

## RSGB elections – ensuring the right volunteers are in the right roles



When this edition of RadCom lands on your mat we will be the middle of December, and I will have just four months of my Presidency left. When I took up the role in April 2023, one of my main objectives was to steer the RSGB back onto a strategic course which would keep it strong and relevant into the future. At the strategic growth workshop in February, we identified the importance of having the right volunteers in the right roles. This is an opportunity to start putting that goal into action.

The RSGB needs new Board Directors and they will be required to have a variety of skills to fill the vacant positions. In my own case, I am one of the few at Board level with extensive experience in Spectrum matters and negotiating with the authorities, so that gap will need to be filled.

Outreach has been a very large part of our work over the past year, driven very ably by one Director, and this essential work must be supported and expanded. We have started to contact organisations such as u3a who have people interested in amateur radio, and there are many other like-minded organisations that we need to reach out to. This will require someone with drive and determination to develop the links, but in doing so they will also need tact and diplomacy.

This is your opportunity to be part of this vital work to keep us on track to deliver what we promised: growth of the hobby and RSGB membership, continued defence of our precious spectrum, together with a financially resilient Society. Please do have a look on the RSGB Board web page where you will see the range of areas that each Board Director oversees and the extensive menu to the right will give you an insight into the entire organisation: [rsgb.org/board](https://rsgb.org/board)

You can find the list of vacancies and more about the role of President on this page, and full information on each of the roles on our election webpage at [rsgb.org/election](https://rsgb.org/election)

I urge you to study this information carefully. We need people with the right skills and characteristics to stand for these roles and be part of the large band of volunteers who are the lifeblood of our hobby, the Society and the future of amateur radio. Being President has been both an immensely challenging but also very enjoyable experience. Can you rise to the challenge of being the next President or filling one of the other vacant roles, or do you know someone who could?

**John McCullagh, G14BWM**  
RSGB President

### About being the RSGB President

There is no job description or person specification for the role of President. Each President shapes the role and activities they carry out to best match their view of the role, and by responding to requests for activities which will arise during their term as President. But there are some traits and skills which are important.

**Presentational and media skills:** The President will represent the Society and amateur radio at events as they arise during the term, so candidates should have some experience of public speaking and delivering presentations to audiences of varying sizes. The President will also be expected to speak and appear on live media at amateur radio events and to the mainstream media as opportunities to promote the hobby arise.

**Knowledge of amateur radio:** The President will need to have at least a limited knowledge of most aspects of the hobby so they can meet and relate to, for example, special interest groups. The President will need to advocate for amateur radio and so should understand and be able to articulate clearly what makes our hobby great.

**Knowledge of the RSGB:** The Society is a broad organisation and so the President needs to understand how the Society works and how the various interest groups mesh with it and amateur radio. They also need good knowledge of the services the Society provides for its members and for the wider amateur radio community. This knowledge is unlikely to be present in a candidate who has not been a volunteer for a period and an RSGB member for a longer period.

**Being a Board Director:** The President is a Board Director so some knowledge of the work of a Director is helpful but not essential. Reference can be made to the Director's candidate pack on the website for more information.

**Availability:** The President is expected to attend Board meetings (which happen monthly in person or online), RSGB events such as the Convention and AGM, as well as major amateur radio events such as the National Hamfest. Presidents also commonly attend smaller amateur radio events such as radio club rallies and meetings. Candidates will need to be able to travel and stay away as needed.

**Generally:** The role of President is well suited to someone who can relate to and talk engagingly with a wide range of people of varying backgrounds.

### Roles for election in 2025

**President:** Our current President John McCullagh, G14BWM will reach the end of his second year as President at the AGM and so will stand down. We are seeking candidates for this important role.

**Board Director:** There will be two Elected Board Director vacancies. The first is to fill a vacancy which arose during 2024. The second is because Tony Miles, MMOTMZ will reach the end of his first three-year term at the AGM and must stand down or seek re-election.

**Regional Representatives:** Eight posts are available for nominations: Region 1 (Scotland South Western Isles); Region 4 (England North-East); Region 7 (South Wales); Region 8 (Northern Ireland); Region 9 (London & Thames Valley); Region 10 (England South & South-East); Region 11 (SW England Channel Islands); and Region 12 (England East East Anglia).

#### Closing date for all the vacancies is 31 January 2025

**The process:** Full details of the roles and candidate forms are on the RSGB website at [rsgb.org/election](https://rsgb.org/election)

Where there are more candidates than vacancies, a ballot will be held and we hope every RSGB member will vote.

**Not sure if this could be a role for you?** First, please read the information set out on the election web page. If you'd like an informal discussion about the Board Director or Regional Representative roles, email RSGB Company Secretary Stephen Purser, GW4SHF via [company.secretary@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:company.secretary@rsgb.org.uk)

If you'd like to find out more about the role of RSGB President, email John McCullagh, G14BWM via [president@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:president@rsgb.org.uk)

If you know someone who has the right skills, experience and characteristics for any of these roles, please encourage them to consider applying.