

Minutes of VHFCC Skype Meeting 15th November 2019

Attendees:

Andy Cook, G4PIQ (Chair),
Ian Pawson G0FCT,
Pete Lindsay G4CLA,
John Quarmby, G3XDY,
Richard Baker, GD8EXI,
Mike Goodey, G0GJV,
Richard Staples, G4HGI,
Mike Tubby, G8TIC.
Martin Hall, GM8IEM.

1. Review of Actions from Meeting 9th Oct 2019

1. Review of active stations in the UKACs and comparing to entry levels. **Ongoing – G4PIQ**
2. Provide better clarify over definition of Multi Operator section eligibility for 2020 rules. **Ongoing – will be completed in rule drafting for 2020 - G4PIQ.**
3. Continue to pursue an approach for committee publicity. **Ongoing – advert to be placed after CQWW - G4PIQ**
4. Write an article on how to maintain and check for appropriate signal quality. **Ongoing.** Discussion was had about target audience and agreed to focus on inexperienced and intermediate technical capabilities. Aim to explain to people why if a signal is 'all over the band' it is not necessarily the far end transmitter and what to do about it; things to think about when considering buying a basic off-the-shelf do-everything radio; how to avoid overdrive etc. – **G0FCT and GD8EXI**
5. Consistent AFS rules across HF and VHF for 2020. **Ongoing – will be completed in rule drafting for 2020 - G4PIQ**
6. 2m Trophy - to write to the station in question outlining the action taken, and emphasising that all operators must know what action to take when a complaint is made. **Complete – G0FCT**
7. To include material on signal quality in the Convention session. **Complete – G4PIQ**
8. To ensure rules are clear for 2020 on actions required in event of poor signal complaints. **Ongoing – will be completed in rule drafting for 2020 - G4PIQ**



9. Raise points about challenges with adjudicating ON4KST at Convention. **Complete – G4PIQ**
10. Build survey and convention material. **Complete – G4PIQ**
11. The committee discussed the technical accuracy of the recent IC9700 review in Rad Com. **Ongoing - G4PIQ to raise with Publications Committee**
12. We had a discussion about how to log partial QSOs and realised that even across the committee there was no consistent approach. **Ongoing – G0FCT to draft a recommendation for the 2020 rules**

2. Review of Outcome of Survey & Setting Rules for 2020

The full results of the 2019 consultation are attached at Appendix A.

On the basis of this we concluded

1. We should continue to run the UKACs through December
2. We should replace the monthly MGCs with a 2.5 hour event every 5th Tuesday, and that event should consist of 2 separate contests – one on 6m and one on 2m.
3. There does not seem to be sufficient demand to warrant us re-establishing the 6m and 4m FMACs and expecting the activity levels to be substantially better than last time.
4. We should change the Low Power and Restricted Power Levels on 4m to 10W and 50W respectively.
5. We also agreed that we should move to European VHF Contest format exchanging full locators, report and serial in MGM contests.
6. We needed to make clear that if no serial number if received a zero should be logged
7. We reviewed the free text comments as well, and the only significant areas of common ground were 43 people (many apparently from the same group) requesting the banning of ON4KST and 19 who requested that Thursday's were removed from the UKAC calendar, Against a base of 410 responses these were not significant to suggest that we should move our policies to support co-ordinated contest dates, and our belief that ON4KST use is very hard to police and helps keep the contests interesting for those at the edges of activity.
8. We discussed the impact of making the existing 7 events 'KST free' events and we could see no increase in activity in these contests as a result of those changes. Consequently, we agreed there was no benefit in extending this experiment.

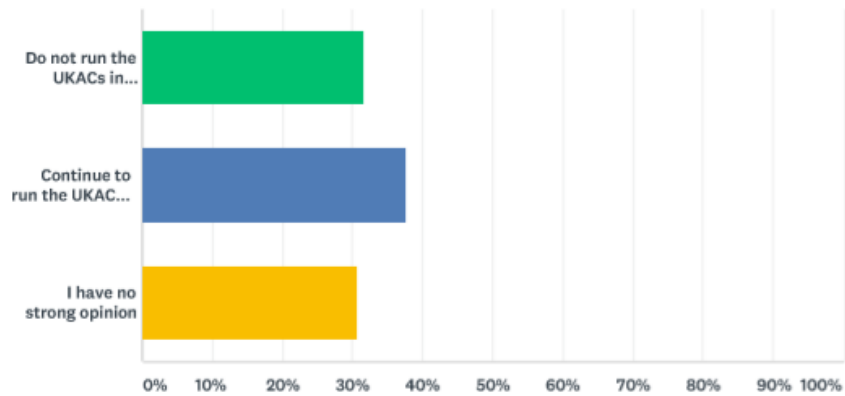
3. AOB

It was suggested that we approach TXFactor to see if they are interested in doing an article on contesting. **Action – G4PIQ**

