

Olympics QSO Party

Following the success of the QSO party to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Society is running a similar event to commemorate the Olympics.

OBJECT. To work as many special United Kingdom O callsign amateur stations as possible, that is, callsigns beginning with GO, MO and ZO. In keeping with the previous style of event, we are asking people to log the name of the distant operator and would encourage other information to be exchanged also, such as the sender's chosen name, a real signal report, the sender's location (nearest town and/or Locator) and station equipment data.

Participation in the Olympic QSO Party is open to licensed radio amateurs in the UK and overseas.

BANDS. Any amateur band included in the RSGB band plan (www.rsgb.org/committees/spectrumforum/band-plans.php).

MODES. SSB, CW, Data (RTTY/PSK), FM or AM. Please comply with your current band plan.

VALIDITY. Contacts between 0000BST 21 July 2012 to 2359BST 9 September 2012.

EXCHANGE. Callsign, signal report, operator's name.

SCORING AND CERTIFICATE.

A certificate will be awarded to each entrant who contacts 100 or more special O callsign stations in the UK. The same O callsign may be worked once on each band and once on each mode for QSO credit.

Single mode and/or single band certificate endorsements are available to qualifying entrants.

A pdf format certificate will be e-mailed to each entrant for self-printing.

SUBMISSION. All entries shall consist of an extract from the station log showing details of the claimed QSOs: date, time (UTC), callsign of station worked, frequency/band, mode, report sent, report received, name received and any other details exchanged.

The log extract shall be submitted as an e-mail attachment in an ADIF, plain text ASCII format, MS Word/ Open Office document or a MS Excel or Open Office spreadsheet.

The entry shall be e-mailed to Qqsoparty@rsgbcc.org no later than 2359UTC on 30 September 2012. Logs e-mailed after the submission deadline will not be eligible for certificates. Please ensure a valid e-mail address is included with the log submission.

Update to Ofcom's Olympic Spectrum Plans

As reported in the July *RadCom* the Society agreed to a request from Ofcom for temporary access to limited use of certain segments of the 2m band. The formal announcement can be seen in an update to the Ofcom website (see *Websearch*, page 8) and their notice is reproduced in the box below.

Since this notice was carried on GB2RS and our website there have been a number of enquiries about the reason why the Society agreed to this request, especially as the band 144 – 146MHz is allocated to the amateur services with Primary User status.

Ofcom, as our national administrator of the ITU Radio Regulations, does have the right under those arrangements to request access of a Primary User to parts of the radio spectrum, where the intended use be other than that laid down in the Radio Regulations. Normally, this is on a fixed term and non-protected basis. A good example of where such arrangements have benefitted many UK amateurs is that we have enjoyed access to a number of channels near to 5MHz for the last ten years, where the MoD is the Primary User and no amateur band exists at ITU level. The Olympics have placed unprecedented demands on spectrum. LOCOG and Ofcom have been very accommodating in terms of our request for Special Event Stations to mark the Games, as

well as to the limitations that we have placed on their usage of 70cm during the Olympics period. This is a two-way street; we thus considered that we should show some goodwill toward those with whom we work on matters of spectrum management.



Important Update (June 2012)

Further to our previous notice regarding spectrum in the UHF range, Ofcom intends to temporarily authorise use of certain segments of the amateur 2 metre band (144-146 MHz) to which Radio Amateurs have primary access for the purpose of supporting the Games. The authorisation will be time limited for the period 27th July to 28th August 2012 only.

A block of 12.5 kHz channels has been identified and requested, ranging from 144.0125 MHz to 144.1375 MHz, excluding 144.0500 MHz (CW Calling) and 144.1000 MHz (Perseids Meteor Scatter CW Calling). Ofcom has been working with the Radio Society of Great Britain to identify spectrum that will ensure that the 2012 Games requirements can be met whilst aiming to cause minimal disruption to Amateur use of this band.

Usage of this spectrum by Games users will be in the vicinity of London Olympic venues and will be limited to handheld equipment operating on a maximum of 5 watts output.

Ofcom are aware of various amateur contests scheduled for the 4th and 7th August and will work with Game users to keep operations to a minimum on these dates.

As stated previously, Ofcom knows that the Amateur Radio community is keen to support the Games and thanks licensed operators for their co-operation during this period of exceptionally high spectrum demand.

Radio Amateur Licensees will recognise that Games users are not licensed Radio Amateurs. Licensed Amateurs will also recall that Clause 11 of Section 2 of their licence only authorises communication with other Radio Amateurs. Complying with this will ensure that optimum use can be made of scarce spectrum by both sets of users.

