

■ Spectrum, Licensing and Noise

RSGB Spectrum Forum
October 2017



■ RSGB 2022 Strategy elements

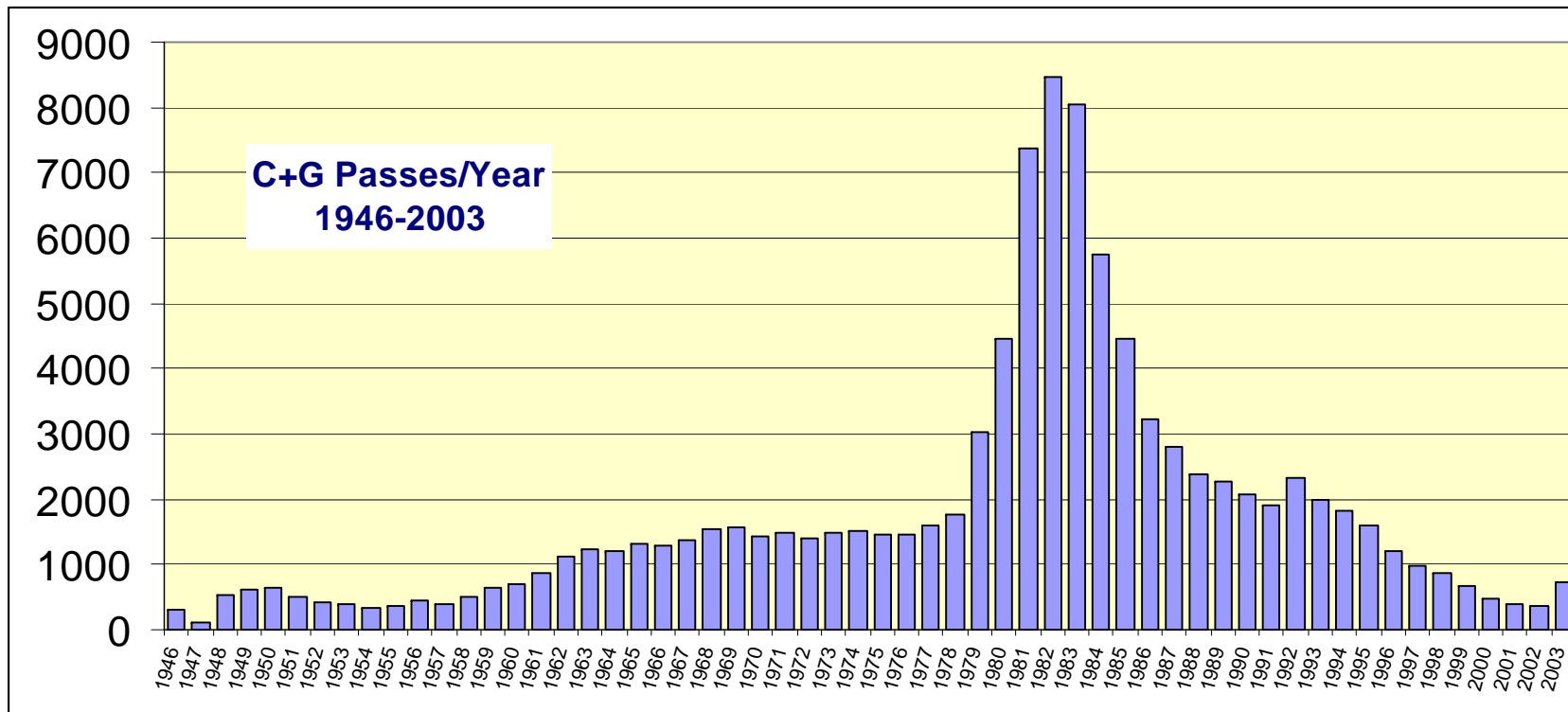
- **Spectrum**
Maintain and enhance radio amateurs' ability to use the radio spectrum
- **Growth** – grow and develop amateur radio
- **Participation**
Support and encourage active participation in amateur radio
- **Research**
Promote active involvement in research and technical development

■ Spectrum & Licensing Background

- Spectrum & Licensing
- Ultimately, UK Privileges are dependent on
 - Allocations from ITU
 - Ofcom having time for amateurs
 - and amateurs using radio and thus justifying that effort
- Input numbers largely come from the exam system, whilst background totals based on validity lapses and SK rate
- Historical background is why Novice and then Foundation and 3-tiers came about
- Trends and Demographics create concerns at top level
- Thus need to explore all mitigations for this...

