



RSGB Contest Committees Report to Spectrum Forum

Review of 2023

RSGB contesting activities continue to be orchestrated by the three contest committees: the HF Contest Committee (HFCC, chair Nick G4FAL), the VHF Contest Committee (VHFCC, chair Andy G4PIQ) and the Contest Support Committee (CSC, chair Ian G0FCT).

The HFCC and VHFCC are responsible for the contest strategy for the RSGB Contest Calendar (balance of contests, contester development etc.), rules, adjudication principles and contest development through consultation below 30MHz (HFCC) and above 30MHz (VHFCC). 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.

Modifications to both HF and VHF RSGB Contest rules have been made to cater for the changes to the Amateur Radio License proposed by Ofcom. Once the final terms and conditions have been ratified by Ofcom, further changes to the rules may be necessary.

The HF FT4 contests introduced in 2023 have proved popular. For 2024, the number of bands allowed in this contest has been expanded to include 80m, 40m, 20m, 15m and 10m. At VHF, the two VHF/UHF FT8 contests were expanded into 2 hour and 4 hours duration events on both 144MHz and 432MHz, coordinated with similar events in Europe.

Contest Forums (VHF and HF) were run at the 2023 RSGB Convention. Feedback from the Contest Forum will be used to help produce a rules consultation using SurveyMonkey in November to seek entrant's views on a variety of topics. The results of the survey will be used to help set the Contest rules for 2024.

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 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 285 SCC NoV currently issued, an increase of 26 over the past year. All SCC NoV issued before 1st January 2024 expire at the end of 2024. Holders of SCC NoV who wish to retain the use of their SCC after the end of 2024 can apply for the NoV to be renewed before it expires.

Ian Pawson, G0FCT
Chair, RSGB Contest Support Committee