

2012 Olympics & Amateur Radio...



Murray Niman G6JYB

October-2012



About this....

- Background
- Spectrum
- Support
- Events
- Discussion

About me...



RSGB Microwave Manager
Inherited Olympics role from G3PSM

2012

Plenty of Special events !...

- April-15: Titanic Centenary
- June 2-5: Queens Diamond Jubilee
- Jul-27 – Aug-12: Olympic Games
- Aug 16-18: EME2012 - Cambridge
- Aug-29 – Sep-9: Paralympic Games

In the beginning (2007-2011)

- Spectrum and Events reviewed beforehand though detail remained uncertain for years
- Ofcom Request in May-2011 was 5MHz BW as 2x2.5MHz duplex blocks in 70cm
- Our Submission was for somewhat less
- No mention then of 2m (or 70cm sailing tests)
- Nearly a year before we knew...
- You can now judge for yourself at <http://www.rsgb.org/olympics>

2012: The 70cm Restrictions

- Grateful that Ofcom accommodated RSGB preferences and mitigation requests
- 4MHz based on Two 1MHz pairs
- 431.00-432.00 and 432.00-433.00MHz paired with 436.25-437.25 and 438.00-439.00MHz
- Restrictions Period: Jun-28 to Sept-23
- Arrangements for a handful of Repeaters, RAYNET and Contests (and several DStar upgrades)
- 2.39-2.40 and 3.41-3.44GHz at Football venues around the UK as well for wireless cameras