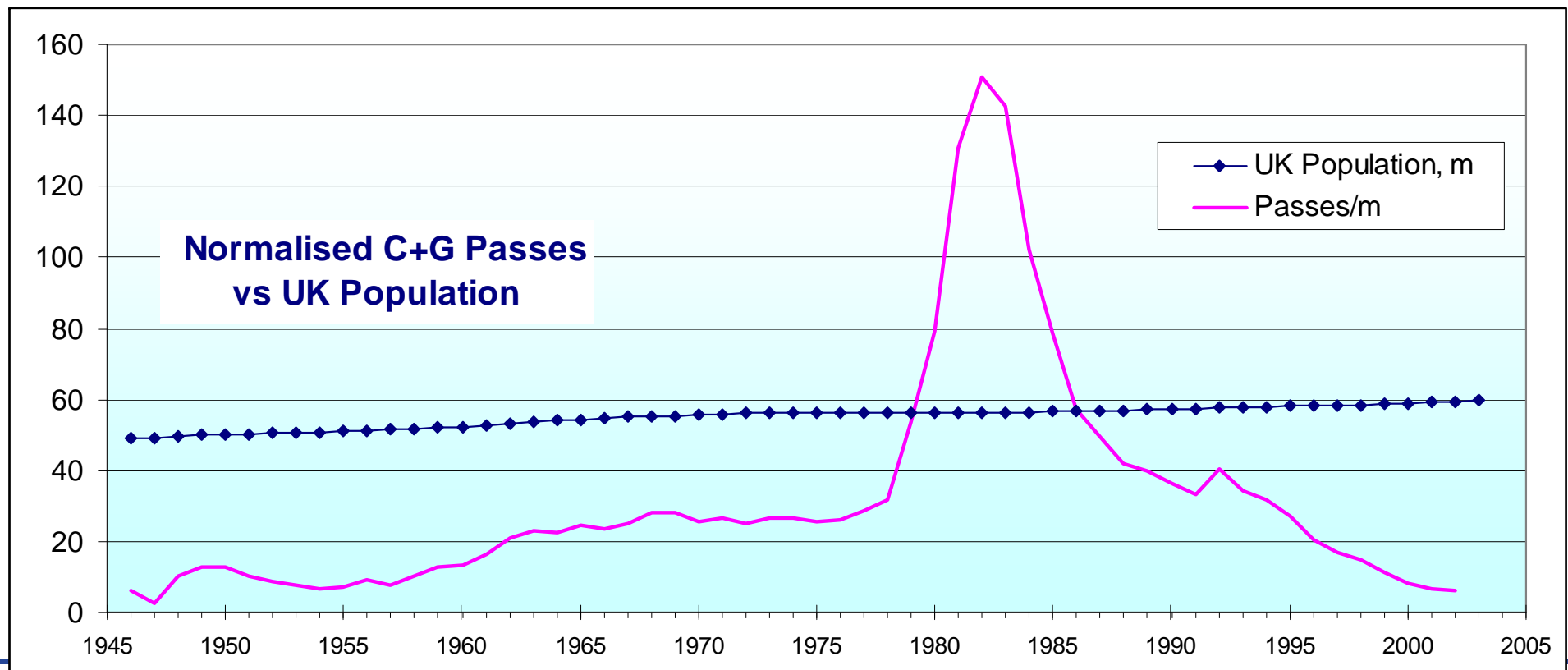
History

- Even before the 'CB Boom' - we had more new Full amateurs per year than today.... ~1200-1500 /pa in the 1960s
- C+G RAE Stats below:- (excludes Novice-RAE, introduced in 1991)



