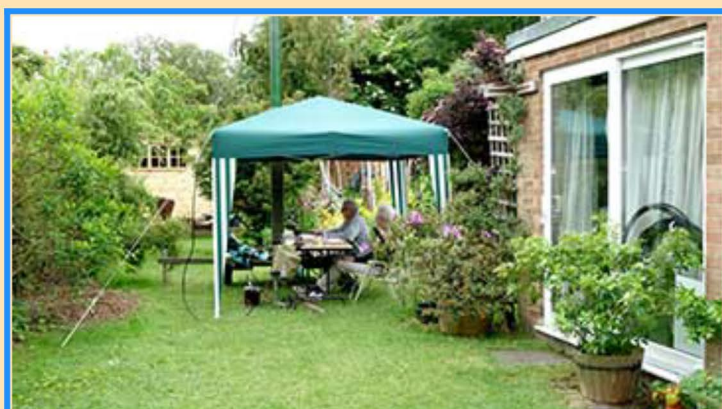




Due to difficulties getting permissions for site use, the final decision to enter the PW QRP contest was taken very late in the day and took place in Dave G6KWA's back garden. Dave had spent the previous week setting up the new Tonna 9 element aerals and carefully making the phasing leads, with the help of a spectrum analyser, to get the 9 quarter-wave lengths spot on at 144.300.



*A pleasant spot*

These were used in conjunction with the club power splitter and new feed cables, made up from Ultraflex 10 low-loss cable supplied by Martin Lynch. This cable is proving to be an excellent choice for portable setups and is highly recommended. Westlake W103 has the edge loss-wise but W103 should only ever be used for fixed installations. The tiltover mast facilitated setup and adjustment.

*A stacked aerial system gives much better gain than the theory would lead us to believe. The low noise figure was really appreciated in this poor location which is just 15m ASL. Furthermore, it is surrounded by hills which affect VHF propagation considerably, particularly in the three quadrants from South round to East.*

KWA's new DG8 GM3SEK on-mast pre-amp used in conjunction with his Icom IC-7100, set for 3W PEP output, was excellent. The team managed 34 contacts in 15 locators. Power for the rig came from a 12V leisure battery and the whole station sheltered under a wholly inadequate Gazebo - a situation described by KWA as 'character building'. The operating position was carefully situated to avoid most of the wet. *Ed: what about the poor old logger?*



*KWA & CRB - Yin and Yang*

Dave G6KWA was joined by Steve G8CRB for the day but the wet and cold did not suit an ex-colonial at all. Later on David M0ZEB arrived to make a worthwhile contribution and cheer up a flagging CRB. *Ed: I don't remember that bit.*



*'Calling CQ' - ZEB tries to break his duck*

Other participating stations operating 'portable' must have suffered considerable discomfort on hilltops across the country. Our team did their best but operating technique and concentration suffered in the prevailing conditions. Note for the future: try harder and take things more seriously. We can still learn a great deal from Martin G3ZAY.

After the contest, CRB and ZEB took the opportunity to look over the most impressive KWA shack and view his 1kW CW or 600W SSB Linear, set up ready for the QRO contests. That's if we can get the necessary permissions to use the sites.