

LETTERS

LICENCE CONDITIONS

Sir, 1. One frequently hears the use of "static mobile" which gives the impression that the user is rubbing a piece of silk with his pen, or may even be using a Wimshurst machine (*what?* — *Ed.*) and your cartoon is correct in quoting the licence for /M Para. 9 1 (d) "in or on a vehicle or vessel . . ." However you amend this to read "/M = mobile (in moving vehicle . . .)"

I cannot read into the licence the necessity for the vehicle to be moving, and even if you are sitting in your own drive, in your car, waiting for the wife or whatever, I feel that you are /M. Should you happen to be sitting in your car, using the rig, connected to the car battery, but using an aerial mounted on a separate pole, transportable mast, etc., you should then use /P.

2. With regard to the fact that for repeaters and special event stations the "country" prefix is not used, GB surely is intended to mean "Great Britain" i.e. the greater includes the lesser!!

3. My third point — intended to be helpful rather than over-critical — very few operators at temporary premises using /A observe the requirement to give the address in accordance with Licence Para 9. (4), — and it does say "address" and not nearest town.

Good luck with your Magazine.

RON LEDGERTON, G2ABC

SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS

Sir, I read with interest the article in the current issue of your magazine on Special Event Stations by G6LCC. On my retirement from business in 1968, I volunteered to help in the RSGB QSL bureau and was asked by Arthur Milne, G2MI. who was the QSL manager to take on the job of the GB calls as they were growing in number and getting a bit too much in addition to running the bureau. This I did until August this year when I decided after 15 years to make way for a younger person, Mr. Geoffrey Newman has now taken over.

In those 15 years the issue of GB calls has, to my mind got out of hand, and no longer is the contact with a GB station an 'event'. In fact, I protested when the GB prefix was issued to stations working in contests even though they themselves claimed no award. They do however cause a clamour for QSL cards and created a waste of time and money for cards that are often never collected and have to be destroyed! I have destroyed thousands of QSL cards, many from DX stations which I would have given my

right arm to have worked! I maintain that if all the trouble is taken to set up a Special Event Station, surely the little extra could be employed to see that the QSL sub-manager gets a supply of SAEs with sufficient postage.

Yes, the issue of GB2BBC to two stations with dates close together has created a lot of extra work and I can assure G6LCC in that the last parcel I sent out prior to handing over to Geoff did contain some GB2BBC cards which I hope were for the BBC station. Sharon is not correct in saying that the BBC did not have the call G2BBC. This call, along with G6BBC is issued to the Ariel Group (Ham Radio Group) at Pebble Mill, Birmingham, who issue a very FB QSL with an aerial view of the Pebble Mill Studios. The London Group have the call G3BBC, and many more groups within the BBC and IBA have amateur call signs, many of the staff being active amateurs.

I enjoy your magazine and as an Old Timer still find much to learn even though "Ham" radio, like everything else, has changed and as far as I am concerned, not always for the better.

C. TURNER, G8NL.

144 MHz ATU

Sir, I have a small problem that I hope you may be able to help me with. Have you or your colleagues had any, or do you know of any ATUs for 144 MHz?

I have one for the HF bands with a 12-position switch, but I cannot seem to be able to find one for VHF. I am interested in making my own VHF aerial(s) and think it necessary to have an ATU for testing purposes. If you have any information that will be of use to me could you please let me have it, either homebrew type or factory made items.

H M C HALL

Please see 'Wire Antennas on 2m' in our December issue. Could readers please note that we do not have the resources to answer queries on topics other than articles that have appeared in the magazine. An exception to this is where we feel that a point is of sufficiently general interest to merit a reply through these pages.

SWL

Ed, I have brought the mag. since issue one, but I must express disappointment at the lack of info for the SWL. The beginner could use this info as could

anyone else who is into SWL as his hobby.

Articles on tuners and aerials, converters and notch filters to build would help the SWL, as would information on how to get QSL cards, and how to contact other SWLs would also be most useful!

I feel that the mag. is for the A and B licence holders only — will there be anything for the SWL in forthcoming editions of the mag.?

W M RIGBY

Our Newcomer's Forum feature often gives information which is appropriate both to the newly licenced amateur and the SWL. In the future we hope to run more articles specifically for the SWL.

RAYNET

Sir, With reference to the letter from S. M. Richards re RAYNET November HRT if you would supply me with his address I shall be pleased to look into this situation, I enclose SAE for your reply.

W.J. COLCLOUGH, G3XC
Vice Chairman RAYNET Committee,
RSGB

2m PREAMP LAB. TESTS

Sir, In a recent letter from Chris Bartram of Mutek, concerning the non-availability of his products, for review in my pre-amps survey, there were some criticisms of test methods implied. I would like to make it clear to readers that the methods which I chose to use for the pre-amp survey bore little or no resemblance to those which Frank Ogden discussed with Mutek.

Chris has told me further that he was quite satisfied as an impartial reader of the survey at all the results obtained, but queried one particular quoted figure, that of RF input intercept points. He states in a letter to me that this is normally calculated from one single measurement for a 60dB ratio between each carrier and one inter-modulation product, by adding 30dB to the input level required to produce -60dB. Whilst this may be an established means of quoting intercept point, I feel that it is only relevant in the context of low level performance. The Datong preamp would have had by this form of calculation a much higher apparent intercept point, but which is far more unrealistic than a normal intercept point already is. David Tong told me that he completely accepted my method, and that it seemed more realistic in giving an