



Minutes of VHFCC Skype Meeting 31 Aug 2019

Attendees :

Andy Cook, G4PIQ (Chair),
Ian Pawson G0FCT,
Pete Lindsay G4CLA,
John Quarmby, G3XDY,
Richard Baker, GD8EXI,
Mike Goodey, G0GJV,
Martin Hall, GM8IEM.

Apologies :

Richard Staples, G4HGI,
Mike Tubby, G8TIC.

1. Review of Actions from Meeting 31 Jan 19

1. Entry level spreadsheet has been updated by G4PIQ. **Closed**
2. Operational guidance was published for the MGM contests by G4HGI. **Closed**
3. Three e-mails had been sent by G4PIQ to a person approached for publicity role, but no replies received. **Closed.**
4. Discussion over Open Source callsign / locator database deferred to next call when G8TIC may be available. **Ongoing – G4PIQ**

2. Entry Levels

The entry levels for 2019 so far were reviewed. The data is attached at Appendix A. For the first time in some years we are starting to see a slow decline in entry levels for many contests. Projections to year-end for 2m and 4m UKACs look flat with last year. Other UKACs are a few percent down, with 6m the most impacted. The FMACs are holding up OK, with 70cm FMAC looking to be on trend for some growth. Weekend events are generally showing a small decline. No conclusions were reached as to root cause.

We agreed to look in more detail at the numbers of active stations in the UKACs (as opposed to numbers of entrants) and also to see how much effect the now popular Italian activity contests are having on the 6m events. **Action G4PIQ**

3. 4m Trophy

We discussed a rule infringement in the 4m Trophy event this year and agreed a course of action to take. 4m Trophy engraving to be held off until action complete.

G4PIQ to write to the station in question. **Action – G4PIQ**

4. Single Operator Stations in Multi Operator sections for Low Power Contests

Following a request from an entrant for clarity, we had a discussion over whether a single operator station should be eligible to enter the multi operator section of the Low Power contests. These contests had editorial changes made for 2019 where the Open section was renamed the Multi Operator section. This was intended to provide clarity about what section Multi Operator stations should enter rather than close an opportunity for the unusual situation where a single operator elects to enter a higher section. We agreed that there was precedent for us allowing stations to up-level themselves in the UKAC contests. We also agreed that, unlike in some HF events where there are additional rule constraints on multi-operator stations such as 10 minute band change rules, there are no such disadvantages in the multi-op section to prevent single operators up-leveling themselves at VHF, and all things being equal, multi operator stations with equivalent equipment, location and operating skill should beat single operators. Consequently, we agreed to allow single operator entrants to continue to be eligible for the multi operator section.

Provide better clarity for 2020 rules with multi-op sections reverting to Open. **Action G4PIQ**

5. Publicity

Following the last meeting we attempted three times to contact someone who had volunteered previously, but with no response. Continue to look for someone to fill that role.

Action G4PIQ

6. Signal Quality

Signal quality is becoming a hot topic again where we see a lack of good knowledge across all competitors which enables them to take the code of practice and convert this to real practical implementation of a good station. This feels like a Rad Com article. We will aim for Jan / Feb 2020. **Action G0FCT to co-ordinate production with support from GD8EXI.**

7. AFS rules for 2019 and Overseas

We need to review our AFS rules for 2020 for consistency across all events. **Action G4PIQ to circulate changes made this year and make proposal for 2020 for discussion across committee.**

8. C5 Working Group

G0FCT gave us an update on the work inside the IARU C5 contest working group. S53WW has resigned as chair of this group with Alex, IV3KKW taking over. Activity in the group is low. There is some work to make the robot friendlier.

9. Trophies

There are new Trophies for the 2m General Club UKAC and Overall General Club UKAC results.

10. Rule Edits for 2020

- Changes in timing for 2320 MHz in the UKACs to 1930 to 2230. There are some constraints in small parts of the country to avoid interference to radar, but discussion with the Microwave community has suggested this is manageable and it's better to not have a very late finish. **Action G3XDY to write some notes around this.**
- We will remove multi op entrants from the Xmas cumulatives
- We will replicate the HF rule allowing single operators who are Foundation and Intermediate licencees to enter multi-op teams under an AFS even if they are not RSGB members
- We will open the Xmas Cumulatives to non RSGB members
- For MGM contests we will move to 6 character locators and the use of European Contest mode in WSJT now it is available
- We confirmed FSK144 not to be allowed as a 'slow' MGM mode due to its structured message nature
- We will review rules to ensure we have prevented the use of Fox and Hound or similar modes
- We will review rules to ensure FT4 supported in MGM events.

11. Consultation for 2020 Rules

We agreed to produce a consultation for 2020. Topics to be covered included

- Use of KST and assisted sections with explanation of the pros and cons and difficulty in adjudicating
- The MGMACs are not taking off well and activity is reducing. Should we try replace the monthly events with a 2.5 hour event every 5th Tuesday.

