



## RSGB 2016 Spectrum Forum Meeting Minutes

Holiday Inn Garden Court Hotel, Sandy, Saturday 29th October 2016

### Present

Murray Niman G6JYB (Spectrum Forum Chairman), Ian Greenshields G4FSU (HF Manager), John Regnault G4SSWX (VHF/UHF Manager), Barry Lewis G4SJH (Microwave Manager), Mark G0MGX AROS/IW

### Also Present

Nick Henwood (President, morning session), Robin Page Jones G3JWI, Colin Thomas G3PSM Steve Thomas M1ACB (GM), Robin Page Jones G3WJI (RSGB-EMCC), Ed Taylor G3SQX (RSGB-CSC), Noel Matthews G8GTZ (for BATC and RSGB-ETCC), Steve Nichols, G0KYA (PSC)

Trevor Hawkins M5AKA (AMSAT-UK), Ian Brothwell G4EAN (BARTG), Bob Bagwell G4HZV (FOC), John Worsnop G4BAO (UKuG), Chris Deacon G4IFX (UKSMG), Ron Swinburne M0WSN (VMARS)

### 1. Appointment of meeting secretary

Steve Thomas and Murray Niman took notes

### 2. Apologies

Graham Murchie G4FSG – (Board Link), Graham Shirville (BATC) – Noel G8GTZ covering John McCullagh (ETCC) - Noel G8GTZ covering, Cathy Clarke (RAYNET AGM), Mark Marsden (CDXC), Peter Chadwick G3RZP, Phil Lawson G4FCL, Ian Pawson (RSGB-CSC) – Ed Taylor G3SQX covering, Trevor Day (UKSMG) – Chris Deacon G4IFX covering, Dominic Baines M1KTA (G-QRP), Colin Richards (EMCC) - Robin Page Jones covering

### 3. Terms of Reference

ToR Noted – A reminder that the RSGB Code of Conduct applied and that there was a standard RSGB volunteers pack available

### 4. Actions arising from 2015 minutes

All had been completed as follows:-

- 6.2 RAYNET 7.6MHz Talk Thru channel direction to be reviewed as part of the 2016 Band Plan updates process - *Revised in 2016 band plan*
- 7.6 Review AM note – as part of the 2016 updates - *Revised in 2016 band plan*
- 8 Draft a IARU Vienna paper on the 10 MHz band Ian – *Paper VIE16\_C4\_05 submitted*



## 5 Spectrum Reports

### 5.1 HF

Ian G4FSU commented that following the small allocation of 15kHz at WRC-15 (which we do not full have access to in the UK) there was unfinished business on 5MHz. Some effort on 1.8 MHz harmonisation was also considered desirable.

### 5.2 VHF/UHF

John G4SWX expressed his concerns regarding the rise in the VHF noise floor rise. He was also keen to increase activity in 70cm – and indeed a current RSGB membership offer includes a free 70cm BF888 handheld. Serviceability and updates to VHF beacons were also a current interest.

### 5.3 Microwave

Barry Lewis G4SJH was welcomed as the new RSGB Microwave Manager. Current focus included the 5 GHz and primary 47 GHz bands as these were under pressure from national and international issues related to Wi-Fi expansion and future 5G mobile broadband

### 5.4 AROS

As is well known, Ofcom prioritise certain categories. There has been an ongoing dialogue on enforcement priorities and persistent issues. He mentioned there was a strong focus on not aggravating or interacting with offenders as this causes considerable complexity. Recent work has highlighted out-of-band 5MHz JT65 operations, but this can more broadly occur with other data modes and frequencies – a RadCom article was likely

### 5.5 Intruder Watch

Mark G0MGX had recently visited Ofcom Baldock to discuss the Intruder Watch process

## 6 RSGB Committee Reports

### 6.1 Electromagnetic Compatibility Committee (EMCC)

A discussion on 'Harmful interference' and noise floor occurred. An ongoing concern is VDSL which unlike PLT is not notched. The evolution to G-fast will take its impact all the way to VHF. An emerging new technology is Wireless Power Transfer (WPT) – see later

### 6.2 Emergency Communications Committee (ECC)

See the joint report from ECC and RAYNET. Recent work on surveying relevant radio technologies and impending changes to the Emergency Services Network (succeeding Tetra) were of particular technical interest, whilst the ongoing 're-unification' of the organisation is also ongoing.

