

## Answers to Correspondents

**D.N.A. (Timaru):** It appears from your letter that you are not clear as to the interpretation of several of the rules governing the DX competition. Any verification, provided that the station it refers to is still operating on the frequency indicated on the card, will be accepted for the competition. This is a greater handicap to DXers of long standing than you evidently suppose, for quite a number of stations, particularly American, have had their frequencies changed in the past few years. For example, in September, 1929, WTIC, Hartford, Connecticut, was operating on 600 k.c. (500 metres). It now operates on 1030 k.c. (283 metres). Thus, a card entered for the competition and bearing the former frequency would not be accepted. This is but one of many similar instances.

To show that this rule has proved successful in placing DXers on a more or less even basis, the case of Mr. A. Greening, of Inglewood, may be cited. In the last DX competition Mr. Greening achieved second place with a total of 89 stations, all logged, with the exception of five or six, after the announcement of the competition.

Much thought was given to the drafting of these rules, and, in order to render the competition as fair as possible to everyone concerned—a difficult problem, incidentally—it was necessary to compromise on several points. However, the result appears to find favour with the majority of DXers, and we are of the opinion that, all things considered, any further change in the rules would not be advisable.—Ed.

## Identification Wanted

**STATION** operating on 2YA's frequency on March 30. Items: (1) "Song of the Dawn," (2) "Reaching for Someone," (3) "Forty-seven Ginger-headed Sailors"—all recordings. I waited for ten minutes but no call sign was given.—"Ray De O" (Christchurch).

**STATION** at 10deg. on my dial with call sounding like "G" (or "D") BO, Broadcasting Service. At 10.30 p.m. on the 29th I heard a recording "Always in

All Ways," followed by an instrumental item, "Annie Laurie." At 10.45 I heard a recording of Florrie Forde in "Old-time Melodies." The announcer speaks quickly in a rather slishod manner.—"Cersria" (Whangarei).

**STATION** heard March 26 and 27. On the latter date the children's hour was in progress, and a man was talking about "Boko," who at nine years of age was working in a salt mine. At this stage the local station commenced transmitting and drowned reception. Dial number 24 (2UE, Sydney, 21, 2ZF, 28).—"Squib" (Dunedin).

**AT** 12.45 a.m. on April 8 a foreign station was tuned in on 2BL's frequency. I thought at first that it was Japanese or Chinese, but the music was more melodious than that usually heard from these stations. Before and after one item a gong was struck six times. Later on they put on classical gramophone items, which came through at loudspeaker strength. He would announce in a foreign tongue, and the only time he did so in English was at 2.25 a.m., when he gave the call, "This is Radio Bangkok. The number you have heard is from the opera by 'Verdi.' Also, a new Melbourne station giving the call 3ZZ was heard.—W.B. (Linwood).

**WOMAN** heard lecturing in a foreign tongue at 12.20 p.m. on April 3. Wavelength 500 metres (600 k.c.).—"New Ghum" (Wellington).

## Stations Identified

**J.P.C. (P.N.):** Yes, I have heard both KGW and KZRM on the same frequency, but have not yet received verification of the latter. Also agree with you re verifications from some New Zealand

# News and Views of the D.X. CLUB

"B" stations, although I must say 2AY, 3KZ, and 3GL responded promptly. I have duly verified WCHI, Chicago. "Bull's Eye" (Featherston), I think you heard KFTB, Minneapolis. Their closing announcement always includes "Operated by permission of Federal Radio Commission at Washington on a frequency of 1460 kc. (205m.)."—"Cromdale" (Otago).

**"JACKO"** (Rerwinui): Station on 2NC's frequency is 3EF, Ellwood, Victoria. I wrote him several months ago, but so far have received no reply. C.G.C.

## A D.X. Cup for Battery Set Owners

**WE** have pleasure in announcing that in the next D.X. club competition there will be a cup for battery set owners. This has been donated by Mr. S. Ellis, winner of the "Radio Record" D.X. Club cup for the last year, and it will be known as the Ellis Cup. It will, in all probability, be a miniature of the D.X. Club cup, and will be won outright during the period from June to December of this year. The cup will be awarded to the battery set owner who enters the greatest number of verified stations in the D.X. Club competition.

(Christchurch): Station on 850 kc. (353 metres) is 7BY, Bombay.—N.J. (Master-ton).