Normalised History

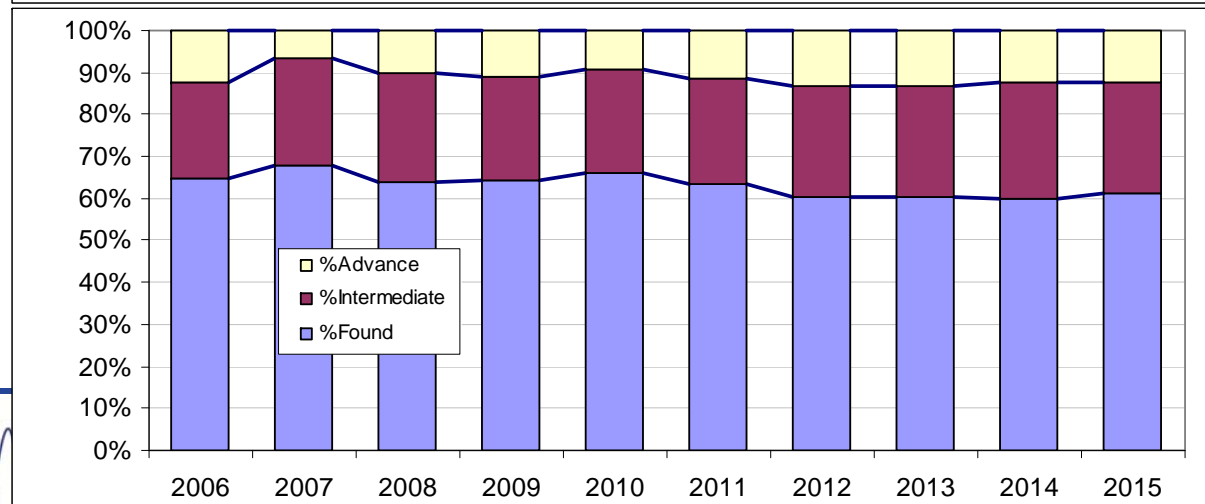
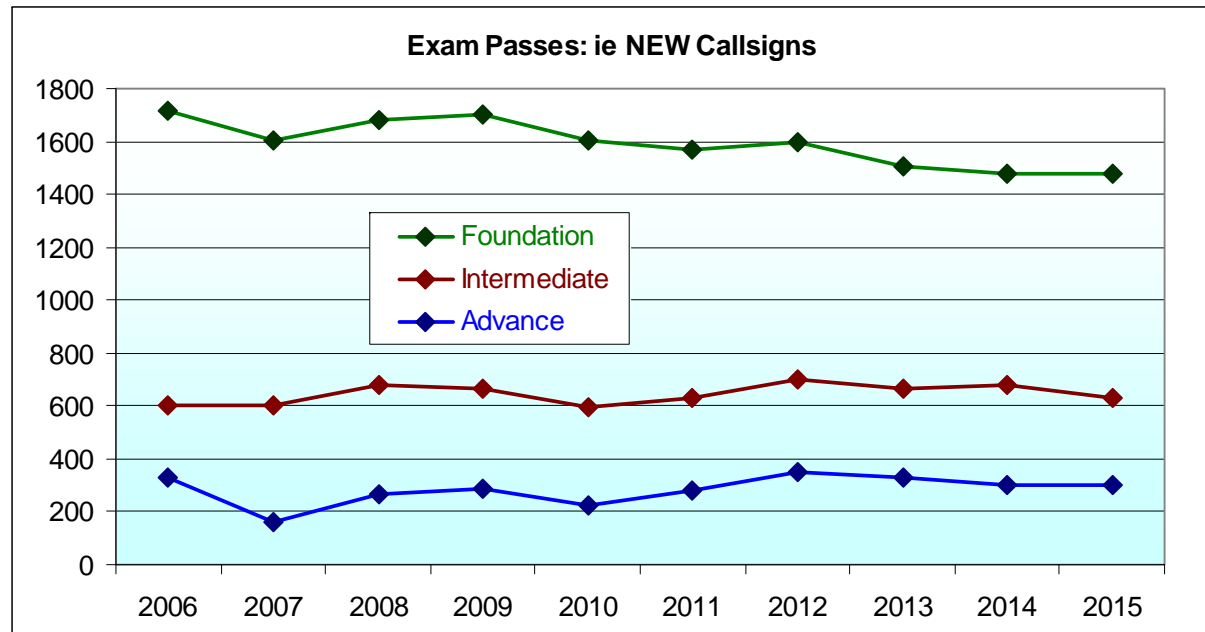
- As per previous slide, but ratioed against UK Population courtesy of ONS
- Passes per million of UK population shows that our attractiveness declined even more markedly after the boom – thus the move to the current system



