



# The British Astronomical Association

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BAA Radio Astronomy Section.

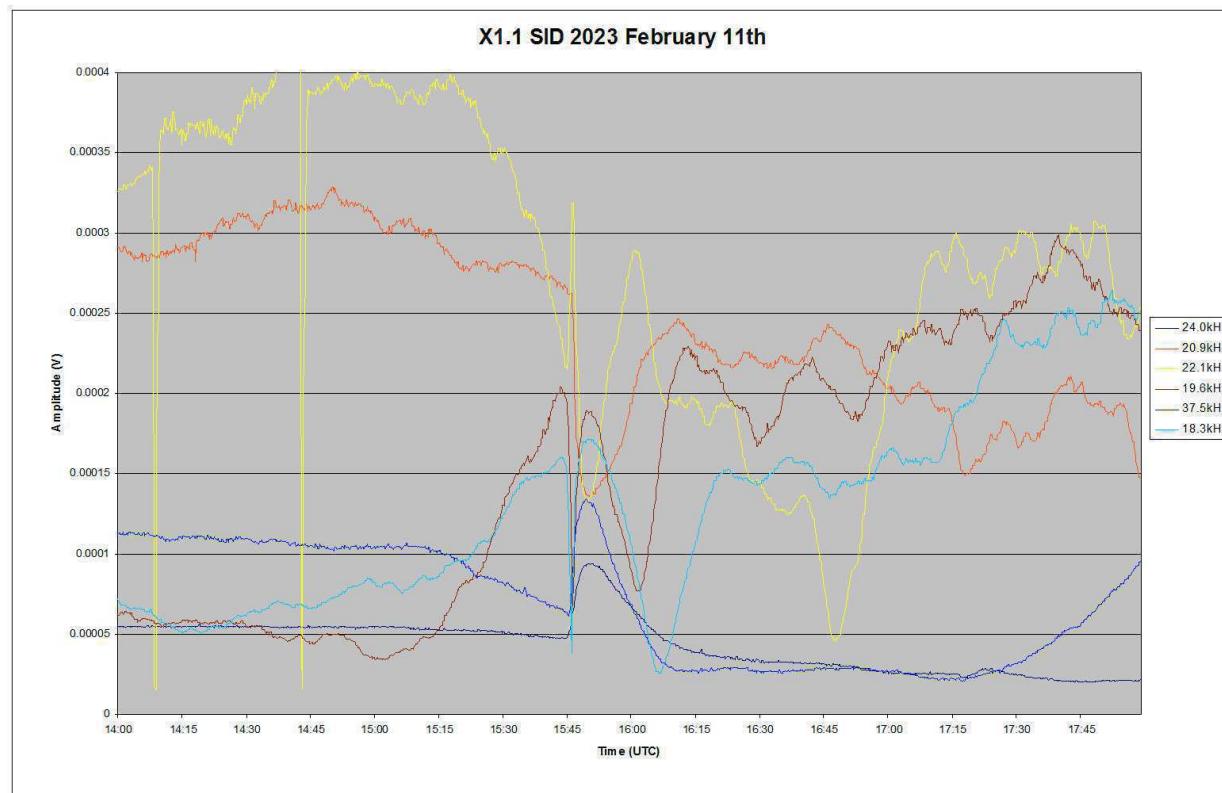
Director Paul Hearn.

## RADIO SKY NEWS

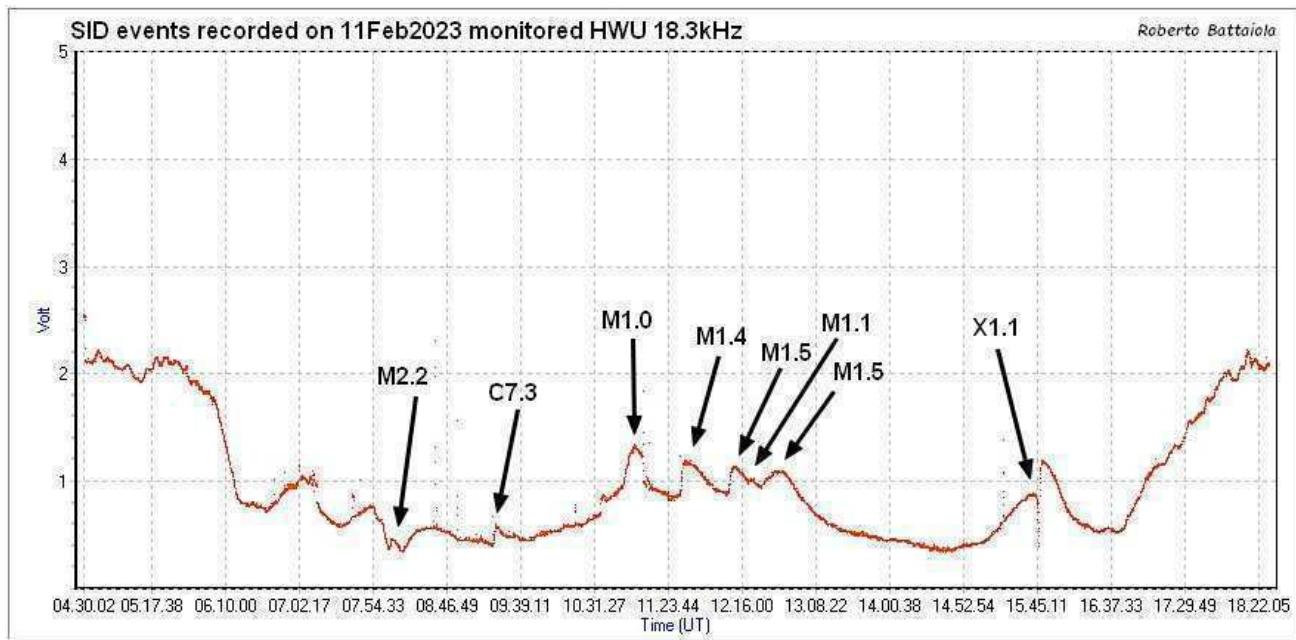
## 2023 FEBRUARY.

