#### Minutes of the RSGB Contests Committee Meeting

#### Venue: Holiday Inn Reading West, Padworth Lane, Aldermaston, RG7 5HT

Persons Present: Ian Pawson, GOFCT (Chair) Mike Goodey, GOGJV Ed Taylor, GW3SQX Steve Knowles, G3UFY (Minutes) Mike Franklin, G3VYI Quin Collier, G3WRR John Quarmby, G3XDY Roger Dixon, G4BVY John Cockrill, G4CZB Dave Edwards, G7RAU Simone Wilson, MOBOX

Apologies for absence received from all other members.

The meeting was called to order at 09:58 hrs.

#### AGENDA ITEMS

GOFCT announced that item 10(d) on the circulated agenda no longer required the attention of the Committee and would be replaced with an item concerning the possible introduction of a Club element in weekend contests, to be presented by GW3SQX.

#### 1. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes having been circulated to all members and their being no dissenters as to content, the minutes of the September 2013 meeting were taken as read and correct.

#### 1(a) Matters arising – not on the Agenda

**GW3SQX:** Trophy policy – Ed had produced some outlines for rules concerning fairer sharing of trophies. He will post them and circulate the URL for general comment. \*\*\*Action: GW3SQX\*\*\*

**GW3SQX:** Hall of Fame proposal. Ed and his XYL have obtained access to RSGB archives which list all trophy/award winners in contests since the 1920s. The target is to produce a definitive list in time for the October Convention. However, the quality of the data is not good (in some cases, even trophies appear to have been wrongly engraved) and this may lead to some griping. *\*\*\*Ongoing action: GW3SQX\*\*\** 

**GOFCT:** Minutes of committee meetings will be published as soon as practical and ideally within three weeks of the meeting. Minutes may be submitted in Word format. If RSGBCC minutes are submitted to the Chairman he will carry out any necessary format conversion. *\*\*\*Action: G3UFY to submit minutes within requested period\*\*\** 

## 2. New Members

The Chairman formally welcomed new member Dave Edwards, G7RAU, to the Committee. This welcome was also extended to new member Chris Tran, GM3WOJ, and to returning member Jim Martin, MM0BQI (corresponding member for IOTA), neither of whom was able to attend the meeting.

## 3. RSGB Leadership Conference Feedback

GOFCT had attended (ex officio) and reported the following matters concerning the state of the Society:

Membership: 1993 – 30,000 2013 – 21,500 On the plus side, membership appears to have stabilised.

**Licensing and Examinations:** The percentage pass rate in all the examinations remains constant, or showing a slight improvement; however, there is a recognised shortage of Advanced courses.

## OFCOM:

**Licence re-validation:** Presently some 60% of licences have been re-validated (for Advanced the figure is only 50%). OFCOM are contacting all amateurs on their database who have yet to revalidate.

Multiple licences: This may be the subject of consultation later in the year.

Licence Review Consultation to be held in April (now delayed until June).

**VHF Spectrum Release consultation** was due to have started, but no information is presently available.

#### **MISCELLANY:**

There were a number of other workshops held during the Conference *\*\*\*Action: GOFCT will circulate reports when they become available\*\*\** 

## 4. Rule Changes methodology and timetable

GOFCT proposed the adoption of a formal process for making changes to contest rules. The suggested methodology had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting and is reproduced below:

- Rules for the contest year will be "locked- down" and published no later than end of September for implementation in the following year. No further changes are permitted except for:
  - a. Typo corrections
  - b. Changes brought about by external events (e.g. license changes by OFCOM)
- 2. Proposed changes to contest rules will be considered at the Contest Committee (CC) meeting in March/April.
- 3. A 'white paper' summarising the proposed rule changes will be published on the CC website and publicised in the June CC newsletter.

