



BRITISH AMATEUR RADIO TELEDATA GROUP

Report to the January 2024 Spectrum Forum Meeting

We have three items to report.

(1) HF OPERATING.

Our president John GW4SKA GW0A is of the opinion that RTTY these days is mainly a contest mode. He says that "*RTTY is sometimes used by special event stations, mainly Italian or German, and sometimes by DXpeditions, but then it is just a quick exchange of 599. The only times I have seen normal QSOs in the past few years have been just before contests, when some of the regular contesters will have a quick chat.*"

(2) BARTG CONTESTS.

Our contest manager, Ian Pawson G0FCT, reports that in 2023:

- We have run three HF RTTY Contests and one PSK63 Contest.
- We received 657 logs for the Sprint Contest (run in January), 979 logs for the HF RTTY Contest (run in March), 123 logs for the Sprint75 Contest (run in April) and 77 logs for the Sprint PSK63 Contest (run in September).
- The winner of our 2023 Championship is BARTG's president GW4SKA operating as GW0A. He receives the 2023 BARTG FlexRadio trophy.
- Our contests are run by BARTG and adjudicated by the RSGB. FlexRadio kindly sponsors the trophy for the winner of our Championship.

(3) BARTG AWARDS.

Our awards manager, Chris Plummer G8APB, reports that in the last twelve months we have issued one award.

RSGB and BARTG.

In addition to BARTG's connection with the Spectrum Forum, BARTG interacts with the RSGB in other noteworthy ways. BARTG is grateful for any '*mention*' it gets in RadCom and/or on GB2RS. BARTG also very much appreciates the substantial support of the RSGB in handling and scoring its contest entries.

==== ABOUT BARTG ====

What we do.

We have four main areas of activity.

- (1) We currently run four **Contests** each year. We may introduce more contests if we perceive that there is a need for such contests and if they can be fitted into the contest calendar.
- (2) We run an **Awards scheme** for datacoms. Most of our awards are open to both licensed amateurs and listeners.
- (3) We offer a **For Sale / Wanted Web Page** on our web site. The main intention of this page is to keep amateur radio datacoms equipment in use and out of the tip. We also use it to carry appeals for assistance and advice from datacoms users.
- (4) We offer **Sponsorships** to DXpeditions. Terms & conditions apply.

Our history.

BARTG was founded in 1959 to promote, encourage and support the use of teleprinters within amateur radio. This evolved to encompass amateur radio datacoms in general. Our experience of datacoms is predominantly in the HF bands.

We celebrated the Diamond Jubilee during 2019-2020.

For much of its existence BARTG was a 'subs and magazine' organisation. Members paid subs and in return received a printed magazine and were entitled to a number of benefits such as discounts on our range of components. Earlier this century the printed magazine was superseded by a web site and this change enabled us to offer membership for free.

In 2018/19 we closed our membership scheme. BARTG is now run by volunteers on a management team. This change will not affect any of BARTG's activities. Anyone who was a member can keep their BARTG number for life (as a matter of record) and are welcome to continue to display it and/or the BARTG logo on QSL cards, callsign badges and plaques, car stickers and suchlike.

If any BARTG topics arise at the meeting our representative (G4EAN) can be contacted by phone if he is not online to the meeting.

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11th January 2024 v07 Presented to the Spectrum Forum meeting.

25th January 2024 v08 Item [1] updated.

File name: BARTG report to SF 2023 v08.doc