Appendix A – Results of Consultation

Q1 Should we avoid running the UKACs during December to provide a break around the busy time of Christmas

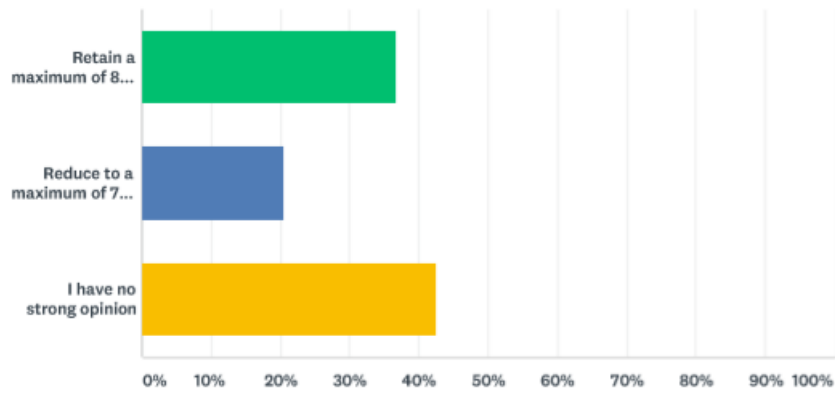
Answered: 409 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Do not run the UKACs in December	31.54%	129
Continue to run the UKACs in December	37.65%	154
I have no strong opinion	30.81%	126
TOTAL		409

Q2 If we do drop the December UKACs as discussed in Question 2, should we

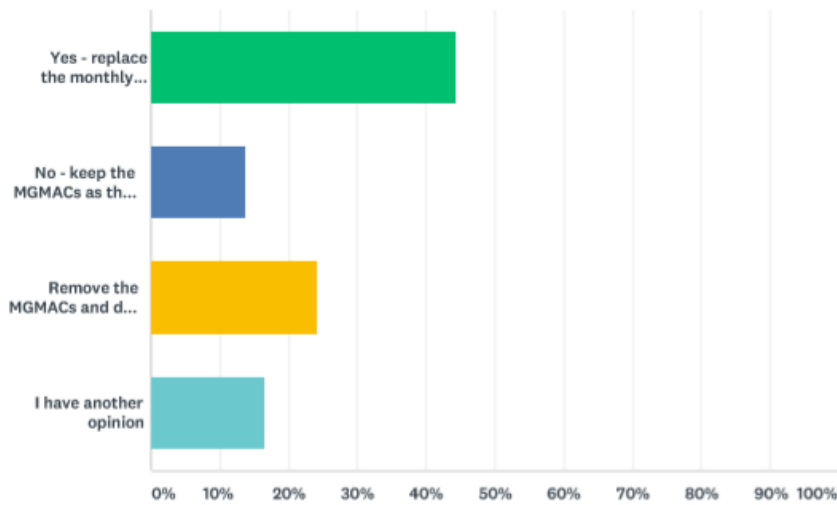
Answered: 410 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Retain a maximum of 8 contests contributing to the personal annual score	36.83%	151
Reduce to a maximum of 7 contests contributing to the personal annual score	20.49%	84
I have no strong opinion	42.44%	174
TOTAL		410

Q3 Although starting reasonably promisingly, entry levels in the monthly MGMACs (Machine Generated Mode Activity Contest) have not remained at the levels which we hoped for. As an alternative, we are considering replacing these with a dual band contest (6m and 2m) lasting 2.5 hours every '5th' Tuesday in the month running from 2000 - 2230 local. These events would occur 4 times a year and would broadly follow the current MGM AC rules - although we are moving to require the exchange of serial numbers and 6 character locators as supported by European VHF Contest mode in WSJT-X. Do you think this proposal is a good idea?