- 4. Links to this document will be posted on (at least) the uk-hf and uk-vhf reflectors.
- 5. Comments/consultation on the proposed changes will be invited from the contesting community.
- 6. The comments on the proposed changes will be reviewed at the CC meeting in September and the rules for the following year locked-down at the end of this meeting.
- 7. The locked-down rules will be posted on the CC website.
- 8. No further consultation will be entered into on the locked-down rules, and no changes will be made except as noted in (1) above.

There was general approval of this process.

G3WRR remarked that there was a risk that FAQs might be taken as 'rules' rather than 'guidelines' and that care would be needed when dealing with them.

Quin also queried as to whether there was a need for a fixed period of stability after a rule change in order for its impact to be fully evaluated.

There was some discussion over this. The Committee was cognisant of the need to give changes a chance to succeed, but was also aware that to be committed to continue a project which was an obvious failure would not be wise. The Committee felt that it needed to retain a degree of flexibility and that a longer lock-down period than that already provided in the proposal was not advisable.

GW3SQX remarked that it should be possible for comment/consultation emails received as part of this process to be redirected to the RSGBCC reflector, thereby ensuring that all members would have immediate sight of any suggestions.

The Committee agreed the adoption of this methodology without the need for a vote. \*\*\*Action: GOFCT to put process in place and to produce White Paper regarding proposed rule changes considered at this meeting\*\*\*

## 5. Appeals Process.

GOFCT presented the details of the Appeals Process (reproduced below) to the Committee. This has been agreed/approved by the Board of RSGB. A link has already been placed in the RSGBCC website.

# 1. Appeals Process

- 1) An entrant who is concerned with the imposition of a penalty must in the first instance seek clarification from the adjudicator. This should be done as soon as practical after the results have been published on the Contest Committee website.
- 2) The adjudicator will provide the entrant with a summary of the evidence on which the penalty was based.
- 3) If this does not resolve the matter, the entrant may discuss the matter with the Chair of the Contest Committee (chairman@rsgbcc.org). The evidence that caused the penalty to be imposed will be provided to the entrant (if it has not already been provided by the adjudicator).
- 4) If the matter cannot be resolved between the entrant and the Chair of the Contest Committee, the entrant may lodge a formal appeal with the Chair of Contest Committee stating the grounds for appeal and providing any evidence supporting their case.

- 5) The Chair of the Contest Committee will convene a panel of three members of the Contest Committee who have not taken part in the adjudication of the contest that is the matter of dispute to consider the evidence.
- 6) The adjudicator may be called by the panel to explain why the penalty was imposed.
- 7) The panel may find in favour of the entrant (quash or reduce the penalty), or may increase the penalty. Any additional evidence uncovered by the Contest Committee appeals panel to support the case for a penalty will be shared with the entrant.
- 8) If the entrant is not satisfied and:
  - a. The issue is matter of RSGB policy, or
  - b. The issue is one where the Contest Committee has a conflict of interest, or
  - c. The issue is one of maladministration by the Contest Committee,

the entrant should discuss the matter with the Board member responsible for liaising with the Contest Committee (<u>ccbm@rsgb.org.uk</u>).

- 9) The Contest Committee will provide the Board member with the evidence that formed the basis of the penalty and the formal report of the Contest Committee appeals panel.
- 10) The Board member may speak with the adjudicator and/or members of the panel to provide mediation. If the matter remains unresolved, the entrant may lodge an appeal with the RSGB president who will convene a panel to investigate the matter.
- 11) No member of the panel may have previously been involved in the contest or the adjudication or appeal process. The panel will report to the RSGB board who may quash the penalty or refer the matter back to the Contest Committee with a recommended reduction or increase of the penalty.
- 12) The decision of the RSGB Board is final.

