



RSGB Contesting Committees

Report to Spectrum Forum

Review of 2018

RSGB contesting activities continue to be orchestrated by the contesting committees; the HF Contest Committee (HFCC), the VHF Contest Committee (VHFCC) and the Contest Support Committee (CSC). Nick G4FAL is the Chair of the HFCC, Andy G4PIQ is the Chair of the VHFCC and Ian G0FCT is the Chair of the CSC.

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 contest 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 IT support, adjudication, Special Contest Call administration, trophy management (in conjunction with the RSGB Trophy Manager) and communication that is related to these functions.

The HF Contest Rules have remained essentially unchanged during 2018. A new dual band (80m & 40m) Affiliated Society Data contest has been introduced to complement the existing CW and SSB Affiliated Society contests. A new 80m 'beginners' contest series with three CW, three SSB and three Data sessions has also been introduced. The rules of new 'beginner' contests are basically the same as for the popular 80m Club Championship events with an extended log submission period.

The VHFCC introduced the B2 scoring scheme for the UKAC bands below 23cm from the start of 2018. The SHF UKAC has continue to be scored on a 1 point/km basis with no multipliers or bonus points.

The VHFCC has issued a short rules consultation using SurveyMonkey in October 2018 to seek entrant's views on a variety of topics including the FM Activity Contests, a proposal to introduce more dedicated MGM (Machine Generated Modes) contests in 2019, the time and dates for the Christmas Cumulative contests and assorted SHF UKAC and AFS contest issues.

Once again, two Contest Forums (HF and VHF) were run at the RSGB Convention. As in 2017, more time was allocated to each forum to allow topics to be discussed in greater depth.

The VHF Contest Forum discussions started off with a short review of the rules tweaks in 2018 followed by a discussion on the suggested rule changes for 2019. The main suggested changes are: replace some of the FMAC sessions with MGM (Machine Generated Mode, e.g. FT8, FSK441 etc) contests, alter the Christmas Cumulative dates/timing and introduce a General Club category into VHF Affiliated Society contests. The other topic discussed were: self-spotting on the DX Cluster, the use of ON4KST in VHF contests, FT8 and its potential



implications for VHF contesting and better publicity for VHF contests. It was also reported to the forum that entry levels are still continuing to increase (including weekend contests) in all but a few of the RSGB VHF contests.

In the HF Contest Forum, it was revealed that the participation in most of the RSGB contests is increasing. However, participation in some of the CW only contests is declining (e.g. NFD, AFS CW) but these contests are still viable. The main topics discussed in the forum were: the IOTA Contest, the RSGB Contest Club, GR2HQ participation in the IARU HF Championship Contest, the change of dates/times for the HF AFS contests, the Football World Cup QSO marathon and the potential for a RSGB sponsored QSO marathon, the definition of unassisted operation in HF contests, the use of fan dipoles in NFD and SSB FD, the proposed new 40m QSO Party 'contest' being introduced into the RSGB HF Contest Calendar in 2019 and finally FT8 and its potential implications for HF contesting. The discussions were good natured and excellent feedback was received from the forum attendees.

The CSC has adjudicated all RSGB HF and VHF contests in a timely manner with the results often being available within a week of the end of the log submission period.

The CSC continues to be responsible for processing all Special Contest Callsign (SCC) applications and for issuing the Notice of Variation (NoV) to the successful applicants on behalf of Ofcom. The Chair of CSC is responsible for this activity. So far, 194 valid applications have been processed resulting in the issuing of 71 new NoV and 123 renewal NoV.

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