



Contest Committees Report to Spectrum Forum

October 2016

Overview

As part of the implementation of the recommendations of the President's Review of Contesting the Board decided split the Contest Committee into three Committees with effect from 1st January 2016. This develops the concept put forward in the Review of having spectrum representatives within the committee, and is intended to improve accountability and communications.

The three committees are the VHF Contest Committee (VHFCC), the HF Contest Committee (HFCC) and the Contest Support Committee (CSC). A new Terms of Reference that reflected the new structure/changes have been written and is available via the RSGB website. As an interim measure Andy, G4PIQ was appointed as acting-Chair of the VHFCC, Nick, G4FAL as acting-Chair of HFCC and Ian, G0FCT as acting-Chair of CSC. Subsequently, all of these acting-Chairs were appointed as the Chairs of the HFCC, VHFCC and CSC respectively.

The two 'spectrum' contest committees (HFCC and VHFCC) are responsible for their contest strategy for the annual RSGB Contest Calendar (balance of contests, contester development, etc.), rules, adjudication principles, and their development through consultation. These two committees are also responsible for communication for contest matters in their part of the radio spectrum. The CSC is responsible for providing effective IT support, adjudication, Special Contest Call administration, trophy management and communication that is related to these functions.

Activities

During 2016, the members of the HFCC have been rewriting the RSGB HF contest rules to simplify them and to encourage participants to log contest exchange accurately.

The Chair of the VHFCC has convened a separate working party with participants drawn from members of the VHFCC, CSC and active contesters from the outer reaches of the UK & CD to investigate how to make the scoring scheme used in the UK Activity Contest (UKAC) more equitable for all parts of the UK & CD.

Both the HFCC and VHFCC have issued several focused surveys (using SurveyMonkey) during 2016 to consult on various contest rule related issues including the UKAC scoring scheme and the HF rules rewrite.

This year, two Contest Forums (HF and VHF) were run at the RSGB Convention. Most of the discussion in the VHF Contest Forum was about the UKAC Scoring System Review being conducted by Chair of the VHFCC. It was also reported to the forum that entry levels are continuing to slowly increase in the vast majority of the RSGB VHF contests.



In the HF Contest Forum, Nick G4FAL (Chair of HFCC) presented the results from the HFCC Field Days Survey, the resulting Field Day Rules for 2017, the results from the Contest Questions survey, the draft HF Contest Rules for 2017 and details of the a competition to define a new series of contests to replace the Autumn 80m Sprint contests. Unfortunately, the allocated time slot at the convention proved to be too short and only the Field Day survey and Field Day Rules for 2017 were covered in detail.

The discussions at both forums was 'lively' and somewhat 'heated' at times.

Special Contest Calls

On the 29th February 2016, the RSGB took over responsibility for the processing of Special Contest Call (SCC) applications and the issuing of SCC Notice of Variation (NoV) on behalf of Ofcom. The Chair of Contest Support Committee is responsible for this activity.

So far, 122 applications have been processed resulting in the issuing of 30 new NoV and 92 renewal NoV. 46 currently valid SCC NoV still remain to be renewed. All of these 46 SCC NoV expire on 31st December 2016. Up to two reminders have been sent to SCC holders that have not applied for their NoV to be renewed. A third and final reminder will be sent shortly to all holders that still have not applied for their SCC to be renewed.

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Chairman, RSGB Contest Support Committee