



Minutes of VHFCC Skype Meeting 28 May 2020

Attendees :

Andy Cook, G4PIQ (Chair),
Ian Pawson G0FCT,
Pete Lindsay G4CLA,
John Quarmby, G3XDY,
Richard Baker, GD8EXI,
Mike Goodey, G0GJV,
Richard Staples, G4HGI,
Martin Hall, GM8IEM
Stewart Bryant, G3YSX (Board Liaison)

1. Approach to dealing with COVID-19

We had an extensive discussion around our approach to COVID-19, and agreed the following positions / actions

- i. We will continue with our current approach where we take a consistent approach across the whole of the UK & CDs and will not relax restrictions on portable operation until we can do so across all of the 4 main regions (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland). This is to maintain equality across the UK in series of contests and in championships. Currently the regulations in Isle of Man and Channel Islands appears more benign.
- ii. We will be guided by the Government guidance / legislation and not delay the release of single operator portable operation once Government legislation / guidance allows it across the whole of the UK further than we need to in order to provide clear communication with sufficient notice to all entrants
- iii. We do not expect to be able to allow multi-operator contesting to take part until social distancing measures are largely removed. This may be quite some time.
- iv. As of 29th May, we are not yet able to release single operator portable operation, because Wales and Northern Ireland remain locked-down. As the guidance for these areas of the UK becomes clearer and is confirmed we will quickly review the current restrictions.
- v. We will re-open single operator portable operation for all contests at the same time (with the exception of the VHF NFD replacement contest where due to the complexity we believe we need to provide at least 2 weeks advance notice)

2. Backpackers

The 2nd backpackers contest runs in parallel with the PW QRP contest. The PW contest has been reset to being single operator fixed station only, and given that we do not expect to have cross-UK consistency on portable operation by this date, we are cancelling the 2nd backpackers event.

We will review the status of the 3rd Backpackers nearer the date of the contest

3. 6m Trophy

We will remove multi operator and open sections from this contest, so it will retain just SF, 6S and Overseas.

4. VHF NFD

We had a long discussion about a replacement contest on the weekend of VHF NFD and made the following decisions.

- i. The contest will be single operator only
- ii. Whether portable operation will be allowed will be determined based on Government guidance / legislation across the whole UK enabling it being in place approximately 2 weeks before the date of the contest to allow stations reasonable time to prepare
- iii. Any possible single operator portable contesting must be very strictly single operator, with no site sharing, no help to construct the station, no help in operating etc
- iv. The contest will take place on all VHF NFD bands (6m through to 23cm) with non-overlapping periods of operation of between 2 & 3 hours per band with at least 1 hour between the slots to allow any antenna changeover necessary and no overnight operation.
- v. Likely operation order – 6m, 4m, overnight break, 23cm, 70cm, 2m
- vi. Scoring will be at 1 pt/km with no bonuses or multipliers
- vii. Sections will align with the UKAC section definitions
- viii. The scores from the best 3 bands will count to a final total
- ix. These normalised scores contribute to a club team score with a maximum of 4 members. Clubs can have multiple teams as in AFS.
- x. We will not award the normal VHF NFD trophies

There is still some work to be done on the detailed rules which will be carried out via e-mail.



Action - G0FCT to draft a set of rules based on the discussion in conjunction with G4CLA for agreement by e-mail

5. Gaming of Section Selection in UKACs

It has been observed that some stations are carefully selecting their entry section in the UKACs – perhaps in order to optimise their club score. The impact of this is small in the overall results, and it not straightforward to avoid in the results without very complex rules, so at this point no changes will be made, but the situation kept under monitoring.

6. Remote Operation

We received a query recently on whether remote operation is legal in VHF contests where our rules are silent. There is nothing to prevent a station being operated remotely (provided that it is done legally and in the spirit of the contest). The HF rules have some good words on remote operation and it is proposed to use the definition in the future.

7. Xmas Cumulatives

Following a query, we confirmed that multi-operator entries are intentionally allowed in these contests, but there is a constraint of not transmitting on more than one band at a time to prevent a large advantage accruing to those stations.

8. Thanks to the Adjudicators

Following a suggestion from Richard, G4HGI it was recognised just how much work the members of the CSC were putting into getting huge numbers of results out of the door in very fast order at present. The committee noted a huge vote of thanks to the CSC team, and felt that we should recognise them more publicly at the Convention or similar once we are past lockdown.