



Minutes of the HF Contest Committee meeting held via Skype

16 July 2020 at 2000

Directors or Attendees:

Nick	G4FAL Chair
Andy	G4PIQ Chair VHF Contest Committee
Ian	G0FCT Chair CSC
Mike	G0GJV
Graham	G0NBI
Allan	GM4ZUK
Stewart	GW0ETF
Chris	GM3WOJ
Mike	G7TWC

Apologies for absence were received from Pete G4CLA, Paul G4PVM, Clive GM3POI and Nick M1DDD.

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1. GR2HQ feedback
 - 1.1. Chris reported that this year saw a completely different operation due to the Covid 19 restrictions with single operators only allowed to participate as part of the team. Nevertheless, the event was enjoyable with good propagation, particularly on 20M and 10M.
 - 1.2. The GR2HQ team of 38 members never expected to mount a competitive entry but it was likely that our performance would rank in the top 10. It was good to be able to welcome “new blood” which bodes well for the future.
 - 1.3. It was agreed that a RadCom article would help to augment the promotion of this important event in the contest calendar.
2. Draft Contest Calendar for 2021
 - 2.1. It was noted that the only change from the 2020 format was that two FT4 contests had been moved to Wednesdays to avoid clashes with Bank Holidays.
3. FT4 Contests
 - 3.1. Whilst the new monthly series had been well supported so far, it was noted that the use of NA contest format had given rise to criticism and that, for future RSGB VHF contests, dedicated contest formats for FT4 were likely to be excluded.
 - 3.2. It was also noted that the FT4 HQP parties had encouraged multi-band operation and this had been well received.
 - 3.3. It was agreed, therefore, that the 2021 FT4 contests should allow QSOs on 3 bands – 80m, 40m and 20m - and that the NA VHF format should not be used. This would require a modification to the rules and scoring system and Nick agreed to draft a revised set of rules and circulate it to the committee.

Action Nick G4FAL



4. 80m CC SSB contests
 - 4.1. An email from a Member who was not a contest participant concerning inconsiderate operating was received and considered. It was agreed that the chairman's reply had covered the points raised and that no further action was needed.
5. DX Contest
 - 5.1. Concern was expressed at the relatively low number of UK & CD entries in last year's event (46) although it was noted that some 316 other domestic stations had participated but not submitted logs for adjudication.
 - 5.2. It was agreed to amend the format for the 2021 contest with a view to encouraging entrants by including an affiliated club element to the competition, perhaps similar to the AFS format.
Action Nick G4FAL to produce proposals
6. IOTA Trophies
 - 6.1. Nick drew attention to the fact that the award of IOTA trophies was heavily biased towards UK&CD entrants, noting also that offers of sponsorship had been received for new trophies for overseas participants. In addition, there were cases where a single entry could receive more than one award.
 - 6.2. It was agreed to conduct a review of the existing IOTA awards and trophies, taking into account the potential additional sponsorship.
Action: Nick G4FAL, Ian G0FCT, Jacqui G6XSY, Mike G3VYI
7. SSB Field Day decision
 - 7.1. It was agreed to postpone finalising the rules on multi-operator station entries pending a decision by the IARU in mid-August, noting the importance of RSGB HF and VHF contest rules being congruent with each other. It was confirmed that single operator portable entries will be accepted, subject to any government regulations in force at the time.
Action Nick G4FAL
8. 160m licence conditions
 - 8.1. The committee agreed to raise with the RSGB HF Manager the potential for RSGB to approach Ofcom to request them to change the licence condition power limits for top band operation above 1850kHz.
Action: Ian G0FCT
9. GR2HQ NoV
 - 9.1. This year Ofcom issued a single NoV to the RSGB Contest Club for the GR2HQ callsign on the understanding that each band and mode would only be activated by one club member at a time. As this simplifies matters greatly for both RSGB and Ofcom, it was agreed to approach Ofcom to see if the NoV could be perpetual, specific to the weekend when the IARU HF Championships Contest is held each year.
Action Nick G4FAL
10. Date of Next Meeting
 - 10.1. Date to be set for a meeting in September.