



Minutes of VHFCC Meeting (via Teams)

22nd September 2023

Directors or Attendees:

Andy G4PIQ Chair, VHFCC
Ian G0FCT Chair, CSC
Nick G4FAL Chair, HFCC
Stewart G3YSX Director, Board Chair & BLM for CC
Mike G0GJV
John G3XDY
Pete G4CLA
Richard G4HGI
Jacqui G6XSX Trophy Manager
Mike G8TIC
Richard GD8EXI

1. Trophy Manager

- 1.1. The Trophy Manager is retiring after the 2023 RSGB Convention, a replacement is urgently needed if trophies are going to be presented at the 2024 Convention.
- 1.2. This matter will be raised in the VHF Trophy Presentation and the VHF Contest Forum at the 2023 Convention.

ACTION: G4PIQ

2. IARU-R1 Contest Entries

- 2.1. UK Entrants to the RSGB contests that are run alongside of the four major IARU-R1 Contests (50MHz SSB/CW, 70MHz SSB/CW, 144MHz SSB/CW and UHF/Microwave) now have the option to have the RSGB submit their logs as entries to the IARU-R1 Contests.
- 2.2. G4CLA and G0FCT were thanked by G4PIQ for their efforts in facilitating this option.
- 2.3. G0FCT will investigate if it is possible to permit other CSC members to upload in bulk RSGB logs to the IARU-R1 Robot.

ACTION: G0FCT

- 2.4. At the next IARU-R1 General Conference, the C5 Contest Working Group (C5CWG) will be proposing that the log submission period for all IARU-R1 contest will be increased for all entrants to 3 days.
- 2.5. If this proposal is accepted, the RSGB will only submit UK logs received within the 3 day entry window.
- 2.6. The VHFCC will consider reducing the log submission period for all RSGB UK VHF Contest to 3 days. This matter will be raised during the VHF Forum at the Convention.

ACTION: G4PIQ

- 2.7. The C5CWG are also proposing to request all National Societies not to have VHF&Up contests that allow the use of SSB/CW and MGM in the same contest. The VHFCC is against this proposal and will not implement this request.

3. RSGB VHF Contest Entry Levels

- 3.1. The UKAC entry levels in 2022 are all reduced from 2020/21 levels (COVID factor) but the data collected in 2023 so far indicate that activity in most events is above the 2022 levels.

- 3.2. The entry level in the 144MHz Backpackers is improving.
- 3.3. Weekend contest entry levels are generally slowly improving.
- 3.4. 50MHz and 70MHz CW contests
 - 3.4.1. These contests only attract a small number of entrants.
 - 3.4.2. The committee discussed several suggestions on how to make these contests more interesting:
 - 3.4.2.1. Split these contests into four off 1 hour duration contests to allow the stations to work each other again.
 - 3.4.2.2. Add a multiplier scheme.
 - 3.4.2.3. Coordinate with European contests.
 - 3.4.2.4. Make it clear that entrants can use CW readers in these contests, this may enable more stations to compete.

4. RSGB Convention

- 4.1. The three Contest Committees will have a combined stand at the Convention. If any CC member has some spare time, please make yourself available to answer questions etc on the stand.
- 4.2. The clash in the draft convention timetable for the Sunday between the talk by G3XDY and the VHF Forum was noted. This is being addressed.
- 4.3. The start of the VHF Forum that immediately follows the end of the VHF Contest Trophy Presentation will be delayed by a few minutes to enable people to get coffee etc. and to move to the forum venue (not in the same room as the presentation).
- 4.4. **ACTION: During the VHF Contest Forum, G4PIQ to raise awareness of the 6 hour sections in weekend contests, the MS section in VHF NFD and the AFS section in the VHF Championship, 3 day log submission period and 50/70MHz CW Contests.**

5. Proposed Rule Changes for 2024

- 5.1. The Committee discussed what rule changes might be needed if the Ofcom proposed changes to the Amateur Radio License are adopted.
- 5.2. For contests that permit the use of full licensed power, we do not propose to alter this rule.
- 5.3. For contests with a power limit of 100W, we do not propose to alter this rule.
- 5.4. For contests with a power limit of 10W, we propose the power limit is raised to the maximum permitted for Foundation Licensees in the revised license.
- 5.5. Any changes will be implemented after the new license has come into force.
- 5.6. The rules about station supervision for Foundation, Intermediate and non-licensed people will be clarified.
- 5.7. **ACTION: G0FCT to draft revised rules to cover this proposal (5.6)**
- 5.8. For 2024, we will require stations to use an RSL appropriate to their geographic location.
- 5.9. We propose to remove the recommendation in the FMAC rules to use vertical polarisation.
- 5.10. We will consult on a suggestion to move the Christmas Cumulative Contest from 26/27/28/29 December to 27/28/29/30 December.
- 5.11. We consult on a suggestion to allow FT modes to be used in VHF NFD.
- 5.12. We will discuss the possibility of lowering the band plan lower limit for SSB operation in the 2m band with the VHF Manager to allow more spectrum in (especially) the UKAC.
- 5.13. **ACTION: G4PIQ to discuss the above suggestions during the VHF Contest Forum**