### VLF SID OBSERVATIONS.

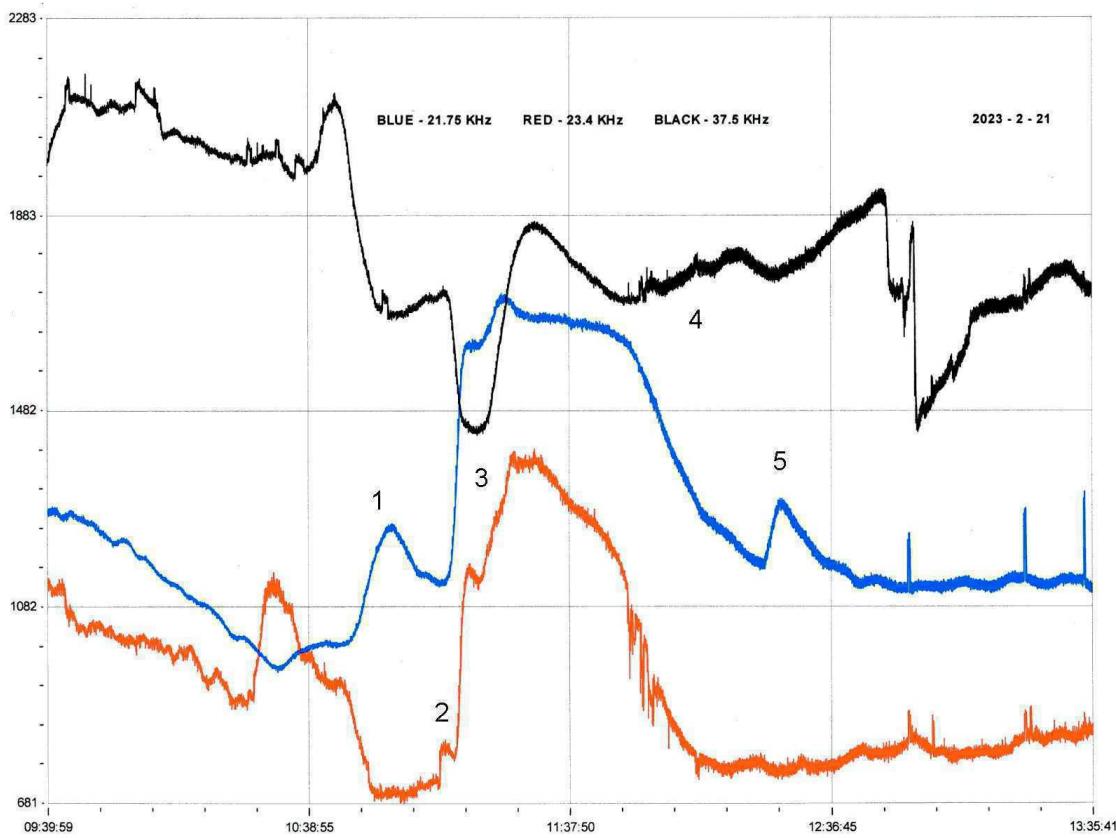
Solar flare activity increased significantly in February, with many M-class flares and two of X-class that were suitably timed for us to record. The general X-ray flux background was very high, and so many of the smaller flares were lost. Many of the larger flares were also quite complex, with multiple peaks. These have shown up on some signal paths, but not all. There were also two simultaneous flares from the same active region, hence showing as just a single SID, but listed in the SWPC independently at C6.2 and C6.1. This was the SID peaking at 17:52UT on the 9<sup>th</sup>, only recorded on the 24kHz Atlantic path, shown in the timing tables as just 'C'. The X2.2 flare on the 17<sup>th</sup> was also rather late, just showing on 24kHz, but the X1.1 on the 11<sup>th</sup> was more widely recorded.



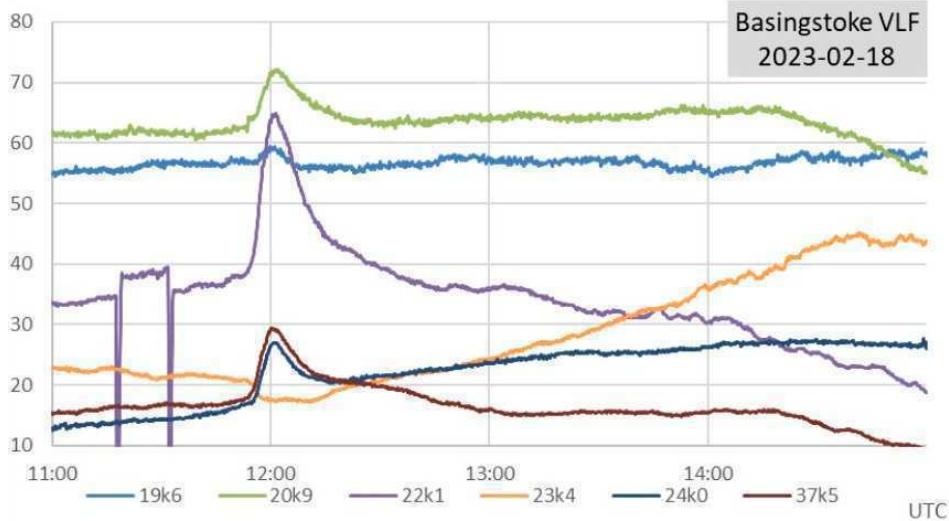
This chart by Mark Edwards shows the X1.1 flare in detail over six signals, just merging into the afternoon sunset on the European signals.



