

10 - Colchester-Chelmsford Qualifying Event - Sunday, 14 June 2015

On arrival at the starting location for the contest at Pleshey village hall sports field, a light drizzle was falling. By the start of the contest however, this had cleared away, with the weather remaining dry throughout the rest of the afternoon, to the benefit of the competitors and also the two hidden operators. Eleven teams had entered for the contest. Signals were received from both hidden stations, although one competitor was unable to detect the signal from one of the hidden stations and so the approximate bearing for this station was disclosed for those who wished to make use of it.

The “A” Station, G4 MDF/P, operated by Roy Emeny was hidden in thick undergrowth within a recently managed area of the woodland at Woodham Walter Common, to the south-east of the start. This area now consisted of well established and closely growing birch saplings interspersed with thick brambles, ferns and several fallen trees. An antenna approximately 250 yards long encircled much of the transmitter’s location and terminated in an earth stake within a mass of brambles and beneath a fallen tree. Although less than 10 miles from the start, this arrangement produced a relatively weak signal at the start. However, an initial group of six competitors found this as their first station, with nine teams successfully finding the transmitter by the end of the afternoon.

By contrast, the “B” Station, G4TRY/P, operated by Peter LARBALÉSTIER produced a very much stronger signal at the start, although more than 12 miles away to the north at West Wood, Thaxted. Hidden behind brushwood undergrowth and also protected from access in another direction by tall chestnut-fencing enclosing an inaccessible area of the wood, this presented challenges to some competitors. A three-quarter wavelength antenna erected high in the surrounding trees contributed to the strong signal heard by all. Three competitors found this as their first transmitter, all arriving within a few minutes of each other, with nine teams eventually finding this station by the end of the contest.

After the event, competitors met at the Fowlers Farm Inn at Braintree, for a cooked meal from the menu. This was followed by announcements of the results, and with the distribution of prizes and speeches. The Colchester-Chelmsford DF Qualifier Shield was also presented to the winner, Tim Parker.

Overall Results

<u>Name</u>	<u>Time at Station A</u>	<u>Time at Station B</u>	<u>Overall Result</u>	<u>Qual for Nat Final</u>
Tim Parker	14.43.30	15.50.19	15.50.19	PQ
Peter Lisle	14.44.50	15.54.15	15.54.15	Q
Geoffrey Foster	14.43.04	16.03.38	16.03.38	PQ
Philip Cunningham	14.55.30	16.06.16	16.06.16	PQ
Rosie + Colin Merry	16.16.48	15.05.09	16.16.48	PQ
Dave Wyatt	14.58.36	16.25.23	16.25.23	Q
John Mullins	16.28.08	15.04.32	16.28.08	
Gary Parker	14.55.40	---	14.55.40	
Graham Phillips	---	15.03.06	15.03.06	
Alan Simmons	15.10.47	---	15.10.47	
Steve Stone	---	15.14.29	15.14.29	

Q = Qualified on this event for National Final

PQ = Previously Qualified