

# Jamboree on the Air 2012

## UK National Report



The signs were encouraging for the 55th JOTA as more stations were registered before the event and radio conditions seemed to be improving. Once again getting stations to return reports proved difficult and those stations that did were generally successful well-attended events. Even so, two of the biggest did not report so numbers are very much an estimate. One indicator is the number of UK JOTA-JOTI badges sold, 1250.

Most of the stations are set up in the local Scout HQ but one group of Explorer Scouts, several of whom are licensed Radio Amateurs, set up their station on Winter Hill, a location familiar to residents of North West England as it is the site of a TV transmitter. Their efforts were rewarded by some excellent contacts including long distances on 2m and an SSTV contact with Australia. The theme of 'How Big is Your World?' was taken up enthusiastically by some stations who were busy calculating distances to the contacted stations and countries. Each year one station is combined with the National Scout Rifle Championship which guarantees a stream of visitors.

As the UK National JOTA and JOTI co-ordinators live in the same County and neither had much experience of the other's event they combined resources and operated a GB1NOD from a field outside Banbury. JOTI was in an inflatable 'Airena' dome, JOTA in an adjoining Kyam dome. When the part of the power failed late on Saturday night and the JOTI Dome threatened to collapse it was the Radio team, camping on site, who could sort out connectors to link up to the working supply.

### **GB0BWS - Bishop's Waltham Scouts**

Because one of the kingpins of the station was abroad on business this year the station set up was simpler than in earlier years but despite this they had a very successful event with lots of Scout contacts in the UK and particularly Holland and Switzerland. With preparations made on Thursday in advance of forecasts of bad weather, Friday evening welcomed two Scout groups who were off on a night hike. On Saturday and Sunday young licensed operators were put in the hot seat to gain 'pile-up' experience and did very well with contacts mainly on 40m. They experienced some problems with the WAG contest operating out of the contest band

### **GB0GDS - Greenock & District Scouts**

This busy station attracted visitors of all ages with Beavers in the majority, who also worked towards their Explorer and Science badges. All those who made a QSO were given a sticker, an idea from the Guide Centenary Camp Radio Station that has proved very popular. The 'How Big Is My World' theme of the event was explored by trying to guess the distance to each country contacted. Their photographs give a good impression of the hive of activity.

### **GB0GUN - National Scout Rifle Championships**

This station, run in conjunction with the Scout National Rifle Championships, had some 40 Scouts and the same number of Explorers, Network and Leaders all directly involved in JOTA. They also offered electronic construction and had some interesting Scout contacts in Switzerland, Portugal and Italy.

### **GB0SDB - Spitfire District, Birmingham**

This station operated on Saturday with visitors from all sections. They had lots of activities to try with a radio, science or international theme, all helping towards badges or wards as well as being fun. Two Scout Global Challenges were gained, while scouts contacted Scouts in Switzerland, Norway, Austria, USA and Israel.

### **GB1BS - 1st Ballyclare Scouts, South East Antrim**

Nine Scouts took the opportunity to work towards their Global Challenge and Communicator badges. They also had a wide variety of traditional Scout skills, including knots and mini pioneering to try. They were also keen to establish contact with Troop H97 in Batno Rouge, Louisiana, USA.

### **GB1GMW - Greater Manchester West Scout County**

This station was located on the summit of Winter Hill, North West of Bolton, and run and operated by Explorers, Network and Leaders, six of which are licensed, having come into the hobby via JOTA. They had plenty of UK Scout contacts and their location made them popular with other Summits on the Air stations and Wainwrights in Yorkshire, North Wales and Cumbria. Their SSTV contacted Australia on 20m!

### **GB1NOD - North Oxfordshire District**

The UK JOTA and JOTI co-ordinators combined operations this year. With JOTI in an Airena inflatable Dome and JOTA in a smaller Kyam Dome they attracted over 100 visitors during the weekend. Friday evening saw a Scout investiture and on the following two days a team of Scout operators were kept busy getting Scouts and Guides to contact Scouts both here and abroad. One of our young Licence holders spent much of the weekend getting visitors to try Morse Code.

### **GB2COS - Cestrian Scout Group, Chester**

This station was one of the largest and supplied a very full report accompanied by photographs which they have put on their JOTA website. Over 130 visitors, including the Lord Mayor of Chester were also celebrating the 30th anniversary of their HQ which of course involved a cake! They have a large team of Radio Amateurs and had some interesting contacts including Japan, Australia, Canada, Uruguay and Morocco. Scouts were contacted in Israel, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Portugal and Ukraine. Electronic construction was also on offer and cooking! Several groups have already said they will be back next year.

### **GB2IRS - Ipswich Radio Scouts**

The event was described as a weekend of Camping and Radio Scouting and attracted some 70 participants and visitors from Cubs upwards. There was plenty to keep them busy, Exercise bike power, Hatcam video, hunting for the hidden transmitter and erecting a 12m high guyed mast of scaffold poles for the rotatable beam. 10 Scout Communicator badges were gained as well as parts of Camper and Global Challenge. The station had plenty of radio contacts but one Dutch Scouter called in on his way from Harwich and had been contacted the day before at his home JOTA station.

### **GB2SMS - Southminster & Maylandsea Scouting**

This station operated on Saturday on 40m, 2m and 70cm. They had contacts with other JOTA stations in the UK and some further afield but had a 2hour QSO with Kinver Scouts exchanging messages and information between Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and their Leaders and proving to be an excellent example of Amateur Radio as a hobby and JOTA as an event.

### **GB4BDS - Banstead District Scouts**

### **GB4DXS - Dewa Explorer Scouts**

Operating from Forest Camp Activity Centre the licence holder was pleased with conditions and enjoyed contacts with Spain, Israel, Italy, Austria, Siberia, Morocco USA and St Helena! They plan to improve the facilities for Amateur Radio so they do not have to confine themselves to JOTA and hope to award more Communicator badges for Radio.

### **GB8SAW - 1st Sawley (All Saints) Scout Group**

This was the first JOTA and the station attracted Beavers, Cubs and Scouts who had several UK Scout contacts and gained 10 badges. They had antenna problems and didn't manage any contacts abroad. They also offered Radio Battleships and Radio Lego.

### **G3ZBI - Trent Explorers, Derby South**

This station was active both mornings and the Explorers enjoyed exchanging messages with several UK stations and some further afield in Portugal. The Malta station they contacted on Sunday was a British holiday maker!

### **MX0HBA - Runways End - Farnborough**

A large team of Radio Amateurs started activity on Friday evening and continued on Saturday and Sunday making plenty of contacts including some on CW. They also had an impressive log of stations round the world including many JOTA stations.

# JOTA 2012



**GB0GDS**



**GB4DXS** - The proper use of a climbing tower



**GB2COS** - 1st Sandstone Cubs



**GB2COS** - 5th Blaon Beavers