

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE REPEATER GROUP NEWSLETTER**GB3GH GB7GH GB7FD GB7GC  
GB7GLO GB7LGS G7NYP G1SHM

Edited by: Stewart Wilkinson G0LGS

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**EGM / AGM NEWS**

At the EGM held on Monday 7th April the members present approved a change in name of the group from 'Gloucester Repeater Group' to 'Gloucestershire Repeater Group' as well as adopting the new constitution (as was circulated to all members with the March 97 Newsletter).

The AGM (also on 7<sup>th</sup> April) saw the election of the full complement of committee members, this being the first time for a number of years (full details of the new committee are included elsewhere in this newsletter).

There was no change in the current recommend minimum subscription rate, which remains at £7.50 per year. (Reduced rates are available on application).

**CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Firstly, a 'thank you' to those members who turned up at the EGM/AGM; to those who didn't, you missed a very interesting meeting which not only covered the usual AGM business but also details about the significant engineering changes that are planned for which the members' input is greatly appreciated. The whole event lasted around an hour and a half plus the obligatory beer break!

For the first time in a couple of years we have filled all of the posts on the Committee. I take this opportunity to welcome the new members and to also thank those who have remained on the committee.

As will be gleaned from the other items in this Newsletter there is much engineering to be undertaken during the next twelve months. To achieve all we want to do within the time-scale we will be seeking assistance from group members. Of particular use would be help from someone that has access to a lathe to produce a few turned parts (in brass, copper, and nylon) for which the materials will be provided along with appropriate drawings.

In order to improve links on packet and voice coverage for the area, continued liaison is going on with the Data Communications Committee and the Repeater Management Committee, both of the RSGB. Liaison is also continuing with various site owners to set up formal licenses to allow us to install and operate equipment from their premises.

The group is looking to acquire more 23cm radio equipment for linking purposes; if you have any to dispose of - either privately or via your employer - please let us know. We also need aerials for 23cm, resonant cavity filters and duplexer units for 70cm.

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

## **COMMITTEE NEWS**

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The following committee members were elected at the AGM on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April:

<b>Chairman:</b>	Nick Negus	(G6AWT)
<b>Secretary:</b>	Graham Nye	(G8URP)
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Stewart Wilkinson	(G0LGS)
<b>Technical Manager:</b>	Steve Perkins	(G4FPV)
<b>Other Members:</b>	Ken Eastty	(G3LVP)
	John Colley	(G4XJC)
	Mark Orchard	(G0USL)
	Martin Davies	(G0HDB)
	Roger Dobbs	(G7FGK)

## **GB3GH VOICE REPEATER**

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No major work has taken place on the GB3GH voice repeater, however some 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 pending.

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

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

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The RSGB's DCC have recently published a proposal for the new IARU region 1 Data Communications allocation at 144.800 to 144.9875. The proposed allocation is as follows:

<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Proposed Usage</b>	
144.825	25 kHz High Speed Only	
144.850	12.5 kHz BBS user access	(ex 144.550 BBS's)
144.8625	12.5 kHz (un-allocated)	
144.875	12.5 kHz TCP/IP user access	(ex 144.5625 TCP/IP)
144.8875	12.5 kHz (un-allocated)	
144.900	12.5 kHz DX Cluster user access	(ex 144.675)
144.9125	12.5 kHz (un-allocated)	
144.925	12.5 kHz TCP/IP user access	(ex 144.625 TCP/IP)
144.9375	12.5 kHz (un-allocated)	
144.950	12.5 kHz BBS user access	(ex 144.650 BBS's)
144.975	25 kHz High Speed Only	

The channels marked as un-allocated are intended for issue under an NOV for any system subject to local agreement.

Comments on this proposal may be submitted to Martin Green (G1DVU) as follows:

Packet: 2MBAND @ GB7SXE (Its receipt will be automatically acknowledged)  
Internet: martin@fastnet.co.uk  
Fax: 01424-755916  
Phone: 01424-755192

The groups Technical Manager Steve Perkins (G4FPV) has been working on a local plan based around the above proposal, but as co-ordination with neighbouring groups has yet to take place this plan is not yet ready for publication.

## **RALLY NEWS**

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Nick (G6AWT) and myself (G0LGS) attended a 'Computer and Electronics Fare' at the Cheltenham Racecourse on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April, sales at this event raised over £140 towards club funds with a further £40 being collected in subscriptions.

