



## Minutes of VHFCC Meeting 10<sup>TH</sup> November 2023

Attendees :

Andy Cook, G4PIQ (Chair),  
Ian Pawson G0FCT,  
Pete Lindsay G4CLA,  
Richard Baker, GD8EXI,  
Mike Goodey, G0GJV,  
John Quarmby, G3XDY,  
Richard Staples, G4HGI,  
Stewart Bryant, G3YSX (Board Liaison)  
Jacqui Goodey, G6XSY (Trophies)

### **1. Review of Actions**

All actions from the previous meeting were complete apart from G4PIQ's discussion with G4SWX over band-planning which is on-going.

### **2. Possible Rule Changes and Consultation for 2024**

This meeting was called to review the feedback received at the Convention and off-line and to consider further possible rule changes and consultation questions for 2024

- Following the current OFCOM review of the licence, it is possible that in the future it will be possible for un-licensed people to operate a station under supervision. We have decided that such un-licensed operators do not need to be RSGB members in order to compete in an RSGB VHF Contest. We need to clarify how we will handle and define supervision in this context and also how we will capture and display non-licensed ops in the results.

**Action G0FCT to draft and distribute draft text on supervision.**

- We discussed the possibility of co-ordinating the 4m and 6m CW contests with European events but we are not aware of any 4m or 6m CW events other than our own.
- We discussed the benefits of reducing log submission times for the current 1 week level on order to deliver results slightly more quickly. We recognised that it is very important that we do not exclude any significant portion of entrants from taking part as a result of any such changes. IARU are mandating a 3 day entry time for their events (and suggesting that all societies apply a 3 day deadline for all contests). We

will submit IARU entries after the 3 day deadline but will not automatically follow the 3 day IARU requirement for all our contests. However, we will consult on reducing the time line, but will set a high bar (higher than 50%) for implementation.

- We discussed the introduction of power sections (e.g., Open, Restricted, Low Power) into the 24 hour contests (March, May, September 2m and June 6m). For these larger events we didn't want to remove the single / multi op splits and also wanted to maintain the 6 hour and 24 hour options, so will look to add Restricted and Low Power sections through results filtering as is already done at HF.

**ACTION G4CLA to consider implementation.**

- We agreed to change the wording for the Open Section to prevent Single Op Fixed stations from entering this to avoid artificial results gaming
  - We discussed AFS normalisation and the possible alignment of 4m and 6m AFS contests multiplier schemes. Our decision was to consult on moving to a bonus rather than a multiplier scheme (but retaining post codes, countries and squares) for these events in order because the square law effect of the current multiplier scheme with similar QSO and multiplier numbers is causing stations further down the tables to have artificially low contributions to their team's AFS scores. If this is successful, we may consider doing this for all VHF AFS events in future years.
  - We decided not to take any action to ban stations from logging into ON4KST with their frequency in the call field because it will be a significant workload for adjudicators to police and the overall impact is viewed as small.
  - We discussed VHF NFD Registration and some requests to re-introduce it – mostly to allow the sweepers to have a list of who to look for, or to allow entrants to optimise their choice of section. These weren't seen as sufficiently valuable to re-impose a hurdle for potential entrants, but we did agree to introduce a voluntary registration page and promote the benefits of registration so that Sweepers have a better view of who they are chasing.
  - We agreed to change the award of the Foundation and Intermediate Shields in the 2m UKACs to be awarded to the leading Foundation / Intermediate stations in the overall UKAC series (not just 2m).
  - We considered the awarding of certificates to each UK DXCC but concluded that entry levels are often too small outside of England to make this appropriate.
  - We agreed to discuss co-ordination of the 4m fixed event with Practical Wireless.
- Action G4PIQ to contact G3XTT**
- We agreed to consult on moving the Xmas Cumulatives forward one day so that they will run 27th – 30th November and to start an hour later (1500). We confirmed our decision to hold with the current 1 band per day format for 2024.
  - In response to a request to create a 6 hour 70cm section in the May UHF contest as we have in October, we agreed to shrink the 70cm Trophy to 6 hours (1400 – 2000). We will also shrink the 3cm Trophy to 6 hours (0800 – 1400)

- We received a request to restructure the FMACs to better encourage Foundation and Intermediate licensees with the suggestion that in the current format any are not taking part / returning. We will consult on moving to Foundation, Intermediate and Open sections. The Foundation will be set to the maximum power level of that licence, and the Intermediate and Open set to 50W. We will remove the recommendation for vertical antennas since it is widely ignored at present.
- Thanks to G4HGI and GW4SHF for running the VHFCC stand at the Convention. Generally good feedback. One point received was that as a result of changing lifestyles, shorter events are more popular and even 6 hours can be a bit long at the weekends.
- From the convention we had a question over whether Christmas Contest scoring was working correctly, but G4CLA has checked and it seems OK.
- We discussed the prospect of allowing all VHF Championship contests to be entered by non RSGB members including with our Board representative, but concluded that this would not be viable at this time.
- We agreed to promote weekend contests and the benefits of the MS section of VHF NFD harder. **Action G4PIQ**
- We agreed to consider how to get contesting as part of the RSGB Brickworks framework **Action G4PIQ**
- We need to generate a consultation and get it moving quickly.  
**Action G4PIQ**

### 3. AOB

None