



Report to the RSGB Spectrum Committee Meeting - November 2010

1 General position

The membership and constitution of CDXC has remained relatively unchanged since my report last year. CDXC members are primarily interested in chasing DX and working contests on the HF and 6m bands. The aim of the club is to promote HF operating in Amateur Radio and to encourage excellence, particularly in DXing and contest operating.

We have added a second 'Activity Event' to our calendar so we now run an 'LF Challenge' in March of each year and an 'HF Challenge' in September. These are very popular and the top spots are hotly contested. The idea for the HF Challenge came from member, Gary ZL2IFB (ex G4IFB) and this year, which was its first year as a CDXC sponsored event, we had a most encouraging 110 entrants.

Our sponsorship of DX-peditions continues to grow and we consider ourselves one of the major sponsors worldwide for rare DXCC's. We also make a significant donation to IREF to support island operations that are not in themselves rare DXCC's.

During the past year we have entirely re-worked our website and incorporated within it a full membership management and PayPal payment system (www.cdxc.org.uk).

It is our belief that our members are in the upper decile of activity for HF-equipped amateurs in the UK.

2 Spectrum abuse

CDXC continues to support the work done by G3WKL and other groups towards eradication of DQRM. Indeed we hosted the Kaizen event on the morning of our annual dinner in March 2010. We have also been supportive of the new DX-code of conduct www.dx-code.org and just last week agreed that it will become a condition of CDXC sponsorship for DX-peditions.

We recognise that this addresses only the education side of what might be more accurately called *Unintentional* QRM – it does very little for the *Deliberate* (i.e. malicious) QRM. This distinction was clearly noted at the Kaizen session and we urge the Spectrum and IARU Committees to continue to press for formal action to be taken against persistent offenders in all countries.

While there are no immediate threats to our HF allocation, poor behaviour on the bands will never assist our case in maintaining or increasing our spectrum allowance nor will it enhance our enjoyment of the hobby and its image with the general public.

3 PLT and other interference

This continues to be a topic of debate. Plasma TV's, PLT and 'strange noises' are reported, with PV solar panel controllers appearing for the first time this year. Clearly we must continue to push OFCOM, with its reduced resources, to support us in eradicating these problems. CDXC supports the RSGB EMC Committee in its efforts in this regard.

4 Beacons

There has been discussion on the CDXC Reflector about the utility of the Reverse Beacon Network, RBN (www.reversebeacon.net). The use of these devices is a tremendous aid to propagation and antenna tests but they differ significantly from

traditional beacons in that they are passive receivers with skimmer software running, but require the testing station to put out RF. Arguably they should not be considered beacons at all because the transmitting station should not be in 'beacon mode'.

It is hoped that the transmitted RF (which is currently must be CW) would be in the form of a 'CQ' which could generate activity on a dead band. The use of the RBN network requires no band planning as the receivers are wide-band SDR's and the transmitting station merely needs to operate within their license conditions and band plan.

This is an interesting use of SDR technology and the internet for automated dissemination of data. Hopefully it will have no adverse impact on spectrum usage.

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