



Report to the RSGB Spectrum Committee Meeting - November 2019

1 General position

Membership of CDXC currently stands around 750 - with 24% being overseas members. This makes us the largest DX Club in Europe. Our members are active primarily on the HF bands and use CW, SSB and Data modes in their pursuit of DXing and contesting.

We are committed to promoting good operating standards on all modes for DX'ers, DXpeditions and testers.

2 Membership loyalty and turn-over

Of our current membership approximately 50% have been members for more than 10 years, 23% for more than 5 years and 27% for less than five years. We typically experience a turn-over rate between 6 and 8 percent at each annual renewal point. We attempt to analyse the reasons people join and leave our Club to ascertain what we can do to dissuade leavers.

The most cited reasons for non-renewal of membership are poor health, rising noise floor, changed priorities/cutting back on club memberships and 'Club not for me'. Those who cited poor operating behaviour as a reason have reduced in recent years – but that is not to say that it is not an underlying issue.

We have conducted further analysis of non-renewals to see if we can spot trends in the decline of DXing, contesting or the hobby itself. This is sadly not turning out to show statistically significant trends with the numbers we have. Maybe we should attempt - within the bounds of GDPR restrictions - to correlate across SIGs to see if we can spot trends.

3 DXpedition sponsorship

CDXC is one of the major DXpedition sponsors world-wide. We also support other worthy causes such as YOTA and WRTC and have recently made a significant donation to Club Log to allow them to upgrade their hardware.

4 Concerns

4.1 The rising noise floor

To many of our members this is ruining their enjoyment of the hobby. The lack of legislative powers is depressing. Members continue to report VDSL2 QRM but this does not appear to be as serious as first thought and we applaud the Society's support in this area. We continue to urge members to report all QRM problems to the RSGB EMC Committee.

4.2 Remote receivers

Remote receivers offer to many an escape from urban noise and such sites are undoubtedly being used. We are aware that in some cases their use – and that of remote transmitters - is violating award programme rules. It is extremely difficult to police such behaviour and some

highly suspicious DXing activity, potentially violating a UK license, is of great concern as few believe collecting evidence would result in any action by OFCOM.

4.3 MGM modes

For HF this is primarily FT8 and FT4. It is of concern to the Club that these new modes so divide opinion. On the one hand FT8 has rejuvenated the hobby for those with limited space, power and time and allowed them to make contacts that were unthinkable before. On the other hand, and particularly in these low sunspot times, it would seem that activity is all centred in one 4 kHz section of each band.

WSJTx modes have all but killed the use of RTTY by DXpeditions.

It is entirely possible that rag-chewing, social nets and long overs have disappeared from HF and with perhaps the exception of CW SIGs, every mode we use is now characterised by a '59(9) TU' or a '-12' exchange. The nets and rag-chewing where they continue probably use email, social media and internet Reflectors as their mediums. Thus MGM modes are perhaps just a symptom of an already in-process change in what we expect HF operating to be. To stay interesting and relevant we have to adopt new modes and experiment with technology, propagation and antennas and concentrate on promoting 'the difficult' which has always been a driver for our hobby.

5 New band plans

As always, the CDXC (Region 1) members' wish list continues to include 1,800 – 1,810; have full legal power in the 1,850 – 2,000 segment; gain 3,800 – 4,000 and 7,200 – 7,300.

There is a continued demand for a high power license as we have seen in EI; this is especially requested for chasing DX and contesting, where we are at a disadvantage to nearly all of our near-neighbours.

Chris Duckling, G3SVL
Chairman CDXC

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