

Minutes of VHFCC Meeting 16th September 2022

Attendees :

Andy Cook, G4PIQ (Chair),
Ian Pawson G0FCT,
Pete Lindsay G4CLA,
Mike Goodey, G0GJV,
John Quarmby, G3XDY,
Richard Staples, G4HGI,
Martin Hall, GM8IEM
Stewart Bryant, G3YSX (Board Liaison)
Jacqui Goodey, G6XSY (Trophies)

Apologies:

Mike Tubby, G8TIC,
Richard Baker, GD8EXI

1. Review of Actions

G0FCT to examine and circulate a discussion on options to reduce complexity of multipliers
– **Complete**

G4PIQ to organise a survey – **Complete**

G4PIQ to discuss with other IARU societies approach to submitting entries to IARU contests
- **Ongoing**

2. Review of VHF Contest Activity Levels

An updated table showing the entry levels into the various contests is attached at Appendix A.

For the first time in some years we are starting to see a decline in entries – although a significant part of this appears to be a reversal of the boost given by lockdown. There may also have been a corresponding dip as lockdowns were released and people took the opportunity to do different things. To attempt to take these effects into account, a column has been added to consider whether the contest is in decline relative to its pre-COVID levels. The level of activity relative to pre-COVID levels are broadly categorised below

Healthy – UKACs and FMACs, 50, 70, 144 AFS contests, Low Powers, MGM (single contest now back in its April slot), Xmas (with its new format), 70 MHz, 144 MHz & 432 MHz Trophy contests, 10 GHz Trophy (though still a small entry), 70 MHz CW (though absolute levels quite low), Low Powers, Marconi

Some Decline – 432 MHz AFS, March 2/70, April 4m, May & Oct UHF, 50 MHz Trophy, 50 MHz CW, 1.3 GHz and 2.3 GHz Trophies

Significant Decline – 70 MHz Cumulatives, April 50 MHz, Backpackers, VHF NFD

Some of these contests such as VHF NFD, AFS and the Trophies are structural parts of the calendar, co-ordinated with IARU, or co-ordinated with other events (e.g. Backpackers), so no action will be taken for now other than to try and encourage more activity.

However – we are considering not running the declining April 6m, 4m Cumulatives, and April 4m events in 2023 to reduce the number of weekend events to try and help drive some concentration of activity. 4m in particular has had a significant increase in the number of events since the UKACs moved from 3 per year to 12 per year. We will raise this in the consultation.

We also propose to ask for ideas to improve activity within the 23cm and 13cm trophies.

We propose to stop pre-registration for VHF NFD to remove a hurdle to entry. **AP – G4PIQ to talk to G4FAL to discuss whether HFCC wish to do the same for the HF NFDs.**

We will also extend the setup period for VHF NFD to 48 hours (only retaining it to prevent the use of fixed stations), and look for further options to simplify VHF NFD rules. **AP – G0FCT to look for options to simplify VHF NFD rules.**

3. Update from IARU C5 Group

There has been little activity during the last period. The contest sub-committee has been running, with a few short meetings, but no changes of note to report.

4. Automation of Entries to IARU Contests

Currently we continue to promote submission of entries to the IARU contests by providing a link to the IARU robot from the RSGB submission page, however this is not well used. We have not allowed automatic submission because of GDPR concerns. It seems possible that the GDPR issues could be worked around by having the user select a checkbox to grant permissions, but now issues are coming to light over IARU's policy, mechanism for accepting bulk entries and a need to have all EDI fields completed. It looks like some other IARU societies may be submitting bulk entries, so this needs more detailed discussion with IARU. **AP – G4PIQ to make contact with IV3KKW and discuss.**

5. Further Automated of Claimed Scores

We discussed whether it would be appropriate automatically populate the claimed scores pages with entrants' claimed scores as they are submitted. The view of the meeting was that

prior to the log submission window closing, it should be the choice of the entrants as to whether to make their scores public or not. Full claimed scores are already available at the Log Received links after log submission closes, although we don't believe that this is well known. **AP – G4CLA to add some text and link to promote the fact that all claimed scores are available after log submission closes.**