Ofcom would like to emphasise that use of Primary Amateur spectrum is only for the specified time period and does not constitute a change of usage.

Olympic Special Event Stations

LONDON 2012L. The Royal Borough of Greenwich will host 34 events in nine sports for the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. It is therefore fitting that England's flagship amateur radio celebration of the London Games, organised by Cray Valley Radio Society, will also be located in the Royal Borough.

With the help and support of Cray Valley RS members and the Royal Greenwich District Scouts, 2012L will be based at the Scout Activity Centre, Avery Hill Road, New Eltham, London SE9 2HE.

2012L will be active 24/7 on 1.8 – 144MHz from the afternoon of 25 July and will be open to the public daily between 10am and 4pm from 26 July until its close on 9 September. The station will also feature an exhibition and introductory talks aimed mainly at attracting newcomers to the hobby. Already invited to attend are Scout and Guide groups, Air Cadets and the Boys Brigade. For the Paralympic Games, the Radio Amateur Invalid and Blind Club and the British Wireless for the Blind Fund will also have a presence at the exhibition.

During public opening hours, members of the 2012L team will be on hand to promote amateur radio to visitors, encourage them to listen to QSOs on the headsets provided, and pass a 'greetings message'. The team will also try to ensure that any visiting licensed radio amateur who wishes to operate the 2012L station will be accommodated, although operating slots might be quite short, especially when demand is high. Outside of public hours, the 2012L team anticipate a DXpedition style operation to satisfy the desire of the world's amateur population who seek a contact with the London Olympic station.

Details of 2012L's preferred frequencies are available at the team's website www.2o12l.com, together with a log search courtesy of *Club Log*, QSL information, and much more information. You can also follow events at 2012L on Facebook and Twitter.

WALES 2012W. Barry Amateur Radio Society (BARS) is hosting the Welsh flagship station 2012W. BARS members would like to invite radio amateurs and visitors to come to Whitmore Bay, Barry Island near Cardiff. Check out www.2o12w.com for further details. Barry Amateur Radio Society would like to thank RSGB and Ofcom for their help in clearing the paperwork for this event.

The station will operate for seven weeks starting on Wednesday 25 July with the opening ceremony, with local MP, Assembly Members and VIPs joining up by radio with 2012L. The station will close on 9 September at the end of the Paralympics.

Following on from the Olympics, Barry ARS will have an 'Olympic Legacy Programme' running. This is to be in the form of an intense free training programme in the skills and technicalities of becoming a radio amateur. This training course will be ongoing and will be actively promoted across the Vale of Glamorgan. Its aim is to encourage a wide range of people to participate in this programme. This could be the elderly, or handicapped or citizens of the Vale with learning difficulties. BARS hope that with appropriate training the disadvantaged will have a chance to improve their life skills through the media of amateur radio. As a result of this legacy program built into this special event, Barry Amateur Radio Society has been lucky enough to secure a Lottery Grant.

MANCHESTER GB2012MV. Old Trafford Football Stadium is one of the venues for the Olympic Football tournament. Warrington Amateur Radio Club (WARC) in partnership with West Manchester Radio Club and South Manchester Radio and Computing Club will be using GB2012MV for both the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, operating from three venues across the region, Warrington and two in Manchester.

The station will be operating on HF, VHF and UHF and transmissions start on 25 July, the start of the football tournament and end transmissions on 9 September, the closing ceremony of the Paralympics.

PORTLAND GB2012OSP. As *RadCom* went to press, we learned that GB2012OSP (Olympic Sailing Portland) is planned for operation from Fancy's Family Community Farm on Portland Heights. The station is being organised by Dave Aitch, G1OCN and has free public access and a good view of the sailing events. Details will be on QRZ.com.

ESSEX GB1HF. South Essex Amateur Radio Society (SEARS) will be operating GB1HF close to the 5km Olympic mountain biking course at Hadleigh Farm in South Essex. The station is located opposite the venue at the bottom of Benfleet Downs and will be operated at various times and days on several bands and modes from 27 July to 28 August.

WEBSEARCH

Band Plans: www.rsgb.org/spectrumforum/bandplans
 Flagships: www.2o12l.com, www.2o12w.com
 Manchester: <http://gb2012mv.warc.org.uk/>
 Hadleigh Farm: www.southessex-ars.co.uk/olympic2012.html