The group has booked a place at this years 3 Counties Rally which will be held on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July at Purdiswell Leisure Centre, Bilford Road, Worcester. Volunteers are required to help man the tables. Suitable items to be sold (either as a donation to the group or for sale on commission) will also be welcome Please contact Nick (G6AWT) or myself (Stewart G0LGS).

## **LINK CHANGES**

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Plans are already well developed for a number of changes to the 70cm links currently in use between GB7GH, GB7GC, G4FPV (GB7GLO), GB7PZT and GB7LGS, as well as for the provision of a new full-duplex 9K6 link from GB7GH into South Wales (GB7WO). Site clearance applications have been submitted and formal clearance to use the chosen frequencies is expected in the next few months.

These changes when complete should give much improved access to the network from GB7GC, improved linking to GB7LGS, speed up north/south mail traffic to/from GB7PZT, provide a much needed high speed link into south Wales as well as improve the eastbound link from G4FPV to GB7YJ (Warwickshire).

## **GB7GH NODE**

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The 2m (144.650MHz) user access was moved from the GB7GH site to the new GB7GC (Churchdown Hill) site at the beginning of March, which means that GB7GH is now predominately a linking node, although user access is still permitted on the busy 4m (70.325MHz) port.

The Committee are currently looking at improving the 23cm links to G7AXC and GB7DXC. The overall aim is to upgrade these links to separate split frequency circuits (in place of the present shared arrangement), and then to 9K6 full-duplex circuits. Progress has however been slow in this respect, mainly because the changes at GB7GH to achieve this have so many knock-on effects at other node sites far beyond our own area. Work continues to try and obtain agreement to changes in frequency at all those sites that will be affected.

## **GB7FD NODE**

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The 2m port at GB7FD was recently moved (at short Notice) to 144.550 MHz and whilst it is still using the GB7FD callsign (as well as the aliases FOD and FOD24) for packet operation the port is being operated at the site under the terms of the G1SHM licence. After some initial problems with the radio equipment this port is now fully operational.

The 70cm link between GB7FD and GB7NW near Swindon was upgraded to 1K2 full duplex recently, and will be further upgraded to 9K6 at a later date. It is hoped that once the change to 9K6 is complete a further link can be added to GB7ST, which should provide much better service than the present 4m link between GB7ST and GB7GH.

Lanpack, one of our neighbouring groups, has recently opened the SONA node near Stratford-on-Avon. It links to the WARWIK node in Warwick to the East and to the MLVN node in Malvern to the West. This is providing a valuable alternative route to the East in the event of a failure on the main link from MLVN to ROVER. A 70cm user port / backup link to SONA is expected to come on line from GB7FD shortly.

## **GB7GC NODE**

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GB7GC has been operational from Churchdown Hill since 1<sup>st</sup> March. Initial trials with Linux LODE revealed a number of problems, the most serious of which is a problem with the SCC drivers which caused the system to become unstable. For the time being the familiar BPQ software is currently being used at the site.

The 2m user port unfortunately suffers some de-sense from nearby paging transmitters (around 153 MHz). Filtering already in use has helped, but the high signal levels present at the site continue to cause some degradation in performance. Work is currently in hand to try and obtain further suitable filters which will be fitted as soon as they become available.

Access to the network through GB7GC is currently slower than that which was available at GB7GH, but this will improve as the 70cm linking arrangements are finalised over the coming months.

## **GB7GLO MAILBOX AND G4FPV NODE**

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### **Building work**

As regular users of GB7GLO will know, I have had building work in my shack over the last two months. We decided that the roof insulation needed improving. Easy enough in principle, except that the "shack" and one of the bedrooms are built into the pitched roof. This meant that the ceilings of both rooms had to be removed in order to replace the insulation. The consequence of that was that both rooms had to be cleared out in turn to allow the work to be done.

All that has been completed, and we now have a warmer house, two newly decorated rooms, and access into loft space that was previously inaccessible. An added bonus is that a fair amount of junk was disposed of in the process!

At the beginning of the work, I posted a notice on GB7GLO that there were likely to be interruptions to the services provided by the MLVN node and by GB7GLO. In the event, this turned out to be minimal. The system was off the air for two periods of about half a day each, once while it was moved to its temporary location, and again for the return to its normal position.

The moved involved extending the antenna feeders so that they would reach to the node's temporary location. I decided to use a temporary antenna for the 2m and 70 cm user access ports. However, it soon became apparent that the reduction in coverage provided was creating difficulties for several of the more distant stations. I managed to find enough cable to extend the feeder of the normal user access antenna, which restored coverage to normal. From that point, the MLVN node and GB7GLO BBS were both working very much as normal.

