

# 144MHz Trophy Contest



5th & 6th September 2015

The preparations began several days before the contest with Dave G6KWA making up some new club feeder cables and making sure the station's various interconnections were RF tight. The equipment to be used was KWA's Trio TS-790 in conjunction with his 4cx 350a Ultra Linear amplifier a mighty combination capable of producing 300W. This was thoroughly tested with the club's 17 element Tonna.



Steve G4WSZ operating, Dave G6KWA logging



KWA, Richard G3TFX, Martin G8OFA, WSZ, Frithjof

Dave arrived on site just after 09.00 hours local time, just as the rain left off, and set about assembling the aerial system on the trailer mast. This was the more easterly site of the two we use at Chapel Hill and affords wonderful views over Cambridge and the surrounding country. Other members gradually came along with the equipment needed for the two days of the contest and David GOLRD and Darren put the tent up.



KWA operating and Steve G8CRB logging



David M0ZEB operating, WSZ logging

By 11.30 everything was ready for the start of the contest. It at once became clear that the RF noise level was much higher than last year. New solar farms are visible from the site but it is not known whether they are the source or, indeed, if they are operational at all. The highest levels of noise were found with the aerial on a bearing between 260 and 340 degrees.



KWA operating, TFX logging



Frithjof, WSZ operating, KWA logging with XYL Judith

The contest opening time arrived and operating began in earnest. The spreadsheet rota, which allowed members to book their operating and logging slots in advance was, more or less, followed and the log started to fill. Thanks to the number of members available, operating continued right through the night while everyone on site was also able to get some sleep.



The power station



Ian M0HTA and XYL Lin bringing the right spirit

We were pleased to receive a number of visitors, particularly the XYLS, throughout the contest. Those who took part over the weekend:

- |   |                                  |                            |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Dave G6KWA and XYL Judith                 | Peter M0DCV                      | Steve G8CRB                |
| Darren                                    | David GOLRD                      | Steve G4WSZ and XYL Angela |
| Martin G8OFA - all the way from Salisbury | Frithjof - visiting from Dresden | Richard G3TFX              |
| Ian M0HTA and XYL Lin                     | David M0ZEB                      | Hamish G0GLJ               |
| Ken G0BBM                                 | Mike M0BLP                       |                            |



OFA operates, WSZ logs



Hamish G0GLJ operating, David GOLRD logging

Darren provided the usual sterling service with coffee and cakes and maintained this welcome refreshment throughout the night and the next day. As evening drew on and the temperature dropped, Darren was there, fitting radiant heaters in the tent, ensuring the operators and loggers could continue their long vigil through the very cold night in a very comfortable temperature. Darren also illuminated the site around the station from his seemingly inexhaustible stock of equipment.



TFX operating, KWA logging



OFA takes a turn on the mast

Sunday dawned, a much nicer day than Saturday had been, and with it came more members who were keen to take a turn operating. The day passed pleasantly and the contest was completed with 164 contacts and a very respectable score.

Dave G6KWA, Steve G4WSZ, Martin G8OFA, David GOLRD, Darren, Ken G0BBM, and Mike M0BLP all very kindly stayed right to the end and did the final hard work of dismantling the station.



The 2m Trophy QSO Map



GLJ talks to Ken G0BBM



Mike M0BLP operating, LRD logging

As always, a number of people earned our grateful thanks for their contributions:

Dave G6KWA - preparation and loan of radio, pa, trailer mast and generator as well as contest entry, arranging the use of the site and the thousand other jobs needed to make an event like this happen.

The land owners for very kindly allowing us to use the site.

Darren - provision of tent, hot drinks and cakes, generator, heaters, lights, etc., etc..

David GOLRD - preparation of booking sheet, loan of computer, petrol, checking and submitting log

Mike M0BLP - loan of generator and petrol

Ian M0HTA and Lin, Hamish G0GLJ, Steve G8CRB, Mark M6CKD & David M0ZEB - providing petrol

Several members - financial contributions

and all those who took a turn at operating and logging over the weekend.

- Sincere apologies for any omissions -

**An excellent finale to the field contest year - well done to all those who took part.**

Thanks to Dave G6KWA, Martin G8OFA & David GOLRD for info and pictures