief. Project for the winter. Ideas ?

September 21 Treasure Hunt in Little Wenlock. Start at LWVH 7:30 onwards.

September 28 Video evening

October 5 Committee meeting at Stafford Park. (LWVH HQ closed.)

October 12 DIY Electronic Measurements

October 19 Members' Winter Projects - ideas night

Thanks for contributions from: Mike G3JKX, Rob M0TOY, Robin G1MHU, Simon M3SET, Richard G0VXG, Dave G0CER, Norman G0ASP, Don M0FHM & Kevin G8UPF

For Amateur Radio Exam Training—enquiries to Mike G3JKX (01952 299677)

For Morse Training and Morse Proficiency Tests Martyn G3UKV or Eric M0KZB.

For Equipment Loans & Returns contact Ricky M0RKY or Simon M3SET

Radio Amateur Exams: Latest News: www.tdars.org.uk/html/trainingFoundation.html

G3ZME Telford & District Amateur Radio Society. *Founded 1969* **G6ZME**
Village Hall, Malthouse Bank, Little Wenlock, Telford, Shropshire. TF6 5BG

Editorial

VHF NFD went off well this time round. The gear and antennas performed almost 100%, and the weather was the best I can ever remember for such an event. Turnout by Members at the Long Mynd site was once again exceptional. It's surprising how encouraging it is to see friends and families come up to the site, even if it is just to call in and say 'hello'. There seems to be an informal pact with National Trust that they leave us alone, and for our part, we make sure we do not leave litter or get in the way of other visitors. There were quite a number of interested visitors, which also adds to the general enjoyment, and the occasional radio amateur who is also curious, and perhaps does not know of our existence. The TDARS banner strapped to one of the masts is an easy and useful way of identifying us.

Finally, the initial indications are that we should be in the top few stations in the "Mix and Match" section which we have entered in the past few years, so hopefully there will be good news to impart in the next Newsletter, or soon after.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the event in any way. It's certainly one of the highlights of the TDARS calendar.

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CHAIRMAN: Derek Southey G0EYX (01785 604904)
VICE-CHAIRMAN: Martyn Vincent (01952 255416)
SECRETARY: Mike Street G3JKX (01952 299677)
TREASURER: Jim Wakenell G8UGL (01952 684173)
CURATOR : Ricky Brown M0RKY (01952 411793 or 07947 351980)
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Martyn Vincent G3UKV (01952 255416)
PUBLICITY : Dave G0CER (01630 638699 or 07971 416940, leave msg)

Committee: Richard M1RKH; Simon G0UFE; Eric M0KZB; Martin 2E0TRO; Rob M0TOY; Peter 2E0ZSU; Trophies/Certs: G3UKV & M1RKH. QSL Manager David M0EMM; Assistant Curator: Simon M3SET (01588 674918)

REMINDER: Paid up Members are welcome to borrow items of Club Equipment, so long as they're returned the following week and the usual "signing out" process is followed strictly. That's a privilege of TDARS Membership. If you can't return it on time, please find someone else who can, or don't borrow it that week! Curator: Ricky M0RKY

Annual Subs. Have you paid yours for 2011/12 ? —please note the current rates are £28, or £22 non-earners, £14 full time students. These rates are un-changed from 2010/11.

Comment from Robin G1MHU... "Can't believe that the UK box shifters charge £20 for a cable that can be made for less than a fiver! (I can believe it—Ed)
I have just made an adaptor cable for my IC-7000, so I can connect standard 8 pin round mic plugs, it is the equivalent to the Icom OPC-589 cable. Suits IC-703/706/7000 and maybe some others that use the RJ-45 connector. This is wired for ICOM only and would probably not work on other manufacturers kit.."

QTC? News & Information

TDARS MEETINGS EVERY WEDNESDAY AT LITTLE WENLOCK VILLAGE HALL UNLESS INDICATED OTHERWISE ON THE FRONT PAGE PROGRAMME. ROOM BOOKED FROM 7PM - 10PM. MEETINGS USUALLY COMMENCE AT 8PM

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This year's HamFest will soon be here. Please help in some way towards its success. There's so much to do to ensure our visitors really enjoy the day, and remember it for all the right reasons. Once again we are having a guest speaker/presenter, after last year's popular Nick Mier talk about Enigma. Roger Stafford (G4ROJ) of www.kiteantennas.com fame is coming to present his ideas on kites and balloons as antenna supports ('skyhooks'). You may recall his excellent presentation back in March to the club, complete with string, card, wire oddments etc ! It may also be possible to use a nearby open area to try out one or two of his kites after the talks. Also at the rally, the **Bring and Buy** stall will feature. Will members who wish to sell anything please bring items along when we set up at Enginuity on Saturday evening. This will really help the B&B organisation. We have been given a VERY LARGE consignment of **vintage radio valves** to sell on someone's behalf. TDARS keep 50% cash of any sold, and they can be examined and purchased at club HQ any Wednesday before the B&B at the HamFest. Please plug the event 'on the air' between now and September whenever possible.

