



RSGB 2018 Spectrum Forum Meeting Minutes

Civil Service Club, London, Saturday 27th October 2018

Present:-



1 Meeting Secretary

By popular request, Steve Thomas M1ACB took notes

2 Apologies

Cathy Clark (RAYNET-UK), Dean Saxton G4WQI (FOC – covered by Fred Handscombe G4BWP), Colin Richards G3YCR, Graham Shirville G3VZV, Robin Page Jones G3JWI, Julian Gannoway G3YGF, Colin Thomas G3PSM, Mark Marsden G4AXX (CDXC), Andrew Barrett G8DOR (ETCC – covered by Noel Matthews G8GTZ, BATC), Trevor M5AKA (AMSAT-UK)

3 Terms of Reference & Organisation Matters

It was noted that the current ToR along with the IARU Committee were potentially subject to change.

The change from AROS to OAS (Operating Advisory Service) was explained

The recent appointment of a new Honorary Officer (Simon Taylor MW0NWM) for closer links with Nationally Affiliated Groups was mentioned – contact: sig.manager@rsgb.org.uk



4 Actions arising from 2017 meeting

None outstanding

5 Spectrum Reports

In general reports were taken as read to save time. Key points were noted as follows:-

5.1 HF

Ian G4FSU noted that band plans were now quite well aligned in Region-1 and Region-2. However significant work remained in Region-3, who currently do not have a very detailed or conventional format.

Operation on 5MHz was discussed. Queries were raised on the QRP frequency alignment. More seriously there seemed to be an increase in out-of-band occurrences associated with the rise in FT8 activity as the UK segments do not include the full WRC-15 band (and are unlikely to change).

Actions:

- **HF Manager to draft firm reminder re 5MHz Operation within all relevant Licence Conditions for use by RadCom and news/online media**
- **HF Manager to liaise with G-QRP re guidance/changes with respect to future UK 5MHz operating frequencies in time for the 2019 RSGB Band Plan**

5.2 VHF

John G4SWX referred to the highlights in his report. Recent successes had been improvements to the SRP process and the move of 71 MHz access from SRP to a self-service NoV. The latter change has successfully spurred activity and results by BATC. Other results from RBDATV developments had been well-received in a presentation to Ofcom. The numbers of 71 and 146 MHz NoVs were noted.

An ongoing concern however was the fragmentation in Digital Voice modes which effectively is thinning activity and is considered to be unwelcoming for new licensees. – see also Item-10 re Modes.

5.3 Microwave

Barry G4SJH commented that several bands had some pressure, keeping him busy and referred to in his report. This included the recent Ofcom auction of 2.3 and 3.4GHz indicating how valuable some spectrum can be for commercial use.

The headlines associated with innovation were well regarded beyond the small numbers of amateurs involved – such as recent developments at 288 GHz (which coincides with WRC-19 Agenda Item 1.15).

5.5 Intruder Watch

There had been an increase in reports submitted to the IARU-R1 Monitoring System, as well as some success via Ofcom regarding HF intruders.

The issue of identification/triage was raised in the meeting – as issues can fall across OAS vs IW vs EMC. Improved guidance for this is a recognised issue and is expected to be developed.

Ongoing problems with licence-exempt crane collision systems in 70cm and pirate radio harmonics affecting 2m were also discussed. IW were aware (they are not just HF focused).

6 Committee Reports

6.1 EMC

In addition to its ongoing work on VDSL, significant effort was also going into WPT-EV (wireless charging for electric vehicles) in conjunction with IARU and WRC-19 AI-9.1.6

6.2 ETCC

Ongoing NoV demand remains high and some process had been updated for GDPR. A new Ofcom approach to 23cms was noted – which had succeeded in quicker clearances of some TV repeaters where no PU feedback had been received, but had resulted in serious setbacks for anything that incurs an objection

6.3 Contest Committees

CSC continues to process Short Contest Callsigns. It was noted that the latest VHF scoring system seems to have settled down. The state of the new IARU-C5 Contest sub-group was briefly discussed.

6.4 Propagation Studies

Changes for the propagation tables in RadCom are currently being discussed. Steve apologised that he couldn't arrange more sunspots!

7 Group Reports

7.1 AMSAT UK

The prospect of the Es'hail2 launch is nearing. This geostationary satellite is expected to cover a wide area with amateur 2.4 / 10 GHz transponders. A provisional frequency usage plan is in the annex to the AMSAT-UK report.

