

# CLE214 COORDINATOR'S COMMENTS

Hello All

If you are a CLE-er, you may find several parts of this interesting:

1. CLE214 and its main results
2. 'Website members'
3. Mending the broken CLE 'Harvester' program
4. Plans for CLE215 – and beyond

## 1. CLE214

First, we welcome Doug in Inman, SC, who sent his first CLE log.

He is another listener who heard about us and our CLEs from Steve's excellent blog ( <http://ve7sl.blogspot.co.uk/> ) Sorry, Doug, that you are joining us just when, after 15 years of monthly CLEs, my results system has fully, but temporarily, crashed!

In CLE214 between 25 Dec. and 2 Jan. we were listening for one or two NDBs in each radio country. 40 of us took part. Only in CLE189 (Dec 2014) did more take part in the annual Holiday Event. That was when 49 of us took our 3rd 'Channels Challenge' (Try to log one NDB in each of the 151 channels from 275-425 kHz).

Thanks, Alan, for your original idea for the popular Noah CLEs.

13 of the 40 listeners, divided 7/6 between Europe and Rest of the World, **each heard NDBs in 50 or more different radio countries** and several others came close to that – quite an achievement.

Thanks for all the logs, many of them laid out very clearly to show the pairings, etc. A few listeners were purists and followed Noah's strict rules – or maybe they just didn't find any singles.

I was amused by some of the ways the 'singles' were described in the logs:

Left on the shore  
Naughty unicorns  
Solo travelers that missed the sailing

## 2. 'Website members'

You maybe didn't know that we have some listeners who take part in CLEs **without being NDB List members** – yet. Alan maintains copies of nearly all the current CLE advice in the CLE Section of his NDB List Website (the Early Advice and Final Details emails, the latest CLE Results, etc.). Everyone has access to that Website, so anyone finding us – maybe after reading "Steve's blog" can try out CLEs before joining the List itself. <http://www.ndblist.info/cle.htm>

I think it is important that all CLE logs are always seen by List members (so that we all get the benefit from reading them and so that any mistakes that they or I make are apparent). That's why I relay to the List any CLE logs from 'website members' – ones sent direct to my >ndbcle@gmail.com address.

## 3. Mending the broken CLE 'Harvester' program

As you probably know, I've only sent some very brief summaries of the CLE214 logs so far. It all stems from my foolish (?) decision to accept the Windows 7 to Windows 10 upgrade several months ago. The hard disc total crash that it caused was magically recovered by the local computer shop, including most of the data and programs. They had to install a Windows 98 Virtual Machine partition running with Windows 10. That worked for a few months but it was quite clumsy and tedious to interact with. A short time before CLE214 all forms of communication between the W98 and W10 parts failed and can't be restored. My friendly local consultant and I are now pretty sure that the only realistic solution is to move the W98 processing (part of it is in QBasic, part in Access/Excel) to run in W10, probably allowing all the same programs to continue running with few changes. Adding Access to W10 should be no problem.

The QBasic programs read all our logs (in a text file), convert them into a common format and do most of the validation. They will need a W10 QBasic implementation – I need to edit the programs before running them (to define the CLE dates and frequency range, etc., and other things for 'special' CLEs). **If you have used QBasic in W10** it would be great help if you can tell me its source so I won't miss finding a 'winner'. (I do have Visual Basic here but there is no way I can continue my struggle to understand it from over 10 years ago!).

Just to repeat myself, while I was really appreciative of the several offers of help in buying any programs, etc., cost is no problem at all and I CERTAINLY DON'T want any help of that kind. But thanks so much for your offers of support.

## 4. Plans for CLE215 at the end of January – and beyond

I do hope to have made the full CLE214 results before too long, but for CLE215 I think it will be wise to use an idea that I have for a new one-off kind of CLE. It could be an interesting Event and I would be able to process it relatively easily in Excel. I'll send the details later in the month for CLE215, to be held on 27 – 30 January.

This CLE results problem has reminded me, of course, that the time will come when I 'bow out'. That will either be when the Good Lord calls me(!) or when I realise I've become too old and unreliable to run the CLEs well enough or because I'm invited to pass the baton over. I didn't know what order to put those in!

The CLE 'harvester' programs had to be written to leave me doing quite a lot of manual checking – non-programmable things including checks which could be left out but which would pass errors into the final results. I think a new CLE Coordinator may not want to take up 'my' programs, but if they did I would hope that it could be done with any explanatory help that I could give. A complete re-write would be an interesting project for someone and it might allow other quite different and new kinds of listening event to be covered too.

I admit that I'm not keen to give up yet – this is about the only useful (?) contribution that I seem to be making these days and, apart from Scrabble, the only regular exercise for my aging brain!

Good listening and all the best for 2017

Brian  
(CLE Coordinator)