The use of **Special Contest Callsign G3Z** is always welcome. It has been used on three occasions so far this year. Note that eligible contests for July to October include July 30-31 RSGB IOTA; Aug 13-14 WAE DX CW; Sept 3-4 IARU 144MHz Trophy; Sept 10-11 WAE DX SSB; Sept 24-25 CQ WW RTTY; October 1-2 IARU 432MHz-248GHz; Oct 29-30 CQ WW SSB contests. Let me know if you would like to use G3Z on any of these dates, please.



Club Projects are usually thought about at the end of the summer, so it's not too early to think about what YOU might like to construct later in the year. I'm thinking about a PIC morse memory keyer, after my old CMOS (1979 vintage) keyer started doing silly things this week. Discuss ideas at meeting Oct.19.

Some Members have expressed an interest in visiting **Bletchley Park Centre** this year, and since RSGB are now not opening their 'National Radio Centre' until 2012, it has been suggested that Sunday August 28th would be a suitable date. The Milton Keynes Radio Society are holding a Radio Rally at the venue on that date, which opens at 09:30 and costs £2 admission (on top of Bletchley entrance charge). It's just over 100 miles away, mostly motorway. (MK3 6EB). It's been suggested that members make their own time and car-sharing arrangements.

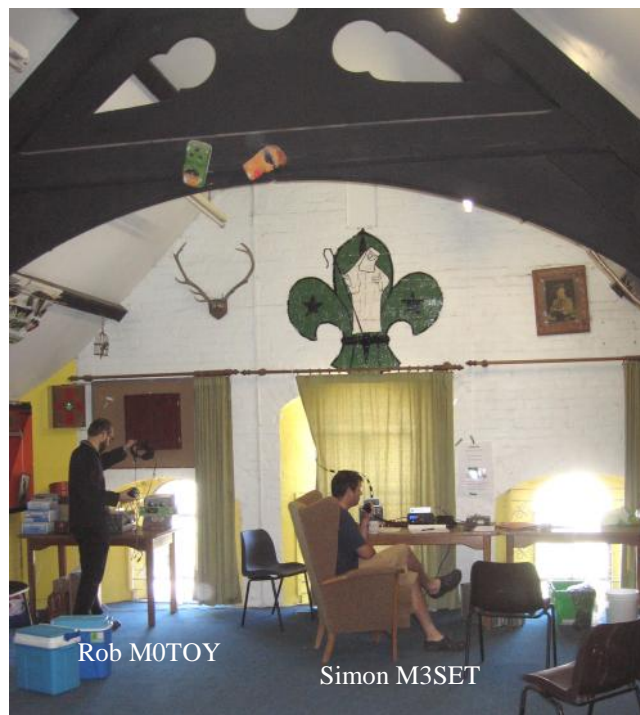
Richard **G0VXG spotted this item** in a Spanish market, and wondered if it was an early morse key. On closer examination he found it was something else. " So more like 5 cups an hour than 20 words per minute".



By the time you read this, Simon M3SET, Rob M0TOY and others will have run the **GB0WPB** ('William Penny Brookes') **Special Event Station** in Much Wenlock, which is exactly one year prior to the official Olympic Games in the UK. Simon hopes that this will be a precursor to a larger event in 2012 during the Games, which is now a recognised and registered event with the IOC. Sounds an exciting prospect for next year. More details about William Brookes and his part in the re-establishment of the modern Olympic Games appear on the TDARS website, which has been accessed over 600 times in July alone! At Much Wenlock, there was a really good turnout of members, including M3SET, M0EMM, G0UFE, M0ECM, M0PNN, M0TOY, M0KZB, G4EIX, M0FHM, G8VZT, G3JKX, 2E0TRO, 2E0ZSU, G3UKV, M6XCM. M0RKY, John Humphreys and a fair number of passing-by visitors. Chris and helpers put up a high doublet for 40 and 80 metres which regularly got 5/9+ reports, Rob brought along his tri-bander beam for 10/15/20 metres, and a 'white stick' collinear was used on 2m/70cm, mounted on the Club's mobile trailer-tower. Don added D-Star on Sunday afternoon with good results. The Scouts' building is an almost perfect venue for a Special Event Station, with plenty of space, kitchen area etc., available at minimal cost. Some of the lads stayed overnight, but no ghost sightings in this old building next to the ancient Priory have been reported—although a fox entered the building whilst the human residents were upstairs, and left a very smelly deposit downstairs. Uugh !