### **The link to BROM**

The link from MLVN to the BROM node in Bromsgrove has been suffering from outages during wet weather for some months. I have recently replaced the HB9CV with a dipole. Although we haven't had much rain since I made the change, it does now seem to be more reliable.

### **Equipment Failures**

One of the two 12VDC power supplies in the MLVN node recently developed a severe 100Hz ripple which affected part of the node. Upon investigation of the faulty unit, I found that one of the two main smoothing capacitors was at fault. I replaced both capacitors and on removal of the old units, noticed that they were dated 1967. Not a bad innings!

**73, Steve G4FPV**  
**Sysop GB7GLO**

## ***REGENERATIVE PACKET REPEATER***

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GB7RR is the callsign that the group has applied for as one of the UK's first regenerative Packet repeaters. GB7RR is expected to be located on Cleeve Hill, and will provide High Speed (at least 38K Baud) linking between systems as far afield as Gloucestershire, Warwickshire, Oxfordshire and East Anglia.

The committee is currently seeking approval to operate GB7RR from this proposed site, and will then be looking to other groups that have already expressed an interest to help towards the initial installation and running costs.

## ***TCP/IP NETWORK***

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Hayden Bates (G8AMD) has recently added TCP/IP routing support to the 2m port of the BM (G7AXC) Nodes, support on the other ports is expected to follow later. This change has permitted a change to the TCP/IP routing at GB7GH for most addresses in the Birmingham and West Midlands area. The TCP/IP routes in this area are now handled by G7AXC-5 instead of being passed (via NETROM) to G7BGP (GB7BIR) which then simply sent some of traffic back to G7AXC over the same path.

## ***GB7LGS TCP/IP MAILBOX***

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There have been no major changes at GB7LGS over the last few months, however access to the system other than directly on 144.625 MHz has been a little slower since early March when GB7GC started to share the frequency used for the 70cm link to GB7GH.

As a temporary arrangement to improve user access to the network from GB7GC, most mail forwarding between GB7LGS and the local AX25 Systems (GB7GLO, GB7PZT, GB7TCM and GB7MAD) has been restricted to times of the day when the majority of users are less likely to be active (23:59 to 17:00 GMT Weekdays and 23:59 to 10:00 GMT at Weekends), this means that messages to/from GB7LGS may be subject to a delay.

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

## ***NETWORK MAP***

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A map (Produced by Steve G4FPV) showing how the various nodes in the area covered by Gloucestershire Repeater Group and FOURPACK are interconnected is included at the end of this newsletter. As well as showing currently active links, the map also shows those that it is hoped will become operational over the next few weeks.

The Following Table shows the Frequencies that are believed to available for user access at each of the sites shown on the map:

<i>Site Callsign(s)</i>	<i>Frequency(s) (MHz)</i>
G7BTI, GB7MAD	144.650, 433.650
GB7HD	144.675
GB7GH	70.325
GB7ST	144.650, 432.675
GB7FD	144.550
GB7LGS	144.625
G8ADH, GB7TCM	144.650
G4FPV (GB7GLO)	70.3375, 144.650, 432.675, 433.675 (9K6)
GB7DXC	144.675
G8MGK	
G3VGG	70.3125, 432.625
G8PZT (GB7PZT)	70.4875, 144.575, 432.675
GB7GC	144.650, 433.650
GB7NW	144.650

## **TREASURERS REPORT**

The following is a summary of the Treasurers report for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 1996 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 1997 which was presented at the groups recent AGM:

<b>Income</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£</b>
Don/Subs	565.00	Equipment / Spares	543.67
Rally Sales	238.40	Meeting Expense	35.00
Other Sales	52.00	Postage / Photocopying etc	77.47
Deposit A/C Interest	0.96	Licence Fees	30.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>856.36</u>	Travel Expenses	15.00
		Rally Expenses	47.50
Current A/C B/FWD	153.91	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<u>748.64</u>
Deposit A/C B/FWD	183.49		
Cash B/FWD	0.00	<b>Summary</b>	
1996/97 Income	856.36	Current A/C Balance	260.67
Sub Total	<u>1193.76</u>	Deposit A/C Balance	184.45
1996/97 Expenditure	<u>748.64</u>	Cash Balance	0.00
<b>Balance C/FWD</b>	<u>445.12</u>	<b>Balance C/FWD</b>	<u>445.12</u>