**J.C.S. (Beckenham):** I have since identified station on 2NC's frequency as experimental station VK3EF, Ellwood. "Kilocycle" (Auckland): To my knowledge there is no Brisbane station on that frequency except 4BC. The new Oxley station, however, operates on that frequency without a call sign, and mentions Brisbane in his announcement. "Radio Boy" (Timaru): Your stations appear to be 3ZK, Melbourne, on 1350 kc. (222 metres) and 3GL, Geelong on 1400 kc. (214 metres). "Novice" (Wellington): The only two New Zealand stations between 2BL and 3LO are 2ZP, Wairoa, and 3ZR, Greymouth. Your mention of hearing a back ground of 2YA must be an error as it is impossible to get 2YA between 2BL and 3LO. Station on 2ZO will most likely be 2KY, Sydney. N.J. (Master-ton): I have also logged VK3KU, but I was unable to get location. "Apex" (Auckland): Pony racing at Perth is a night programme.—B.W. (Stratford).

**N.J. (Master-ton):** The Manila station KZRM closes down at 11 p.m. (2.30 a.m. N.Z. time) every night except Monday, when it closes at 5.0 p.m. Wavelength 485 metres (620 k.c.). B.W. (Stratford): According to the latest letter-head from SBA, Ballarat, his frequency is 1300 k.c. (230.8 metres). Allowing for a slight difference in dialling you are correct. Your stranger on 2BL is the Bombay station. His call was once 7BY, but I am not sure if this is so now, for I have not heard his call lately.—J.P.C. (P.N.).

## DX Topics

## A Useful DX Chart.

**I** RECENTLY heard a new Australian station testing—"Oxley Radio Station"—on about 265m. (113 k.c.). Reports were to be sent to A.W.A. Ltd., 47 York Street, Sydney. Announcer also remarked that Oxley was 8 or 9 miles from the Brisbane Central P.O. Reception was excellent on 8 valves. On the previous evening, March 24, I logged 6ML for the first time on a wavelength just above that of 2UE. On the 27th I heard a Jap. on 58m. (590 k.c.). I can find no mention of him in any of the latest call-books. At 11.30 p.m. I am certain he gave the call JOAK, twice. Re plotting a graph from the frequency of various stations. I have tried this with the N.Z. and Australian stations, but my "curve" was more like an ocean wave than anything else. I then logged all the Americans I could find, taking particular care with the logging. As a result I now have a perfect curve from KNTR 570, k.c. (526 metres) to KGB on 1330 k.c. (225 metres), plotting 22 Americans in all. The regularity of this curve was probably due to the fact that American stations are forced to keep accurately on their allotted frequencies.—"Ray Dio" (Shannon).

## Recent Loggings.

**RECENT** loggings are:—KFKU, KGNU, WADC, WCGU, and WKAQ. The latter is in Puerto Rico, a small island in the Gulf of Mexico. They were testing a new transmitter, and on dance music came through at R8 with fading at intervals. This station was difficult to separate from KHJ and KIX.—S. Ellis (Okato).

## An Error.

**A** error crept into my last report in reference to 5CL, 3AR, and 7ZL, which read: "Since they have increased their wavelength," and which I intended to read, "It is a coincidence that these stations are operating on a long wavelength."—B.W. (Stratford).

## DXing with Long Aerials.

**WHILST** not wishing to contradict the experts I am a believer in a long aerial. Mine is about 300ft. over all, 80ft. high, sloping to 30 feet at set. I use a fixed condenser between aerial and set. I am about 50 miles air line from 4YA, but have difficulty re non-selectivity. My log is 97 stations, which includes 38 Americans and 31 Australians, the balance being N.Z.'s and Japs. I will grant that local conditions enter into the question, and do not for a minute say that a long aerial suits everywhere, but at the same time I cannot support the statement frequently made that a long aerial is useless. I know which I prefer. Some will object to the noise level, but if a station makes the speaker dance I tone it down, and the noises with it. On a suitable night that extra length tells for DXing. I write this in no criticism of the very helpful gentlemen who assist us in the queries column, but more as a note to country dwellers, far from the YA's, and often the "B's."—"Cromdale" (Otago).

[The chief points against the use of 300-foot aerials are: (1) They are decidedly un-selective. This you appear to realise, for you have inserted a condenser between the aerial and your set—an excellent method for reducing the effective aerial length. Again, your receiver probably uses two or three stages of screen-grid radio frequency, and is thus in itself very selective. (2) When used in towns or near power lines, the noise level is too high, and can be reduced only by shortening the aerial. The signal strength is not reduced in proportion, however, and still remains sufficiently high, even for DXing purposes. Thus, in general, we advocate the use of aerials not exceeding 100 feet in length.—Tec. Ed.]

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