

# GLOUCESTER REPEATER GROUP NEWSLETTER

GB3GH GB7GH GB7FD GB7GC G7NYP

Edited by: Stewart Wilkinson G0LGS

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## COMMITTEE NEWS

Malcolm Lane (G0TMP) has decided to resign as Secretary, but will remain on the Committee as an ordinary Committee Member.

## CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

### 2m Voice Repeater

Negotiations are still on-going between ourselves and the RMC. A letter was sent to the RMC Chairman expressing concerns over the apparent delays in coming to a decision. In reply he states that whilst the RMC acknowledges our original letter of intent and other supporting information they do not have a copy of the formal application. This was submitted last year to the Regional Representative who in turn places it before the RMC. Obviously the document has gone astray somewhere. However, as we have a copy on file a photocopy will be sent forthwith. We have been told that the use of Cleeve Hill is not appropriate at this time as it will provide too great a coverage. The RMC have said that they are now looking at repeaters covering a smaller area, hence our alternative site of Churchdown Hill will be preferred.

### Packet Cymru.

Following discussions with node and BBS operators to the West, plans are under way to install some long haul trunk links. Presently a link from GB7GH to the BBC mast at Wenvoe, and from there to Swansea, on 70cm at 9k6 Baud full duplex is under construction. Path tests have been proved and the clearance form has been submitted.

### Regenerative Repeater.

Although Cleeve Hill is not currently appropriate for 2m voice systems, it is ideal for a packet regenerative repeater (RR) on 70cm. Negotiations are under way with the site owners to place an aerial at an appropriate height. Various nodes around the Cotswolds - particularly to the East, South, and North - will be invited to link to the RR at a speed of 38.4KBaud. This will provide immediate improvements to traffic flow from Birmingham to the South coast, and from Wales to East Anglia (subject to node operators taking up the offer). We are currently awaiting the DCC and RA to reach a decision on RR implementation. An application has been submitted.

### Frequency Moves.

As part of the above changes and improvements to the network, we are moving some of our link frequencies, particularly on 70cm. The object of the exercise is to remove all simplex channels and to transmit at one end of the band and receive at the other at all sites. This immediately releases more frequencies that otherwise would be subject to interference if run in the simplex mode. These changes - which should be advertised in advance - may cause outages on some links for short periods.

### Constitution.

Elsewhere you will find details of the proposed modified constitution. The Committee decided that it needed bringing up to date. Additionally, you will see a small change in name to 'Gloucestershire' from 'Gloucester'. This is to reflect the county wide nature of our coverage.

**Nicholas Negus**  
**G6AWT.**

## **GB3GH VOICE REPEATER**

The CW ID on the 70cm voice repeater GB3GH (433.125 MHz) now sends the additional character 'J' after its callsign, indicating that the repeater now supports sub-audible CTCSS access (J = 118.8 Hz).

Further work to achieve single antenna working and changes to the control system to filter out the CTCSS access tone from the transmitter are still required.

Reports for GB3GH should be sent to Ken Eastty (G3LVP).

## **PACKET AND IARU 2M BAND-PLAN**

Latest indications are that the changes to implement the packet section of the new IARU 2m band-plan will commence sometime after 1<sup>st</sup> July. It is not yet known exactly how these changes will affect each of our node sites, but a change of frequency of ALL our existing 2m ports seems likely.

## **RALLY NEWS**

This years 3 Counties Rally is to be held on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July at Purdiswell Leisure Centre, Bilford Road, Worcester.

According to information in the February 1997 RADCOM an "Amateur Radio, Electronics and Computer Fair" is to be held at the CHELTENHAM RACECOURSE on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April (10.00am - 4.30pm).

## **GB7GH NODE**

A problem with the Mains supply to the GB7GH site in November resulted in failure of the UPS used on the computer system and total system outage for a few hours, work on repairing the UPS is still in progress.

A recent problem has appeared with the system software reporting hearing callsigns on 4m, that we believe are not really on 4m, the cause of this has yet to be established, but is believed to be a hardware problem, work is in progress to try and locate the problem.

Some of the links from GB7GH are currently not working as well as we would like, with some build up of data occurring at busy times, especially on the longer (and often slower) paths. It is believed that the problem is due to a combination of factors, which includes a steady increase (over a long period) in the amount of data passing through the system. The committee is currently negotiating with neighbouring groups to arrange for upgrading of some of the links to split frequency working and eventually to full-duplex high speed operation, this process is however slow as changes at one site often have knock-on affects at a number of other sites.

## **GB7FD NODE**

The 70cm link from GB7FD to Madley (G7BTI/GB7MAD) was upgraded to 9K6 Duplex early in February, after some initial problems this link now appears to be working satisfactorily.

It is hoped that the planned upgrade of the link to G0RRG (GB7NW) near Swindon will be able to go ahead in the near future.