Simon G0UFE on 20 metres downstairs. Still punning..



Rob M0TOY
Simon M3SET

Upstairs station GB0WPB in the rather special surroundings of the Scout HQ.



Scout building (left) and Priory (right). One end of the LF doublet passed right over the Priory, thanks to Chris's fishing rod skills.



Rob M0TOY is allowed to operate too ! (Actually this was a pose for the photographer—but he has his uses...!)

[Having received several e-mails and an article about GB0WPB from Simon M3SET BEFORE the weekend 23/24 July, their content I think is still relevant, even though this Newsletter is being typed AFTER the event.; read on—I think you'll see what I mean — Editor]

London 2012 Olympics

Many of you may be aware that TDARS are running a special event station, call sign GB0WPB on the weekend of Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th July 2011. The station will be based in Much Wenlock Scout Hut and will celebrate one year to go until the 2012 London Olympics.



The station will also commemorate the life of William Penny Brookes (1809 – 1895), who founded the Wenlock Olympian Society, who held the first annual Wenlock Olympic Games in 1850. Brookes also helped set up the National Olympic Society, who held their first National Olympic Games at Crystal Palace in 1866 and he is also widely considered to be founding father of the modern Olympic Movement. Therefore our special event station aims to promote our county's Olympic legacy and hopefully promote our fantastic hobby locally.

Whilst this year's special event station will be a fairly modest affair, I am currently in conversation with members of Wenlock Olympian Society about the possibility of TDARS running a special station next year for the duration of the Wenlock Olympic games, 13th -16th July 2012. So hopefully next year's special event station could be quite an undertaking, any volunteers out there?

I shall report on the July 23-24 event in our next newsletter. '73

Simon M3SET



E-mail dated 14 July :::::

Having literally just posted details of our special event station, GB0WPB, I have just received an email from LOCOG (London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games). They are happy for us to mention the 2012 Games (how generous!!) and are even sending us bunting and stickers! Simon M3SET

E-mail posted an hour later :::::

I have been thinking it would be useful if we had a QRZ.com page detailing our special event at Much Wenlock. I am not a member of QRZ, is anyone able or indeed willing to put some info on there for me? Secondly I am hoping to arrange some QSL cards, does anyone know of a reliable supplier? Thanks. Simon. M3SET 01588 674918



Mike Street G3JKX, assisted by Ricky M0RKY, have been busy training candidates for Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced radio amateur examinations.

10 candidates sat and passed the Foundation level at Ludlow ATC, followed in April by Rob 2E0RAV (now M0TOY), Darren Goodman, Matt Porter and another candidate at Advanced level. Further successful F level candidates were Abigail Kappelman (now M6KAP), Steve Broome of Craven Arms and Derek Hargrove.

The current Intermediate Level course is being attended by Cheryl Jewell and our Simon Taylor, who has been M3SET for 9 years! Good luck to them in the forthcoming exam.

A couple of shots of G3ZME/P on VHF NFD from the Long Mynd, July 2-3 2011. Photos by Dave G0CER. Worth zooming in on these to see detail:



1500 hrs Saturday approaches.....



70 MHz tent and 8 ele yagi - Sunday

From Derek G0EYX ...

"Many members will remember Stan (G0BYA) who was a member up until a couple of years ago when he took time out to care for his wife. I am sorry to have to relate that Nora passed away late Saturday evening (June 4th ?).

Whilst she had not enjoyed the best of health in recent years she was always cheerful. I know your thoughts will be with him at this sad time."

From Don M0FHM...

"Are you aware there is an application for a 2 metre Repeater GB3GS At Much Wenlock by G3MAW ? " Look at <http://www.ukrepeater.net/vetting.html>

From Norman G0ASP ...

Technology !!

After digging to a depth of 10 feet last year, Australian scientists found traces of copper wire dating back 200 years and came to the conclusion that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 150 years ago.

