Dear LEFARS member,

This newsletter was prepared during week eight of the COVID-19 lockdown. Some relaxations are beginning to occur from 13th May and most (all ?!) of us must be yearning for what used to be normal living.

The main newsletter in April – and two follow-ups to cover the funeral of Marc Litchman G0TOC SK, were emailed to all members. This is the normal monthly edition. The theme is “keeping in touch”.

From LEFARS Chairman, Richard Clark G4DDP

As we are coming to the end of the eighth week of lockdown and despite some minor easing of the restrictions the committee held a virtual informal meeting on Zoom on Monday the 11th of May to review club meetings and activities going forward.

At the moment, all club events and activities until the end of May are cancelled and following our review and taking into account current government advise we have extended that date now until the end June. We will again review the situation mid-June and report back what we propose to do for July although it looks likely that it will not be until August until we able to resume some activities.

In the mean time just to remind you we do use the following mediums to maintain contact during lockdown.

144.725MHz FM Club Net on Thursday evenings from 2000, the frequency is also monitored most times for contacts.

70.475 MHz FM Wednesday evenings at 2000, Selim M0XTA runs a net covering the local area.

Brandmeister DMR TG23511 Club net Wednesday evenings at 2000, also monitored most times for contacts.

Virtual Club meeting on Fridays at 2000 using Zoom video conferencing run by David M0VID who can provide an invitation on request to club members.

Please remember when using any of these mediums, and in fact any method of group communication at a time when we are all fed up with being in effective confinement, to respect the rules the clubs expects its members to adhere to as below:
Be kind and courteous
We are all in this together to create a welcoming environment. Let’s treat everyone with respect. Healthy debates are natural, but kindness is required.

No hate speech or bullying
Make sure that everything feels safe. Bullying of any kind is not allowed and degrading comments about things such as race, religion, culture, sexual orientation, gender or identity will not be tolerated.

No promotions or spam
Give more to this group than you take. Self-promotion, spam and irrelevant links are not allowed.

Respect everyone’s privacy
Being part of this group requires mutual trust. Authentic, expressive discussions make groups great but may also be sensitive and private. What’s shared in the group should stay in the group.

Secretary’s Bell Ringing notes....

Training
With no events to announce as they have all been cancelled, and those which haven’t will be reviewed and probably cancelled there is little to say, but there is a little movement in the training field. All upcoming Lefars training has been cancelled, the next booked event being in October but the RSGB are now holding Foundation exams online, complete with online invigilation via webcam. For the period of the lockdown, the need for practical assessments (initially for Foundation) has been waived so you can self-study and sit the exam all from the comfort of your own living room.

Theydon Bois Donkey Derby (GB0IS) Cancelled
The Donkey Derby has now officially been cancelled for this year. Next year it will be on the 11th July 2021 – a note for your diary.

Virtual Club Meetings with Zoom
The next Zoom meeting is on Friday 14th May at 20:00 local and every Friday thereafter whilst there are no meetings at All Saints House.
Over the last few weeks, since April 10th, there have been between 12-14 members using Zoom which allows you to hold meetings on your computer/smart phone over the internet. Please E-mail me with your E-mail address and I will send you an invitation to join the meeting.

All you need to do is to click on that link to join in. It is advisable to wear headphones with boom mic.

Play radio, have fun on the air, stay safe.

73

David Priest MØVID
Email: mailto:secretary@lefars.org.uk

LEFARS Training News

Foundation Licence News
As mentioned in the April newsletter, The Foundation course and exam planned for 2nd/3rd May 2020 at All Saints, Chigwell Row had to be postponed due to the Coronavirus lockdown and closure of All Saints House for the foreseeable future. The next Foundation Course weekend and exam is planned for 10th/11th October. Book a place if interested, contact details below.

See “Bell ringing” for more information on the temporary availability of online examination with relaxation of the requirement to complete the Practical Assessments. Also remote invigilation during lockdown. Further details on the RSGB website.

One new LEFARS member Adam Sorrin M7FIG was among the first to take the online Foundation exam with remote invigilation. Adam lives in Barkingside and active on GB3OY, D-STAR and local contacts on 2m. If you hear Adam M7FIG, please make him welcome to the world of Amateur Radio.

The training team are looking into the use of Zoom for online training and mentoring.

Intermediate Licence News
If you are thinking of going for your 2E0 callsign this year, please contact David M0VID to register your interest in future IL assessments and exams. Saturday 11th July has had to be postponed to the next planned date of Saturday 21st November, subject to minimum attendance numbers to run the course.