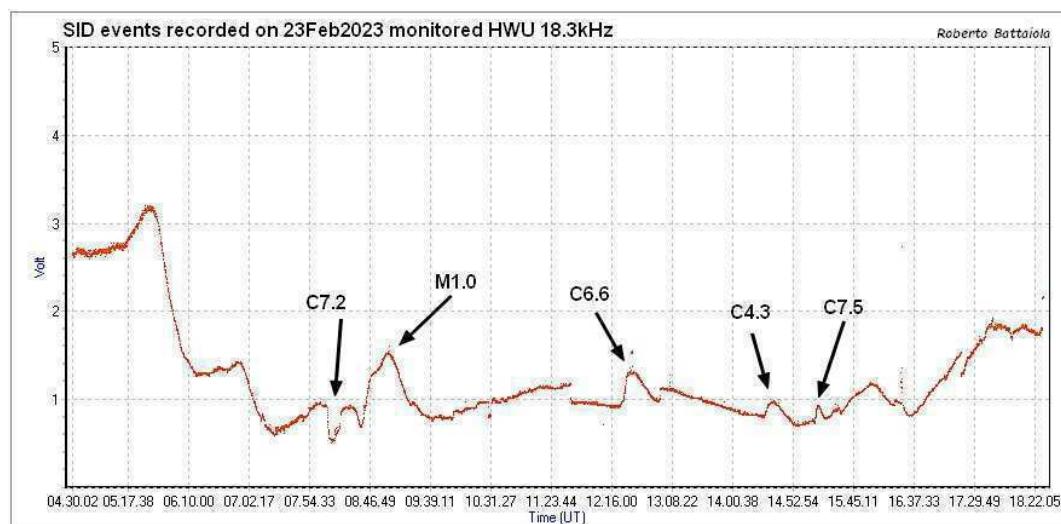
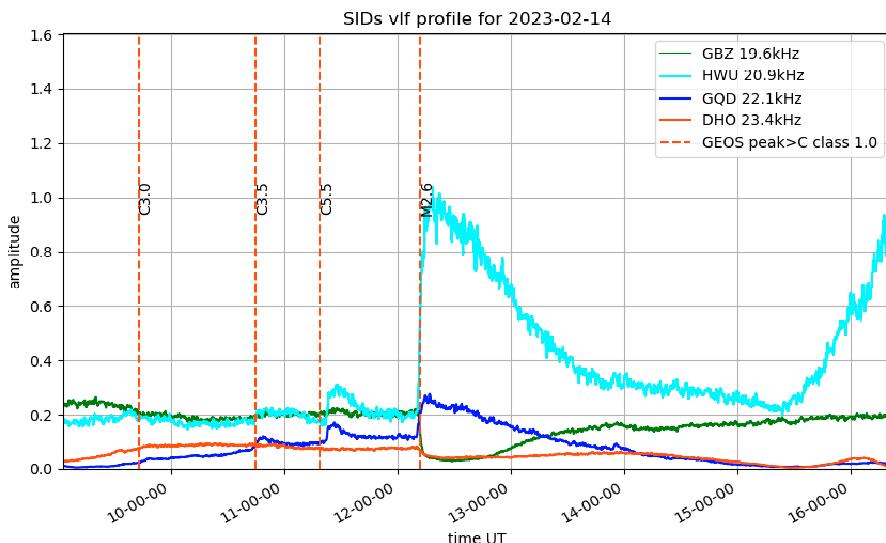
The recording from Roberto Battaiola shows it in context to the rest of the day's activity, including a barrage of M-flares from 11:00 to 13:00UT.



The timing tables show a complex set of flares on the 21<sup>st</sup>, shown in this recording by Colin Clements. I have labelled the timing entries 1..5, as listed in the tables. Not all of flares show as clear SIDs, with three active regions responsible. Entries 2 and 3 both appear to be from M-class flares, although only 2 is given a magnitude (M4.7). I suspect that both 2 and 3 were fairly slow flares, so merging into a single larger SID. A complex system to analyse.

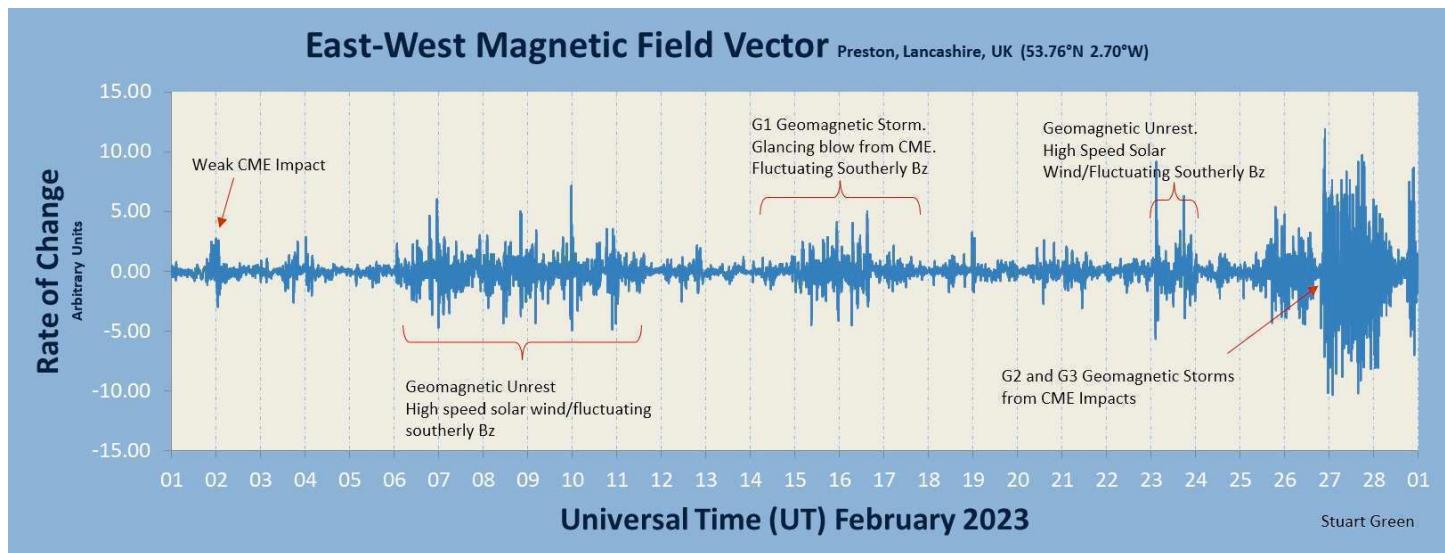


This recording by Paul Hyde shows a much better defined SID from the C7.7 flare at 12:02UT on the 18<sup>th</sup>. The SWPC bulletin does list a lot more flares on the 18<sup>th</sup>, but without magnitudes.



