



Minutes of VHFCC (Skype) meeting Held on 12th February

Attendees: G4PIQ (Chair VHFCC), G3YSX (Board Liaison), G0FCT (Chair CSC), G4HGI, GD8EXI, GM8IEM, G3XDY, G0GJV and G4CLA

The meeting was opened at 20.05

Below is a summary of the discussions held during the meeting along with action points:

1. Communications

1.1. We need to focus on communicating with our entrants

1.1.1. It was suggested that the 'Litmus Test' platform might be suitable to be used as a communications platform for the VHFCC (and HFCC and CSC). This will be investigated. It was acknowledged that only RSGB members and RSGB Affiliated Societies will be able to communicate with the Contesting Committees (CC) via this platform. **Action: G0FCT**

1.1.2. Guidelines for the use of the communication channel will be needed.

Action G4PIQ/G0FCT

1.1.3. The communication channel will need moderation. A list of CC members willing to act as moderators will be compiled and a rota constructed. **Action: G4PIQ/G0FCT**

1.1.4. This platform will also be used to request suggestions for rule changes.

1.1.5. The questions and answers will be used to compile a FAQ.

1.2. There has been a huge amount of external discussion over the subject of new rules (in particular B2) and the mechanisms used to decide on rules. A number of different positions have been taken and some inaccurate information is being propagated. The committee are generally not engaging in point-by-point debate on these discussions simply due to the overwhelming workload that this would generate to engage in these intense discussions in real-time, although a small number of factual correction posts have been made. We recognise the need to provide more information on this topic and to address the key points directly. We will look to build a growing FAQ.

Action: G4PIQ

1.3. We must not exclusively focus on the 'B2' issue – this issue consumed a great deal of committee time during 2016, almost to the exclusion of other, equally as important, issues such as reviving weekend contest participation.

1.4. It is acknowledged that the timescales for the release of the 2017 rules was compressed due to the necessity to present our intended way forward at the RSGB Convention. This left little time for the rules to be written, reviewed and released.

1.5. We need to use real data directly derived from the UKAC results to demonstrate how the contest results have been altered by B2. This must be done on by section and by band basis. The output of the analysis will be made available via the CC website.

Action: GD8EXI

1.6. It was agreed that after a few months of real UKAC data is available, the Scoring Review Group will be reconvened to perform an in-depth analysis of the effects of 'B2'. The composition of the review group will be drawn from previous members (to provide continuity) and some new members (to provide a fresh perspective). This should include amongst its options for review the Nordic Scoring system.

Action: G4PIQ



- 1.7. Entry levels in the UKAC events on 2m and 70cm have been holding up well and are above last year's levels. We need to watch levels on 6m and 23cm which were slightly down during the first month, but showing signs of recovery in February.
- 1.8. The level of activity in the new FMAC is good. However, this series need more publicity and should be promoted to clubs and the youth committee via RadCom and the CC Newsletter. This should include a dedicated article aimed at encouraging those not familiar with contesting and explaining how to take part and to enter.

Action: G4HGI/G0FCT

- 1.9. Weekend contests need more publicity (Newsletter and RadCom) especially the VHF Championship contests where members of Affiliated Societies can compete in the new AS section.

Action: G4HGI/G0FCT

- 1.10. The newsletter which used to be published monthly is an important means of communicating to a very wide base of entrants - many of whom do not subscribe to Facebook or Yahoo Groups. This is operated on behalf of all three contesting committees by the CSC. The next newsletter will contain VHFCC items to promote the FMAC contests and activity in weekend contests through the new AFS section of the VHF Championship - the first event of the year for this is March 2/70.

Action: G0FCT

- 1.11. We clarified that the AFS section of the VHF Championship is only open to Affiliated Societies

- 1.12. Changes to the mandate of the Presidential Review of Contesting could be made by the RSGB Board.

- 1.13. We have a need to a publicity person for all the committees. Andy & Ian to discuss with Nick, G4FAL.

Action : G4PIQ/G0FCT

2. General Items

- 2.1. A link to the membership of the VHFCC is not available on the main RSGB website.

Action: G0FCT

- 2.2. G4CLA asked about the availability of trophy presentation photos from the RSGB Convention. G0FCT explained that the photos are available and agreed to publicise their availability in the Newsletter.

Action: G0FCT

- 2.3. The HFCC proposal to alter the trophy policy to prevent trophies being damaged was discussed. The VHFCC agreed to support the HFCC proposal. The CSC is to request that the Board considers the joint proposal.

Action: G0FCT

- 2.4. GD8EXI inquired about the rewrite of the VHF Code of Practise being undertaken by a former member of the CC. G0FCT agreed to find out what progress had been made. GD8EXI offered to help finalise the new Code of Practise.

Action: G0FCT/GD8EXI

- 2.5. The RSGB AGM will be on 22 Apr in Cardiff. Representation from the committee at that meeting will be helpful.

Action : G4PIQ

The meeting closed at 22.00