# 2. Frivolous/excessive questioning or appeals

- 1) Abuse of the adjudication and the appeals process by excessive or frivolous questioning of results or submission of appeals is disrespectful to the volunteers who give their time in the adjudication of contests, management of the RSGB, and thus to the membership as a whole.
- 2) Abuse of the adjudication process will result in a warning being issued to the entrant by the Chair of the Contest Committee.
- 3) If the entrant continues to abuse the adjudication process, an immediate disqualification from the event may be issued.
- 4) After three such disqualifications a ban from participation in any RSGB contest for a period of up to five years may be issued. The length of the ban will be determined by the Chair of the Contest Committee or the RSGB board (if appropriate).

# 3. Abuse

- 1) The protection of: other contesters, witnesses to either breaches of the rules or to bad sportsmanship, RSGB members, and RSGB officials from abuse is of overwhelming importance.
- 2) Any intimidation or abusive behaviour by an entrant, or team member of an entrant towards any of the above may result in a formal warning or immediate disqualification.

- 3) After three such disqualifications a ban from participation in any RSGB contest for a period of up to five years may be issued. The length of the ban will be determined by the Chair of the contest committee or the RSGB board.
- 4) Any disqualification or ban for such behaviour will be reported to the RSGB board at the earliest opportunity.

\*\*\*Action: All members to note\*\*\*

GOFCT remarked at this point that the Committee might benefit from occasional conference calls for urgent/important discussions in additional to the face-to-face meetings. Ian remarked that SKYPE provided reasonable facilities and that his system had ample bandwidth to act as the hub. MOBOX remarked that Google Hangout had been mentioned to the Committee before and had a good reputation for reliability.

There was some discussion, which identified the usual problem of finding a date/time which was convenient to all, but the meeting was generally in favour.

\*\*\*Action: GOFCT and G4CLA to progress\*\*\*

## 6. G4DEZ Memorial Trophy

GOFCT reported that the trophy had been approved by HQ. The most appropriate recipient for the award would appear to be the overall leader in the UKAC, all bands. Ian will continue to liaise with Harwell ARS.

## 7. Offer of 2 new trophies from Black Sheep CG

The Black Sheep Contest Group has offered to sponsor two new trophies:

- (1) for the leading station in the Open section of the May 144MHz Contest
- (2) for the station working the best DX in the 50MHz Trophy Contest.

GOFCT remarked that (1) was usually the Black Sheep entry anyway!

There was some discussion; the Committee felt that neither of the events merited the award of additional trophies – there are, however, many events which are much more deserving of a trophy and the Committee wondered whether Black Sheep would still be willing to donate trophies for events to be selected by RSGBCC.

\*\*\*Action: GOFCT to contact Black Sheep CG\*\*\*

A by-product of the above discussion was the suggestion that there should be a certificate awarded for the Best DX in all VHF events; this was well-received and bears further consideration.

## 8. Letters from GM0WED

These were taken later under Agenda Item 10 (i)

## 9. UKAC and M5 Multipliers (G0FCT)

GOFCT remarked that there was a strong perception within the Contesting Community that M5 had adversely affected the UKACs, particularly for stations in South-east England. Input had also been received from the Continent to the effect that operators there felt that they were being deliberately sidelined. In short, strong pressure was being applied to review/change the system. There were proposals to alter the multipliers to either (a) UK Prefixes or (b) All Prefixes, with no Square multiplier in either case. After preliminary runs of a 2m UKAC through Adj, option (b) was promising in that there was no major skewing of the results ... this would both encourage UK stations to seek out Continental callsigns for multipliers and leave room for the application of contest strategy to maximise scores.

Ian felt that the possible changes should be offered to the contesting community through the forthcoming White Paper and the Committee were in unanimous agreement. \*\*\*Action: GOFCT to include proposals in White Paper\*\*\*

## 10(a). Declaration of Equipment in HF & VHF contests (G0FCT)

At VHF this has long been accepted as mandatory and conditional to the acceptance of an entry. At HF this has not traditionally been mandatory, except in the case of Power and, occasionally, antenna. However, most HF contesters are happy to talk about their equipment. Refusal to supply details of equipment makes it difficult for the Committee to deal with complaints of signal quality from an informed position; it has also been noted to create an atmosphere of suspicion and of there being "something to hide" and the Committee therefore proposes to make the declaration of ALL equipment mandatory as a condition of acceptance of an entry.