Not to be outdone by the Aussies, in the weeks that followed, an American archaeologist dug to a depth of 20 feet and, shortly after, a story was published in the New York Times: "American archaeologists, finding traces of 250-year-old copper wire, have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network 50 years earlier than the Australians".

One week later, the Council in Essex , reported the following:

"After digging as deep as 30 feet in Colchester, Jack Lucknow, a self-taught archaeologist, reported that he found absolutely no stuff at all.

Jack has therefore concluded that 250 years ago, Britain had already gone wireless." Just makes you b***** proud to be British !

From Martyn G3UKV :::

Results from June 5th Microwave Low Bands Contest have just been published. G3ZME/P on Brown Clee came 1st overall with a normalised score (3000 max. Possible) of 2641. We were 3rd on 23cm, and first on both 13 & 9cm (that's 1296, 2320, 3400 MHz respectively).

From Simon M3SET ::: (late news)

Simon sends his thanks to everyone who helped at the GB0WPB Special Event Station, and particularly Rob M0TOY, Chris M0ECM, David M0EMM who contributed from start to finish. They had 395 QSOs all told, with 86 on 40/80 metres, 261 on 20m, 44 on 2m/70cm, which included 9 QSOs raised by Don 'FHM using D-Star mode. About 20 members of the general public called in to see the action.

From G8UPF :::

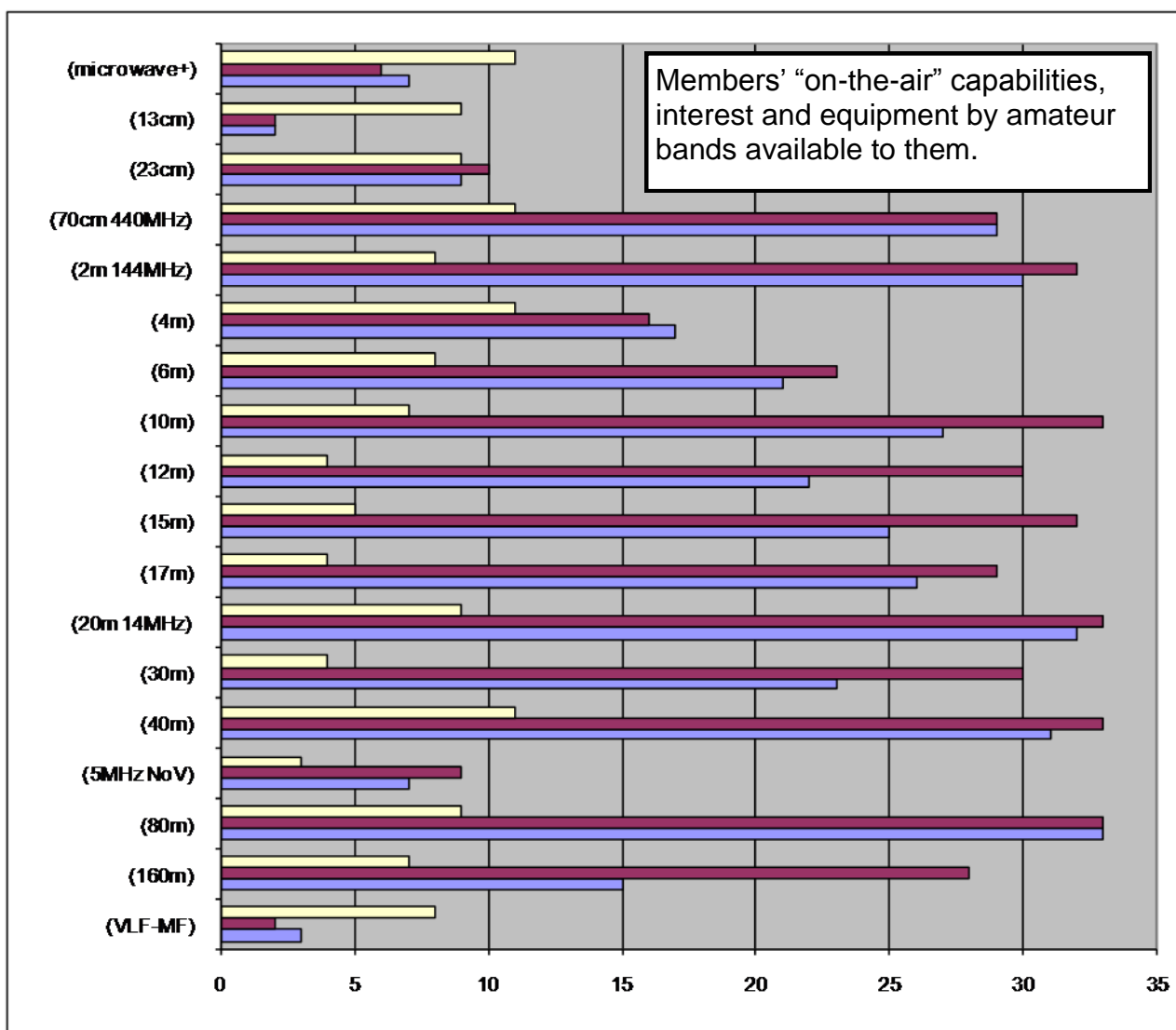
The June 2 metre foxhunt results were 1st. Dave G4EIX, 2nd Norman G0ASP and 3rd Rob M0TOY. The May and July results have not been made available to the Ed.

