

GR2HQ Challenge

Looking ahead to the month of July, families will have holidays planned, the weather forecast will promise to be excellent, and everyone will be enjoying the summer.

Also in July, across the second weekend of that month each year, the IARU HF World Championship contest takes place, filling some of the HF bands for 24 hours with CW and SSB worldwide activity.

Now, we realise that not everyone is keen on contests, but this one has a challenge that we hope you will find a bit of fun, whether you are a regular contester or not. So, mark Saturday 13 July 1200UTC to Sunday 14 July 1200UTC on your calendar and please read on...

IARU HF Championship

The IARU HF Championship contest is organised by the ARRL, with single-op and multi-op stations from across the globe working each other for points and multipliers, and exchanging their ITU zone numbers.

A unique element of this contest is that national organisations (such as the RSGB) activate 'Headquarters Stations' representing their countries and competing against each other in a mini-league of HQ Stations.

In the UK, the RSGB Contest Committee organises the HQ station. This is actually a network of about a dozen or so stations around the UK and islands, all using the callsign GR2HQ.

Each of the GR2HQ stations in this network is allocated one or more of the twelve band-mode combinations (160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10m, using CW or SSB), throughout the 24 hours of the IARU HF Championship (this use of the GR2HQ callsign is approved each year by Ofcom).

The GR2HQ Challenge

The RSGB Contest Committee is organising the GR2HQ Challenge, to encourage individual stations to work the GR2HQ station during the IARU HF Championship on each band-mode slot.

Each station entering the GR2HQ Challenge scores points for working GR2HQ on each band-mode slot, according to the points allocation table below (shown to the right).

Certificates of Achievement will be available for all stations, and those stations achieving high scores will receive Certificates of Merit.

In addition, clubs and other teams are invited to enter the Teams Competition, with their score being the total of the individual scores of all their team members.

Results tables

Results tables of scores for Individual stations and aggregate scores for clubs and teams will appear on the RSGB Contest Committee website.

Rules and information on how to submit an entry for the GR2HQ Challenge can be read at rsgbcc.org

Clubs and Teams are encouraged to get their members to make QSOs with GR2HQ and submit an individual entry, building a score for their club/team.

Individual stations will identify their club or team name when uploading their log to the RSGB Contest Committee website.

Completing the challenge

Making a QSO on the 20, 15 or 10m bands between two stations where both are located in the UK is not quite as easy as a QSO on the

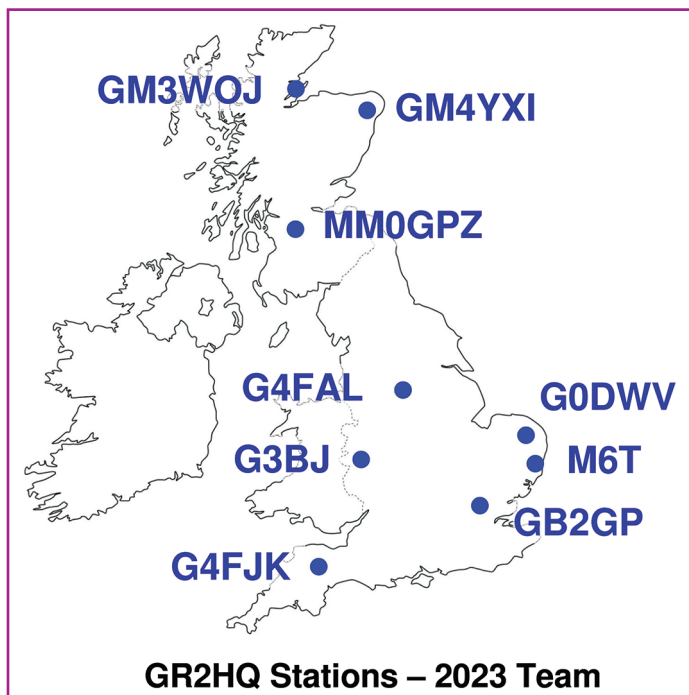


FIGURE 1: The GR2HQ 2023 team.

GR2HQ Challenge – Merit Levels					
	6-8 pts	9-10 pts	11-12 pts	13-16 pts	17-20 pts
SSB + CW	---	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD	PLATINUM
SSB only	CHROME	BRONZE	---	---	---
CW only	CHROME	BRONZE	---	---	---

TABLE 1: GR2HQ Challenge merit levels.

GR2HQ Challenge – Points Allocation						
	160m	80m	40m	20m	15m	10m
SSB	2	1	1	2	2	2
CW	2	1	1	2	2	2

TABLE 2: GR2HQ Challenge points allocation.

'low bands', but it might be easier than you think.

With HF band conditions being much better as we near the peak of the solar cycle, signals from UK stations may be heard via backscatter and, if your HF antenna is directional, by pointing in the direction of the DX, east in the morning and west in the evening. Strong Sporadic-E on the 10m band in July will also give some interesting results too.

So, make a note in your diary about the weekend of 13 and 14 July 2024. Think about planning a team entry with your local club members or teammates and look forward to working GR2HQ on as many HF bands as possible over that weekend.

Tim Hugill, G4FJK
gr2hq@rsgbcc.org