Minutes of the HF Contest Committee held on 2 October 2025 via Teams

Attendees:
Nick G4FAL Chair
Ian G0FCT Chair (CSC)
Mike G0GJV
Graham G0NBI
Stewart, G3YSX (BLM)
Pete, G4CLA
Tim G4FJK
Paul G4PVM
Chris GM3WOJ
Allan GM4ZUK
Stewart GW0ETF
Nick M1DDD

1. Review of contest rules

1.1. Several requests had been received from Members for rule changes in 2026. The committee considered these and agreed that, from the calendar year 2026 onwards:

1.1.1. In the AFS Datamodes Contest, the 100W limit in the PSK section be removed.

1.1.2. Multi-operator entries be allowed in the 1.8 MHz Contests.

1.1.3. The suggestion to call ‘CQ RSGB’ or 'CQ TEST' in the FT4 contests be removed.

1.2. It was agreed that the following potential changes be discussed at the forthcoming RSGB Convention:

1.2.1. In the 80m CC and Autumn Series, should operators be allowed to solicit QSOs on two run frequencies?

1.2.2. In the monthly FT4 contest, should there be a 1-hour section? This is in response to suggestions that the new 2-hour format is too long for some entrants.

1.2.3. Self-spotting - which of the following four options should be adopted: none/all/SSB only/Assisted?
PMN: after consultation with contesters and the Evans Committee, it was agreed that self-spotting would be adopted, for Assisted entrants only, for all RSGB HF Contests and the Commonwealth Contest.

1.2.4. Proposed wording for the rules is: “Assisted entries may spot their own station on the DX cluster. Self-spots may be made when first soliciting QSOs on a new frequency and thereafter no more frequently than every 10 minutes.”

1.2.5. Should entries from remotely operated stations be absorbed into the main entry sections?
PMN: after consultation with contesters and the Evans Committee, it was agreed that remotely operated stations should be absorbed into the main entry sections, applicable to the Commonwealth Contest.

1.2.6. In view of the very low number of entries to the QRS sections in the Autumn series and the potential for skewing overall club scores, should these sections be removed? Should a frequency allocation for QRS QSOs be reserved within the contest bands?
PMN: after consultation with contesters, the QRS entry sections will be removed from the Autumn Series in 2026. Also, the QRS frequency allocations will be harmonised across RSGB 80m CW contests.

2. Meeting minute secretary

2.1. Nick, G4FAL recorded the Committee's thanks to Graham, G0NBI who would be relinquishing this role, and asked for a volunteer to minute future meetings.