



RSGB Contesting Committees

Report to Spectrum Forum

Review of 2019

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.

Two new HF contests were introduced in 2019. The first of these new contests were two 40m SSB 'QSO Parties' run for two hours at lunch time on Saturday 8th June and 21st July. These contests were aimed at beginners. Unfortunately, the level of participation was very low and very few beginners joined in the fun. The second set of new HF contests were a series of three short contests on 80m using the new FT4 digital mode. The rules of these contests have evolved over the series with feedback from entrants being used to alter the rules for the next session. Participation has increased from 62 in the first session to 99 in the third session. The rules for the third session are going to be used as the foundation for a series of nine FT4 contests in 2020.

The VHFCC has issued a short rules consultation using SurveyMonkey in October 2019 to seek entrant's views on a variety of topics including the running the UKAC contests in December, number of UKAC sessions to count towards an individual's overall score, MGM Activity Contests on 50MHz and 144MHz, FM Activity Contests, and the power limit on 4m in low power sections. The results of the survey will be used to help set the VHF Contest rules for 2020.

Once again, two Contest Forums (VHF and HF) were run at the RSGB Convention. As in previous years, 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 level of activity in VHF contests. It was reported that, overall, activity was still increasing on 144MHz, 432MHz, 1296MHz and SHF. Activity on 50MHz and 70MHz has decreased very slightly, possibly due to local noise levels. A large variety of topics were raised by the audience including: team size in UKAC, assisted and unassisted categories and the use of the Internet chat facilities such as ON4KST in VHF contests and the lack of newcomers participating in VHF contests.



The topic of signal quality was also discussed in the context of the VHF Contesting Code of Practise. Potential rule changes for 2020 were also discussed with most of the changes being included in the on-line VHF rules survey.

The HF Contest Forum was used to elicit the views of the attendees: on the viability of the new 40m SSB QSO Parties, the rules for the new FT4 contests, assisted/unassisted sections in the 80m Club Championship and Autumn Series, introduction of a high power section in SSB NFD, IOTA contest exchange and changing the power levels in the Low Power contest to coincide with the standard definition of QRP. The views of the attendees have been used to alter the HF contest rules for 2020. Other topics discussed were: the RSGB Contest Club, GR2HQ participation in the IARU HF Championship Contest, and the highly successful Cricket World Cup QSO marathon. The discussions were lively and good 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. There are 225 SCC NoV currently issued and 149 new/renewal applications have been processed to date in 2019.

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