



## Minutes of VHFCC Meeting (via Teams)

21<sup>st</sup> November 2022

### Attendees:

Andy G4PIQ (VHFCC Chair)

Ian G0FCT (CSC Chair)

Mike G0GJV

John G3XDY

Pete G4CLA

Mike G8TIC

Richard GD8EXI

Stephen GW4SHF

### 1. 2022 VHF Contest Rules Survey

The meeting discussed the results of the 2022 VHF Contest rules survey and considers the comments made by the respondents. The following decisions were made.

- 1.1. Q1 – Duration of the FT8 Contests (144MHz and 432MHz). Some entrants have requested a section that enables them to score points during the entire 4 hour duration of the European FT8 contests that run at the same time as the RSGB VHF FT8 contests. The VHFCC has decided that the duration of the current AO section will be changed to have the same start and end times of the European FT contest. The current AR and AL sections will be discontinued. In their place, three new 2 hour duration sections (Licensed power, 100W and 10W) will be introduced (2O, 2R, 2L). The new '2 hour' sections will run in the last two hours of the of the European contest.
- 1.2. Q2 – 70MHz Cumulative Contest, Spring 70MHz and 50MHz Contests. There was little support for these contests from the respondents to the survey. Hence, these contests will be discontinued and will not appear in the 2023 VHF Contest Calendar.
- 1.3. Q3 – Suggested time slot for 6 hour sections. The survey results indicated that the most popular suggested time slot for 6 hour section entrants is the first 6 hours of contests with 6 hour sections. This will be added to the relevant contest rules.
- 1.4. Q4 – Add Locator Square Bonus points to the 23cm and 13cm Trophy Contests. There was overwhelming support by the survey respondents for this proposal. A 500 point bonus for each new large Locator Square worked will be added to the 23cm and 13cm Trophy Contest rules for 2023.
- 1.5. Q5 – Number of events to count towards an entrant's VHF Contests Championship points total. After reviewing the survey results, it was decided that an entrant's best seven (7) scores will count toward their VHF Contests Championship points total in 2023.
- 1.6. Q6 – Scoring system for the VHF Contests Championship. The survey results supported a change to a Championship score normalisation scheme which rewards stations lower down the table more highly. After much discussion and analysis comparing scoring systems, it was decided that the 'Square Root' normalisation scheme (as used in the SHF UKAC) will be adopted for all VHF Contests Championship sections (AFS, Open, SF and LP)
- 1.7. Q7 – Weekend contest participation. To encourage participation in weekend contests, it was decided:
  - 1.7.1. To publicise weekend contests via established Facebook groups
  - 1.7.2. To remind entrants that multi-operator teams can include Foundation and Intermediate licensees who are not members of the RSGB



- 1.7.3. To create instructional videos (YouTube) on how to operate and enter VHF Contests
- 1.7.4. To remind entrants who have limited 'contest time' about the 6 hour sections in 24 hour contests
- 1.7.5. To publicise the AFS section of the VHF Contests Championship
- 1.7.6. To investigate how to help less computer-savvy entrants upload their logs
- 1.8. Q8 – Further comments.
  - 1.8.1. The topic of Assisted and Unassisted categories in VHF Contests was raised by several survey respondents. After much discussion, the VHFCC decided that it was impractical to introduce an unassisted category.
  - 1.8.2. Audio recordings. The current policy of the VHFCC is not to accept audio recording made by third parties (including entrants) as 'proof' of what was (or was not) sent by a station in a contest. This policy was reaffirmed by the VHFCC. It is suggested that if an entrant considers they have a valid case for a contest adjudication to be revisited, they use the Appeals Process as outlined on the RSGBCC website (<https://www.rsgbcc.org/app.shtml>).
  - 1.8.3. The use and misuse of Internet Chat sites such as ON4KST was also discussed. CSC adjudicators have recently reported a trend for some entrants to use chat sites to provide a 'running commentary' during a QSO. This is especially prevalent during MS QSOs. This practise is to be banned in the VHF Contest Rules.