



Report to the RSGB Spectrum Forum Meeting - January 2024

1 General position

Membership of CDXC currently stands around 710 - with just over 20% being overseas members. This makes us one of the largest DX Clubs in Europe. Our members are primarily active on the HF bands and use CW, SSB and Data modes in their pursuit of DXing and contesting. We are a major sponsor to DXpeditions and produce a full-colour magazine four times a year.

CDXC is committed to promoting good operating standards on all modes for DX'ers, DXpeditions and contesters.

2 OFCOM Licence consultation

The release of the consultation document in June 2023 caused a stir of activity among our members. Many comments were positive but the two which caused the most concern were the change of RSLs to 'optional' and allowing unlimited length of suffixes. Many CDXC members expressed their intent to oppose these changes and request the status quo remains.

For DX'ers the RSLs are fundamental to the historic awards and DX challenges. Club Log and Log of the World (LoTW) are on-line tools used by thousands of DX'ers across the world. For these tools to operate correctly and accurately, it is essential that the DXCC of every station is known. If RSLs were to become optional Club Log, LoTW and other such systems would need to find ways to address DXCC-identity credits for non-England countries of the UK & CD who optionally, and randomly, use their RSL. While some argue this already happens for 'GB' calls they are known in advance and consistently applied yet still create a workload for online and physical confirmation systems (e.g. QSL managers).

The results of the survey published in late December 2023 reignited the debate with some suggesting it was all a 'done deal' from the beginning. A few felt the RSGB were complicit in the outcome; a position that was refuted.

There is also a general understanding that the greater freedoms we will get will in turn require a greater responsibility to self-police, but that as a community we are not very good at doing so. The demise of mentors, elmers and local clubs does not help this situation. CDXC will continue to promote and encourage good practice in operating.

The increased power levels for all licensees will need clear definition to ensure it is only used on those frequencies where we are primary users. CDXC requests the Spectrum Committee take on the role of producing clear, unambiguous, advice for all Affiliated Clubs and SIGs to disseminate.

3 Digital modes

The dominance of WSJTx modes on our HF bands is growing year-on-year and it is likely that more 3kHz channels will be required. National societies and IARU should be involved in band-planning new allocations rather than non-elected software organisations.

4 New band plans

The WRC 2023 work on band plans are unlikely to affect CDXC members in their HF activities. However, 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.

Chris Duckling, G3SVL

Chairman

CDXC: The UK DX Foundation