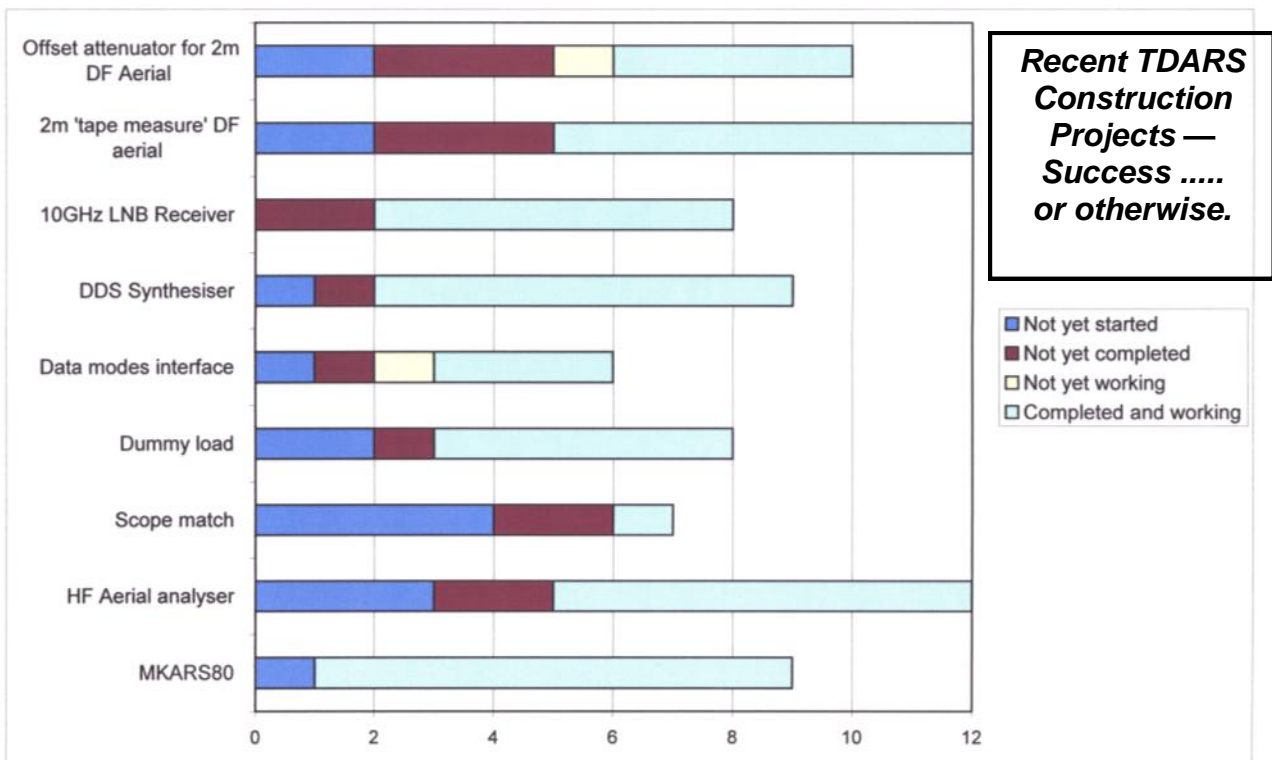
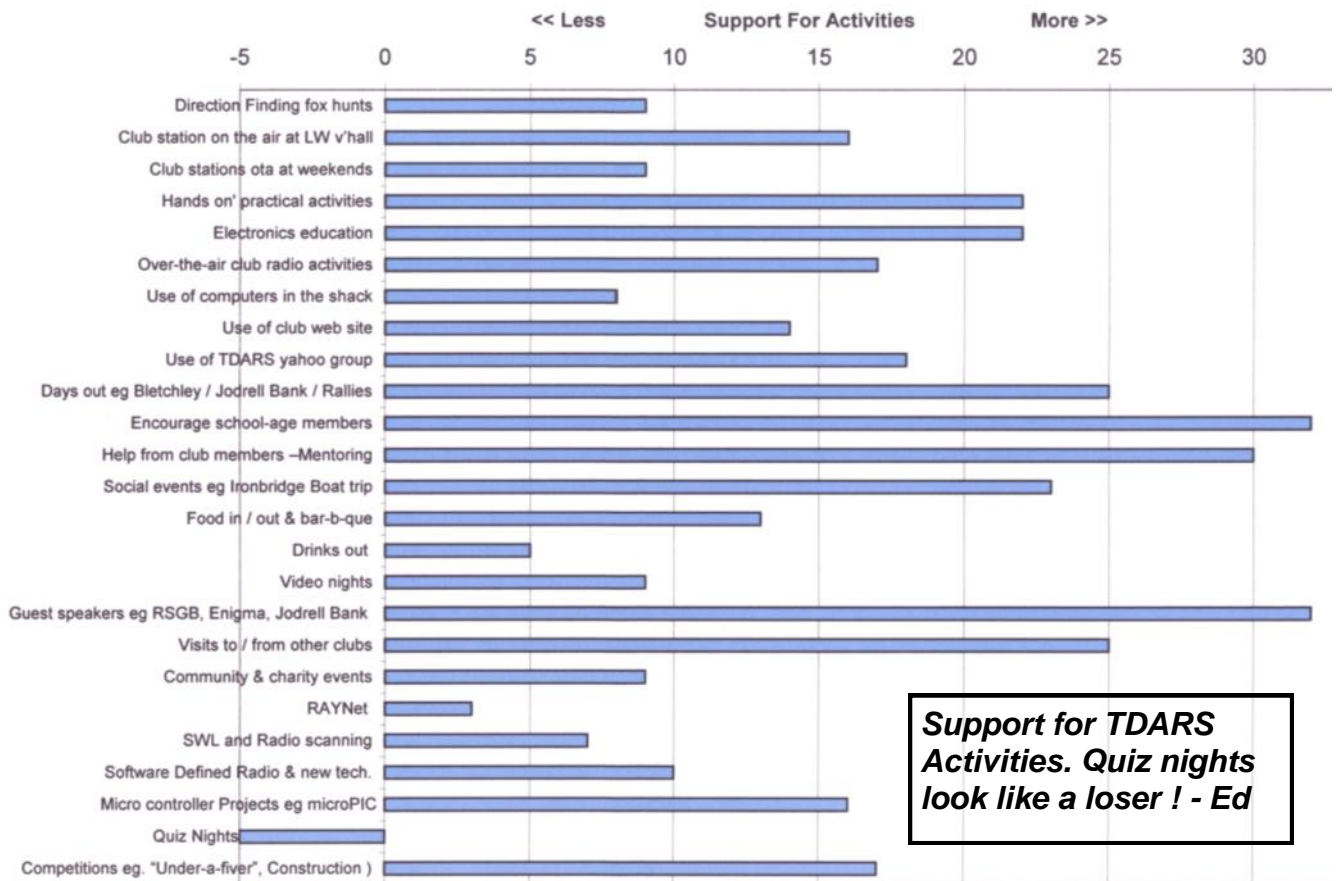
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2011 TDARS Survey Results by Rob M0TOY. Part 2.

38 people took part in the 'On-Line survey' earlier in the year. Here are more results—Ed

- Bands Yellow = Interested in Using More
- Red = Have Transmitters
- Blue = Have Aerials





The Club has purchased (£50 bargain) a good s/h **Khyam tent** which can be put up in a few minutes, and is large enough to be used as a sleeping and/or social tent.

An **automatic ATU** has been very generously donated to the Club by Dave G8VZT. It is hoped to use it to remotely tune the doublet in the loft area of LWVH on most HF bands.

Derek G0EYX has completed two (out of 4 planned) 2 metre **DF yagis with offset-oscillator** units attached. Only a handheld is required to complete a portable DF set for the next DF Hunt.