



REPORT FOR RSGB SPECTRUM FORUM 2021 FROM G-QRP CLUB

Intro

The G-QRP Club is fast approaching its 50th anniversary and it has been running with around four thousand members for over a decade, showing a continued interest in low power communications and homebrew.

The Club Callsign, G5LOW, and GM5LOW, has been active during various activity periods, contests and the RSGB's Hope QSO parties.

In the last two years the Club has hosted 2-day Virtual Conventions with attendees and speakers from all three IARU Regions.

During the various lockdowns, Club officials have given remote talks to various radio clubs around the UK and overseas.

Band activity

The Club holds activity periods, runs Club competitions, and has an awards programme for making QRP contacts. The Club is seeing a trend of fewer competition entries and award applications. Whether this is a sign of lower levels of activity or a change in the attraction of Club awards/competitions is not yet known.

However, the winners of the Chelmsley Trophy for a year-long log of QRP contacts, continue to show that there are contacts to be made. For example, in 2019, Carl, GW0VSW, made over 1400 contacts in 71 DXCC entities, and in 2020, Peter, GM0EUL, made over 150 contacts in 31 DXCC entities, all on 80m and 40m.

The Monday activity days tend to see members making contacts on 160m, 80m, 60m and 40m, but with HF propagation improving contacts are increasingly being made on the higher bands.

Spectrum Issues

The G-QRP Club receives complaints and suggestions from members regarding spectrum use/abuse:

- The most common issue that continues to plague the reception of QRP signals is the **QRM from VDSL and other electronic sources**. Despite several members submitting reports to Ofcom, none have seen any action to resolve the harmful interference we are suffering. The RSGB are requested to continue to lobby Ofcom on this matter.
- Probably the second most common spectrum topic is **contest QRM**. The Club Committee has made attempts to encourage members to use the 'WARC' bands and 60m to avoid contest QRM, but the members would like the RSGB to redouble its efforts to keep contest traffic away from QRP Centres of Activity.
- Related to the second point, many members complain about high power stations showing a **lack of respect of QRP Centres of Activity**. Again, the Club would like to see more promotion of these frequencies and general respect of the Bandplans.
- Finally, members continue to seek **alignment of the UK 5MHz allocation with the WRC allocation** now in use in most European countries. This is seen as a means of making 60m more attractive and facilitating more activity.