J. E. Downes Wins DX Challenge Cup

416 Stations Logged with a Majestic Superhet. in Under Two Years

Mr. J. E. Downes.

ONCE again the DX Challenge Cup has changed hands, the latest winner being Mr. J. E. Downes (180 Ot.), of Dunedin, whose phenomenal log of 416 stations, exceeding that of the previous winner by no less than 50 stations, has earned him the title of N.Z. DX Champion for the coming six months.

The runner-up was Mr. J. P. Cowlishaw (3HQ), of Palmerston North, with another outstanding log of 381 stations. No less than four other logs of over 300 stations were entered, and it is certain that the next competition will be very keenly contested.

The Southland Cup.

The Southland Cup, which was donated by members of the Southland Branch of the DX Club for competition among all members, was won by the club president, Mr. S. Robson (1HQ), of Invercargill, with a log of 139 stations. Stations operating on the American Continent were excluded from this competition.

The Morley Stafford Cup.

This trophy, which was donated for competition among lady members by Mr. Morley Stafford, of Pehiri, Gisborne, was won by Mrs. Cora H. Judd (61A), of Tauranga, with a log of 160 stations. Mrs. K. D. Barker (24A), of Taumarunui, was second with 101 stations, and Mrs. T. L. Millar (72A), of Hokianga, third with 87 stations.

City and District Certificates.

Mr. J. P. Cowlishaw (3HQ), of Palmerston North, has been awarded the City Certificate for the largest log of stations entered by dxers living within city areas.

Winners of the various District Certificates are shown in a panel on this page.

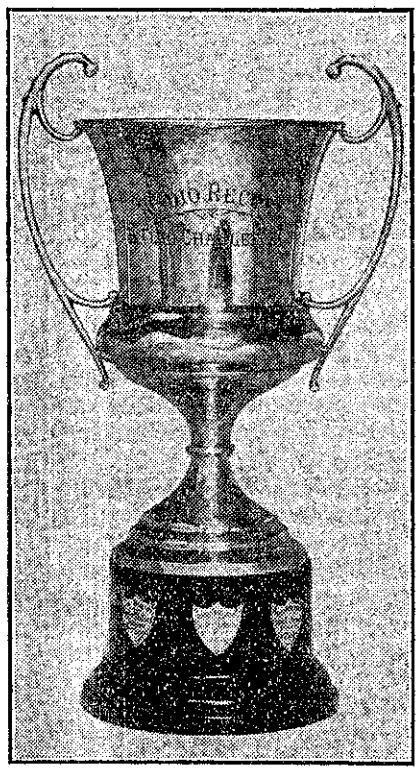
History of the DX Cup.

The DX Competition, which is held every six months, was inaugurated early in 1930, when the Challenge Cup shown on this page was donated by the "Radio Record" for competition among members of the New Zealand DX Club. Each winner has his name inscribed on a shield on the cup pedestal, and in addition is presented with an engraved miniature.

The Challenge Cup has now been won six times. The first winner was Spence R. Ellis, of Okato, with a log of 89 stations. It was then won twice in succession by Morley Stafford, of Pehiri, Gisborne, with logs of 142 and 227 stations respectively. It was also won twice in succession in the following two periods, by Frank W. A. Barnett, of Dunedin, with logs of 291 and 366 stations respectively. This last total was regarded as almost unbeatable, but Mr. Downes has topped it by 50 stations.

DISTRICT CERTIFICATE WINNERS:

Auckland:	J. Downey (196A)	.. 207
Taranaki:	J. R. Bain (13T) ..	.. 313
Hawke's Bay:	M. Stafford (41HB) ..	358
Wellington:	J. P. Cowlishaw (3HQ)	381
Marlb-Cant.:	D. N. Adams (2HQ)	303
Southland:	S. Robson (1HQ) ..	321
Otago:	J. E. Downes (180 Ot.) ..	417



The DX Challenge Cup.

The Winner's Log.

The winner, who operates a Majestic 8-valve a.c. superheterodyne, compiled his huge log in under two years. He bought his first set in 1929, and very soon became interested in dxing for overseas stations, but it was not until the beginning of 1932 that he commenced writing away for verifications.

The account of his subsequent dx experiences, which, together with a full list of the stations he has logged, appears in the August "Radio Times," not only makes very interesting reading, but contains many valuable hints for all those interested in what Mr. Downes describes as "the king of hobbies."

Radio-gram Instability

IT is occasionally found with combination sets that when they are switched over from radio to gramophone howling results. It may be found that the pick-up itself cannot be touched without getting a squeak from the loudspeaker, while in other cases, when volume is increased, instability results. There are two main causes of this trouble—firstly, the amplifier itself, and secondly the position of the pick-up. In the first place it may be found that the howl takes place principally when using the pick-up and the amplifier is being given a far greater input voltage than that used with radio. This increased voltage when amplified is sufficient to cause audio oscillation. To re-design the amplifier completely is perhaps the best cure in this case.

Far more common is the trouble due to long pick-up leads. Long loudspeaker leads, which run near the aerial or the aerial circuit of the set, tend to cause instability, when the set is working on radio. In a similar way the pick-up leads, when trailed near the audio end of the set, or when running near the loudspeaker may cause trouble when the pick-up is put into operation. If long pick-up leads are necessary it is quite a good plan to use transformer input at the set end. An ordinary audio transformer will be quite satisfactory in most cases, though there are few pick-ups which do not operate well when used with input transformers.

Finally, never run pick-up leads near electric light power wires or an induction hum will almost certainly be picked up.