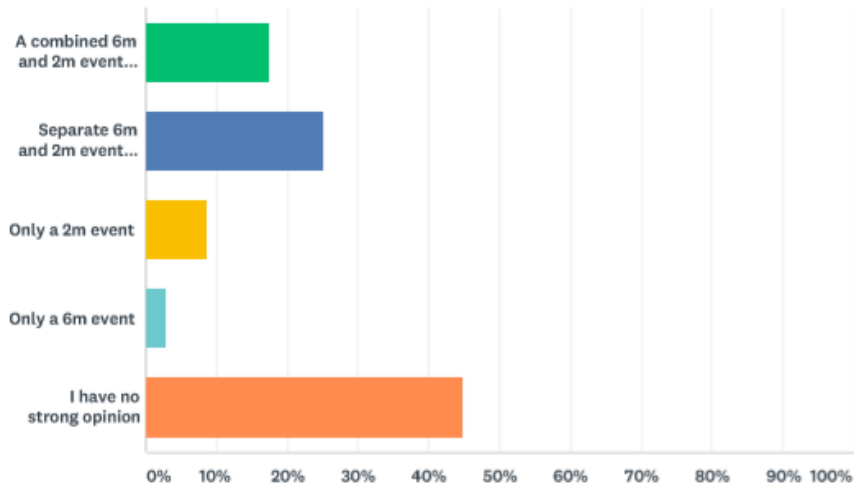
Answered: 404 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes - replace the monthly MGMACs with a 5th Tuesday event	44.31%	179
No - keep the MGMACs as they are	13.86%	56
Remove the MGMACs and do not replace them	24.26%	98
I have another opinion	16.58%	67
TOTAL		404

Q4 If we do implement a 5th Tuesday, 2.5 hour MGMAC as described in Question 4 would you prefer

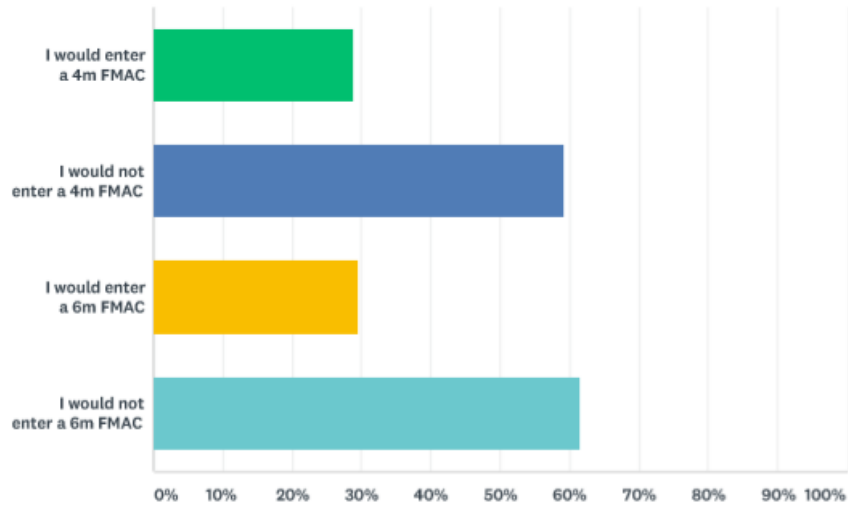
Answered: 405 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
A combined 6m and 2m event counting operation on both bands to the overall score	17.53%	71
Separate 6m and 2m events with no combined overall score section	25.19%	102
Only a 2m event	8.89%	36
Only a 6m event	2.96%	12
I have no strong opinion	44.69%	181
TOTAL		405

Q5 We have had some requests to re-instate the FM Activity Contests on 4m and 6m in the 1900 - 2000 local time slots before the UKAC events. Would you enter these events if we did this?

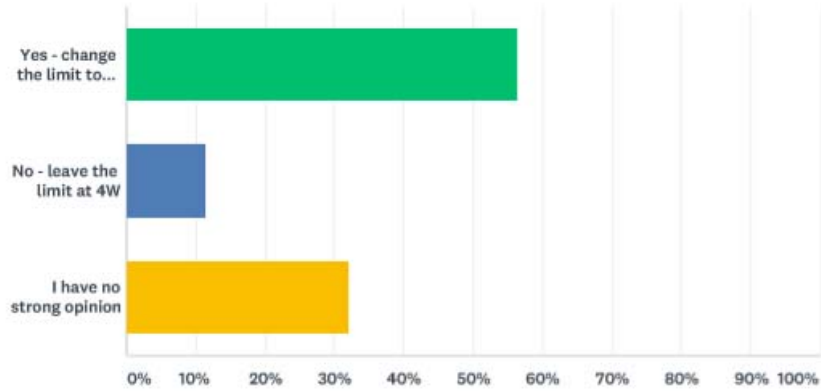
Answered: 403 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I would enter a 4m FMAC	28.78%	116
I would not enter a 4m FMAC	59.31%	239
I would enter a 6m FMAC	29.53%	119
I would not enter a 6m FMAC	61.54%	248
Total Respondents: 403		

Q6 It has been suggested that we should increase the Low Power limit on 4m in the UKACs from 4W to 10W

Answered: 409 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes - change the limit to 10W	56.48%	231
No - leave the limit at 4W	11.49%	47
I have no strong opinion	32.03%	131
TOTAL		409