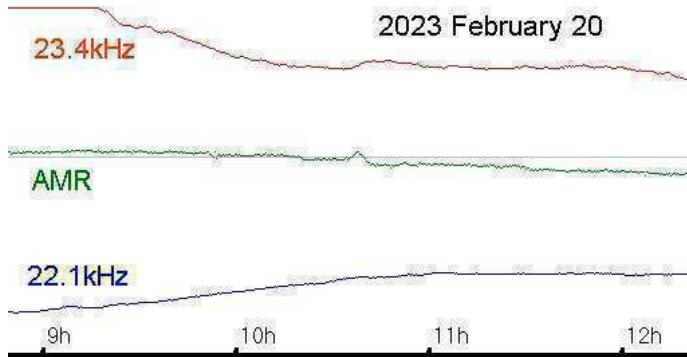
The recording from Mark Prescott shows the M2.6 flare on the 14<sup>th</sup> with a strong response at 20.9kHz. The recording from Roberto Battaiola shows another busy day on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, including the M1.0 flare with two peaks at 08:44 and 09:02UT.

## MAGNETIC OBSERVATIONS.



Stuart Green has repaired his leaking sensor, and has it back in operation again. The month's summary shows a fairly quiet start, with a much more active period in the last week.

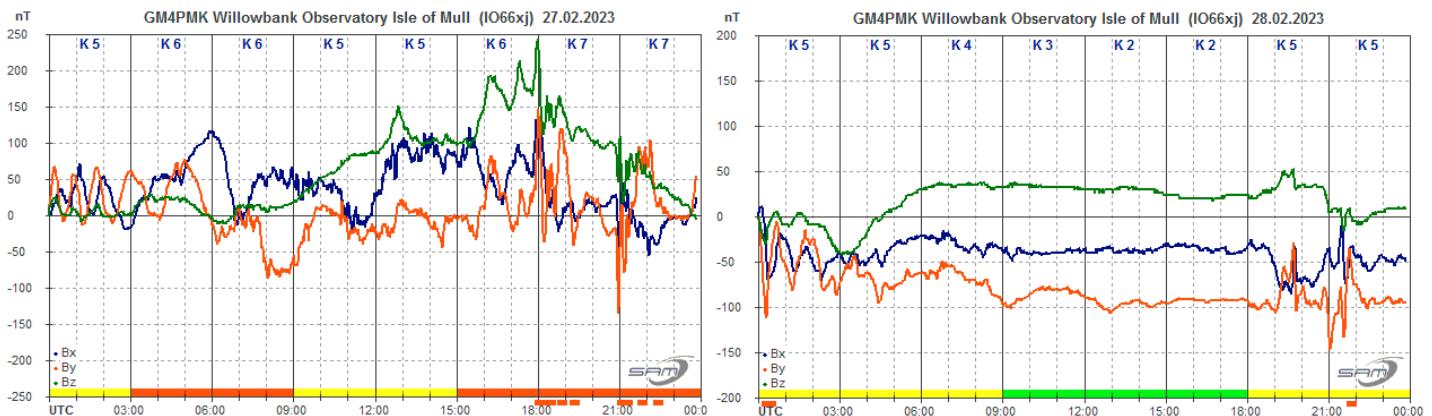
The X2.2 flare at 20:16UT on the 17<sup>th</sup> was too late in the evening to be recorded as a SID, but it did produce a CME arriving on the 20<sup>th</sup>. My own recording shows the sudden impact at 10:38UT on the 20<sup>th</sup>, with a magnitude of about 14nT. Subsequent magnetic disturbances were very mild lasting into the morning of the 21<sup>st</sup>.



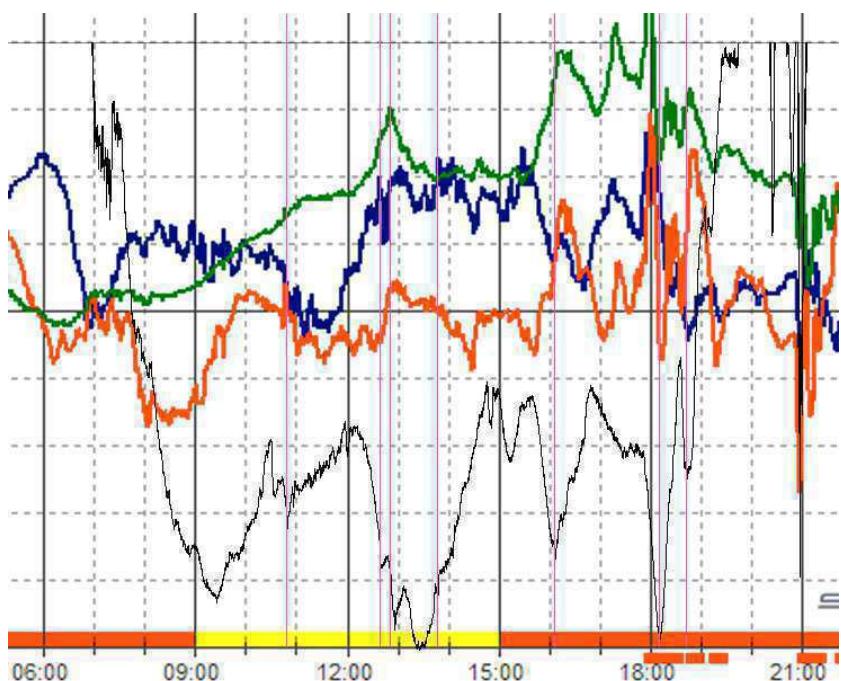
Steyning Magnetometer (50.8 North, 0.3 West)



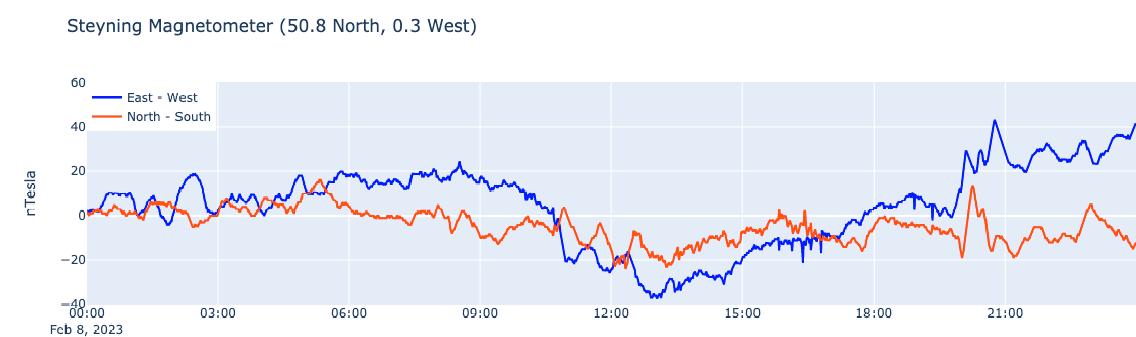
A combination of a high speed solar wind and a number of CMEs produced very active conditions at the end of the month. The recording by Nick Quinn shows the start at about 19:30UT on the 26<sup>th</sup> with a very sharp shock. The disturbance grew in strength through the following days.