7.2 BARTG

See report

7.3 BATC

Innovative developments continue across the bands and BATC had overseen record UK participation in the IARU-R1 TV contest. 5.6 GHz interest was ramping up based on low cost video senders. Meanwhile for DATV, over 200 Portsdown kits had been sold and distances of over 200km are often achieved in the 146-147 MHz band.

7.4 CDXC – no report

Mark G4AAX had recently indicated his retirement as CDXC's forum representative

7.5 FOC

Were also concerned re FT8

7.6 G-QRP

See Report. See also the discussion re UK 60m QRP operating frequencies



7.7 RAYNET-UK

Report and activity levels noted. (Apologies received as it is also the RAYNET-UK AGM)

7.8 UK Microwave Group

See detailed report. The opportunity was taken to praise the recent GnuRadio course at the RSGB Convention led by John G4BAO. This had been well-received and the meeting (which include a couple of course attendees) felt it should be repeated. Suggestions that video and other material would be beneficial were made to show to a wider audience that amateur radio can be innovative

7.9 UKSMG

UKSMG was grateful for the current WRC-19 effort and indicated it had put its own robust response into the Ofcom WRC-19 consultation

7.10 70MHz – no report

7.11 VMARS

The report included comments regarding signal bandwidths caused a discussion on the differences between US vs EU standards.

8A Band Plans in 2019

Numerous changes from the 2017 IARU Region-1 General Conference at Landshut and some from ETCC had been implemented in January, all of which seemed to have gone smoothly. No further IARU changes had occurred since. Therefore for the January 2019 edition, only a couple of housekeeping issues had been noted so far:-

- 144 MHz – removal of old microwave talk back from 144.175
- 144 MHz – channel numbering (editorial fix V48 vs RV48)
- 5 MHz – Review UK QRP frequency

Thus only a few changes are envisaged along with editorials – or to be more aimed at operating guidance, rather than band plan level.

Should new proposals be approved by IARU Vienna next April, their implementation would be considered as part of the Jan-2020 band plan.

8B WRC-19 Topics Update

A brief overview was given to the ITU WRC process and the role of Regional organisations such as CEPT – along with other equivalents in Region-1 (ATU, ASMG & RCC)

Key Agenda Items are 50 MHz in Region-1 and WPT which are both handled by CEPT-PTD (along with 5GHz). However several other agenda items affect amateur interests. RSGB has been a regular attendee of CEPT-PTD and recently has supported IARU attendance at CEPT-PTA. The meeting pack includes the RSGB attendance report for PTD#7. There are two final meetings of PTD in 2019, before WRC-19 itself, which runs from Oct-28 to Nov-22.



The Ofcom consultation on WRC-19 ran from June-September 2018. So far the inputs have not been published on the Ofcom website, but in any case a formal statement is not expected. In addition the EU RSPG ran their consultation over the summer; and the inputs and final opinion from that have been published.

Links:

- RSGB: <https://rsgb.org/wrc-19>
- Ofcom: <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/consultations-and-statements/category-1/uk-preparations-wrc-19>
- EU-RSPG: <http://rspg-spectrum.eu/public-consultations/>

9 IARU–R1 Interim Meeting – April 2019

Slides were presented covering the timeline and scope. Potential topics were outlined across HF, VHF//Microwave and EMC, though no formal proposals/drafts have occurred yet. Suggestions are welcome via the internal Spectrum Forum reflector or the external RSGB-IARU Consultation forum

Action: All - to feed in suggestions or refine topics/drafts asap

10 Spectrum Innovation: Needs & Modes

The final session concerned new modes and the need to both innovate and enhance spectrum usage - and in doing so also help attract newcomers to the hobby from sectors we are weak in – all of which aligns well with a number of the 2022 Strategic Priorities

It was noted that despite examples of progress (such as the excellent RBDATV work) there remained some serious gaps and concerns. The needs are greatest in the VHF/UHF/Microwave bands but a scalable approach is ideally needed across all bands - from Narrowband modes thru to middle and wider bandwidths. Consequently an Open Call to Developers is being considered

This sparked a broad and constructive discussion - including links back to the GNU Radio workshop experience; and the option of supporting it with a new award scheme.

Action: VHF Manager to move to next stage and circulate paper

11 Next Meeting

It was agreed that the after previous years at Sandy, the new location in London was successful and fairly accessible by train. However the date in 2019 would be moved to allow for both WRC-19 and some key contests.

Provisionally the 2019 date is Saturday November-30 tbc

12 AoB

None