



RSGB Spectrum Forum Winter Meetings

Tuesday 29-Oct-2024, 7pm – 9pm

Saturday 30-Nov-2024 10:30am – 1:30pm

Part-1 – Tuesday 29th October

1. **Meeting arrangements:** Steve M1ACB kindly offered to take brief notes

2. **IARU Region-3 Conference** (Nov 4th – 8th 2024) – 40m Bandplan et al

Better harmonisation of global HF bandplans has been discussed for some time, with the most recent formal proposals discussed at the Friedrichshafen Interim Meeting in Jun 2022 that would re-balance between Digital and Analogue (CW/SSB). At the time MN and SB presented papers covering both the re-balance, as well as large contest handling.

Whilst momentum had since slowed, Australia, a key proponent of previous changes, had recently proposed a different and more controversial approach for 40m (cutting CW and impacting QRP), only for some retrenchment in a more recent second and over-long 35 page paper. The latest result is a formal input to the IARU Region-3 Conference that few amateurs have paid attention to, but still had flaws.

Greg Mossop who has an IARU-R1 role highlighted a shortcoming in the latest proposal re Centre of Activities for Emergency Comms, which should be mode-neutral. He will send some notes to Murray with the background.

As another example, Murray highlighted a change to a potentially unworkable recommendation for all Digital Voice to reside in the digimodes segment - rather than being near the top of the SSB band where we could accommodate growing DStar/Fusion DV better, as well as narrower bandwidth FreeDV.

It was also noted that suggestions of designing a band plan around the current CoAs might not be optimal, compared to harmonising the band first (and that includes addressing local licensing issues)

RSGB is currently a paid-up member of IARU Region-3 and will virtually attend the Conference, which will give us a access to the discussion. The 7-hour time difference will be a challenge though.

3. **IARU Region-1 Interim meeting** – submissions by Dec-10th for Apr-2025 for the following groups:

- C4 – HF a further chance to liaise on bandplan harmonisation
- C5 – VUSHF where the latest position on 23cm will be reviewed, plus other topics
- C7 – EMC ENAMS (Noise measurement) and Wireless Power likely to feature
- C8 – Youth A new feature as it transitions to a permanent committee

Ideally we need a hybrid meeting to ease travel logistics/costs. It was also noted that Nestor 5B4AHZ is now chairing IARU-R1 PRC, as Seamus EI8BP is retiring.

The event will coincide with the IARU Centenary, so an update on the future IARU organisation is likely

4. **RSGB Band Plans for 2025 - inputs asap**

- ETCC were invited to provide an update on gateways and 70cm repeater freqs (inc new 5MHz splits)
- Gregg G0DUB indicated RAYNET for their repeater channels a need to be at +/- 12.5kHz for flexibility
- 23cm: there are various ideas but we await the CEPT/EU situation. Meanwhile in the UK the band is subject to full clearance and NoV processes as per the new Ofcom Coordination notice.
- 70cm: Amateur assignments are also to be reviewed by Ofcom and the Primary User

5. Ofcom Licensing – Phase-2

Just ahead of the meeting, Ofcom announced that their project to evolve their licensing platform had incurred a serious delay. This will mean that timings for Phases-2 and 3 of the amateur licence changes would slip.

The main issue for amateurs will be a deferral of the Phase-2 changes to Special Event Station NoVs and the newer M8/M9 Intermediate callsigns. An update on the rollout schedule is awaited

6. AoB

- **Yearbook:** A query re the club entries in the Yearbook cropped up – there is an errata available
- **2.3GHz:** RSGB had replied to a recent Ofcom spectrum sharing consultation, and used the opportunity to query fairly old guidance from the 2014 PSSR Statement

Actions:

- IARU-R1 Meeting Inputs (and attendance logistics)
- Band Plan Inputs

Next Meeting: **Part-2 – Saturday 30th November 10:30am**