



# Loughton and Epping Forest Amateur Radio Society

## LEFARS News Update – May 2021

Compiled by Dave De La Haye M0MBD

Issue 1.1a

Dear LEFARS member,

We hope you and family are safe and well.

### **From LEFARS Chairman, Richard Clark G4DDP**

With the Covid-19 restrictions being relaxed a little now, as a club we are now looking at external events again although physical meeting at All Saints is still some way off. We are now able to put on the first field event of the year at the Rainbow and Dove Public House over the May bank holiday weekend although like many events we are still subject to some Covid-19 restrictions, more information later in this newsletter and the various social media platforms.

As we come out of lockdown the club would like you to respond to a short survey on what you would like to get out of the club, it is anonymous but it would help the committee to shape the club to your needs going forward, the link is <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/HK1ACD/>

There will be more information on club activities over the coming weeks as soon as know what we can do as Covid-19 restrictions are relaxed although the Indian variant is causing some uncertainty.

73

Richard Clark G4DDP

Chairman, LEFARS

Email <mailto:chairman@lefars.org.uk>

### **From LEFARS Secretary, David M0VID**

The Rainbow and Dove field event will be happening this spring bank holiday weekend.

We shall be setting up on Saturday 29th and continue until Sunday 30th.

Should you wish the event to be extended until Monday 31st please Email [secretary@lefars.org.uk](mailto:secretary@lefars.org.uk) to that effect.

A table has been booked for Saturday evening at 19:00 for between 12 and 16. Seats must be booked beforehand by Email with [secretary@lefars.org.uk](mailto:secretary@lefars.org.uk).

Should you wish to operate your own rig please email the [secretary@lefars.org.uk](mailto:secretary@lefars.org.uk) with details of band, power, and aerial array. Please note: YOU MUST BE IN POSSESSION OF A CLUB BANDPASS FILTER BEFORE TRANSMITTING OR RECEIVING.

73, David

## LEFARS AGM Dave De la Haye M0MBD

Back on track once again following last years deferred AGM, with very little happening in the club during the lockdown period, it made for a quick meeting which in essence lasted for about 18 minutes!

The AGM took place on-line once again using zoom and enjoyed a decent attendance, even though there was very little to report, and the meeting was very much a procedural affair.

26 members were in attendance. During the meeting, the previous AGM's minutes were proposed and seconded with no matters arising. The Chairman's report, the Secretary's report (with one amendment about the name of the Army Cadet Force), and the Treasurer's report were also all accepted. David Cutts M0TAZ requested information about the club's finances which was answered to his satisfaction by Treasurer John Short

The Committee stood down and the chair passed to Mr John Mulye M0VEH. As there were no other candidate's forthcoming for the roles and the committee were all prepared to stand for a further term, Mr Mulye suggested that they were re-elected en bloc. This was proposed by Wayne Paternoster G4YOH and Derek Copsey M0XDC.

The evenings business being dealt with in such a swift efficient manner, the meeting was closed accordingly.

## Latest from the R.S.G.B: by RR12 Dave De La Haye M0MBD

- The RSGB YouTube channel now has two videos to help radio amateurs understand the Ofcom EMF licence changes. In the first video, EMC Chair John Rogers, M0JAV explains how to use the EMF calculator. The second video is the live webinar he did as part of the RSGB AGM and which is now available separately. To see both, go to [www.youtube.com/theRSGB](http://www.youtube.com/theRSGB)
- In addition to the advice from the RSGB, Ofcom have updated their web page <http://ofcom.org.uk/emf> stating their final decision on EMF

Detailing the changes to licence condition

[https://www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0026/218960/general-notice-final-decision-emf-licence-variation.pdf](https://www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0026/218960/general-notice-final-decision-emf-licence-variation.pdf)

The RSGB is updating their advice so keep checking over the next few days

[www.rsgb.org/emf](http://www.rsgb.org/emf)

We will publish updated guidance on that page and will be updating our calculator in line with the Ofcom calculator changes.

- Last year, through the RSGB and NHS 'Get on the air to care' media campaign, it is likely that over 35 million people heard news and stories about amateur radio. You now have a chance to tell the RSGB what you think should happen next. As part of a wider IARU workshop, the Society is conducting a short survey of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that apply to amateur radio in the UK. Whether you are a radio amateur or not yet licensed, do take a few minutes to fill in the survey and be part of the discussions. You can find it at [www.rsgb.org/survey](http://www.rsgb.org/survey) and the deadline for responses is 23 May

## **ARDF Try-Out Session in August Dave De La Haye M0MBD**

Always trying to provide its members with opportunities to experience new things, the LEFARS committee have decided to put on an ARDF (Amateur Radio Direction Finding) try-out session for the Autumn bank holiday weekend meet shared with the SNB Contest Group at Kelvedon Hatch (not so) Secret Nuclear Bunker.

The equipment is being made available from the RSGB ARDF equipment pool and will be set up on the site prior to the event. It will give members of LEFARS as well as other invited guests to have a go at ARDF and to see if it is something that they could develop as an interest.

Interest has been expressed by Chigwell & Epping Forest Orienteering club in participating and Havering & South Essex Orienteering club will also be approached as an introduction to 'Radio Orienteering', as will other local radio clubs, should any of their members be interested in the activity. More details will be made available nearer the date. As with all things at the moment, this event is very much dependant on any COVID restrictions in place at the time.

