

GEMINI DX1200 @ CQWW CW 2019 - BETA testing with ALPHA results



Operating as G9Y from the Station of Chris, GODWV, 19 year old Jamie, M0SDV, did a SOAB HP unassisted (single OP, all band, high power, unassisted- i.e. no DX cluster) entry in the biggest contest of the year, CQWW CW, a 48 hour contest. Jamie has been making a name for him self with some DXpeditions and operating at some other big stations in teams at M6T MM, G5W M1 / M2, this was his first SOAB HP in CQWW CW. In a little over 40 hours in the

seat, he has put in a great score, making almost 4000 qso's and just over 3.1m points.

During the contest Jamie was running two bands a lot of the time in SO2R configuration (single op, using two radios) either CQing on one and search pounce on the other or dual CQing, something that is a sight to see.... Only for the good CW op though, with CW speeds around the 32 - 35 wpm, you need two brains!

Unfortunately, the week before the contest one of the amps in the station failed, on speaking to Roger at DXShop he kindly suggested he would be prepared to loan us a pre- production Linear Amp DX1200 amp for testing purposes, , this is the new amp from them, being launched in January. It arrived the Friday morning of the contest and was soon installed.

It's a lot smaller than the previous Gemini HF-1K, packs more punch and was very simple to install, only requiring a PTT line and power cord, plus of course coax for input and output. Running almost the whole contest I have to say that it performed flawlessly, it didn't miss a beat, temperatures were low compared to the other amp in use and the fans in it are almost silent, ramping up only when needed.



Most of the antennas here are mono band, so no ATU is needed, however, one low band antenna had a slightly higher SWR and this caused the amp to get a little hotter hence hearing the fan.

The DX1200 is very SWR tolerant and didn't complain about the 2:1 SWR higher up in the 80m CW segment. The cooling is a massive heatsink with a big fan so it cools quickly if temperatures rise.. Although we only used it for the contest bands 160 - 10m, it also covers the 6m and 4 m bands, which will make it a very popular purchase. This is a very solid amp, it does what it says on the tin, very quietly and its made in the UK, Service from DX shop/ Linear Amp was outstanding, thanks Roger. Would I recommend it, you bet I would.

73, Chris, GODWV