MOBOX remarked that it was reasonable for an entrant to conceal their strategy from other competitors. She suggested that provision of the information for the Committee to see be made mandatory as a condition of entry, but that it should be published only with the entrant's consent, given by means of a tick-box in the Robot entry form. This was unanimously approved by the Committee.

\*\*\*Action: GOFCT to liaise with G4CLA re provision of required tick-box\*\*\* \*\*\*Action: G0FCT to include proposal in White Paper\*\*\*

#### 10(b). Foundation/Intermediate Certificates (G0FCT)

GOFCT reminded the Committee that, under the present rules, where special merit certificates were offered their award was mandatory, regardless of whether or not the qualifier actually merited one. An example might be the sole entrant in a particular section who operated only for a few minutes and made only a tiny fraction of the QSOs he might have expected to make had he taken part seriously. Ian proposed that the adjudicator should be given the discretion not to award such certificates if the qualifier was clearly not deserving of one. The Committee were in unanimous agreement with the proposal.

\*\*\*Action: GOFCT to include proposal in forthcoming White Paper\*\*\*

#### 10(c). IOTA trophies and awards (G4BVY)

Roger reported that the IOTA trophies situation was somewhat confused – it appeared that some trophies had not been awarded at all. A list (of sorts) was available from G3LZQ and now that

MM0BQI had rejoined the Committee and with G3VYI to assist, things should soon be straightened out. G0FCT advised that GM3WOJ had joined the Committee specifically as part of the IOTA team and should be encouraged to get involved.

\*\*\*Ongoing action: G4BVY and team\*\*\*

Ian went on to say that a recent series of email with Olof, GOCKV, concerning the status of singleoperator dx-pedition stations had revealed an algorithm flaw in the adjudicating software. This appeared to have been there for some years and has resulted in the incorrect apportionment of certain awards. When the fault is corrected the 2013 adjudication will be re-run and the appropriate awards made. In the meantime, GOCKV is to be issued with his certificate immediately. \*\*\*Action: G3VYI to issue certificate for GOCKV\*\*\*

## 10(d). Club element in weekend contests (GW3SQX)

taken with

## 10(e). Lack of support for weekend contests (G4BVY)

Roger was concerned primarily with VHF and reported that weekend (long) contests were lacking in support when compared with their shorter weekend counterparts. Competitors in a full-length 2m trophy event were able to make about the same number of contacts as could be had in a single UKAC leg. He suggested that it might be possible to move some UKAC events from weekday to weekend events, either taking the whole event, or possibly a defined sub-section of it. He quoted the example that the May 144/432 (weekend) event could take the place of the 144MHz and 432MHz UKAC events. He thought it might be possible to move two events for each band in the course of the year.

Ed was concerned with the HF events and proposed the introduction of a club element (the exact mechanism to be finalised) into the Society's HF events throughout the year, without any reduction in the existing burden of 80mCCs, Sprints, Field Days and AFS events.

G4BVY stated that he was in contact with a number of clubs that had already expressed concern over the recent increases in pressure on their members to participate in club events, possibly at the expense of family and other interests.

G3UFY was also strongly against increasing the pressure on club members and remarked that our aim should be to attract newcomers to contesting, rather than to drive them in!

There was protracted discussion which prevented consideration of the suggested nuts and bolts of how such a suite of contests could be scored.

GOFCT proposed that the proposals regarding weekend contests should be included in the forthcoming White Paper. A note requesting a response could be included on the Robot log acknowledgement page for Club events occurring after publication.