Advanced/Full Licence Exam
The last Advanced exam on Saturday March 14th was held just before the COVID-19 lockdown. The next exam date is uncertain at the moment with Intermediate and Advanced exams unable to be booked until further notice.

Are you ready to take your Advanced Exam after the self-study at home during the lockdown? LEFARS can help and stage AL exams on demand of its members. Please contact David Priest M0VID (details below) to register an interest.
Who to contact/further training information

The latest training news, including COVID-19 cancellations of exams and course, is on the LEFARS website, click here.

For further details of LEFARS Foundation training or to register an interest in any of the courses and planned exams, please contact David Priest MØVID on 07850 120180 or email him at training@lefars.org.uk.

News item – Marc Litchman G0TOC SK

As reported in the April newsletter, and two separate updates (28th and 30th April) emailed to all members, the funeral of Marc Litchman G0TOC took place on 30th April at 14:30. Several LEFARS members were at Marc’s QTH to watch him make his final journey. In addition, a Guard of Honour from the Waltham Forest Sea Cadets and many others, keeping the requisite 2m apart and down Oak Tree Close, were also present. Photos were posted on the LEFARS Facebook page (link here) but some below:
There was a live video stream of the funeral service; later a compiled video made by Piotr M0PGN was made available on the LEFARS Facebook page (link here). A reminder that the Order of Service and the 28th April news update combined into one document (PDF) is still available to download (link here).

The RSGB included a tribute to Marc, based on the LEFARS notice, in the Silent Key section of the RSGB website (link here) and in the Obituary page of the June 2020 RadCom.

Donations
Donations to Barts Health NHS Trust, Marc’s preferred charity, can be made via the Funeral Director's donations page https://www.drobinson.co.uk/donate-in-memory

Please enter 'Litchman' for the correct page.

Diary of Events – Club meetings at All Saints House

Due to the COViD-19 pandemic, all club events and activities have had to be cancelled until at least the end of June. The AGM will be postponed until later this year. The website has been updated for 2020 with the latest dates for external events, included cancellations. A summary, and links are on the club’s home page. https://www.lefars.org.uk/

The full diary, check also in case of any changes ...
https://www.lefars.org.uk/lefars_website/diary/diary_frameset.htm

Rallies

COViD-19 has forced the cancellation of many rallies, including Hamradio 2020, Friedrichshafen, Germany on 26th-28th June and Stockwood Park on May 17th. In addition one of my favourites, Flight Refuelling in Dorset, on August 9th.

The full rally list is a good source to find out if there are rallies open later in the year. Cancellations/postponements to 2021 are shown into August :


LEFARS Club Nets

A reminder that the LEFARS Club net on 2m FM is held every Thursday at 20:00 (local time) on 144.725 MHz. Even if you don't want to participate in the net, please just check-in with your callsign...keep in touch!! G4ONP/A has been in use for the last three weeks.

There is also an informal net on 144.725 MHz after the GB2RS news on Sunday morning at 09:30 local. GB2RS news reader Dave De La Haye M0MBD takes reports first; recent weeks has seen some after breakfast chat to discuss the news 😊

At other times 144.725 MHz is used as a chat channel by LEFARS members.
Weekly DMR (Brandmeister) net. Wednesday evenings 20:00 – 21:00 local. BM TG 23511 (LEFARS)

TG 23511 is used as a chat channel by LEFARS members. Call in and say hello! There’s usually someone listening during the day.

A reminder that there are a lot of Brandmeister Talk Groups to explore. You can find a complete listing at https://www.pistar.uk/dmr_bm_talkgroups.php

LEFARS Facebook Page

https://www.facebook.com/groups/lefars/

Use the URL above to keep up to date with the latest news, events and announcements. COVID-19 has generated a lot of traffic and there are other interesting discussions and threads as well.

Please observe the rules below (see also Chairman’s notes above) specifically relating to the LEFARS Facebook page:

**Arguments**
Healthy discussions are welcome but as soon as they turn into an argument, the post and replies will be deleted.

**Rule breakers**
Anyone breaking any of the above rules will have their posts moderated for a minimum period of 30 days and persistent rule breaking will find them blocked from the page.

73 and Keep Safe

John Ray G8DZH
Newsletter Editor
Loughton & Epping Forest ARS
E: editor@lefars.org.uk

A PDF copy of the May 2020 LEFARS newsletter can be downloaded from https://www.lefars.org.uk/lefars_website/welcome/LEFARS_Newsletter_latest.pdf