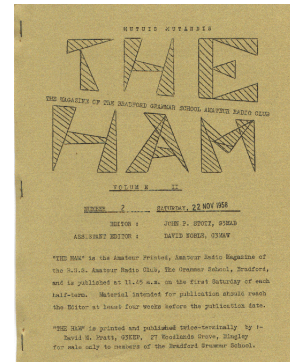


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Over six years have passed since I last wrote to all the former G3MHB operators whom I could trace at the time. So here we are again, six years older and with six years more experience! Our earlier attempts to keep in touch met with some success, several of us having been in contact on 40m or by e-mail. More recently, conditions on the amateur bands have not been at their best due to the sunspot minimum, but there are signs that things are improving again. Scientific reports on the internet suggest that the next peak in the cycle will be a good one.

Since I last wrote, we welcome Laurie M3BFU on the air, and Steve GM3VEK who received his licence back after many years QRT. For those unfamiliar with the new licensing arrangements, the amateur licence is now free for life, renewable on-line at least every five years. However, if an old licence lapses, to get it back it is necessary to make a paper application for which Ofcom make a one-off charge of £20. It is a relatively simple matter to get one's licence back and I shall be pleased to help. Do get in touch.

Things at my end are unchanged since last time other than a refurbishment of the shack following some building repairs. I continue to be reasonably active on the 5, 7 & 10 MHz bands, mainly c.w., plus local rag-chewing on 144 MHz s.s.b. The antenna situation at Kippax is not good and I make do with a sloping end fed wire from the gable end of the bungalow down to the clothes post! I no longer have a direct involvement with Ofcom or the Radio Amateurs' Examination although I do try to keep abreast of developments.

Despite the 40m band having been extended to 7200 kHz the band plan remains substantially unchanged at the lower end of the band, mixed c.w./s.s.b. operation being centred around 7045 kHz. I should like to suggest we try **Tuesdays at 14:00 UK clock time**. I will call around **7045 kHz** depending on whether the frequency is occupied. CW is likely to be more reliable, but we can try s.s.b. depending on band conditions.

As last time, over the page I am including a list of as many of the people I can trace from the old G3MHB days, plus one or two others who had a close association with the school radio society. This information has been gathered from various sources including call books, qrz.com, UKinfo, the on-line phone book and details passed to me by others. It is inevitable there are inaccuracies, so if you spot any or can add to the list please let me know. I do have some e-mail addresses and will gladly pass yours on if you would like me to do so.

I very much look forward to hearing from you by one means or another.

73

David M Pratt
G4DMP/G3KEP

8th February 2007

If this letter does not make sense to you, I have obviously made a mistake in addressing it. Please destroy it and accept my sincere apologies for bothering you.