\*\*\*Action GOFCT: to prepare suitable content for the White Paper\*\*\*

\*\*\*Action: G0FCT, G4CLA: to arrange informative note for Robot email response\*\*\*

GOGJV advised the Committee that a forthcoming version of Adj will enable the same callsign to appear as both a competitor and a checklog in any given contest, so enabling a station to enter a short section (e.g. a 6-hour or proposed UKAC) in a longer contest, but also to continue to make contacts in the remainder of the event for the benefit of other participants. This is still in development, but no problems are envisaged.

## 10(f). Single-operator Assisted vs Un-assisted and Multi-Op (G4BVY)

Roger gave a substantial presentation outlining the present anomalies around the use of assistance, culminating with the fact that, in the recent Commonwealth Contest, the true Multi-ops had been outnumbered, almost 10-to-1, by single-ops who wanted to use the Cluster.

The principal was unanimously accepted but there was considerable discussion as to how the necessary changes could be harmonised between HF and VHF.

The feeling of the Committee was unanimous in that all existing trophies for single operators should go to un-assisted entries.

There needed to be consultation with G4CLA as to whether separate tables could be provided for single-op-assisted and single-op-unassisted categories.

A definition of a single-operator station would need to be added to the VHF General Rules. All HF contests will have to have the extra categories added.

However, this is a rule change and will need to be presented in the White Paper.

\*\*\*Action: GOFCT to present in White Paper\*\*\*

## 10(g). Non-club stations in 80m AFS (G0FCT)

G3UFY pointed out that the 80m AFS contests were traditionally team events and, until the arrival of the Robot, it was not possible for non-club-team stations to enter because all logs had to be submitted by an official of the club that they represented. All other logs were taken as checklogs until 2013, when some overseas logs in the SSB leg were included by mistake in the main listing, setting the precedent. This year, had it not been for some poor logging, there was a very real chance that the leading individual log would have been from a non team-member.

The Committee were in agreement that the main awards should be reserved for members of competing teams. However, a separate section for non club-related entries, with award of certificates as appropriate, would be the right way to go and this should apply to ALL AFS contests. *\*\*\*Action: GOFCT to draw up suitable text for White Paper\*\*\** 

\*\*\*Action: G4CLA to modify Robot drop-down to include extra section \*\*\*

## 10(h). Power levels for Overseas stations entering VHF NFD (G0FCT)

This issue has arisen about a particular Irish group that have for several years taken part in, submitted a log for and been listed in the main results tables of the RSGB VHF FD, even though not eligible for awards.

The Committee has received representations querying whether it is appropriate for a non-UK station to be included in the listings at all. The matter of the recent increase in licensed power for EI Contest Stations has also been raised.

On the other hand, the Committee has received a letter from the group concerned stating that they are grateful for their achievements to be listed against those of UK stations with comparable capabilities as there is absolutely no competition in their native Eire.

Upon discussion, the Committee found merit in all the points of view put forward and there was no consensus as to appropriate action.

It was resolved, finally, to involve G4CLA, who has contacts with the group concerned, to obtain further input.

\*\*\*Action: GOFCT and G4CLA to consult\*\*\*

## 10(i). 80m AFS – particularly SSB [incorporating 8. Letters from GM0WED] (GW3SQX)

GW3SQX had prepared a considerable presentation in which he postulated that the 80m contest segment was impossibly overcrowded during AFS SSB. He backed up this assertion with snips from a number of entrants' soapbox comments and some bar charts which showed how stations that were

able to claim a run frequency from the start and hold it through the event were likely to be amongst the leaders.

Ed remarked that introducing a 100W power limit had frequently been suggested but was unlikely to be a solution. He proffered three alternative suggestions as to how to resolve the situation: reduced to absolute basics they were

- (1) Introduce 40m and run with split bands
- (2) Only selected stations should be allowed to CQ in the early stages of the event
- (3) Introduce a Sprint element.

There was vigorous and protracted discussion. In particular, G3UFY and M0BOX were vehement that 80mAFS SSB should be allowed to remain a knock-down, drag-out event, stating that the 80m events are the only truly Open events in the club calendar and they should be kept that way, even if perceived as 'broken'.

