

ESSEX CW AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Encouraging CW use on the Amateur Bands

CW Essex Boot Camp 2025: A Unique Experience in Witham

Introduction

It was truly a special day at the CW Essex Boot Camp in Witham on October 18th. My first trip to the United Kingdom, my passion for Morse code, and the opportunity to meet so many friends who share this hobby combined to create an unforgettable experience.

The Journey and the Welcome

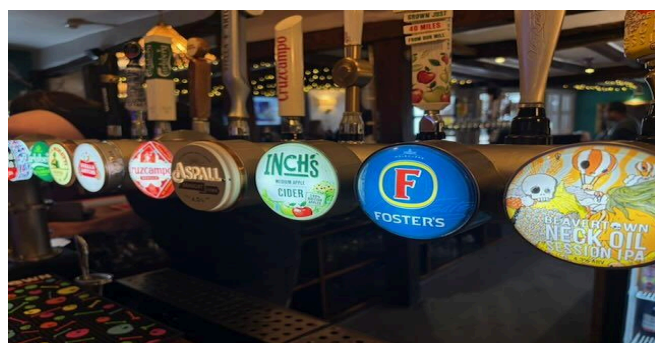
Leaving from Milan Malpensa on Friday morning, I wanted to enjoy the journey and prepare my presentation on **High-Speed Telegraphy (HST)** for the next day. The welcome from the Essex CW Club committee was exceptional. **Dean G4WQI** picked me up directly from the airport and accompanied me to the hotel in *Witham*, a

warm atmosphere of the event and of a typical English pub.



The evening continued with dinner at the hotel alongside some representatives of the CW Essex Club, including Andy **G0IBN**,

Lee **2E0DYH**, Richard **G4HPY**, Dean **G4WQI**, Ed **G1RUZ**, and Mike **G8EJN**. From the very start, I felt like I was among long-time friends. Their British accents fascinated me, but even more so did their



historic Essex town with Roman origins, famous for its traditional center and architectural heritage from past centuries. Just enough time to get settled, and I found myself at a table with Dean for a welcome beer, immediately soaking in the

stories and shared experiences, both on the air and in organizing the Boot Camp.

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October 18, 8:30 AM – CW Essex Boot Camp

The room was arranged with five tables separated by learning type and speed, with an interesting setup that allowed everyone to connect their own key to an **MFJ Keyer** and listen through headphones. I took many ideas from this day, but what impressed me most was each operator's approach during transmission and reception, from clear QSO exchanges to targeted exercises.

The program was very rich. Moving between the tables, I noticed great interest, curiosity, and a multitude of questions and answers among participants. Dual paddle, mono, straight keys,



the opportunity to try different key models, testing **TX** and **RX**, made the experience extremely practical and engaging. Moments of relaxation with coffee and cakes, a raffle with quirky prizes, and my HST presentation completed the day, sparking many questions and interest among participants.

My first participation in the Boot Camp was mainly aimed at learning the different teaching approaches, both for beginners and advanced



courses, as well as stimulating enthusiasm for learning and connecting with other enthusiasts, discovering new teaching methods, meeting inspiring people to share experiences and ideas with, and understanding the strengths and weaknesses of fellow operators.

Highlights of the CW Essex Boot Camp 2025

The program was rich and modular, allowing



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each participant to choose their own level and, over the years, move to the next one. Instructors were experienced and engaging, both on-the-air



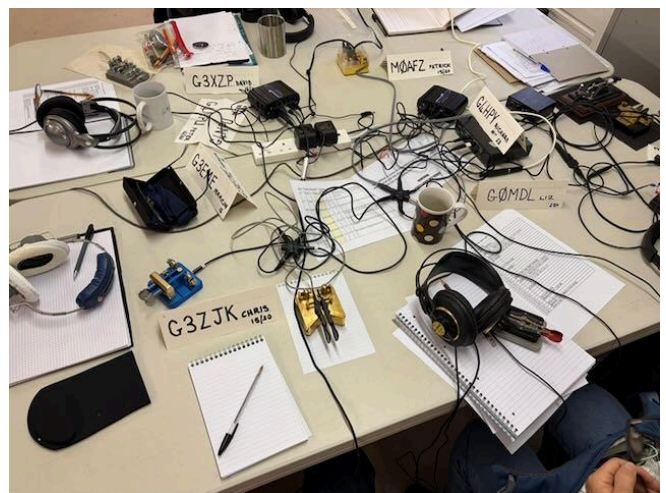
and in organizing practical exercises, explaining technical details like key adjustments and the use of software for learning Morse.

