

CLE229 COORDINATOR'S COMMENTS

Hello all, After rather a long holiday', I'm finding time again for some good things – like listening in CLEs and writing about them! These comments are about our rather special Listening event last weekend, the wonderful help that Joachim is giving in making the CLE combined results and from others in encouraging new members to join us, etc. There are a few coming changes that will be keeping us on our toes!

CLE229 The prospects for this CLE didn't look too good. First, those lovely (?) noises made by the powerful DGPS beacons covered most of this event's frequency range of 270-320 kHz. They make listening for the little Morse signals underneath something of a problem – perhaps a painful one! Over the previous CLE weekend, and during much of February, we had suffered very poor service from Yahoo Groups, often delaying our emails by several hours. With a permanent solution to that problem only a few days away, listeners would think it best to give CLE229 a miss maybe? Also, reception conditions were down again compared with some very special DX about a week ago.

So what happened? A record **59 CLE logs** came in – and Yahoo behaved itself! The previous highest of all our 229 CLEs was 58 logs in CLE113 nine years ago. We are an unusual group of enthusiasts – our biggest challenges often produce our best results! Slightly embarrassing for ENG reporters – another record total of 10 logs came from here, plus two more from SCT. Maybe the 12 of us were all anxious that a 'CLEXIT' might also be coming for us!

Do look through the combined results – interesting even if you were not one of the reporters. They show that Europe listeners made five loggings over 5,000 km, but there were 15 over 5,000 km for Rest of the World, including three over 11,000 (7,000 miles), made from by the Pacific coast in California.

The table at the bottom of this email shows that conditions didn't vary much from night to night, though Saturday night was not too good for listeners in North America.

Joachim again helped enormously with his ultra-fast new harvester (it easily overtook my primitive old harvester with its retired and ancient driver, despite Joachim's normal day at work yesterday!). Without Joachim our CLEs would surely have effectively stopped since last May. Selling and closing my late brother's estate 100 miles away and all that that means, took much longer than I had expected and the cheques to the benefiting Charities have only recently been sent. Joachim has added one or two useful features in the new harvester that we'll tell you about next time perhaps.

Our thanks are also due to **Steve** whose blog usually gives us a good advert (which is often also being copied on a major Amateur Radio Website). That partly accounts for several welcome new CLE-ers, especially from the more North-Easterly of the States and the more Eastern provinces of Canada. And, of course, Pat, Steve and others who input our logs to RWW continue to give fantastic good service.

Coming Changes

Within the next few days we should be enjoying the move from **Yahoo Groups to Groups.io**. Alan will be telling us about that, which will be a very easy switchover.

I re-joined the DGPS List before the CLE – they have been using Groups.io for some time with no problems. My attempt to interest one or two of their members in listening in the CLE for the NDBs under their DGPS signals didn't attract anyone!

Don is cooperating patiently while I improve a better way of detecting '**Missing NDBs?**'. That is now done by comparing, for the CLE's frequency range, our reports with the historic details in RWW. Don uses the resulting list to help in searching the NOTAMs to try to find evidence for closures, temporary or permanent.

Dan is very interested in **listening via remote SDRs** and is building a record of what?, where?, and 'how good?', from which we may all benefit in the future, especially those of us who have impossible local noise, or no opportunity to have an effective aerial, etc. (If you think that remote SDRs are not much good, do have a look at Christoff's CLE229 results!).

We'll also have **something special** to celebrate in a few months!

Coming CLEs:

CLE230 23-26 March

CLE231 27-30 April

CLE232 25-28 May

(dates are still provisional)

Meanwhile, Good Listening All!

Brian

From: Brian Keyte G3SIA ndbcle@gmail.com
Location: Surrey, SE England (CLE Coordinator)

Our results show that the night-to-night conditions during CLE229 were fairly stable – no night was a lot better than others for most of us. However, for North America Saturday night appeared to be rather poor compared with Friday and Sunday, as the following table shows:

EUROPE

NIGHT	NDBs	Exp.	+/-
Friday	663	651	12
Saturday	308	326	-18
Sunday	169	163	6
Totals:	1140	1140	

NORTH AMERICA

NIGHT	NDBs	Exp.	+/-
Friday	633	566	67
Saturday	203	283	-80
Sunday	154	141	13
Totals:	990	990	

The 'NDBs' column shows how many NDBs were heard on each night and the totals.

The 'Exp.' column shows how many NDBs would normally be expected on each night for that same total (each night it is usually about half as many as on the previous one because there are fewer 'new' ones still remaining to be heard)

The '+/-' column shows how many more, or less, were heard each night than expected.

You can see that the Europe counts were close to the normal pattern.

In North America, the second night was relatively poor and the first was best.

(Night-to-night changes can sometimes also be due to a special event - a celebration, etc. - that had affected several of us)