



## **Report to the RSGB Spectrum Forum Meeting - November 2020**

### **1 General position**

Membership of CDXC currently stands around 730 - 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 VDSL**

The Club welcomes the initiatives from the RSGB with its Lelantos software and continues actively to promote it to members. Results show an increasing problem across our HF spectrum with members reporting more evidence as households upgrade to cope with working from home. Additionally, members with as few as four neighbours are now reporting problems.

Those who have complained have reported initially favourable actions from OpenReach and OFCOM but disappointing outcomes. The end result appears in every case to be a closed report with no remedies put in place. We must keep up the effort to rid the UK internet infrastructure of HF signals leaking from copper lines.

### **3 E M Field Exposure**

The statements from OFCOM relating to the requirement for licensees to comply with the ICNIRP general public limits on EMF exposure caused much discussion on our Reflector. Members were encouraged to respond to the consultation and directed to the RSGB guidance.

If this move is inevitable, and it appears it is, there is much to be done to assist licensees with ensuring they are compliant. I venture to suggest that a tiny majority of licensees will have any idea of the gain and field strengths of a real-life 80m doublet hanging in a tree – and even fewer know how to calculate (estimate?) it. CDXC looks to the RSGB for advice and guidance on this important issue .

### **4 COVID-19 impact**

#### **4.1 DXpeditions**

As a Club which brings together DXers and promotes DXpeditions, this has been a troubling year. All of the planned spring DXpeditions were cancelled and most, but not all, of the autumn and winter trips are cancelled, rescheduled or on hold. We had hoped that lock downs would encourage some of those living in rarer DXCCs to be more active but this has not transpired to any great degree.

It is difficult to foresee a time when travellers will be welcomed back to exotic locations, but we know it will happen again, and by then the sunspot number may be kinder to DX in the upper bands of our HF spectrum.

## **4.2 Events**

COVID has caused the cancellation of the rallies, conventions and hamfests which form part of our normal way of meeting our world-wide membership. It caused us also to cancel our own CDXC HF Convention in May this year. We have, however, worked hard to keep in touch with those of our members who are/were isolating – often alone at home. The impact of postponing our own Convention denied us the raffle funds that we normally generate for our DXpedition sponsorship fund. This is offset by fewer requests for sponsorship. The Club has sufficient financial reserves to ride this out.

## **4.3 Contests**

Although not a specific contest Club, CDXC does promote its own 'DX Challenges' and encourages members to improve their skills by entering contests. On that note, we awarded the RSGB HFCC and CSC a *CDXC Award of Merit* in recognition of the Hope QSO Party Initiative which ran from April to June 2020.

## **5 Concerns**

Reviewing the concerns raised by CDXC at last year's meeting it seems we are making little progress. VDSL, the rising noise floor, the potentially illegal use of remote transmitters and receivers and the impact of MGM modes which reduce activity of some bands (outside of contests) to 3kHz. While the HF part of our spectrum does not appear to be as much under threat as other parts, these trends reduce the draw of the hobby to new entrants.

## **6 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