

Spectrum Forum Meeting – Saturday 16th February 2008

The Mansion, Bletchley Park, MK3 6EB

Item 1: Apologies

None.

The meeting was fully attended by Colin, G3PSM (Chair), John, G3WKL (HF Manager), David, G4ASR (VHF Manager) and Murray, G6JYB (Microwave Manager)

Item 2: Agenda

Amendment to the date for the Region 1 Conference

Item 3: Notes of meetings of January 13th 2007 and June 9th 2007

The notes were approved.

Item 4: Matters arising

- John, G3WKL, reported that he had looked into web usage statistics but had not found an easy way of extracting the data.
- LORAN-C interference to 136kHz; matter ongoing with Ofcom.
- Ofcom action on 70MHz Special Research Permits and power limits was ongoing.
- Digital voice was not specifically discussed at the IARU-R1 Interim Conference. At VHF/UHF/microwave the developing position is that digital voice and TV are likely to be segregated from the narrow band DX, etc. Whereas, at HF the current position is that future DV allocation would be treated as an allocation within the bandwidths allocated to digital modes.
- The Interim IARU Region 1 Conference went well from the RSGB perspective. The paper concerned with the erosion of the noise floor, discussed in C4, did not get raised in C5.
- The 40 and 70MHz beacon frequency actions were closed
- The action on coordinating the movement of four 70cm beacons was outstanding. It was agreed to move them to the new frequencies.
- The move of the Spectrum Forum website to within the RSGB domain was complete
- The re-use of underused packet frequencies was ongoing.

Item 5: WRC-07 Outcomes

- **HF**
 - 136kHz changes to band plan. A proposal to reflect this change onto the IARU Region 1 Band Plan had been drafted and approved by RSGB.
 - 500kHz preliminary exchange of usage information had been passed to Paul Rinaldo, W4RI. A brief on the background to the current experimental access and licensing had been drafted for IARU representatives in response to a question raised at CEPT WGRA; the issue had been passed to CEPT WGFM.
- **VHF/UHF**
 - Nothing to report.
- **Microwave**
 - 2.3 and 3.4GHz now had new mobiles 'designations'
 - 275GHz and above – question as to whether it needs regulating at WRC-11

Item 6: Spectrum Matters

- **HF**
 - **30m** – question of reviewing IARU policy on its usage. Don, G3XTT, had raised the matter at the Spectrum Forum's summer meeting. The issues are that whilst still a shared band it is underused during weekdays. It was agreed to contact Dennis Green, ZS4BS the South African Radio League HF Manager, to establish their experiences of use of SSB. **Action G3WKL**
 - **WRC-15**
 - Possibly consider expansion at 10MHz, because of lack of success at 7MHz and 5MHz, as a future agenda item.
 - **5MHz**
 - Following the unsuccessful result at WRC-07, the matter was being taken up with CEPT WGFM.
- **VHF/UHF**
 - The question as to whether we should specifically mention AM frequencies in the band plan was raised. It was felt that sufficient clarity was given to AM usage within the notes to the Band Plan. No further amendment to the Band Plan was therefore envisaged.
 - 40 and 60MHz VHF Beacons: in 2009 we need to ask for an extension as they only have a 2-year licence (from Spring 2007). **Action G4ASR**
 - CEPT WGFM meeting regarding 70MHz Amateur allocation in the European (ECA) tables was discussed. COMREG have just submitted a paper to clarify this matter, suggesting a footnote in the table.
- **UHF**
 - Discussions on 70cm were still ongoing with MoD.
 - A proposal from Saudi Arabia at WRC-07 for 430 – 440MHz as a global fixed service band was fought off.

- **Microwaves & VHF/UHF Beacons**

- Beacons – it was noted by the meeting that a good service on approving new applications was being received from Ofcom.
- Liaison with mobile service staff at Ofcom has improved; the use of sensible ERP proposals in recent requests may have helped.
- 23cm continues to be the most challenging band to obtain clearances for repeaters and beacons.
- A request for linearly transverting 7MHz to 10.45GHz, for local coverage, had been received. This was seen to be an innovative idea in terms of spectrum management, and was thus being given careful consideration.

Item 7: IARU Region 1 Conference – Cavtat, Croatia, 16-21 Nov 2008

- **RSGB Policy**

- It was agreed to use the Spectrum Forum Meeting in the summer to formulate RSGB Policy on matters that are being raised in papers being submitted for the Conference. **Action G3PSM**
- Consider formalising the approving of papers by the RSGB Board for IARU Region 1 Interim Conferences. **Action G3PSM**

- **HF**

- Papers already approved
 - 40m band plan for 2009
 - Combating Deliberate QRM
 - 136kHz Band Plan changes
 - HF Beacon Definition
- Other options
 - HF Spectrum Management and Contests
 - Review of 30m Band
 - Policy on non-proprietary protocols, e.g. Pactor III, might be appropriate for C3. **Action G3WKL**

- **VHF/UHF**

- The following papers were in draft
 - 144MHz removal of the EME-exclusive designation for sub-band 144.000 – 144.035MHz.
 - 144MHz Change old usage of 144.160 – 144.180MHz, deleting usage of FSK441.
- Other options
 - MGM vs MDM – normally regulators define modes at the point of generation and thus we ought not to propose a change of definition.
 - Submit the definition of an HF beacon for VHF/UHF usage.
 - Info paper on 70MHz, to inform and encourage national societies to make more use of the band.
 - Echolink access on 2m and 70cm. This is in response to action placed upon DARC, UBA, VERON and RSGB at Interim meeting, Vienna 2007. The view is to standardise the protocol. It was decided that we should take the lead on this matter, as the UK as a well-established usage of Internet Linking, etc.
 - 40/60MHz beacon paper

- **Microwave**

- Papers already completed
 - IARU-R1 VHF Handbook Update for beacons
 - 23cm Narrowband Image and Data
 - Extension of microwave beacon sub-bands for local beacons
- Papers in hand
 - 3.4GHz EME and impact on band plan
 - Mandate to re-write the Microwave Handbook on satellite services
 - Future options for 23cm – currently awaiting comments
 - Spectrum requirements

Item 8: 2012 Olympics – Spectrum requirements

G3PSM commented that from the recent Ofcom/RSGB Forum it is clear that the main interest is on 2m, mostly within the London area and possible some national channels for walkie-talkies. He understood that this would be used by what might be termed “legacy equipment”. It was agreed that at the appropriate time the following would be invited by Colin, G3PSM to participate in the ongoing discussions: David, G4ASR, John McCullagh, GI4BWM, Iain Phillips, G0RDI, Colin Dalziel, GM8LBC.

On UHF, the issue was less clear as this was managed by MoD so information was not available via our meetings with Ofcom. The current Ofcom consultation was also not that clear on specific microwave spectrum for wireless cameras.

Item 9: Website

John, G3WKL raise a concern that whilst the Spectrum Forum’s website had been moved successfully to within the RSGB domain, there were some issues with structure. Some of the items were too far down in terms of clicks from the home page. It was agreed in principle that the main link to the Spectrum Forum home page should be a primary link on the RSGB home page and that non-spectrum management matters should be re-located to Operating Links. **Action G3WKL & G3PSM**

Item 10: AOB

Nil

Item 11: Date of next meetings(s)

Full Forum Meeting to be held on Saturday 20th September 2007. Venue to be confirmed.