The chart by Roger Blackwell for the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> shows the very active period in the evening of the 28<sup>th</sup>. Note the change in scale on the vertical axis between the days, +/-250nT on the 27<sup>th</sup> and +/-200nT on the 28<sup>th</sup>. The sensor reset at midnight has also led to the three axes being a little offset on the 28<sup>th</sup>. As might be expected, this level of activity caused a notable disturbance on the 37.5kHz signal from Iceland.



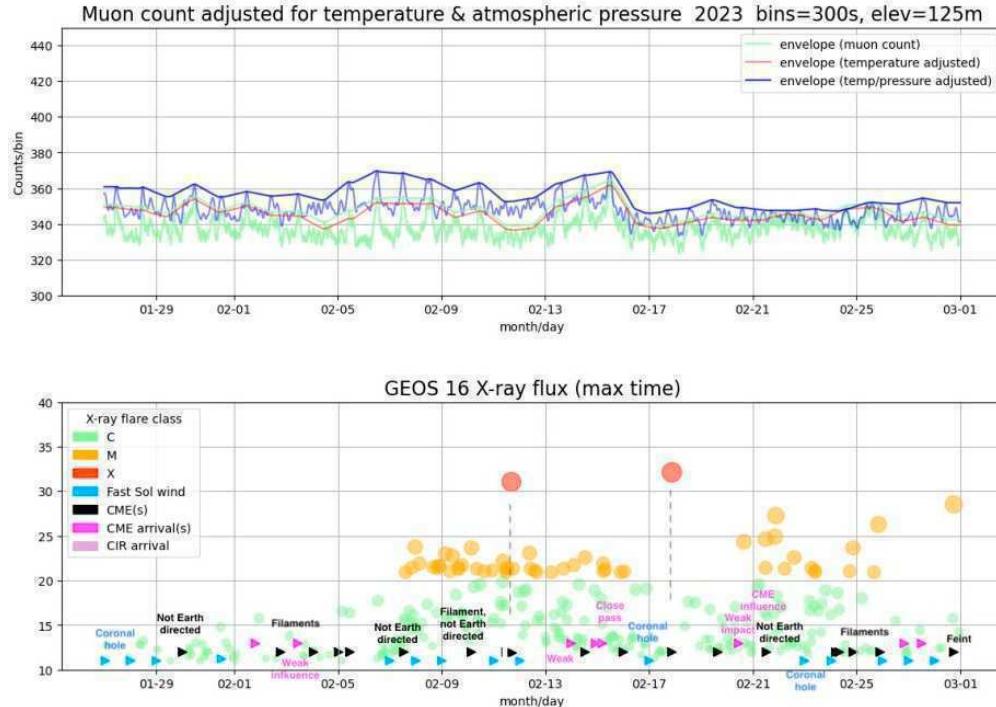
Mark Edwards has overlaid his 37.5kHz trace (black) onto Roger Blackwell's magnetometer. The vertical pink lines highlight some of the matching dips and peaks. The C4.5 flare at 10:27UT is also visible.



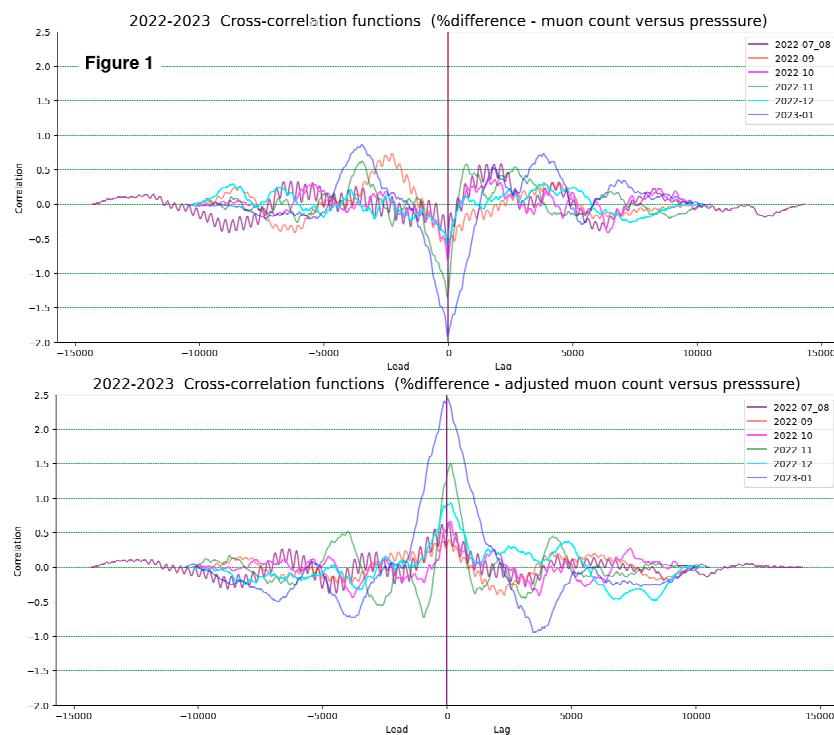
CMEs from flares earlier in the month were mostly not Earth-directed, a stronger solar wind causing short periods of mild magnetic disturbance. The recording of the 8<sup>th</sup> by Nick Quinn shows just a sample of this activity.

Magnetic observations received from Roger Blackwell, Stuart Green, Andrew Thomas, Nick Quinn and John Cook.

## MUONS.



Mark Prescott has provide his Muon counts for February. The two X-class flares are marked in the lower panel. As already noted, the second one produced an Earth-directed CME, which may be reflected in the Muon counts, corrected for pressure and temperature, in the upper panel.



These charts show the cross-correlation of Muon count versus atmospheric pressure. The upper panel

uses the raw Muon counts, giving a negative match. This shows that the Muon trend is mirrored in the long term pressure trend. The lower panel uses the corrected Muon data shown in the first chart. This has a good positive cross-correlation, showing that there is a good match following the corrections applied.