6. Rule Changes

- a. We agreed to align our postcode list with the HF one – so Norfolk will become NK, and potentially BT will be added to the HF list. **AP – G0FCT to identify any discrepancies and agree with HFCC and VHFCC.**
- b. We agreed to require the e-mail address required alongside an entry should be one which the entrant monitors, and should the adjudicator attempt to contact the entrant, but does not receive a response, the entry will become a checklog.
- c. We agreed to amend General Rule 4j from “All information must be copied and confirmed at the time of the QSO, over the air and only on the band in use” to “All information must be copied and confirmed during the contest period, over the air and only on the band in use”. This makes it clear that it is permissible to correct / complete data on-air later in the contest.
- d. We discussed whether the current rule that stops stations changing affiliated club in the UKACs after the first 6 months could be preventing some valid (non-gaming) moves. We will amend this to allow moves subject to VHFCC permission (which will be given except where we believe the application to be for gaming purposes)
- e. We agreed to add a single Overseas section to the 4m Trophy (to bring it in-line with the 6m Trophy). We had received a kind offer of some trophies for such a section – but at this time, given the developing nature of the section, we are choosing to decline that offer. **AP – G4PIQ to contact donor**
- f. The FT8ACs have taken off quite successfully, and there have been several requests to allow more time. In spite of having asked the question last year (before the success of the events was clear) we will consult again on whether to have a full 4 hour section as an option aligned with the rest of Europe.
- g. We agreed not to add a 23cm FT8AC at this time
- h. The 4th Backpacker date this year was erroneously separated from the 144 MHz Low Power in 2022. We will move it back to its normal position for 2023 and check other dates. **AP G4PIQ to send G0FCT the submission to the Yearbook.**
- i. We are not proposing to make any date changes for contests for 2023. There have been comments about the 4m Trophy being on a Saturday rather than a Sunday for the past 2 years – both positive and negative. This change was made to ensure that we don't have a VHF Championship event (the 4m Trophy) and an HF Championship event (the Low Power Contest) running simultaneously since entrants should have the ability to compete in both these prestigious competitions if they so wish. The alignment with the start of the IARU 4m event is a bonus from this decision. Entries in



the 4m Trophy are healthy relative to other weekend contests with this year being the second highest recorded.

7. Consultation

We have identified some possible subjects for consultation, but will not 'launch' the consultation until after the RSGB Convention to allow the opportunity for refining the question set.

8. Convention & Hamfest

We are fully staffed with two volunteers for the Hamfest. Thanks to G4HGI for organising this and to GW4SHF for supporting.

We will have a stand at the Convention for people to come and find us. We will dry-run the Hamfest material there and try and have some SDR contest recordings available.

AP – G4CLA to see if he has a 2m Trophy recording.

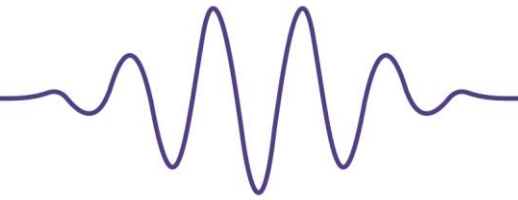
AP – G4HGI to contact Mark Algar regarding photographs

G4HGI kindly offered to help G6XSY and her other volunteers move trophies for the presentations.

Since this will be the first set of trophy presentations for 3 years, we will have some recipients from the previous 2 years who we ought to recognise as best we can within the available time. **AP - G4PIQ and G6XSY to discuss the approach with G4FAL.**

