



## Minutes of HFCC meeting held via Skype

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017

**Attendees:** Nick G4FAL (Chair), Iain, M0PCB, Clive, GM3POI, Andy G4PIQ (Chair VHFCC), Mike G7TWC, Ian G0FCT (Chair CSC), Ed G3SQX

### The meeting opened at 1930

#### 1. HFCC Spring Survey – Autumn Series and DX Contest

- 1.1. During February the committee has considered two documents - one detailing responses to the HFCC request for suggestion for an Autumn Series of contests - the second with responses relating the October DX contest. These both included a summary of the correspondence received and recommendations of options that the committee could put into a survey of our contesters so that they are consulted on the way forward in these two areas.
  - 1.2. Following this, Nick had prepared a draft survey which has also been available for the committee to consider prior to discussing the content and agreeing changes in this Skype meeting. The discussion focused on the survey questions and led to agreement that some of the survey content would be amended.
    - 1.2.1. As the committee have already announced that there will be an Autumn Series, there should not be an option of not having an autumn series in the survey.
    - 1.2.2. On timing, it was agreed that a three month span of September to November should be an added option as this gives a break of a month following the end of the 80m CC series and also avoids the holiday month of August.
    - 1.2.3. The contest exchange should be RS(T) plus serial number, with no other options.
    - 1.2.4. Foundation and Intermediate entrants will have their scores multiplied by three and two respectively. Operators must use the highest class of licence that they hold.
    - 1.2.5. CW speed limit zone - 10kHz with a maximum 15WPM OR CW speed limit zones - 10kHz with minimum 30WPM, 20kHz with no speed limits, 10kHz with a maximum 15WPM
    - 1.2.6. The option of a separate category for slow speed CW will be proposed
    - 1.2.7. The question about bandplans will be clarified to explain that the zone for Foundation and Intermediate is where only they can call CQ
    - 1.2.8. The DX Contest will have a question that asks for a firm commitment to participate which can be used by HFCC to decide whether the DX Contest should proceed.
- ACTION: G4FAL will update the survey with these points and reissue it for HFCC and CSC members to test***

#### 2. HFCC Spring Survey - AFS Contests

- 2.1. The committee discussed the geographic rules for AFS and the 80m CCs. With Andy G4PIQ's input on behalf of the VHFCC it was agreed that for the AFS series which starts in October 2017 there will be an additional General Club category which will not have a 50 mile radius restriction and which will not be included in the Superleague. This two category arrangement is in line with the 80m CCs at HF and UKACs at VHF.
- 2.2. From 2018, the 80m CCs will be aligned with AFS and both will have a 50 mile radius circle to define the maximum geographical distribution for Local Clubs.
- 2.3. The question as to whether an RTTY contest would be welcomed to the January HF series will be retained in the survey.



2.4. The QRS corral has been lost from the rules; 3550kHz will be shown as the centre frequency for slow CW in future. **ACTION: G4FAL will update the survey with these points and reissue it for HFCC and CSC members to test**

### 3. HFCC Trophies

3.1. HFCC have a proposal for reallocating trophies so that distribution is more equitable. This will be put to the RSGB Board for consideration. Also there are a number of trophies that are no longer serviceable for various reasons. These will be identified so that new sponsors can be sought.

3.2. A proposal for RSGB to provide the option for trophy recipients to purchase a permanent plaque to celebrate their success has been put to the RSGB board who had indicated their enthusiasm for this idea. This will be operated on a trial basis for the four field day contests that receive trophies at the RSGB Convention in 2017. **ACTION: G0FCT will continue to progress this with the RSGB Board**

### 4. Issue of G6XX for RSGB Contest Club

4.1. Ian had been working on this with Ofcom who have agreed to issue the callsign but are currently unable to do so due to software issues. **ACTION: G0FCT will continue to progress this with Ofcom**

### 5. OB1 Errors

5.1. Analysis of SDR recordings of the CW and SSB AFS contests have revealed the following statistics for Out-By-One serial number errors:

5.2. On CW in AFS 25% of OB1 errors are made at the transmitting end and 75% are made at the receiving end of QSOs

5.3. On SSB in AFS 75% of OB1 errors are made at the transmitting end and 25% are made at the receiving end of QSOs

5.4. With these findings the committee agreed to continue with the current policy of neither removing nor penalising OB1 errors. Also on balance, the penalties applied to QSO where the callsign is busted or the serial number is incorrectly copied will mitigate against not removing QSOs with OB1 errors. **ACTION: G0FCT and G4PIQ are to investigate recording an 80m CC data contest so that analysis can be carried out on OB1 errors here too**

### 6. Log Submission

6.1. Nick thanked Ian and the CSC team for their prompt adjudication of the HF contests to date in 2017.

6.2. Some elderly amateurs do not have any computer access and need assistance to enter their logs. This is being addressed on a case-by-case basis by the Chair of HFCC and the CSC adjudicators. As one might expect, this only applies to CW and SSB contests.

**ACTION: HFCC will continue to monitor this**

**The meeting closed at approximately 2150**