RSGB DX Contest – Sunday 7 October 2018

We decided to enter the 2018 RSGB DX Contest, following our minor success in the 2017 event. Taking part were David G0LRD, Steve G8CRB and Richard G4AWP. We used the club's Yaesu FT2000, normally in service as the CDARC remotely-operated station but, in this case, operated locally at Willingham. The aerials were a 140 foot doublet and the DX Commander fan vertical, the same aerials which are available to the remote station users. Conditions were not good and activity was rather down on last year. Despite this and only using 100W transmitter power we did manage to get one ZL and two VKs in the log on 40m. The majority of the contacts were European.

The contest started at 06:00 on Sunday 7th October, lasting 18 hours until midnight. Richard AWP opened the proceedings but had a slow start with only one QSO in the first hour. However, this was the New Zealand station. The bands were very busy with contests during this period but most stations were taking part in the "Oceania Contest" and refused to exchange serial numbers with non-Pacific stations. Despite this, by 09:00 we had 30 QSOs in the log which included the two Australians. David LRD came and joined the fun at 10:00, adding nearly 40 CW contacts in around 3 hours of operating. Steve CRB also joined in and managed to winkle out some more SSB contacts so the score slowly increased.

In total 110 QSOs were made in the 18 hours, only 4 of which were disallowed. Most of our contacts were on 80m and 20m with just a few on 40m and only three on 15m. We found no activity on 10m. 18 different countries were worked on 20m in CW and 11 in SSB. This was an excellent demonstration of the capability of the CDARC remotely-operated station. All members holding a full licence are welcome to sign up to use this remote station - see the 'Downloads' page on the website for full details of how to register, install the software and operate the station.

The club was awarded a certificate for taking first place in the category we entered.

Thanks to Richard AWP for the report