

CLE222 COORDINATOR'S COMMENTS

Coordinator's Comments and The Future for CLEs

DX and HOME In our 222nd Coordinated Listening Event we listened for NDBs at the two extremes of distance – 'HOME' ones in our own radio country and ones over 2,000 km (1,250 miles) away 'DX'.

The DX part was quite a challenge in August for those of us in the Northern Hemisphere. Altogether 37 of us sent logs, some spectacular DX was heard and many listeners commented that it had been much enjoyed. We had the benefit of an extra day's listening compared with CLE187 in October 2014, but the average statistics were down by around 25% for Europe listeners and by rather less than that for the Rest of the World listeners.

In our occasional 'Questionnaires', helping us to deliver better CLEs, DX ones have always been voted among the most popular, so we were badly overdue for one.

The 'HOME' results from those of us in 'busy' radio countries are useful and interesting but, maybe disappointingly, they are a non-event for others who have few NDBs or who have lost all of them.

THE NEW HARVESTER It is high time that I explained the marvellous contribution we have had from Joachim in making the CLE Combined Results.

A while ago I had big problems with my laptop including a major crash on attempting to move from W7 to W10. That prevented me from continuing to use QBasic and an old version of Excel which were fundamental in making the results using the 'old harvester'. Joachim gave me willing and very competent advice to overcome both the Basic and the Excel problems. While helping me in those ways he recognised that there could be a much better way of making the results.

Then, in May, my brother died unexpectedly. I am still seriously distracted by clearing his house and, as sole executor, selling his estate, which will benefit his extended family and friends and especially his local charities. The recent CLEs would have had to be cancelled but for Joachim.

He has been able to produce the results for the recent CLEs with remarkable accuracy and speed. The breakthrough was to see a way of using Excel to do all the number-crunching and to automate most of the process the 'New Harvester'. We still have to manually extract the log lines from

reporters' logs and relay details of any difficulties back to them, but most of the rest of the job which used to take me over a day now happens in a matter of minutes!

We are very grateful to Joachim for helping with the CLEs in these ways, especially as, unlike many of us, he is not retired and has a very responsible full time job to do.

He is documenting use of the New Harvester so that almost anyone could take over the harvesting in the future. That should ensure that CLEs can continue for as long as we want them.

Some of the more 'special' CLEs, particularly DGPS and Navtex, will need some further work to adapt the New Harvester to handle them maybe you have noticed that we have kept to the more normal types of CLE recently. Even CLE222's HOME and DX presented a few more difficulties than we had expected (that's one reason that we abandoned a change to include adjacent radio countries in the HOME category).

So I think we can now advertise these forthcoming events with greater confidence:

CLE223 (Normal)	22-25 September
CLE224	27-30 October

Good listening,
Brian (CLE Coordinator)
and Joachim