

## Draft Notes from VHF Contest Forum held at RSGB Convention October 2016

Chair : Andy Cook, G4PIQ (AC).

AC: asked about review. About half had read scoring review and details.

MOICR: I would like to present a different way. Park the first bullet point.

Geography: What are we trying to fix?

1. Stations on periphery are doing well.

2. Referring to maps: Maps don't take into account power. How long have we got to review this? January next year is too early.

AC: IO75 etc not really disadvantaged. People much further north are disadvantaged. In terms of time to analyse, we want to introduce this in 2017.

MOICR: Why?

AC. Want to promote contesting. This has been an enormous distraction for 2 years. We did the majority of the study in 4 weeks. Happy to extend consultation to end of October.

MOICR: Not sure many people want change. I don't think we agree with you. It doesn't sound like a consultation.

MOICR: If after a year the scoring isn't working, will you change it again?

AC: The best thing you can do is give people time to understand it. We want stability.

AC: Called for a show of hands. *Big majority for no change.*

AC: I would say that this room is not representative of the whole country – it's rather self selecting and this event is being held in the South.

G8LZE: I don't have a lot of confidence.

MOICR. We want to come up with counter proposals.

GW4ZAR: I see the RSGB seeing this as an activity. Your playing field will never be level. You will kill contests. What I see is that the CC and RSGB poll the membership. The main activators are getting mucked about.

AC: What's bugging you?

GW4ZAR. You'll never get a level playing field. They get distance points. 'Activity Contest' is a conflict of words.

AC: Folks in places like IO78 are not making enough QSOs. We are.

MOICR: You're trying to fix something that isn't broken.

AC: We have worked enormously hard to work for something that is better for them [N Scotland], without it being worse for us.

G4FZN: Weekend contests need the most work. Tuesdays nights aren't broke.

Why is the CC putting emphasis on Tuesday nights? <Applause>

AC: I wouldn't disagree. This debate has poisoned the contesting discussion for some years now. I want the poison cleared out.

M0ICR: We put time into this on Tuesday nights. We care passionately. It matters to us. We care. The reason you're getting this [angry response] is that we think you're getting it wrong. We need to spend more time to get it right. Applause.

AC: Go and vote.

G8LZE: Are you going to accept the majority view?

AC: Not just a straight numerical piece.

GM3WOJ: I am the only station in IO77. There is zero incentive for me to enter the UKACs under M7. Something has to change. You might not like it, but if you don't change there will be??? <Applause>

G8PNN: I spent money. Nothing wrong with the current system. Change will not generate any more activity. Only 2/3 GMs call CQ.

M1SMH: Recommendation given ignores AR density.

AC: Not driven by population density.

2E0LDZ: I'm new to this. Where does the mandate for these changes come from?

AC: Presidential review.

2E0LDZ: It's not working for us.

G4NBS: I have sympathy for stations up north. What worries me is the West Country. They will be disadvantaged by them.

AC: Look at the model.

G4NBS: More will point North under the new rules, not South West.

G3WCB: Will make it even worse for me.

G8FUO: The rules don't need to be changed. If you implement this everyone will change strategy and all your research will be out the window.

AC: Most people don't pay much attention to strategy.

M0ICR (and others): <expressions of anger, and jeers>

AC: The majority of the stations who take part in the contest really don't have a strategy – they just work those who they can hear. Those of you in this room are not representative of that large group.

G3YSX: Is it your plan to change the map from time to time?

AC: Will run for a year and review it.

G8FUO: The data is b\*\*\*\*\*s. Why do we have to try to make it appear better?

AC: I want to move on.

???: Everyone wants to talk about this! <much agreement>

G4KUX: Can we move UKACs by 30mins earlier?

AC: Called for show of hands. *Overwhelmingly disagreed.*

G4NBS: Move 6m and 4m UKACs to be coincided with NACs? Where is the consultation?

AC: Explained that the consultation was announced on the reflector and Facebook group and would be sent to all entrants later

G8CUL: wanted clarification of when that e-mail would go out

G0FCT: Explained that the e-mail would go out that evening or on Monday.

M0XII: What is RSGB doing to generate weekend activity?

AC: One thing we are consulting on is to introduce a club element to weekend contests.

2E0LDZ: JOTA is popular. Contests over JOTA weekend. Would that help?

G3MEH: JOTA clashes with 50MHz AFS.

AC: Something to consider

M0ICR: I support the efforts to pull through the success of the UKACs to the weekends. There is a marketing issue here. Lots of new ops have multimode radios but only use FM. Something should be in the Foundation course about contests.

G3VFC: Would avid contesters accept foundation trainees under supervision, so they can cut their teeth in real contesting?

G0EAK: We already do that. 5 yrs ago, nil. Now we are in the top 10.

M0ICR: Supportive

GW4ZAL: That's the way you're going to get activity.

M1DDD: Any thought about having limited numbers in a club team?

AC: Deliberately unrestricted, to increase activity. Quite successful.  
Should we have local/open clubs – also being asked in the consultation? This has worked at HF.

GW4ZAR: Limit team to top 6 in a club. This would encourage those lower to try harder. <Small applause>

AC: Would even-out club competition.

G3MEH: A/B/C etc teams from clubs. Sensible competition (levelling).

G1SWH: ??? (too quiet to hear)

JLT: You are mistaken about A/B/C teams. There are advantages for a new contender in one big team. If they were relegated to B/C team we would lose them.

M0ICR: The bottom 10 of our club got us from 8th to 3rd.

AC: Minded not to mess with that.

G8TIC: Get rid of the UKACs and move them to the weekends.

G3YSX: Shorter weekend contests would not be worth getting towers out for.

AC: Interesting debate about short entries in long contests.

G8TIC: Look at UKAC sized events within 24hr contests.

M0TJU: Can we encourage for any mode other than SSB?

AC: Interesting idea.

M0ICR: FM would bring a lot of people on.

AC: An FM section for the UKAC is one of the proposals in the consultation.

G4NBS: Can I thank you for all your work? <Applause>