



## Minutes of VHFCC Meeting (via Skype)

Held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017

**Attendees:** Andy, G4PIQ (Chair)  
Ian, G0FCT  
Mike, G0GJV  
John, G3XDY  
Pete, G4CLA  
Richard, G4HGI  
Richard, GD8EXI

Apologies for Absence: Mike, G8TIC and Martin, GM8IEM

The meeting opened at 20:05

### 1. Preparation for the next VHF Rules Consultation

#### 1.1. Entry Numbers

- 1.1.1. G4PIQ presented graphs of entry numbers for VHF contests over the past seventeen years (see Appendix 1).
- 1.1.2. The participation in most VHF contests show a steady increase year on year.
- 1.1.3. Five contests are either static in participation number or show a steady decline. The five contests are May & October UHF (static), VHF NFD (static), 50MHz CW (declining) and 70MHz CW (declining).
- 1.1.4. Various suggestions about how to improve entry numbers were discussed. The suggestions that are going to be implemented for 2018 onwards are:
  - 1.1.4.1. In the VHF Championship, the maximum points awarded for winning the 23cm Trophy and the 13cm Trophy contests will be increased to 1000 (was 500) – **Action: G4CLA**
  - 1.1.4.2. The 10GHz Trophy Contest will be added to the VHF Championship. Open and Single Fixed (SF) entry sections will be added to the 10GHz Trophy. Stations in SF running 1W or less will be eligible for their scores to be included in the SF QRP section of the VHF Championship – **Action: G4CLA & G0GJV**
  - 1.1.4.3. A certificate will be awarded for the station giving the most station their best DX (ODX) on each band in the UKAC (the SHF UKAC counts as one band) – **Action: G4CLA**
- 1.1.5. The AFS section of the VHF Championship will be continued for 2018. Feedback on this section will be sought in the next VHFCC consultation – **Action: G4PIQ**
- 1.1.6. The FMAC events on 4m, 2m and 70cm will continue in 2018 – **Action: G4CLA**
- 1.1.7. The VHF NFD Sweeper section with respect to the ban on calling CQ was discussed. No firm conclusion was reached. A question on this topic will be included in the next VHFCC Consultation – **Action: G4PIQ**

#### 1.2. UKAC Days of the Week

- 1.2.1. The UKAC events that are held on Tuesdays have continued to grow in participation numbers in 2017.
- 1.2.2. The UKAC events that are held on Thursdays have stagnated in terms of participation numbers in 2017.
- 1.2.3. The current UKAC schedule was set to maximise the coordination of the UKAC events with similar European events (both day of the week in the month and band).



- 1.2.4. The next IARU R1 Conference (September 2017) will consider a paper from the RSGB to modify the schedule of European weekday contests. Until the outcome of the conference is known, no firm decision on the UKAC schedule can be made. However, it is the view of the VHFCC that changing the schedule to reduce the coordination between UK and European events would be a retrograde step so it is highly likely that the current schedule with VHF contests on both Tuesdays and Thursdays in the some weeks will remain in place for 2018.
- 1.3. Use of ON4KST
  - 1.3.1. No change in the rules governing the use of ON4KST are envisioned for 2018.
  - 1.3.2. The question of unassisted sections in VHF contests was discussed. It was concluded that it would be impossible to police an unassisted section since passive use of the Internet cannot be detected. Hence, unassisted sections will not be added to VHF contests.
  - 1.3.3. However, as an experiment, the use of ON4KST will be banned for all entrants in the 144MHz Backpacker contests and in the 144MHz and 432MHz Low Power contest in 2018 – **Action: G4PIQ**
- 1.4. Band Plan

The VHF General Rule about adherence to Band Plans will be revised to make it clear which frequencies cannot be used during contests by UK&CD entrants. – **Action: G4PIQ**
- 1.5. SHF UKAC
  - 1.5.1. A question on extending the operating time for all bands in the SHF UKAC will be included in the next VHFCC Consultation – **Action: G4PIQ**
  - 1.5.2. However, the duration of the 13cm UKAC (part of the SHF UKAC) will remain at 2 hours during the summer months (Ofcom restriction).
  - 1.5.3. A revised normalisation scheme will be used for the SHF UKAC from January 2018 onwards to give a more reasonable distribution of normalised points – **Action: G4CLA**
- 1.6. AFS and UKAC Distance Rule

The VHFCC discussed the distance rule change proposed by the HFCC. It was agreed that the same distance that the HFCC has proposed (80km) will also be used for all VHF AFS contests and the UKAC – **Action: G4PIQ & G4CLA**
- 1.7. Membership Rules for contest participation

The VHFCC discussed the change in membership requirements for contest participation proposed by the HFCC. There will be further discussions with the HFCC on this matter – **Action: G4PIQ & GOFCT**
- 1.8. New type of DX Contest

It was suggested that a new contest using CW and/or MGM only be instigated. A question on this suggestion will be included in the next Consultation – **Action: G4PIQ**
- 1.9. 6 Hour section

It has been proposed that in all 6 hour sections in contest that the restrictions on the number of sessions that you can divide the 6 hour period into be scrapped. The only stipulation would be that the off-time between operating periods must be at least one hour. Thus you could operate between 1400 and 15.23 (23 minutes), resuming at 16.24 (1 hour gap) until 16.41 (17 minutes), resuming at 17.30 for 4 hours 20 minutes giving a total operating time of 6 hours). A question on this will be included in the next Consultation – **Action: G4PIQ**
- 1.10. RSGB Convention

The VHFCC wish to have a stand at the RSGB Convention to create a focal point for contesters to meet and to informal discussions with members of the contesting committees (HFCC, VHFCC and CSC) – **Action: GOFCT**

The meeting closed at 22:06.



# Appendix 1 – Participation in VHF Contests, 1999 to 2016