12. Any Other Business

Noted that Denmark has lost the use of 2.3 GHz in the past year, but still has access to the higher microwave bands.

Appendix A – VHF Contest Entry Levels

Contest	Year																		Equiv 2018				
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016		2017	2018	2019	
144 UKAC	20	22	26	36	32	55	73	147	190	257	316	368	495	442	499	574	603	644	655	661	546	548	
432 UKAC	19	12	20	22	22	19	23	34	53	66	166	218	300	293	369	420	417	469	453	465	363	381	
1.3 UKAC	13	14	11	13	11	12	15	12	15	16	47	85	90	136	140	186	201	229	216	214	168	184	
50 UKAC								25	43	59	169	238	237	258	348	437	454	496	435	424	319	356	
70 UKAC								12		20	55	94	108	131	151	207	200	269	309	299	250	252	
SHF UKAC													33	33	27	50	38	65	83	87	73		
50 FMAC																					39		
70 FMAC																					67	57	
144 FMAC																				175	135	113	115
432 FMAC																				118	103	99	89
432 AFS	34	35	30	33	30	26	35	38		28	35	63	76	72	82	98	114	102	109	133	118		
432 AFS Clubs	15	13	14	15	12	11	14	14		12	14	26	34	29	29	44	49	46	50	56	46		
March 2/70	27	35	25		24	25	32	35	23	36	60	59	91	59	72	59	84	63	85	98	94		
70 MHz Cums	24	24	20	20	18	20	19	22	29	28	38	50	74	73	76	81	87	88	102	89	83		
1st 70 MHz	22	13	12	18	22	22	18	19	21	23	32	35	47	46	40	41	49	58	56	44	39		
1st 50 MHz									36	48	39	35	48	42	53	48	49	53	61	41	49		
1st MGM																				53	38		
May UHF	30	24	15	17	26		34		29	18	16	20	26	33	39	23	33	53	41	45	36		
432 Trophy		21	15	17	20	22	28	23	28	25	28	33	35	37	48	54	37	51	57	52	57		
10G Trophy	14	10		5	9	11	10	10	8	11	8	5	12	8	6	8	6	9	7	14	9		
70 MHz CW												17	23	19	29	25	21	28	33	25	33	25	
May 144	42	24		33	34	34	41	38	31	48	65	68	65	68	70	74	77	80	93	101	102		
Backpackers	54	45		39	55	59	69	50	52	58	52	60	53	35	50	53	60	42	51	55			
50 MHz Trophy	28	33	25	33	32	28	32	36	42	47	58	56	65	59	63	81	81	93	128	109	88		
50 MHz CW														48	38	26	21	21	26	31	16		
VHF NFD	68	73		56	59	52	53	58	49	63	76	61	69	54	80	62	58	59	61	58	54		
VHF NFD Sweeper																34	36	36	51	53	52		
70 MHz Trophy	31	32	16	40	31	32	27	25	27	32	35	30	45	41	49	55	59	59	65	70			
144 Low Power	32	32	13	23	25	33	34	35	27	28	46	48	36	33	32	35	47	58	60	58			
432 Low Power	28	23	10	17	19	23	34	18	28	28	33	38	38	31	27	39	51	42	53	47			
144 Trophy	35	30	34	27	35	37	42	46	55	54	78	75	68	56	66	71	82	85	101	101			
2nd 70 MHz	22	21	16	18	27	19	16	18	15	20	28	32	28	34	25	33	39	49	35	24			
1.3 Trophy	15	11	7	13	10	10	10	12	9	9	11	17	20	22	17	18	32	25	30	31			
2.3 Trophy	12	10	6	8	8	8	6	7	4	4	4	8	11	10	7	8	11	9	11	17			
Oct UHF	19	15	12	16	15	15	12	21	22	20	23	18	25	25	29	22	40	27	35	28			
50 MHz AFS		14	17	19	17	21	16	13	11	24	33	32	78	77	84	84	96	111	87	95			
50 AFS Clubs													31	34	38	40	41	49	39	42			
Marconi	17	14		13	14	13	11	12	17	9	25	22	25	23	27	28	42	32	44	32			
144 AFS	68	77	74	76	81	60	66	45	48	77	93	125	113	107	115	138	125	156	133	150			
144 AFS Clubs	18	20	19	21	21	16	17	9	12	18	25	41	40	43	49	58	56	61	61	59			
2nd MGM																							
Xmas Cums	25	22	24	20	17	22	28	22	28	49	56	56	61	73	62	84	105	110	80	121			
TOTAL																			4351	4424			
Championship	268	265	156	219	252	268	298	294	295	333	438	438	491	427	469	506	575	576	695	695			