

MEETING NOTES OF THE SPECTRUM FORUM MEETING HELD AT LAMBDA HOUSE ON SATURDAY 10 JUNE 2006.

Present

C Thomas	G3PSM	Chairman
J Butcher	G3LAS	Chiltern Dx Club
P Chadwick	G3RZP	RSGB Technical Consultant
J Gould	G3WKL	RSGB HF Manager
M Gregory	G4LCH	RSGB Data Communications Committee
T Groves	G4KUJ	RAEN
T Hawkings	M5AKA	AMSAT-UK
PA Kirby	G0TWW	RSGB General Manager
J McCullagh	G14BWM	RSGB Repeater Management Committee
P. Gaskell	G4MWO	RSGB RCVS National Coordinator
M Ninam	G6JYB	RSGB Microwave Manager (Desig)
D Wilson	M0OBW	RSGB HF Convention Chairman

The Chairman welcomed the members of the RSGB Spectrum Forum to the meeting on what was one of the hottest days of the year to date. He was however a little disappointed at the large number of apologies that had been received.

ITEM 1.00 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

H Jones, G0MGX	BARTG
I Phillips, G0RDI	RSGB DCC
M Dixon, G3PFR	RSGB Microwave Manager
M Harrison, G3USF	RSGB Propagation Studies Committee
G Shirville, G3VZV	BATC
P Barville, G3XJS	G-QRP Club
D Field, G3XTT	RSGB Radio Sport
D Lawley G4BUO	FOC
C Clarke, G1GQJ	RAEN
D. Butler, G4ASR	RSGB VHF/UHF Manager

ITEM 2.00 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Approved

ITEM 3.00 MATTERS ARISING

Nil

ITEM 4.00 SPECTRUM REPORTS

HF

The Chairman briefed the meeting on the IARU Region 1 Conference.

The conference was deemed a success in as much as the new HF Bandplan had been agreed. There was agreement on several Emergency Centres of activity. This was a global agreement and not restricted to IARU Region 1. These were not spot frequencies but start points.

7MHz - Countries were still coming on stream. The latest was Israel. The Netherlands now have the allocation and it is rumoured that DARC will announce that Germany has the allocation at the Freidrichshafen Hamfest.

The RSGB is in continuing negotiation with Ofcom regarding the allocation centred around 500KHz there has been some progress and it is hoped that we will get an allocation between 501 and 504 KHz.

136KHz still continues to be affected by the LORAN C trial. It is thought that the transmitters for this system will shortly be moving from Rugby to Anthorn. The RSGB through the office of the General Manager continues to be in dialog with Trinity House who is conducting the trial.

The meeting was briefed on the possible introduction of a communications loop system on the European rail network to enable communications between track and train. This will be a spread spectrum system transmitting between 9-18 MHz. It is not likely that this system will be introduced into the UK rail network. Interest at the moment is centred on the Benelux countries. Broadcasters, NATO and the Amateur Radio Community in Europe are opposed to the introduction of the system.

There was some discussion on the level of HF Contesting. The RSGB had recently carried out a survey of the number of contests all levels HF, VHF and Microwave. There is no doubt that as contesting becomes more popular then the level of complaints continues to rise, mainly from older amateurs who do not take part in contesting. The main areas of complaint are, the misuse of the bands and contesters ignoring band plans. The RSGB review continues although a decision has been made by the RSGB Board to create a Sports Radio Forum under the chairmanship of Don Field, G3XTT to look at the whole contest operation in the UK. The principle complaint within the UK amateur radio community was centred on European contest activity, despite some representations through the IARU Region 1 HF Committee there has been very little improvement in operating standards or procedures. The Chairman told the meeting that the IARU Region 1 HF Contest Guidelines were contained in the HF Managers Handbook which is currently under review. Within Region 1 the Region 1 HF committee is responsible for the management of contesting.

John Butcher, G3LAS representing the Chiltern Dx club told the meeting that it was possible to do some work on the scheduling of contesting however there would be no support from the contesting community for a reduction in contests. No decision on a way forward was made.

The meeting briefly discussed the problem of DXpedition frequencies being deliberately jammed. This was an ongoing problem. Only positive publicity before and during DXpeditions could have any affect on this. There will always be individual amateurs who will want to spoil it for the majority.

VHF

No report was submitted.

There was a brief discussion on Amateur Radio involvement in the London Olympics 2012. Peter Kirby, G0TWW told the meeting that the RSGB had been in contact with the various organising committees and that discussions will be ongoing.

MICROWAVE

Murray Niman, spoke to his detailed and previously circulated report.

He told the committee that the Microwave community were at the front line of threats to their spectrum allocations from commercial interest.

1.3 GHz – Threat from airport radars,
2.3 GHz – Narrow band segment safe, 2.4GHz not so safe.
3.4GHz – Threat from UWB's
5.7GHz – Threat from fixed wireless access. In future operations AMSAT-DL SAT 2008 followed by Eagle will use 5GHz.
10GHz – Spectrum auctions shortly plus restrictions placed on the band by the MoD
24GHz – Some threats although there is some new amateur activity.
47GHz and 76GHz – Ofcom are considering making everything above 30GHz licence exempt!

DATA COMMS

As per report

REPEATERS

Although the Fylingdales moratorium has been lifted no Notices of Variation had been cleared or issued to date. No other major issues.

PROPOGATION STUDIES

As per report

5MHz WG

The MoD had agreed to extend the 5MHz experiment/study until June 2010. Two new channels will be available. Lots of propagation data had been collected but as to date none of this had been analysed. It has been proposed that one of the new channels be allocated to a near Continent Internet Gateway for Emergency communications.

ITEM 6.00 FORUM MEMBERS REPORTS

AMSAT UK

The main concern was the continuing block on Foundation licence holders having the opportunity to operate satellites. The meeting was informed that although the RSGB in the past had not been in favour of Foundation licence holders having satellite access this was not the case now and that the RSGB Board IS supportive of a lifting of this restriction. The RSGB are currently in discussions with Ofcom and if there is to be a change then it is expected that this will come with the introduction of the new online licence.

BARTG

No report submitted

BATC

As per report – No comments

CDXC

John Butcher, G3LAS told the meeting that following a relaxation of the rules of entry the membership of the Chiltern Dx Club had risen to 800. The main concerns of the club members were an increase in bad operating procedures on the HF bands and deliberate QRM.

FOC

No report submitted

G-QRP

As per report – No comments

RAYNET

As per report – Some discussion on spot frequency allocations.

UKMWG

Murray Niman, told the meeting that Ofcom are considering changing the way that Beacon's are administered from "clearances" to Notice of Variation. It was agreed that the UKuG would update the RSGB HQ on Microwave beacon information.

UKSMG

No report submitted

OTHER ISSUES

Dave Wilson, M0OBW briefed the meeting on the preparations for HFC 2006 which will take place at the Worth Hotel, Gatwick between the, 6-8 October 2006.

There was some discussion on how the HFC could be expanded to cover all spectrum interests.

BR68

The Chairman briefed the meeting on the current state of the BR68 rewrite. He told the forum that once an agreed first draft had been received from Ofcom it would be circulated to the forum members for comment/input.

WRC07

The Chairman briefed the meeting on the current position regarding the preparations for WRC07.

ITEM 6.00 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Paul Gaskell asked if it was being considered to expand the 6M band up to 54MHz. This would have the support of all Emergency groups. The Chairman advised that it would be taken up with Ofcom.

ITEM 7.00 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be announced