GMOWED had submitted a number of detailed emails to the Committee in which he complained that GMs, particularly those farthest north, were severely disadvantaged by the present timing of the AFS contests, due to the times at which the sun set. He proposed that the contests should be put back to 16:00hrs – 20:00hrs.

G3UFY remarked that he appreciated the difficulties experienced by the GM supporters of the event, but moving the contest back so far would effectively destroy its character for 90+% of the entrants, and would also cause unnecessary annoyance abroad. Edwin's call for the Committee to be "evenhanded" was not appropriate.

GW3SQX considered that the start time could be put back by 30 minutes or an hour but this suggestion was not well received.

GOFCT remarked that this was clearly a case where the contesting community should be consulted in detail before action was taken.

\*\*\*Action: GOFCT to prepare suitable input for the White Paper\*\*\*

#### 10(j). 160m Contests (GW3SQX)

Ed produced another comprehensive presentation which showed that participation had been increasing slowly since 2008, but was still not satisfactory. He suggested that the events could be reduced to three hours in length or made 'everyone-works-everyone' in an endeavour to increase participation.

G3UFY wondered how a change to 'everyone-works-everyone' might be perceived by the Dutch, whose PACC contest runs in parallel. Presently it benefits from contacts with the UK but might suffer if other EU stations were "stolen" by our contest.

The Committee decided that these were matters that should be referred to the community. *\*\*\*Action: GOFCT to prepare material for the White Paper\*\*\** 

#### 10(k). Enforcement of IARU Region 1 Band Plans in contest rules (GOFCT)

Ian advised the Committee that compliance with IARU band plans, from HF to SHF, was not negotiable and that IARU now have requested all Societies to include specific frequencies to be avoided, including guard bands (translated into "dial frequencies" if appropriate), in their rules. This is not a matter for consultation, but for information of the Community.

\*\*\*Action: G0FCT to prepare a statement for the White Paper\*\*\*

## 10(I). KST Usage rules (GOFCT)

Ian reported that, for every event, he checked the KST logs to ensure that entrants were following the rules. AX section permits the full use of KST. Apparently, suggestions had been made that some stations entering the AX section have been in breach of the rules because they had NOT been making full use of the KST website. The Committee felt that it was perfectly acceptable for an entrant not to make use of all the facilities available and that choice of which section to enter was a strategic decision. Ian then suggested that the AO and AX categories could possibly be merged, which would simplify the category structure.

\*\*\*Action: GOFCT to prepare a statement for the White Paper\*\*\*

## 12. Use of 'Warnings and Penalties' spreadsheet.

This item was taken out of order because of its relevance to item 10(I) GOFCT reminded the Committee that whenever any warning is issued or penalty applied (for a contravention of rules, NOT for normal logging errors discovered in the course of routine checking) the 'Warnings and Penalties' spreadsheet MUST be updated. If this is not done the sliding scale of penalties for repeated offences cannot correctly be applied. Ian will re-circulate the URL for the benefit of those who may not have received it.

\*\*\*Action: G0FCT to circulate URL\*\*\*

## 11(a). Alternative proposal for 21/28MHz Contest.

GOFCT referred the meeting to the proposals to modify the 21/28MHz contest submitted by G3LET et al. These had previously been circulated to members. The Committee noted that these proposals retained the present format of the event, particularly in terms of timing and frequencies. There was particularly strong approval for the 12-hour duration.

There was some discussion regarding the introduction of the 'HQ Station'. For overseas entrants this could supply a maximum of four additional multipliers in a contest where almost every QSO is a multiplier anyway; for the UK, because of the likely propagation, only those few entrants sited near the HQ station(s) would be able to get a QSO. It was remarked that permitting all UK – UK contacts for points and multipliers would give most entrants the opportunity to acquire a few extra multipliers and would provide extra interest without detracting from the DX element of the event. Ian pointed out that the proposed new trophies and plaques would increase the financial load on RSGB; even if available at zero capital cost there would still be the cost of engraving, postage and other overheads. Ian would contact G3LET to establish whether the proposers were willing to find suitable sponsors.

