



RSGB Contesting Committees Report to Spectrum Forum

Review of 2020

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 HFCC and VHFCC response to the first COVID-19 lockdown in March saw major changes to the rules for all RSGB HF and VHF contests. All multi-operator and portable entries were banned. During the first lockdown period, the HFCC ran two series of 90 minute 'Hope QSO Parties'. Each series consisted of ten SSB events, ten CW events, five RTTY events and five FT4 events. The HQP was an outstanding success with 536 entrants in the first HQP series and 491 entrants in the second HQP series. The VHFCC replaced the traditional VHF NFD contest with the 'lockdown' VHF NFD. This was a single operator only contest but with a club/group element and was well supported by 75 clubs/groups and 286 individual entrants. Portable operation was permitted to resume in the middle of July.

The HFCC and VHFCC response to the second lockdown in England is still being decided by the two committees.

The VHFCC will be issuing a short rules consultation using SurveyMonkey in November to seek entrant's views on a variety of topics (TBA). The results of the survey will be used to help set the VHF Contest rules for 2021.

No Contest Forums (VHF and HF) were run at the virtual RSGB Convention.

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 HQP results were generally available only two or three days after the end of each event.

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 212 SCC NoV currently issued.

Ian Pawson, G0FCT
Chair, RSGB Contest Support Committee