Amateur Band Restrictions



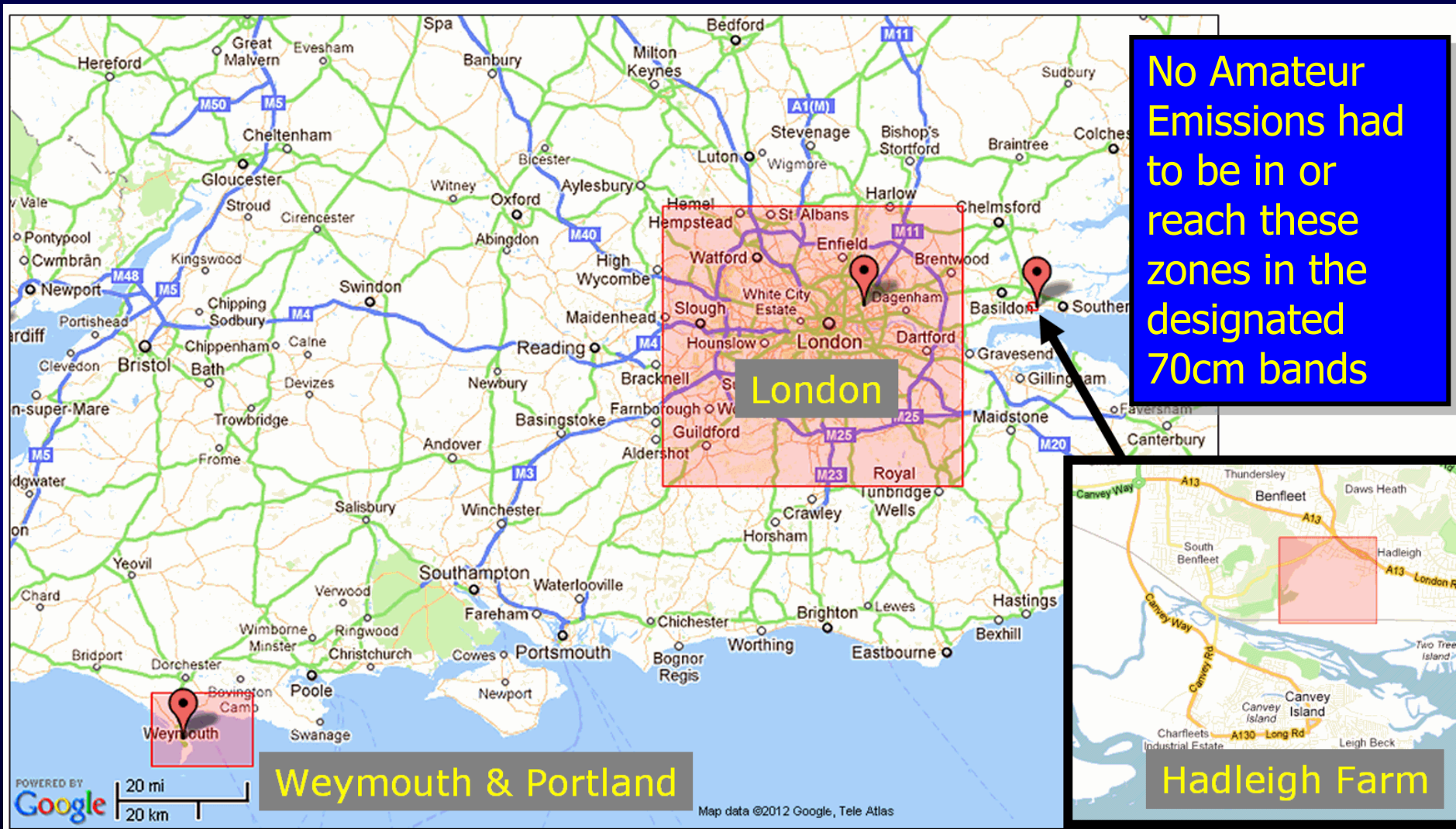
70cm & Microwave

- London
- Weymouth
- Hadleigh Farm

Microwave only:-

- Cardiff
- Coventry
- Glasgow
- Manchester
- Newcastle

70cm Protected Zones



Interference Enforcement



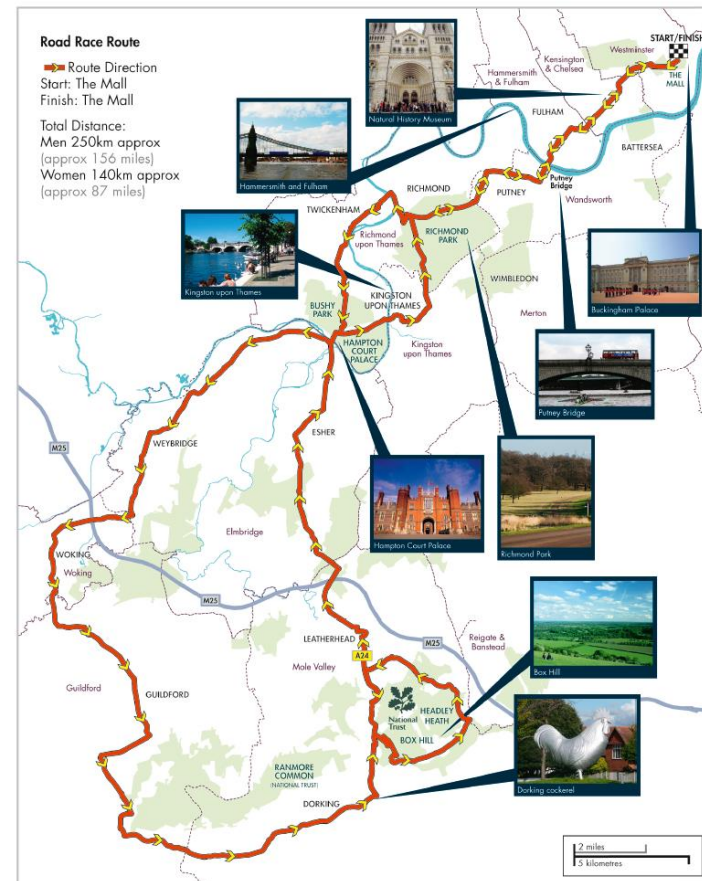
**Separate Regulations!
25 or 35 km around:-**

- London
- Lee Valley
- Eton
- Cardiff
- Coventry
- Glasgow
- Manchester
- Newcastle
- **Welcomed by Amateurs!**

Surprise! - 2m Usage

- Rural Cycling needed VHF
- Challenging on other aspects
- 5W Handhelds in 12.5kHz
- Kept 144.050, 144.100 calling to leave 2x12.5kHz for CW
- Ofcom allowance for 2m contest and Perseids
- However – were also aware that adjacent VHF freqs free up later

Olympic Cycling Road Race



Venue Engineers

- All venues strictly controlled not just for security but rf compliance as well
- Ofcom trained and formed a far larger than normal field force –
Many had amateur licences



Engineer with Agilent FieldFox & R&S Antenna
aka 'the Wi-Fi Police'!

2012 Venue Engineers

- Recruited/trained in 2011/2 at Baldock.
RSGB Volunteers recently thanked by Ofcom:-
- **Darren Storer, Chris Morcom:** LOCOG Technology Operations Centre
- **Roger Dixon:** Greenwich Park and Royal Artillery Barracks
- **Dave Pick, Jon Lee:** ExCel Centre, North Greenwich Arena
- **John Pink:** Testing and Tagging Team in the Olympic Park
- **Richard Meadows:** activities outside the venues

Thank You!

“Your support for this initiative introduced us to people who were very well motivated and with a high level of technical skill and expertise. We could not have provided such good service to our customers without their help. We had the benefit of learning from the experience and knowledge that they brought, and I hope that they too have returned with unique experiences and new skills.”

- Peter Bury, Director of Spectrum Policy



RAYNET

Torch Relay: Many groups around the provided communications support during the Torch Relay events prior to the games.