For those interested in particle interactions with the atmosphere, there is an interesting tutorial titled "Capturing cosmic rays with a digital camera." on the BAA web site ([www.britastro.org](http://www.britastro.org)). The link can be found towards the bottom of the page.

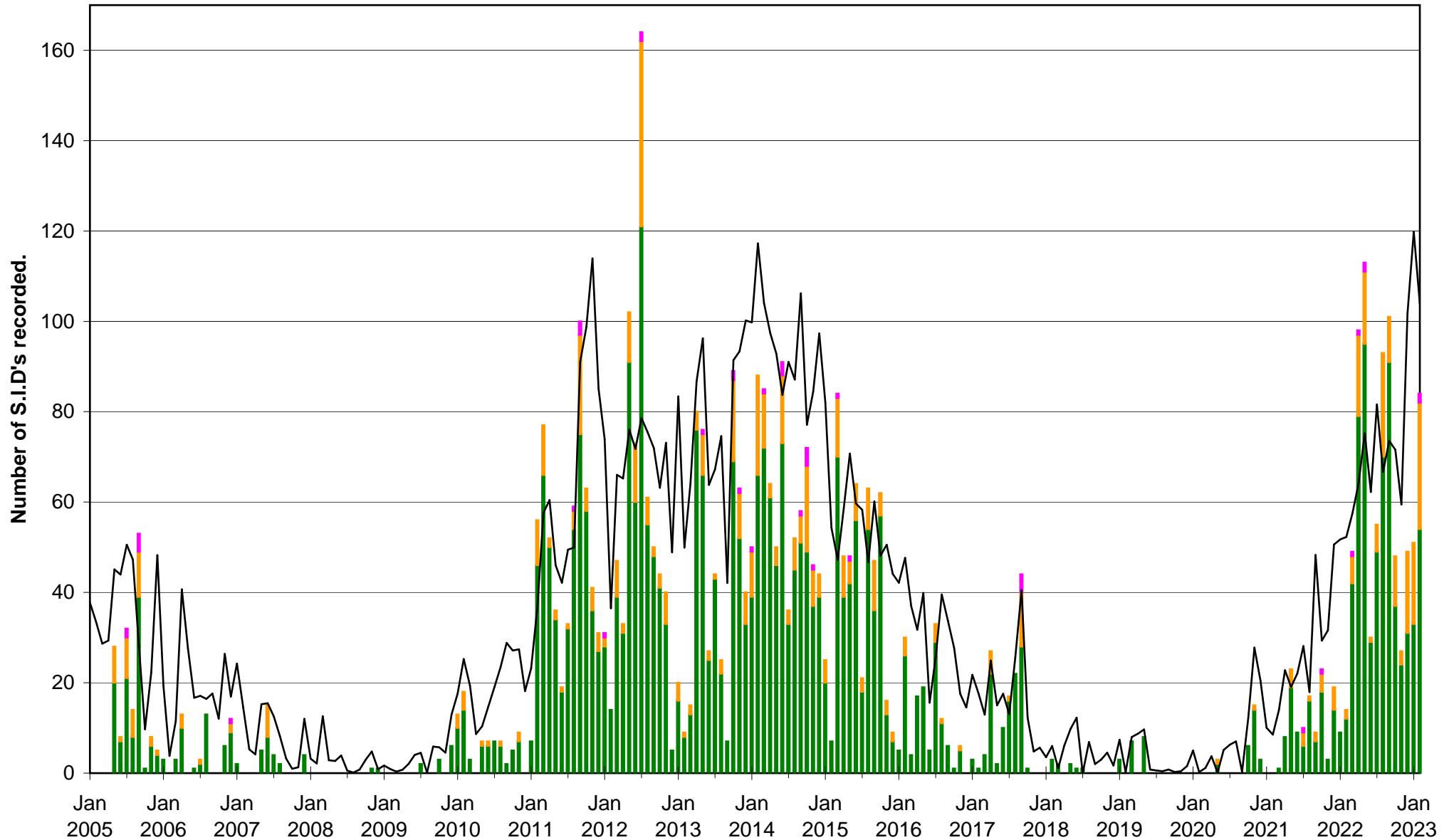
## ANY IDEAS ?



One of our members recently made a visit to Esperance in south western Australia, where there is a museum including wreckage from the 1979 skylab that crashed into the sea nearby. The item in the picture is clearly not from that source, but its history is completely unknown to the museum staff. The heading at the top of the cabinet reads: "SOLAR RADIATION MEASUREMENT EQUIPMENT". Have any of our readers come across this before?