Recent Exam Stats

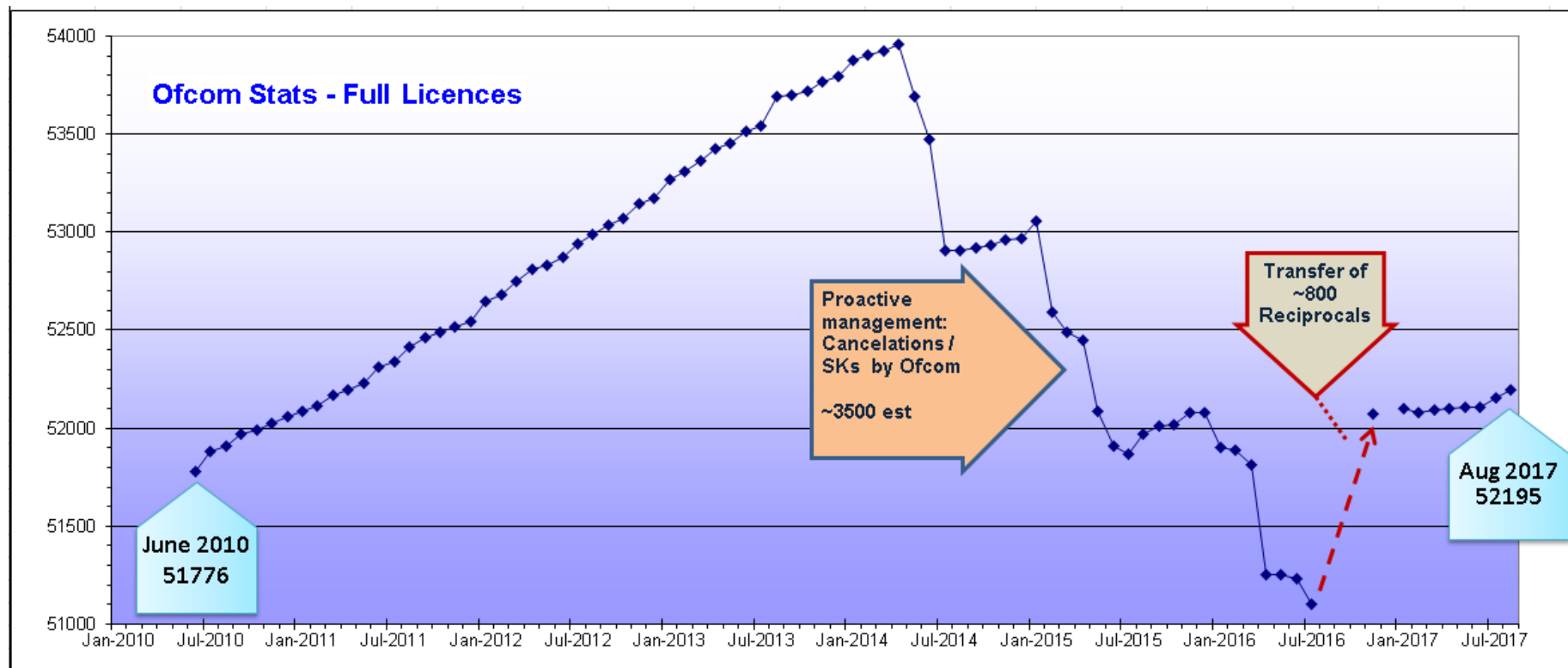
- NB Exam Passes are plotted as passes => licences
- Slight decline in overall numbers
- Only modest change in %ratios, though encouraging signs of progression in more detailed candidate stats
- Full now barely 300 pa

• NB: Main source is RCF/SC Exam reports.



Full Licences

- Long term concern at Full with ~300 exam passes/year not being enough to refresh losses
- When more active - Ofcom cancelled over 3000



■ Context

- We have quite good stats available
- Overall numbers entering the hobby via Foundation still quite healthy but in slow decline. Demographics and competing technology/attractions suggest that we cannot be complacent
- ARRL, Region-1 Member Societies also been considering how to sustain/grow amateur radio
- New 'attractors' needs to be considered
 - may not be traditional analogue modes
- So opportune to consider what the Spectrum Forum can contribute as part of the RSGB 2022 Strategy work

■ Licensing Discussion

- Licensing is only part of the answer to the demographics and strategy issues - but an important one..,

What Variations, Changes might be ?

- Desirable to attract new amateurs ?
- Assist Growth/Progression at Full ?
- Acceptable to existing amateurs ?

Discuss!

■ Background Noise Discussion

Need to consider across all spectrum...

- HF
 - VHF
 - Microwave
-
- What can we measure and how ?
 - What would we do with the result?

Discuss!