### 6.3 Emerging Technology Coordination Committee (ETCC)

Frequency clearances in 23cm remain problematic. Growth in Digital Voice has continued. A phased approach was about to be taken for the 3-year renewals of repeater and beacon NoVs which fall due in March/April 2017

### 6.4 Contest Support Committee (CSC)

From a spectrum point of view, it was noted that since 29<sup>th</sup> Feb-2016, Short Contest Calls (SCC) are now processed by RSGB on behalf of Ofcom

## 6.5 Propagation Studies Committee (PSC)

The PSC highlighted that there was a vacancy for a VHF expert on the RSGB website. They also indicated concerns regarding the state of UK beacons on 5MHz, 70 MHz and the GB3RAL cluster

**Action: 5MHz and VHF beacon systems to be reviewed**

## 7. Group Reports

### 7.1 AMSAT-UK

The great effort and success around the Tim Peake mission and schools contacts was noted. An RSGB request was made for a decent information paper on Geo-sats for the forthcoming IARU Conference. Both AMSAT-UK and BATC have interests in Es'hail-2, although spectrum allocations for all the geos are secondary. A 2019/20 prospect of a lunar communications pathfinder mission (perhaps using JT modes) was mentioned.

### 7.2 BARTG

They regretted that (unlike RSGB) not all contest rules stress bandplan compliance some are so big it would be difficult – an ongoing issue

BARTG had also recently taken advantage of the RSGB web facilities for a SIG page:-

<http://rsgb.org/main/clubs/special-interest-groups/british-amateur-radio-teledata-group-bartg/>

### 7.3 BATC

The availability of 146-147 MHz was generating further progress. Equipment development included a starter kit based on a Raspberry Pi. At higher frequencies there had been pioneering 134 GHz ATV usage

### 7.4 CDXC

See report - Nothing to add other than their concerns re VDSL noise

### 7.5 FOC

As per their report, FOC promote the DX Code-of Conduct and are also concerned regarding noise floor issues. Bob Bagwell G4HZV indicated he plans to retire as their representative.

*PMN: Iain Kelly M0PCB is the new FOC rep.*

### 7.6 G-QRP

Expanding on their report, Dom M1KTA explained that QRP CoAs are not respected, particular by DXpeditions in Region-3

### 7.7 RAYNET

See joint report with ECC and 6.2. Cathy Clark G1GQJ had apologised as she was going to be busy at the RAYNET AGM

### 7.8 UK Microwave Group (UKuG)

UKuG had submitted a full report. John G4BAO also said he had been impressed by the rapid processing and approval of the 24 GHz GB3PKT beacon compared to other bands. An advocate of social media (esp Twitter), he was keen on ideas for bring more people onto microwaves.

### 7.9 UK Six Metre Group (UKSMG)

The UKSMG report showed a continuing healthy interest in the band. A discussion on the 50 MHz beacon changes indicated that PI-4 upgrades were giving promising results but more was needed.

### 7.10 The Four Metres Website (70MHz.org)

No report but the concern on 4m beacons from earlier had been noted

### 7.11 VMARS

As per their report 'Intruders' in 80m were discussed

## 8. IARU Region-1 2017 General Conference

Murray gave a presentation on the timeline and initial topics we may be proposing across HF (C4), VHF/Microwave(C5) and EMC (C7). RSGB will be pushing changes particularly in C5, and consider its position on other matter including Budget(C2) and General Policy (C3)

The process for topics/drafts had started at:-

<http://rsgb.org/main/rsqb-consultations/iaru-consultations/>

It was also considered important that interim changes agreed or 'piloted' at the 2016 Vienna meeting are also endorsed and not backtracked.

**Action: Members were asked for comments and proposals**

*PMN: Well over 20 papers were submitted across all groups in April*

## 9. WRC-19 Topics Look-ahead

In another presentation, some agenda items were highlighted including:

- 50-54 MHz in Region-1
- Wireless Power Transfer (WPT)
- 5GHz expansion, 5G Mobile, >275GHz

Additional background on these are on the Special Focus section at <http://rsgb.org/wrc-19/>

RSGB is able to participate in the Ofcom UK Delegation, for CEPT Project Team D (PTD) which covers 50 MHz, 5GHz and WPT. A report from the first PTD meeting in September was made available

## 10 Forum Structure

Members were asked to consider if any fresh faces were needed.

## 11. AoB

None.

It was also indicated that having updated them after Vienna, that 2017 Band plan changes will be minimal, but then we need to see what the Region-1 Conference will affect for 2018

## 12. Date of Next Meeting

Keeping clear of Bonfire Night and clock changes - Saturday October 28<sup>th</sup> 2017

## Actions Summary

- a) 5MHz & VHF Beacons - G6JYB
- b) IARU Region-1 Papers - All