

## G-QRP Convention Frequently Asked Questions

### FAQs

**When does the Convention take place?** Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 September 2020.

**Will the timings be adjusted to suit DX members?** No, this is the G-QRP Club Convention and timings will be arranged to suit UK hours; 09:00 to 18:00 UTC. We have members in just about every time zone across the globe so any adjustments will help some and hinder others. Members in Region 2 will just need to get up early, and those in Region 3 will need to stay up late to catch the whole of the programme.

**Will the talks be recorded for watching later?** Yes, all sessions will be recorded, unless the presenter denies permission. They will be made available on-line to all ticket holders as soon as possible after the event; we may need to edit the recordings to suit on-line hosting, etc. We are considering releasing the recordings to a wider audience at some point in the future, but those who have paid to attend will get the benefit of the early release.

**Will there be written notes for the talks?** We are not planning to produce a 'proceedings' pack but if speakers provide notes or slides, we can certainly host them on the G-QRP website, or link to them if they are hosted elsewhere.

**Will there be a Buildathon?** Regrettably not. We have had to shelve plans to include a remote kit building session. The short lead time to the on-line convention and the logistics involved proved to be too much of a challenge on this occasion. We are looking into running a remote 'build-a-long' at some point, and we will do more work on that after the Convention.

**Why do we need to pay?** The free video conferencing platforms were not going to work for large numbers so we have had to buy several licences. The 'entrance fee' will cover the cost of those licences, assuming enough members attend.

**Do DX members have to pay extra?** No, if you are already a member, the Convention fee will be £4 no matter where you are in the world.

**Why do non-members need to pay a membership fee?** The Club is a not-for-profit association and our Club Sales are really only for members. In line with other sales, like the SPRAT DVD, we charge non-members a membership fee and the costs of the item. In this case, we have put a special package together that covers membership to the end of 2021; 15 months for the price of 12. Join now and you will get the deal.

**Why do overseas non-members have to pay more?** One of our biggest expenses is postage. SPRAT mailing costs are more expensive for DX members, so we charge more to cover our costs.

**Why is SPRAT not available on-line?** We are a small organisation and do not have the resources to go for an e-book format. There are also concerns that electronic journals in pdf format are shared such that membership suffers. There may be scope to do something

different in the future but for now SPRAT is a paper journal and our costs need to be covered.

**What if I only want to attend part of the Convention?** Not a problem, just like a physical convention, you can attend the talks you want to see and miss the ones you don't. However, there is one price is for the whole show; it will be £4 whether you attend one session or the whole thing.

**How can I book a place?** We are using Eventbrite to process the bookings. The link is on the Convention web-page. Again, such services do not come for free, so we need to make sure the £4 convention fee covers our costs. Members just go ahead and book, non-members need to join, and when you have your membership number you can go ahead and book.

**Will there be traders?** No, we are keeping the first G-QRP Club virtual convention a simple affair. We may have traders do a talk about their QRP products, but there will be no in-convention selling by traders, or Club Sales – facilities for mail order already exists.

**What platform will you be using?** We are going to use Zoom due to it being familiar to our helpers, it being a proven system and it being reasonably priced. There are other systems provided by some of the BIG computer companies, with associated concerns over data sharing, etc, but the 'best in class' come with huge additional costs that we simply cannot afford. Zoom appears to be the best fit for our proposed use.

**What about cyber security?** There was a lot of bad press when Zoom became the overnight sensation of lockdown but the company were quick to act and there is much tighter security now built in. The system is being used successfully by many radio clubs and radio amateurs and other hobby-based national societies.

**What if I don't have a computer?** Then you either need to borrow one or join up in a social distance way with someone who does have one. It is also worth noting that most smart phones and some tablets can use the Zoom app. We are trying to provide a replacement for the cancelled physical convention and recognise it is not a perfect solution for all, but it does provide access to some who would not have come to Telford, or Prestwick.

**Is this the end of the real face-to-face convention?** That is not our intention. The Telford Club have already set the date for 2021 and we intend to be there. We also plan to run the Scottish G-QRP Convention we had planned. There is a strong feeling that if this year's virtual convention proves to be a success, any physical gathering will also be made available on-line to enable our vulnerable and DX members to attend via the internet.

V2 - 13 August 2020