Stewart Wilkinson.  
G0LGS

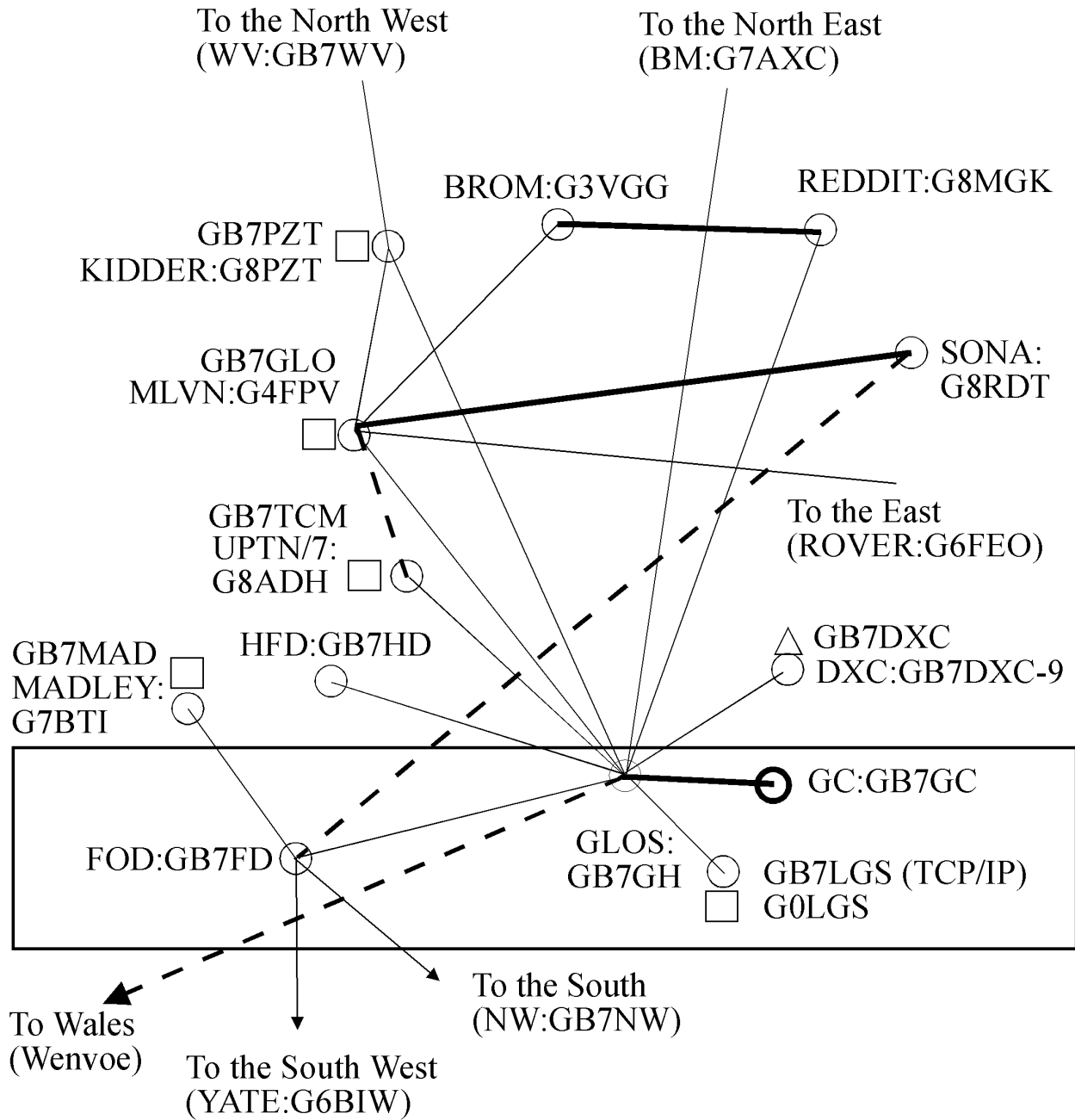
## **WANTED**

**3 Port (435MHz) Circulator** is still required for use on the GB3GH voice repeater, please contact Ken Eastty (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 Wilkinson (G0LGS) if you know of a possible source.

# The Three Counties Area Network

April 1997



- Nodes
- Mailboxes
- △ DX Cluster

Systems enclosed within the box and including GB7GLO but not MLVN, are run by GRG

- Existing links
- New links and nodes
- - - Planned links that are not yet operational