## VLF flare activity 2005/23

C M X — Relative sunspot number



## BARTEL'S DIAGRAM

Xray class	Observers	John Cook (23.4kHz/22.1kHz)			Roberto Battaiola 18.3kHz			Paul Hyde (22.1kHz/24kHz)			Mark Edwards (24.0/18.3/19.6kHz)			Colin Clements (21.75/23.4/37.5k)			
		Tuned radio frequency receiver, 0.58m frame aerial.			Modified AAVSO receiver.			Spectrum Lab / PC 1.5m frame aerial.			Spectrum Lab / PC 2m loop aerial.			Tuned Radio Frequency receivers, 0.76m screened loop aerial.			
DAY		START	PEAK	END (UT)	START	PEAK	END (UT)	START	PEAK	END (UT)	START	PEAK	END (UT)	START	PEAK	END (UT)	
2	C1.3	1									14:07	14:12	14:18	1-			
4	C1.7	1	10:44	10:51	11:06	1	10:43	10:51	11:07	1	10:45	10:54	11:23	2	15:24	15:26	15:34
5	C6.4	9	12:05	12:12	12:52	2+	12:01	12:12	12:46	2	12:03	12:14	12:58	2+	10:47	10:52	11:03
7	C7.8	9									12:04	12:14	12:44	2	12:29	12:34	12:49
7	C5.5	4	13:36	13:44	14:32	2+	13:12	13:24	13:34	1					13:15	13:24	?
7	C7	2									13:35	13:44	?		13:35	13:56	14:33
7	C6.7	1									13:35	13:56	14:33	2+	17:13	17:18	17:29
8	C7.4	8	10:21	10:32	10:52	1+	10:04	10:32	10:59	2+	10:21	10:35	10:58	2	10:19	10:34	10:55
8	C7	1									15:36	15:42	16:21	2	11:09	11:39	11:53
8	C2	2									15:36	15:42	16:21	2	12:33	12:37	12:46
8	M1.6	3									15:34	15:44	?		15:49	16:00	16:27
9	M2.8	5	08:54	09:05	09:32	2	08:52	09:07	09:43	2+	12:06	12:18	13:28	2+	08:54	09:07	09:28
9	C8.4	6	12:09	12:20	12:54	2	12:03	12:22	12:55	2+	14:51	14:57	15:17	1+	12:08	12:21	12:44
9	M1.5	7	14:51	14:56	?	-	14:49	14:56	15:15	1+					14:51	14:57	?
9	M1.4	4	15:18	15:23	15:43	1	15:18	15:22	15:31	1-					15:17	15:25	15:36
9	C	1													17:48	17:52	18:06
9	C6.5	1													18:21	18:34	?
9	M1.8	1													18:39	18:42	19:09
10	M1.4	1															
10	C5.5	3	08:51	08:53	08:55	1-	08:49	08:55	08:59	1-	10:46	10:50	11:08	1	09:02	09:06	09:12
10	C4.1	2													10:24	10:30	10:33
10	C9.6	6	10:47	10:51	11:05	1-	10:43	10:50	11:01	1-					10:47	10:51	10:55
10	C?	1													11:07	11:11	11:22
10	M1.1	3	14:40	14:55	15:16	2	14:47	14:59	15:04	1-					14:39	14:55	?
10	C?	1													15:16	15:19	15:23
10	C?	2													15:32	15:39	?
10	C?	2													15:48	15:59	16:18
11	M2.2	3	07:55	08:08	08:17	1	08:05	08:08	08:19	1-							
11	C?	0															
11	C7.3	5	09:18	09:21	09:29	1-	09:15	09:21	09:30	1-	09:18	09:21	09:31	1-	09:19	09:23	09:26
11	C?	1													09:34	09:38	09:44
11	M1.0	7	10:52	10:58	11:17	1	10:38	10:59	11:24	2+	10:51	10:55	11:02	1-	10:55	10:58	11:09
11	M1.4	8	11:33	11:36	11:50	1-	11:30	11:35	11:58	1+	11:30	11:35	11:51	1	11:33	11:35	11:43
11	M1.5	7	12:06	12:12	12:20	1-	12:04	12:09	12:19	1-					12:07	12:12	?
11	M1.2	2													12:20	12:23	?
11	M1.5	6	12:29	12:40	13:00	1+	12:28	12:42	13:10	2	15:43	15:47	16:28	2	12:29	12:41	13:11
11	X1.1	8													15:45	15:51	16:21
11	M1.4	1													15:48	15:53	16:03
12	M3.1	7	08:44	08:48	08:56	1-	08:37	08:48	09:03	1+	08:42	08:48	?	-	08:41	08:48	?
12	C?	2									09:00	09:02	09:14	1-	09:10	09:03	09:10
12	M1.4	6	09:14	09:24	09:40	1+	09:12	09:27	09:44	1+					09:14	09:29	10:00
12	C?	1													11:11	11:14	11:21
12	C?	1													13:04	13:06	13:12
12	M1.2	10	13:28	13:35	13:50	1	13:27	13:36	14:05	2	13:27	13:36	14:25	2+	13:28	13:36	14:03
12	C5.5	3	15:07	15:10	15:16	1-	15:32	15:39	15:59	1+	15:08	15:11	15:25	1-	15:08	15:14	15:24
12	M1.0	9	15:36	15:39	15:50	1-					15:34	15:41	16:35	2+	15:36	15:41	16:16
12	C6.1	2									17:20	17:27	17:44	1	17:21	17:26	17:45
13	C3.7	2															
13	C4.5	4	10:45	10:49	10:56	1-					10:31	10:37	?	-	10:30	10:37	10:43
13	C?	2									10:42	10:51	10:55	1-	10:45	10:51	10:57
13	C?	3									12:08	12:13	12:22	1-	11:28	11:44	11:54
13	C3.7	3	13:00	13:03	13:12	1-					12:59	13:08	?	-	12:59	13:06	?
13	C?	2									13:19	13:24	13:36	1-	13:18	13:24	?
13	C6.5	4	14:29	14:32	14:44	1-					14:27	14:32	14:48	1	13:37	13:42	13:51
13	C?	1									15:32	15:39	15:47	1-	14:28	14:36	14:44
13	C7.7	4									15:31	15:41	15:51	1	15:35	15:40	?
13	M1.4	4									15:53	16:00	16:16	1	15:51	15:57	16:16
14	C3.5	3	10:40	10:43	10:51	1-					11:17	11:24	11:38	1	10:39	10:45	10:58
14	C5.5	6	11:19	11:22	11:34	1-					12:07	12:12	13:37	3	11:18	11:24	11:31
14	M2.6	6	12:07	12:21	13:49	3									12:07	12:24	?
14	C?	1													13:05	13:07	13:40
14	C?	1													13:45	13:46	?
14	C?	2									13:48	13:49	13:58	1-	13:49	13:52	14:29
14	C?	1													15:05	15:06	15:11
14	C?	2													15:58	16:00	16:02
15	C3.2	1													08:46	08:51	08:59
15	C7.1	4	09:11	09:16	09:32	1	09:11	09:20	09:31	1	09:09	09:22	09:47	2	09:12	09:22	09:34
15	C3.3	5									10:07	10:12	10:20	1-	10:05	10:13	10:18
15	C?	2									10:23	10:28	10:31	1-	10:25	10:27	10:35
15	C?	2									10:41	10:48	10:53	1-	10:40	10:44	10:53
15	C?	1													11:20	11:25	11:30
15	C?	1													11:45	11:56	12:02
15	C2.4	1													12:49	12:52	13:12
15	C2.4	1													13:27	13:34	?
15	C3.9	3													13:42	13:43	?
15	C3.9	1													13:49	13:52	14:38
15	C?	1													15:44	15:45	15:53
15	C3.7	1													15:58	16:02	16:25
16	C9.0	4															
17	C2.0	1															
17	C?	1															
17	X2.2	1															
18	C?	1															
18	C7.7	9	11:54	12:02	13:13	2+	11:49	12:00	12:18	1+	11:52	12:02	12:48	2+	11:55	12:01	12:27
19	C2.6	2									14:54	15:00	15:38	2	14:55	15:00	15:33
19	C3.1	2									16:24	16:28	16:30	1-	16:26	16:28	16:33
19	C5.4	1													17:42	17:44	17:54
21	?	6	10:44	10:54	?	-	11:08	11:23	11:33	1	10:45	10:54	?	-	10:42	10:45	?
21	M4.7	7	11:06	11:25	?	-	11:08	11:23	11:33	1	11:06	11:12	?	-	11:08	11:12	?
21	C?	2									11:14	11:26	12:07	2+	11:15	11:24	12:02
21	C6.1	6	12:18	12:22	13:02	2	12:17	12:22	12:35	1-	12:17	12:25	12:35	1-	12:18	12:24	12:30
21	C4.0	1													12:34	12:39	12:51
21	M5.0	1															

