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Join the Ham Radio Today newsround and find out what's happening to the 70cm band, read about the advent of a 100 per cent British transceiver, look to the future on 50MHz and learn the truth about Leicester.

Do you know what's going on in your area? Could you name the secretary of your local club? Do you know where the club meets? Get back to the grass roots.

NEWCOMERS' FORUM36

There has to be a first for everything in this life and amateur radio is no exception. The technology and technique of the hobby races on at such a pace that even the old hands find it hard to keep up. This column was written with the newly licenced in mind but there is something here to interest everybody.

TECHNICALITIES ...41

A refreshing new look at radio design and theory. In the first of this series we examine problems of instability in both transistor and valve RF PA circuits. We also offer a review of what the other magazines are saying about amateur radio.

COMPETITION62

Here is another chance to stretch out the grey matter on our multiple choice, RAE style quizz. If you enjoyed the Radio Amateurs' Exam then you will love this. Furthermore there is a prize of a power supply for the first correct entry. We also name the Leicester winners of the same competition.

This is going to be our letters column. Of course we haven't got any letters yet because this is the first issue of the magazine. However we have collected a wide range of opinions about amateur radio, mostly encountered while putting this journal together. Some of them are jaundiced to say the least but we would like your comments anyway.

RADIO YESTERDAY74

The history of radio is almost as fascinating as the present. Did you know that the first cross Channel commercial 17cm microwave link went into service all the way back in 1934? Find out more.

CONSTRUCTION DIGITALLY SYNTHESISED GENERAL COVERAGE HF TRANSCEIVER13

It wasn't us who first described this home-brew rig as a "poor man's FT-ONE". However this class of design, a World first for a magazine project, will receive and transmit on any frequency between 1 and 35MHz in both SSB and CW modes. The circuit has the potential to operate clean up to 90MHz. Even better, we estimate that the total building cost is less than £150.

0.7dB NOISE FIGURE 2M PRE-AMP33

This new design by Timothy Edwards is genuinely state of the art. It offers performance well beyond that of most commercial offerings. A complete kit is available for under £5.