

Jamboree on the Air 2017

UK National Report



This year marked the 60th anniversary of JOTA and saw renewed interest in the event with more stations claiming to be taking part. The UK licensing authority agreed to the special prefix GB60xxx being available to JOTA stations but those who applied early missed out. The full list of UK JOTA stations will only be complete when all stations register on the Radio Scouting UK website. Some 55 registered. Getting stations to submit reports is even harder with 18 submitted this year. Getting them to do both is almost impossible.

Station size varied from the large at Gilwell Park to the very small, one man and his Beaver son, but all those submitting reports are very positive and particularly appreciate the opportunity for meeting other Scouts, both far and near.

As the weekend approached, all those contemplating a weekend under canvas or mainly out of doors were faced with the impending storm Brian with near hurricane force winds. Friday, when stations often set up, was particularly bad but over the weekend the winds eased and the concerns for safety lessened.

Once again stations without a fully licensed Scout operator are dependent on local Amateur Radio clubs to provide the expertise and the equipment. Scouting owes them a great debt of gratitude for 60 years of their support in running the greatest annual Scouting event. To those Scouts with a Foundation or Intermediate Licence, be encouraged to gain a Full Licence so you can hold your own Notice of Variation. At the 15th World Scout Moot in Iceland this summer it was encouraging to meet many participants with licences who are hopefully involved in JOTA now and in the future.

From the reports received there are comments that the radio conditions were variable often over a very short time. One wry comment suggests that the short skip kept the German contest out of earshot but the German presence was again evident and even if they keep to the contest segments they reduce the available bandwidth. As most stations operate in the daytime the contacts are mostly with other European countries, though those operating into Saturday evening do get transatlantic contacts.

GB0GDS - Greenock & District Scouts

This station based their event on the Diamond Jubilee of JOTA and were delighted to have over 60 visitors, contacts with over 60 countries and with a target of over 60,000 airwave km and were very pleased with a total over 200,000 km. They managed to complete Jampuz for

the first time and made over 445 QSOs including Scout stations in Cyprus and the United Arab Emirates. With an experienced team of Scout operators they rated the 3-day event their most successful to date.

GB0GUN - The National Scout Rifle Championships

As the JOTA weekend coincides with the National Scout Rifle Championships having a JOTA station adds to the activities on offer and has a potential for hundreds of visitors. They provided a range of radio related activities including electronic construction and Morse code. They ran JOTI for the first time. They had Scout contacts in the UK and abroad and a variety of contacts mainly in Europe. Also on offer was lockpicking as a sport, not for nefarious purposes!

GB0PSG - 3rd Prestatyn Scout Group

This station concentrated on Friday evening and Saturday morning as in previous years the event has been ruined once the German contest starts. They concentrated on 40m and were rewarded with 29 contacts in Europe and succeeded in getting Scouts to pass messages. Scouts and Cubs could work towards their Communicator badge, learning the phonetic alphabet, trying Morse code and playing radio related games.

GB0SDB - Spitfire District, Birmingham

This busy station with participants from all sections combined JOTA-JOTI with international activities enabling youngsters to work for Communicator, Digital Maker and International badges. They had Scout contacts in the UK, Poland and the Faeroes.

GB1NSS - 1st Solihull Scouts, Cole District

This is the first time Nelson Sea Scouts have experienced JOTA-JOTI running all Saturday and with all age groups taking part. They had VHF contacts with another local JOTA station and D-Star contacts within the UK and further afield with Malta Scouts. They also tried Morse code and semaphore.

GB1SHS - Halstead Scout Group

This is their first JOTA-JOTI and with the help of Darenth Valley Radio Society they ran a very successful event with plenty of contacts using a variety of modes. They also had Army field telephones and Morse code and it was such fun that they plan to do it again!

GB1SJM - 1st Margate (St John's) Scout Group

This summary cannot do justice to the excellent report received from this station running JOTA for the first time. Planned well in advance of the event and with the support of Hilderstone Radio and Electronics Club they offered plenty of activities including other communication methods, Morse code, Semaphore and British Sign Language. Having established a good link with GB1GDS in Foston, Lincolnshire they were able to pass messages several times during the day. Their best contact was a yacht off the Orkneys GM8OFQ/MM

GB2CP - 95th Reading Scout Group

Assisted by members of Reading and District Amateur Radio Club, this station was active all Saturday and Sunday morning. They made plenty of contacts with other UK JOTA stations and with JOTA stations in Germany, The Czech Republic and Portugal. Kit building and the Communicator badge also featured.

