

Notes of RSGB Spectrum Managers Meeting held on Saturday 13th January 2007

Those present were Colin Thomas G3PSM, Spectrum Director and Chairman, John Gould G3WKL, RSGB HF manager, David Butler G4ASR, RSGB VHF/UHF Manager, and Murray Niman G6JYB, RSGB Microwave Manager.

1. **Apologies** – None – everyone in attendance..

2. **Notes of meetings of 28th January 2006 and 10th June 2006**

The notes of the 28th January meeting had already been accepted via email and were on the website.

The minutes of the 10th June 2006 meetings had been delayed but after a number of amendments the draft minutes were agreed and can be placed on the website. (attached)

3. **Matters Arising**

28th January 2006

David Butler G4ASR stated that he had not contacted the Chairman of the HFC but from speaking with contacts within the VHF/UHF fraternity he felt there was insufficient interest at the present time to make an official VHF presence at HFC a viable proposition.

John Gould stated that he had not yet obtained the statistics for usage of the Spectrum Forum website. **Action: G3WKL**

The Spectrum Director had informally approached MOD regarding the power limits on 4 metres but they had been unwilling to change the status quo.

All other action points had either been completed or were ongoing.

4. **Spectrum Matters**

4.1 The HF report is attached, and discussion focused on 136kHz, 500kHz and need to be prepared for band planning issues raised by the problems reported on GB2RS' use of MT63.

It was agreed that the ongoing problem at 136kHz from the Rugby LORAN-C transmitter would be raised with Ofcom with a view of putting more pressure on the operator to reduce the level of interference. **Action: G3PSM**

4.2 The VHF Manager again expressed his concern regarding the delays to 70cm Special Research Permit applications. It was agreed this should be taken up with Ofcom. **Action: G4ASR**

It was also agreed to approach Ofcom regarding the 4 metre power limit. **Action: G4ASR**

The VHF Managers report is also attached.

4.3 Microwaves

The Microwave report is attached.

5. IARU Region 1 Interim Meeting

A total of 16 RSGB papers, 4 HF and 12 VHF/UHF/Microwave, had been submitted to the IARU Region 1 Interim Meeting to be held in February 2007. Of these only one (C5 from Amsat UK) was considered to be of a controversial nature. It was agreed that the paper should remain as no policy changes could be made at an Interim Meeting.

It was also thought that the subject of Digital Voice would again be raised. Currently C4 and C5 have completely opposing views on the status of this mode and where in the bandplans it should be placed. It was agreed that 'corridor' discussions needs to take place in Vienna to try and clarify the situation.

Action: All

With reference to the paper "Preserving the HF Noise Floor" it was agreed that the general issue of defending the noise floor might equally apply at higher frequencies. It was agreed to see if the paper could be considered by C5 in the context of that committee's spectrum interest.

Action: G6JYB & G4ASR

6. Beacons

6.1 UK Beacon Co-ordination

Murray was now coordinating the UK Beacon programme and was the established Single Point Of Contact (SPOC) between the Society and Ofcom.

6.2 40 MHz

A previous application for a 40 MHz beacon frequency made just before the RA/Ofcom changeover had apparently fallen through the cracks and not reached MoD. It was agreed to re-submit this application.

Action: G6JYB

6.3 GB3RAL – 70 MHz

A similar situation to 40 MHz where the original application had gone missing. A new application from beacon keeper Mike Willis G0MJW had now been received and would be forwarded to Ofcom.

Action: G6JYB

6.4 Move of UK UHF Beacons to IARU Region 1 recommended freqs

Yet another item that had been lost in the system. Most Region 1 UHF beacons with the exception of the UK were now on the new recommended frequencies. It was agreed to approach MoD via Ofcom for their agreement to move the four existing operational beacons.

Action: G4ASR

7. 2012 Olympics - Spectrum Requirements.

It was revealed that the person within Ofcom responsible for establishing Spectrum Requirements for the 2012 Olympics is Steve Roper. As Steve is a regular participant in the RSGB/Ofcom forum we are hopeful that good liaison will prevent any nasty surprises.

8. Spectrum Forum Website

As part of an ongoing RSGB 'Corporate Image' programme it is anticipated that the Spectrum Forum website will eventually adopt the Society artwork. A number of committee websites have already been brought in house and the change will probably take place within the next 12 months. It has been confirmed that ftp access will be permitted for administrators and contributors where required. G3WKL to liaise with Lynnette Ranger at HQ.

Action: G3WKL

9. Forum Membership

G4ASR queried how the membership of the Spectrum Forum reflector was composed. It was explained that the Spectrum Forum membership was open to all Special Interest Groups with spectrum interests, however it was appreciated that some of the members were a little more vociferous than others. Conversely some members are only heard from once or twice a year.

There was also some discussion regarding succession of current post holders when this becomes necessary.

10. AOB

Both G4ASR and G6JYB commented on the number of apparently underused packet frequencies especially on 4M and 23cm. G3PSM explained that re-farming is being investigated at 70cm but he would bring the other two bands to the attention of DCC.

Action: G3PSM

11. Date of next meeting

Full Spectrum Forum meeting.

Note: This has now been fixed for June 9th 2007.