The Committee were agreed that the G3LET proposals, including the proposal to allow intra-UK working, should be put to the contesting community as a proposed rule change.

\*\*\*Action: G0FCT to publish proposals in the White Paper\*\*\*

\*\*\*Action: GOFCT to contact G3LET regarding sponsorship\*\*\*

## 11(b). Proposed RSGB Data Contests.

Although mentioned several times by MOBOX, the concept of a Data Modes contest at VHF had not previously been formally considered by the Contests Committee. There was some discussion over possible formats and the bands and modes likely to be suitable. It was suggested that it might be

possible for the Society to run a full-length Data event at HF as well, to augment those run by BARTG.

The meeting agreed that this was a suitable matter to be put out as a consultation item in the forthcoming White Paper. Meanwhile, Simone volunteered to research potential slots and also to liaise with BARTG.

\*\*\*Action: GOFCT to publish consultation document in White Paper\*\*\* \*\*\*Action: MOBOX to research\*\*\*

## 13. Any Other Business.

**G3XDY** reported on the introduction of a 'Rover' section in IARU SHF contests. \*\*\*Action: G3XDY to investigate implications for our adjudication procedures\*\*\*

**G4BVY** reported that there has been a dispute between two clubs in the North East of England . This has resulted in serious bad feeling, culminating in insults being traded both on-air and on social media sites, deliberate QRM in contests and so on. Adjudicators need to be aware of this as it may impact on contest logs from members of these groups.

\*\*\*Action: G0FCT will write a Chairman's Letter to both groups\*\*\*

Roger also remarked on the increase of poor operating practice, in particular stations repeating back the exchange received as a matter of routine.

There was a brief discussion over whether this was a matter for the Committee as it did not involve rule-breaking.

\*\*\*Action: G3WRR to put a brief note in the Newsletter\*\*\*

**G3VYI** reported that he had received a tentative offer of trophies for the Multi-op and QRP sections in the Commonwealth Contest. G0FCT suggested that the donor be asked to write to the Chairman in the first instance.

\*\*\*Action: G3VYI to pass request back to prospective donor\*\*\*

G3WRR referred to the newly-formed UKEICC in respect of

(1) our stated relationship with the club and

(2) our relationship with new Committee Member GM3WOJ who is one of the founders of the club.

GOFCT replied that:

(1) GM3WOJ would be requested to act as liaison between the Contests Committee and UKEICC. If the club lived up to its aims as stated on their website then this could be very good indeed for contesting, and

(2) he was aware that there might be issues around confidentiality or conflict of interest and he would be monitoring the situation carefully.

**G7RAU** queried why the VHF trophies were not to be presented at the AGM. G0FCT replied that it was a decision of the Board that ALL contest trophies will now be presented at the Convention.

**GOFCT** apprised the Committee of the present situation regarding trophies. The CC is now responsible for the recall of all our trophies for their return to HQ. It falls to us to chase up non-arrivals. HQ will arrange engraving and transport to the Convention, at which time responsibility reverts to us.

Ian reported on the preparations for the Convention:

The event will be streamed, as usual, and there will be a Contesting stream. Apparently some previous speakers for the Contesting University project have already been approached. Noel Matthews and Elaine at HQ will deal with the logistics of the Contesting stream. The Sunday morning timetable has provisionally been set as follows:

- 09:00 Contest related lecture (not by CC)
- 10:00 VHF awards presentation
- 11:00 Coffee
- 11:30 HF awards presentation
- 12:30 Lunch
- 13:30 Contest related lecture (probably by GOFCT)
- 14:30 Contest Forum
- 15:30 Finish

#### 14. Date of the Next Meeting.

To be confirmed.

#### The meeting concluded at 16:05 hrs.