9. AOB

None



Appendix A – Activity Levels Sept 2022

Contest	Year																						c.f. Pre-COVID		
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020		2021	2022
144 UKAC	20	22	26	36	32	55	73	147	190	257	316	368	495	442	499	574	603	644	655	661	634	781	724		
432 UKAC	19	12	20	22	22	19	23	34	53	66	166	218	300	293	369	420	417	469	453	465	431	583	556		
1.3 UKAC	13	14	11	13	11	12	15	12	15	16	47	85	90	136	140	186	201	229	216	214	207	266	269		
50 UKAC								25	43	59	169	238	237	258	348	437	454	496	435	424	391	516	470		
70 UKAC								12		20	55	94	108	131	151	207	200	269	309	299	293	377	334		
5HF UKAC													33	33	27	50	38	65	83	87	93	96	106		
144 FMAC																			175	135	131	231	184		
432 FMAC																			118	103	113	158	161		
144 FT8AC																							203		
432 FT8AC																									
432 AFS	34	35	30	33	30	26	35	38		28	35	63	76	72	82	98	114	102	109	133	118	116	168	102	
432 AFS Clubs	15	13	14	15	12	11	14	14		12	14	26	34	29	29	44	49	46	50	56	46	49	69	45	
March 2/70	27	35	25		24	25	32	35	23	36	60	59	91	59	72	59	84	63	85	98	94	98	137	84	
70 MHz Cums	24	24	20	20	18	20	19	22	29	28	38	50	74	73	76	81	87	88	102	89	83	82	79	57	
1st 70 MHz	22	13	12	18	22	22	18	19	21	23	32	35	47	46	40	41	49	58	56	44	39	56	56	47	
1st 50 MHz								36	48	39	35	48	42	53	48	49	53	61	41	49	120	73	43		
1st MGM (UK)																			53	38	47	29	48		
May UHF	30	24	15	17	26		34		29	18	16	20	26	33	39	23	33	53	41	45	36	44	55	41	
432 Trophy		21	15	17	20	22	28	23	28	25	28	33	35	37	48	54	37	51	57	52	57	80	90	66	
10G Trophy	14	10		5	9	11	10	10	8	11	8	5	12	8	6	8	6	9	7	14	9	12	18	16	
70 MHz CW								17	23	19	29	25	25	21	28	33	25	47	20	30					
May 144	42	24		33	34	34	41	38	31	48	65	68	65	68	70	74	77	80	93	101	102	161	118	107	
Backpackers	54	45		39	55	59	69	50	52	58	52	60	53	35	50	53	60	42	51	55	67	24	40	32	
50 MHz Trophy	28	33	25	33	32	28	32	36	42	47	58	56	65	59	63	81	81	93	128	109	88	144	136	97	
50 MHz CW														48	38	26	21	21	26	31	16	47	34	23	
VHF NFD	68	73		56	59	52	53	58	49	63	76	61	69	54	80	62	58	59	61	58	54		38	43	
VHF NFD Sweeper																34	36	36	51	53	52		63	45	
70 MHz Trophy	31	32	16	40	31	32	27	25	27	32	35	30	45	41	49	55	59	59	65	70	62	82	66	74	
144 Low Power	32	32	13	23	25	33	34	35	27	28	46	48	36	33	32	35	47	58	60	58	72	99	70	74	
432 Low Power	28	23	10	17	19	23	34	18	28	28	33	38	38	31	27	39	51	42	53	47	55	68	53	60	
144 Trophy	35	30	34	27	35	37	42	46	55	54	78	75	68	56	66	71	82	85	101	101	114	162	123		
2nd 70 MHz (AFS)	22	21	16	18	27	19	16	18	15	20	28	32	28	34	25	33	39	49	35	24	66	81	62		
1.3 Trophy	15	11	7	13	10	10	10	12	9	9	11	17	20	22	17	18	32	25	30	31	46	39	23		
2.3 Trophy	12	10	6	8	8	8	6	7	4	4	4	8	11	10	7	8	11	9	11	17	21	18	12		
Oct UHF	19	15	12	16	15	15	12	21	22	20	23	18	25	25	29	22	40	27	35	28	41	32	29		
50 MHz AFS		14	17	19	17	21	16	13	11	24	33	32	78	77	84	84	96	111	87	95	101	103	99		
50 AFS Clubs												31	34	38	40	41	49	39	42	41	45	44			
Marconi	17	14		13	14	13	11	12	17	9	25	22	25	23	27	28	42	32	44	32	34	54	43		
144 AFS	68	77	74	76	81	60	66	45	48	77	93	125	113	107	115	138	125	156	133	150	128	178	144		
144 AFS Clubs	18	20	19	21	21	16	17	9	12	18	25	41	40	43	49	58	56	61	61	59	57	76	60		
2nd MGM																				37	12	35			
Xmas Cums	25	22	24	20	17	22	28	22	28	49	56	56	61	73	62	84	105	110	80	121	102	111	128		
TOTAL																			4284	4365	4218	5318	5186		
Championship	268	265	156	219	252	268	298	294	295	333	438	438	491	427	469	506	575	576	695	695	715	956	852		