There was also an exhibition and sale of second-hand Morse keys, a unique opportunity for collectors and enthusiasts. Social moments included coffee breaks, chats, the raffle, and sharing experiences. The HST presentation (High-Speed Telegraphy) was not about always going fast, but about helping to build the confidence needed to operate safely at any speed while maintaining regular rhythm and spacing.

Future Vision for the CW Essex Boot Camp

During Saturday's dinner with Dean **G4WQI**, I had the opportunity to delve into various

organizational aspects, which I greatly appreciated. The team is only in its ninth year of the Boot Camp, but I expressed my wish to see it expanded and to give more prominence to the program: a two-day full immersion in Morse code, with dinner on Saturday, space for new presentations, group reception exercises (like those at the end of the event when Dean transmitted in the clear and each table had to provide the correct answer), insights into RX and TX learning programs (**RufzXP**, **Morse Runner**, **CW Freak.net**, **HST 2006**, etc.), and the



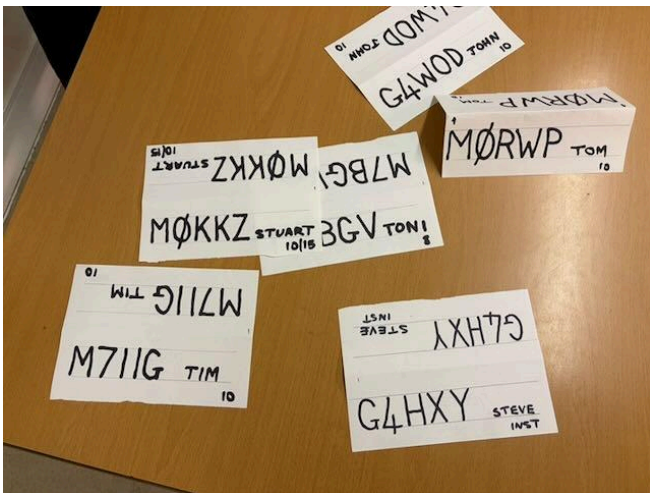
possibility of hosting an even greater number of participants. Events like **WRTC 2026**, which will take place in the UK, could add further interest.

I missed the chance to get to know the participants a little more personally, perhaps over a good English beer. Who knows if it will be possible during a dinner? The committee is

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motivated and competent, the location is perfect, and there is enough space for additional tables. I carry with me a unique experience, brief but intense, full of inspiration and friendships. I was



Boot Camp Day Agenda 2025	
Time	Activity
08:00	Venue Preparation.
08:15	Put the kettle on.
08:30	Doors Open - Registration on entry
08:45	Warm drinks available, volunteers
09:00	Welcome, Introduction & Safety Briefing
09:15	Key & Headphone setup and testing
09:30	CW SESSION 1
09:45	
10:00	
10:15	
10:30	Tea & Coffee
10:45	

proud to shake hands with many participants and hope that this account inspires other operators to take part next year.

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I invite you to experience firsthand the enthusiasm, curiosity, and passion that the CW Essex Boot Camp conveys.



Discover new methods, meet inspiring people, share ideas, learn from fellow operators, and immerse yourself in this extraordinary experience. Don't miss the chance to be part of it and to celebrate the tenth anniversary with the Essex CW Club!

Participate, learn, share, and have fun: this is what I experienced at the CW Essex Boot Camp.

See you soon, I'm looking forward to it!

HB9DHG Fulvio

Essex CW Amateur Radio Club #24

CWops #2889

<https://www.hb9dhg.net>

<https://www.youtube.com/@hb9dhg>