	Xray class	Steve Parkinson (Various)			Andrew Thomas (18.3kHz/19.6kHz)			Phil Rourke (23.4kHz)			Mark Prescott (20.9kHz/22.1kHz))			John Elliott (18.3kHz)				
		Tuned radio frequency receiver, frame aerials.			Tuned radio frequency receiver, 0.6m frame aerial.			Spectrum Lab, 0.6m frame aerial.			SpectrumLab/Starbase, Active mini-whip aerial.			Tuned radio frequency receiver, 0.5m frame aerial.				
DAY		START	PEAK	END (UT)	START	PEAK	END (UT)	START	PEAK	END (UT)	START	PEAK	END (UT)	START	PEAK	END (UT)		
2	C1.3																	
4	C1.7																	
5	C6.4	10:45	10:52	11:07	1	10:44	10:53	11:04	1	10:44	10:52	11:07	1	10:50	10:56	11:05	1-	
6	C7.8	12:03	12:14	12:43	2	12:05	12:13	12:48	2	12:08	12:14	12:43	2	12:08	12:37	12:42	1-	
7	?																	
7	C5.5																	
7	?																	
7	?																	
7	C6.7	13:36	13:53	14:22	2+					13:36	13:54	15:06	3	13:39	14:02	14:49	2+	
8	C7.4	10:21	10:34	10:52	1+					10:15	10:33	10:53	2	10:23	10:37	10:57	2	
8	?																	
8	?																	
8	?																	
8	M1.6																	
9	M2.8									08:54	09:05	09:38	2					
9	C8.4									12:06	12:19	13:00	2+					
9	M1.5									14:50	14:57	15:37	2+					
9	M1.4									?	15:52	16:25	-					
9	C																	
9	C6.5																	
9	M1.8																	
10	M1.4																	
10	C5.5																	
10	C4.1																	
10	C9.6																	
10	?																	
10	M1.1																	
10	?																	
10	?																	
11	M2.2									08:00	08:09	08:28	1+					
11	?									09:19	09:22	09:34	1-					
11	C7.3																	
11	?																	
11	M1.0	10:53	10:59	11:13	1					10:42	10:58	11:15	2	10:55	11:01	?	-	
11	M1.4	11:33	11:36	12:03	1+					11:31	11:37	12:00	1+	11:35	11:41	?	-	
11	M1.5	12:07	12:11	13:01	2+					12:05	12:11	?	-	12:07	12:18	?	-	
11	M1.1																	
11	M1.5	15:44	15:50	16:22	2					?	12:42	13:02	-	?	12:45	?	-	
11	X1.1									15:43	15:51	16:12	1+	15:48	15:53	16:13	1	
11	M1.4																	
12	M3.1									08:44	08:48	09:10	1+	08:35	08:48	09:01	1+	
12	?									09:12	09:29	09:44	1+	09:15	09:26	09:44	1+	
12	M1.4									13:29	13:35	13:59	1+	13:27	13:36	13:56	1+	
12	?									15:36	15:39	15:59	1	15:35	15:40	16:04	1+	
12	M1.2																	
12	?																	
12	C5.5																	
12	M1.0																	
12	C6.1																	
13	C3.7																	
13	C4.5																	
13	?																	
13	?																	
13	C3.7																	
13	?																	
13	C6.5	14:28	14:32	14:47	1					10:42	10:49	10:58	1-					
13	?	15:34	15:56	16:10	2					11:29	11:43	12:01	1+					
13	M1.4									12:07	12:12	12:19	1-					
14	C3.5																	
14	C5.5	11:14	11:22	11:27	1-													
14	M2.6	12:07	12:19	13:40	3													
14	?																	
14	?																	
14	?																	
14	?																	
15	C3.2																	
15	C7.1																	
15	C3.3																	
15	?																	
15	?																	
15	C2.4																	
15	C3.9																	
15	C3.9																	
15	?																	
15	?																	
15	C3.7																	
16	C9.0									10:14	11:02	15:08	3+					
17	C2.0																	
17	?																	
17	X2.2																	
18	?									11:55	12:02	12:30	2	11:49	12:02	12:57	2+	
18	C7.7																	
18	?																	
18	C2.6																	
19	C2.6																	
19	C2.1																	
20	C2.5									14:54	15:12	15:35	2	14:58	15:04	15:28	1+	
20	M4.4																	
20	C3.1																	
20	C5.4																	
21	?									10:43	10:54	?	-	10:49	10:56	11:09	1	
21	M4.7										?	11:09	11:22	-	?	11:15	?	-
21	?									11:07	11:26	12:30	2+	10:44	11:25	12:42	3	
21	?																	
21	C6.1																	
21	C4.0																	
21	M5.0																	
22	C3.2																	
22	C3.0																	
22	C3.2																	
22	?																	
22	M2.6									13:43	13:52	14:35	2+	13:40	13:51	14:55	2+	
22	?																	
22	?																	
22	?																	
23	C7.2									08:09	08:13	08:22	1-					
23	M1.0																	
23	?																	
23	C6.6	12:25	12:30	12:50	1	12:24	12:29	13:20	2+	08:36	09:01	09:36	2+					
23	C4.3	14:28	14:32	14:44	1-	14:27	14:33	14:46	1-									

