



## FOC – The First Class CW Operators' Club

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### RSGB Spectrum Forum Meeting – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019

#### Agenda Item 7.5 FOC

- 1) Founded in 1938, and with its roots, history and management in the UK, The First Class CW Operators' Club (FOC) promotes good CW operating, activity, friendship and socialising via its worldwide membership which is limited to approximately 500. Members are active on all HF bands and the character of the club is best expressed in its motto: "A man should keep his friendship in constant repair" - Samuel Johnson (1755).
- 2) FOC members aim to:
  - i) Foster and encourage a high standard of operating and behaviour on the bands;
  - ii) Observe the licence conditions and principles of band planning;
  - iii) Be considerate to other amateurs at all times and, in particular, by:
    - (a) Ensuring that the radiated signal conforms to a good technical level;
    - (b) Avoiding interference to other band users by thoughtless tuning or by use of unnecessarily high power levels;
    - (c) Recognising that it is inconsiderate to 'break-in' to a contact unless there is a reason that is relevant to both of the participating stations;
  - iv) By example, promote exemplary operating standards by:
    - (a) Sending at a speed that is considerate of the other station's ability;
    - (b) Giving signal reports that are, where appropriate, honest;
    - (c) Ensuring a frequency is clear before transmitting;
    - (d) At the end of a contact, moving away if it is not 'your' frequency;
    - (e) In DX 'pile-ups', observing the calling instructions of the DX station and never 'policing' the frequency;
    - (f) If you are a 'DX' station, ensuring good management of your frequency by sending your own callsign at appropriate intervals - 'anonymous operating' does nothing to control a pile-up or increase contact rates and leads to chaos;
    - (g) Always remembering that many others may be listening to your contacts – refrain from bad language or derogatory comments;
  - v) Protect the future of the hobby by:
    - (a) Being active on a regular basis on as many bands as possible;
    - (b) Giving encouragement to newcomers;
    - (c) Supporting a national society.
- 3) FOC continues to support programmes aimed at improving operating practice on the HF bands and is pleased to see wide adoption of the DX and DX-pedition Codes of Conduct. The problem with poor HF operating continues, but recent DX-peditions have shown a continuing improvement, at least on CW, so the codes of conduct seem to be working or the persistent interferers are getting bored.
- 4) FOC wishes to register its concern about the steadily increasing levels of domestic electrical noise and encourages the RSGB to take a robust line when negotiating this important issue, particularly in respect of PLT, VDSL2, Solar PV and wireless vehicle charging systems WPT-EV.
- 5) There is ongoing concern with the continuing growth of data modes, particularly the popularity of FT8/FT4. These new data modes do not appear to co-exist well with other band users. CW stations suffer unduly when already using frequencies. There is a potential for band-planning issues when new data mode operators perceive exclusive rights to the 'data' segments that are in fact shared narrow-band mode segments.