The committee has been approached regarding the possibility of providing a 70cm Link from GB7FD to a site in west Warwickshire. If this goes ahead it will provide a backup route to be used in the event of failure of the existing links (via GB7GH, G4FPV and GB7YJ).

## **GB7GC NODE**

The callsign GB7GC has now been cleared for operation from our new site at Churchdown Hill. We hope that this new site will be operational shortly providing user access ports on 144.650MHz and 433.650MHz (both 1200 Baud) with linking on 70cm to GB7GH.

The system is expected to run LODE (written by G7LED) under Linux on a 386DX-40. Whilst this software has already been used successfully at GB7LGS for many months this will be our first use of this software at a remote site, if this proves successful and reliable it's use may be extended to our other sites. Users familiar with the G8BPQ software used at GB7GH and GB7FD will see that this software has a similar user interface, however it provides much more flexibility for remote control and configuration.

## **GB7GLO MAILBOX**

Building work at the home of Steve (G4FPV) has resulted in a number of short system outages of both the G4FPV node and GB7GLO over the last few weeks, these un-avoidable outages have however enabled Steve to carry out some re-organisation of the system hardware (re-routing of antenna feeders etc.). Building work should be coming to an end soon after which the NODE and Mailbox should return to normal operation.

## **TCP/IP NETWORK**

Whilst we continue to explore the network to find additional TCP/IP routes to improve inter-connectivity in ALL directions, existing routes to the London area through the MLVN (G4FPV) and ROVER (GB7YJ) nodes tend to be very busy with BBS mail forwarding traffic and we have been asked where possible to avoid sending large volumes of TCP/IP traffic over this route (convers server traffic seems to be a particular problem) .

## **GB7LGS TCP/IP MAILBOX**

I had hoped that GB7LGS would now be in a position to accept casual AX25 BBS users as well as TCP/IP users, but initial experiments with XFBB (FBB for Linux) have been disappointing and I have been unable to get the system to work satisfactorily.

**Stewart Wilkinson.**  
**G0LGS**

## **OTHER NODES**

The Swansea University Radio Club have recently added a gateway using the alias SWANIP which has routes via the Universities network to a number of stations around the world, however current links from Gloucestershire and the Midlands to South Wales are not very good.

Stephen Dale (G6BIW) informs us that he has been carrying out experiments with linking on 23cm at 64KBits (using customised hardware and software) he hopes to have a link to GB7IMB working at this speed shortly.

## **TREASURERS REPORT**

The group has continued to attract new members through-out the last year, resulting in a significant increase in income over previous years, this should allow us to continue in our programme of improving existing links and adding new links.

Graham Nye (G8URP) and Mark David (G4MEM) have agreed to audit the accounts prior to the AGM.

**Stewart Wilkinson.**  
**G0LGS**

## **EGM AND AGM**

As you will see from the accompanying information, the committee have called an Extraordinary General Meeting to propose a change in the groups name from "Gloucester Repeater Group" to "Gloucestershire Repeater Group", and to formally adopt a new constitution.

The EGM will be immediately followed by the AGM, which will include the usual reports as well as election of the committee for the coming year.

## **WANTED**

**3 Port (435MHz) Circulator** is required for use on the GB3GH voice repeater, please contact Ken Easty (G3LVP) or Nick Negus (G6AWT), will consider swap for similar 2m Circulator.

**2 or 4 port PC RS232 Interface Cards** (ISA Bus) that can use IRQ's 8 - 15 are required for use at our node sites, please contact Stewart (G0LGS).

The group also require a small number of un-interruptible power supplies (UPS) to be used with the computers at each of our node sites. Please contact Nick (G6AWT) or Stewart (G0LGS) if you know of a possible source.

**FOR SALE**

The group still has a number of surplus items available including:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Contact</u>
2764A EPROMS (8K x 8)	G0LGS
27128A EPROMS (16K x 8)	G0LGS
27C010 EPROMS (128K x 8)	G0LGS
6116 RAMS (2K x 8)	G0LGS
256K 30 Pin (9 Chip) SIMMs.	G0LGS
1 MHz Programmable Oscillators	G0LGS
8255A-5 PIO	G0LGS
24 Pin ZIF Sockets	G0LGS
Disk Drive Power Connectors	G0LGS
PC Power Connectors	G0LGS
Fan Guards 50 x 50mm	G0LGS
PC Edge Connectors 18/31 Way	G0LGS
9" Display Bezels (135 x 185mm)	G0LGS
Covered 4 Way Terminal Block	G0LGS
Screened 'D' Covers (25 Way)	G0LGS
Various Microwave Components	G6AWT
Various Surplus PMR Transceivers	G6AWT
Assorted Lengths of Heliac Cable. (Connectors are available)	G6AWT

Please contact G0LGS or G6AWT (as above) for further information, pricing etc.

**RACAL RA-17 Receiver** (0-30MHz) £200 ono, will consider swap for PC items e.g. USCC (Packet) Interface Card, Memory etc. (Buyer to Collect). Contact: Mark Orchard (G0USL).