

## **RSGB EMERGING TECHNOLOGY COORDINATION COMMITTEE (ETCC)**

### **Purpose**

The ETCC functions to develop and enhance the UK Amateur Radio Repeater Network together with Data Communications systems and to promote the introduction and rollout of appropriate new technologies.

### **Our Main Activities:**

- To receive, scrutinise and advise on all proposals in respect of analogue and digital repeaters and data communications systems.
- To process finalised and agreed proposals onwards to Ofcom.
- To liaise with Ofcom and other bodies as required.

### **Report for Spectrum Forum 2012**

The Olympics provided us with a major challenge when we received details earlier in the year of the spectrum requirements for the Games. At first glance the demand for spectrum appeared to be overwhelming and likely to curtail Amateur activity on a number of bands especially the repeater allocations in 70cms.

Working with the RSGB Olympics Team a spectrum plan was devised which managed to avoid the main repeater block between 433 and 435MHz and which would require just a few moves and changes on 7.6MHz split allocations. It was also possible to avoid the wider 9MHz split digital repeater segments, which given the world wide connectivity available was likely to be a main area of activity for visiting Amateurs.

It is also pleasing to report that approval was readily reached to install an additional 70cms repeater in the main Games area to provide enhanced coverage.

This plan was submitted to Ofcom and following discussion was accepted. In more detail the repeater changes implemented were:

- GB3OY a new temporary repeater was licensed from 28 June to 23 September to provide coverage in Stratford and environs
- GB3OK in Bromley permanently changed frequency
- GB3NS in Banstead temporarily changed frequency
- GB3EK in Margate reduced to very low power to avoid any possibility of interference to the London area.

Interestingly two of our ETCC managers together with a number of other Amateurs were directly involved working in various venues as part of Ofcom's Olympics Team. By all reports the use of Amateur knowledge proved invaluable in identifying and rectifying difficult interference issues. On the other hand our members came away from the Games with a greater understanding of Ofcom so it was very much a two way street!

As in the past few years delays with frequency clearance continue to be a major issue. The main problem areas are in 70cms and bands above. This has meant increasing frustration for those wishing to implement 70cms analogue and digital repeaters. ATV has also suffered greatly from the lack of progress on clearances by both Primary Users in the higher order bands.

Just before the Olympics 'lockdown' we were asked to submit an updated vetting list to Ofcom and now that normal service has been resumed we are looking forward and in fact pressing for action on these issues. We are aware that Ofcom is meetin with the Primary User very soon and await the outcome of that meeting.

On liaison with the 23cms Primary User we also await a meeting in the near future to progress proposals now that the new bandplan has come into effect. You may remember that one of the main drivers behind the revised plan was to identify spectrum for TV and voice repeaters that would avoid the main aeronautical use in the band.

One future development to be aware of is the proposed release in 2013/2014 of some PU spectrum at 13cms. This is likely to require some changes in frequency for installations in that band and is being worked through with Ofcom at present.

### **Web form development**

New processes and forms are currently being trialled on the ETCC website with the eventual aim of automating the production of Notices of Variation (NoVs). The full use of these forms awaits the agreement of an MoU between the RSGB & Ofcom as alluded to in the recent notes of the recent Ofcom-RSGB Forum to be found [here](#). In the meantime the ETCC is now using the workflow developed by our Webmaster to automate our internal processes as much as possible.

**John McCullagh GI4BWM**

**Chairman ETCC  
November 2012**