GB2GP - Gilwell Park

The UK Flagship station has the advantage of permanent antennae and many year's experience. 240 places were available over two days with half a day of activities and half a day of JOTA-JOTI. A wide variety of communication methods were on offer, some, like tracking the Heathrow approach flight path made more interesting as you could pop outside and see the plane as it passed overhead. More challenging was the aerial building activity making a Yagi for 2m from pipe and welding rod. Construction of amplifiers, Morse code, SDR receivers and TV also featured. They were not short of contacts both within the UK and abroad.

GB4EDS - Eden District Scouts

This small station with just two Scouts were on air on 20m for Saturday morning. They were delighted to make JOTA contacts in Germany, Russia and Slovenia.

GB6WSG - 1st Wargrave-Scouts

This station ran for two hours on Saturday and had Cubs and Scouts make contacts on both HF and VHF. JOTA-JOTI almost always falls in school half term and this station suffered from lack of help for this reason.

GB8CS - 2nd Clevedon Scout Group

This station had participants from all sections and operated on both days. They comment that they found conditions very variable and although the short skip kept the German contest out of range they could not find many JOTA stations within reach. In addition to JOTA there was camping and outdoor cooking for the Chef's badge - a combination that is always popular.

GB8OPW - Phasels Wood Activity Centre

Operating from Phasels Wood Activity Centre this station was active on Friday and Saturday, logging calls from near, Berkhamstead, and far, South Shetland Isles in Antarctica. Scouts could also try Radio orienteering and Scouts and Explorers from Hempstead combined the event with part of their selection process for the 2019 World Jamboree.

GB60CDS - Colchester Estuary and North Districts

Plenty of Scouts of all ages visited this station on the Saturday, many of whom were working towards their Communicator badge. They were visited by Sir Bob Russell, Colchester Scouts President and Colchester High Steward.

GB6OLES - Long Eaton and District Scouts and 1st Sawley (All Saints) Scout Group

Cubs and Scouts visited this station on both days. They were active on 70cms and 40m and in addition had IRC, Skype, code breaking and Radio Lego on offer.

GB60SPS - Pembrokeshire Scouts

The wider programme of outdoor activities was severely curtailed by storm Brian which raged over the JOTA weekend. However, it did not prevent the radio activities from continuing with UK contacts and with Scouts in Geneva, Amsterdam and Finland.

GB60WSG - 2nd Wellington Scout Group

This station was active on both Saturday and Sunday, attracting Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and making Scout contacts in the UK and Holland. With plenty of Leaders and Radio Amateurs they could offer both Radio and other means of communication including Morse, semaphore and also Braille.

GB60YOU - Youlbury Scout Activity Centre

The JOTA;JOTI station operated in the same manner as at Gilwell Park, combining half a day of on-site activities with half a day of JOTA-JOTI. All the available places were booked with some groups travelling from far afield. With storm Brian threatened and being surrounded by large trees only a modest HF antenna was erected and as a result not many contacts but the digital modes proved very popular and a 2m contact with the nearest JOTA station in Banbury gave everyone the opportunity to pass messages. The big success of the event was the construction of the Claplight as made at the 15th World Scout Moot in Iceland in July.

GX0SWN - Wiltshire County Scouts

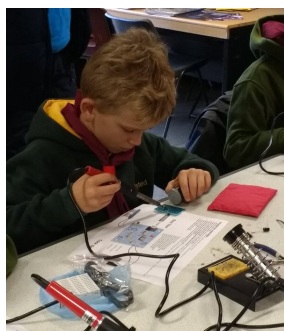
This station attracted plenty of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts to take part in a variety of Communications and International activities. Run by a team of licensed Scouts, they had over a dozen UK JOTA contacts and several abroad including Geneva, Holland, USA, and Canada. They also listened to three ISS contacts with Italy over the weekend. Parts of the Communicator, Digital Maker, Digital Citizen and Astronautics badge were completed. The various Scout Commissioners who had been part of the organising team also assisted all weekend.

M0SRF - 6th Gosport Beavers

This modest station run by a father for his newly recruited Beaver son managed a contact with a Spanish JOTA station where they exchanged greetings with another six year old. Their success has them aiming to run a bigger event next year at the local Scout HQ.



GB60YOU - Steve M0SXH & Scouts
kit building



GB2GP - 1st Felsted



GB60YOU - Stuart M0MMZ & Cubs



GB2SHS - Morse



GB2GP



GB2GP



GB2GP

**JOTA
2017**



GB60YOU - Alex 2E0OXF & HF