

matter for then one can put up with a few hardships and it is the functions that matter. Indeed, the 5800 has some very nice facilities but also some very confusing ones. The size of the frequency step depends on the setting of three controls in addition to the mode. The exact effect is an iterative process of trial and error. As well as this, there is also available, from one of the keyboard buttons, 1MHz (FM) and 100 kHz (SSB/CW) up/down steps. I found this feature rather useful, especially as the rig has the annoying quirk of coming up on 146MHz when first switched on. A useful addition, especially for mobile work, is the inclusion of a frequency lock button which disables most of the keyboard and the up/down microphone switch, but does not affect the "Call" but-

ton. This "Call" facility seems a rather pointless addition, especially as the 5800 has auto-toneburst. In fact, being positioned near one of the most used keyboard buttons (Clear), it is a positive disadvantage and can cause some embarrassing moments.

Listening on FM showed that the 5800 is quite a sensitive rig although the rather 'toppy' audio made it difficult to pick out weak signals from the general noise level and made working 'DX' on FM a bit of a strain on the ears. The two position RF gain switch, "DX/LOC", seemed to behave in a particularly odd fashion with strong S9 signals being reduced to around S2 but weaker signals (eg. S1) hardly being attenuated at all. The usefulness of this switch was therefore nullified as in-

terference could still occur between local and distant stations on the same frequency. The usual problem associated with led signal strength meters was experienced ie. weak, but Q5, signals caused no indication on the display. However, the external meter socket could be used by those who like to see something happening. (It seems psychologically reassuring to have some indication of just how weak a signal is!)

SSB listening also showed up the sensitive front end of the 5800 and the audio in this mode was quite pleasant to listen to. The RIT control gives  $\pm 1.2\text{KHz}$  shift and surprisingly this also operates in the FM mode. Possibly due to its sensitivity, the rig was very susceptible to static noise and the noise blanker, while not being particularly effective,