British Red Cross London Area Ops Room:-

- This provided support and guidance for BRC volunteers deployed around London during the Olympics and Paralympics.
- Eight RAYNET members from London/East England groups were trained as Red Cross 'Convergent Volunteers' for Ops room duties.

On average, each RAYNET member covered at least four 8hour shifts during both sets of games

And then the fun started....

Special Events & Callsigns

- **Flagship Stations 2O_{scar}12x**
 - **2012L** London (Avery Hill Ctr, Greenwich)
 - **2012W** Wales (Barry Island, Cardiff)
 - No takers in N.Ireland, Scotland though
- **GB2012xx** for other major events
- **GO Prefix** for individuals/clubs
(similar to GQ for Jubilee)



First Up: Follow the Torch!

- 'Worked all Britain' award
- Using Gx4WAB / Gx7WAB
~60 clubs
over the period
May-19th - Jul-27th
- Local operators made
WAB club
- Proved Popular!



Follow The Torch

The Olympic Torch set off on its travels around the British Isles on May 19th 2012 and completed the journey on July 27th at the Olympic Park in London.

It was followed by the WORKED ALL BRITAIN AWARDS GROUP G4WAB-G7WAB using the special prefix of each country as it went on its travels. GC-GH-GN-GP-GS-GT-GX

There are three levels of the award

GOLD
SILVER BRONZE

GOLD
awarded to
GOBFJ

www.worked-all-britain.co.uk

Bronze=10
Silver=20
Gold=30

Torch Stations

- All sorts of venues used by clubs



Flagship-1: 2012L



- London Flagship Location:
**Avery Hill Activity Centre,
New Eltham, Greenwich,
operated by Cray Valley et al**
- Had moved from Eltham Palace
- Multiple stations
- Plenty of Room
- Broke Records for >60,000 QSOs



2012L

- Major 24x7 team effort!
- Good displays



2012L

- 69644 QSOs, 223 DXCC



Flagship-2: 2012W



- Welsh Flagship was at Barry Island, near Cardiff www.2o12w.com
- Supported by the Welsh Government, Vale of Glamorgan Jane Hutt AM (Assembly Finance Minister) and Alun Cairns MP

2012W
TWO OSCAR ONE TWO WALES

AMATEUR RADIO STATION FOR WALES
TO CELEBRATE THE LONDON 2012
OLYMPIC GAMES AND PARALYMPIC GAMES



2012W



Murray Niman G6JYB, October-2012



GONBI RSGB General Manager, Gordon Tucker B.A.R.S Training Manager and Jane Hutt AM

2012W

- 17081 QSOs, 146 DXCC



Murray Niman G6JYB, October-2012



Olympics & Amateur Radio



Other SES

- GB1HF Hadleigh Farm, Essex
- GB20120RA Royal Artillery Barracks
- GB2012MV,S,W Manchester Venue
- GB2012OSP Olympic Sailing Portland



Summer 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Sailing Venue & Village. Portland Harbour. Island of Portland. Dorset. England.

GB2012OSP



Crown /MOD copyright Photograph used with permission.

GB2012MV, MS, MW

Collaboration of three clubs...

- MV: Warrington
- MS: Sale (South Manchester)
- MW: West Manchester
- EME & Satellite Ops
- 15000 QSL Cards...



GB1HF, Essex

- 20 days of ops
- Aerial had to be setup each day



1163 stations in all:
510 on CW, 135 on PSK31,
477 on SSB, 41 on 2m FM

More to come...?

- RSGB Centenary 2013
- The XX Commonwealth Games, 23 July to 3 August 2014
- The Glasgow 2014 Games are the biggest sporting and cultural event Scotland has ever seen, with around 6,500 athletes from 71 nations competing over 11 days.
- Rugby World Cup Sep/Oct 2015
- World Athletics, London Aug-2017



So, How was it for You?

- Were you active ?
 - Were you in SES team ?
 - Were you inspired?
 - Did you care...
-
- Now for some discussion points...

Objectives for a SES ?

- Motivating/energising club members
- Raising Profile within the amateur community
- Outreach for the club and/or amateur radio to the wider community (Jo Public)
- Attracting new members (or new amateurs)
- Operate thousands of QSOs
- Gain exposure to media, VIPs
- Having Fun! (Some of the above can conflict...)

SES Experiences/Lessons?

- **Planning** - timescales, obstacles
- **Personnel** – finding/managing volunteers
- **PR** – promoting the station
- **Location** – site pros+cons
- **Costs** -
- **Legacy/Exploitation** – building on success
- **Surprises** – benefits / drawbacks

Many thanks to all the other volunteers,
operators contributors etc.....

Discussion / Questions



More Info at
<http://www.rsgb.org/olympics>