## **New Year's Dinner**

With Boris about to let us out to play, it could be that we actually get to sit down for a meal at long last, but not for a while yet! The club is going to honour the view of its membership and only attempt to book a meal when a) When Restaurants can take bookings for large groups 2) Social Distancing is no longer required and 3) When the club members feel confident enough to return to closer contact with the outside world!

Please keep in touch with the club and make the club secretary aware of your preferences.

## Keep in touch ....

**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 TG 23511 (LEFARS) 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.

## Training Team Back in Action by Merlin Fox M0MFX

Essex ACF approached John G0VEH about the possibility of providing foundation licence training to a group of up to 20 cadets. The instructor team agreed to do this and prepared for delivering the course online.

- Timetable adjusted for removal of practical assessments (later start, more breaks against screen fatigue)
- Better images found for some slides.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> camera purchased by G0VEH for practical EM demonstrations (lemon battery etc)
- Overnight exam homework set by M0MFX using google forms.
- Two rehearsal sessions with training team using LEFARS zoom account.

Five staff and 13 cadets attended the course over the weekend. Essex ACF used their zoom account with M0MFX given host control. M0MFX kept the master slide decks and forwarded slides for instructors, facilitating the overall programme. The training team comprised John Mulye G0VEH, Ron White G6LTT, John Short G1DJI, John Ray G8DZH, and Merlin Fox M0MFX. Instructors delivered the same parts of the syllabus as in previous classroom events, with minor modifications.

We provided ample opportunity for Q&A on both days. Most questions came from staff members, but this is partly the nature of online versus in-person training.

At the end of the first day attendees were set a multiple-choice exam drawn from previous foundation exams, as a google form. Answers were reviewed with the group at the start of day 2, and google forms indicated how strongly the group answered each question (i.e., most questions had a common, correct answer, some clearly confused the group). A further exam was set at the end of day two – this was a group exercise, with everyone asked to hold up a letter to indicate the correct answer – this could be delivered better using another app online.

Since the training weekend I am aware of at two cadets passing their foundation licence, and one of the staff have gone on to achieve their intermediate exam.

The instructors were pleased with how well the online course worked but lamented a little the limitations of giving practical demonstrations. The ACF were also impressed with how smoothly the course was run.

The ACF would like to build on this with LEFARS, with a view to doing in person training when conditions allow. They are optimistic that amateur radio will be incorporated more into their CIS (Comms Information Signals) programme going forwards. While they have access to radio equipment, they are limited in who is trained to use it. They hope to organise a scheduled comms between LEFARS and ACF when they have field days.

## **Ask The Trainers by Dave Cutts M0TAZ**

Aimed primarily at those amongst us who are new to the hobby the `Ask Lefars` scheme is set up to answer your radio-related questions by Email.

Whether it's a "How do I do this?" or a "What does that mean" or simply an "I don't understand this bit" question just send an Email to [ask@lefars.org.uk](mailto:ask@lefars.org.uk) and our team of instructors will answer your question by Email. The question and its answer will be added to a list of FAQs' on our website.

Once a month there will be a Zoom meeting where questions will be answered in more depth with a more detailed explanation.

Training Secretary:  
David Priest MØVID  
Email: [training@lefars.org.uk](mailto:training@lefars.org.uk)

## **Diary of Events**

### **May Meetings:**

Fri 28<sup>th</sup> May: Zoom meeting  
29<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> May: Field Weekend, Rainbow & Dove

### **June Meetings:**

Fri 4<sup>th</sup> June: Zoom Meeting  
Fri 11<sup>th</sup> June: Zoom Meeting  
Fri 18<sup>th</sup> June: Zoom Meeting  
Sat 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> June: Museums Weekend (COVID Dependant)  
Fri 25<sup>th</sup> June: Zoom Meeting

## July Meetings:

Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> July: Zoom Meeting

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July: Zoom Meeting

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July: ~~Theydon Bois Donkey Derby~~: **Cancelled**

Fri 16<sup>th</sup> July: Zoom Meeting

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> July: Summer Field Weekend, Lambourne End

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July: Zoom Meeting

The website is kept updated 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](https://www.lefars.org.uk/lefars_website/diary/diary_frameset.htm)

## Rallies

With lockdown beginning to be lifted in stages, some Rallies have been announced in the RSGB Region 12.

Check though for events being announced and/or 2021 rally announcements on the RSGB Rally list: **RSGB Rally List - <https://rsgb.org/main/news/rallies/>**

## 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!!

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 MØMBD 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](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.

## Your Committee:

**Richard Clark, G4DDP**

**David Cutts, MØTAZ**

**Merlin Fox, MØMFX**

**Dave De La Haye, MØMBD**

**David Priest, MØVID**

**John Short, G1DJI**

**George Smart, M1GEO**

**Chairman, QSL Manager & Club log keeper**

**LEFARS Web Designer (supported by George M1GEO)**

**Training Manager**

**Public Relations Officer, Awards Manager & Librarian**

**Secretary & Exam Secretary**

**Treasurer & Membership Secretary**

**Technical Manager**

73 and Keep Safe from the entire Committee.

**Dave De La Haye**

**EDITOR**

E: [editor@lefars.org.uk](mailto:editor@lefars.org.uk)

A PDF copy of the current LEFARS newsletter can be downloaded from  
[https://www.lefars.org.uk/lefars\\_website/welcome/LEFARS\\_Newsletter\\_latest.pdf](https://www.lefars.org.uk/lefars_website/welcome/LEFARS_Newsletter_latest.pdf)