

# RSGB 2024 Committee Reports

The RSGB committees, Honorary Officers and their helpers form the bulk of the volunteer delivery team that work hard to make amateur radio here in the UK a more fulfilling and relevant experience. As you will see in the reports published below, they are a large part of the powerhouse that drives delivery of the RSGB Strategy.

Much of the work that you will read about is associated with our Spectrum Strategic objective, be that negotiating with our own regulator or with overseas bodies for spectrum, that we are able to use for learning and enjoyment, or to provide public service in an emergency. Spectrum is only useful if it is free from interference. This is particularly the case for our members and fellow radio amateurs who, for one reason or another, only use low power and are constrained to operating from limited space. Our frequencies are crowded and our enjoyment of amateur radio would be the poorer if we did not coordinate their use amongst ourselves. This

coordination is an important role of many of our committees.

An important element of amateur radio is the satisfaction of lifelong learning. Be that learning through practical activity, reading about advances in radio technology or actively participating in advancing radio-related science and technology. As you will see, much of the committee work is targeted towards those ends, with ease of access to much of this a member benefit. This member benefit supports the RSGB's Membership strategic objective.

Finally, I draw your attention to the work of our fledgeling Outreach Team. This highly energetic team is working hard to find new ways of engaging with those who do not yet realise the fun and personal benefit that amateur radio provides. We anticipate that this work will expand as time progresses and we find ways to engage with people with different interests, backgrounds and who are at different points in their life journey. This

work is supported by the work of other teams and is central to the RSGB Growth strategy.

On behalf of you, the members, I would like to thank the over 240 volunteers who lead and support the activities reported here. Without their dedication and energy, amateur radio in the UK and indeed in the world, would be much poorer and the RSGB would be much less valuable to its members.

Finally, I need to thank you, the RSGB members, for your continued support. Without the funds provided by your fees, your donations and the revenue from your purchases we would not be able to fund what I am sure you will agree is the important work of our committees and Honorary Officers.

**RSGB Board Chair Stewart Bryant, G3YSX**  
[g3ysx@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:g3ysx@rsgb.org.uk)



## RSGB Board Director John McCullagh, GI4BWM

I am John McCullagh, GI4BWM, President of the RSGB. Apart from my duties in representing the Society, I am the Head of Delegation to the IARU and have Board liaison responsibilities for Spectrum and the associated committees and Honorary Officers, the ETCC and Emergency Communications.

You will see reports in this issue from the Spectrum Forum, the HF Manager, VHF Manager, Microwave Manager and the ETCC, all of which show the widespread coverage of their work both within the UK and at international level in the IARU. Please do read them all as they paint a full picture of what your Society does for you to protect and manage our precious Spectrum.

I am grateful for the dedicated duty that is given by everyone in this area, which is so important to amateur radio in the UK and in fact worldwide.

**RSGB President John McCullagh MBE, GI4BWM**  
[gi4bwm@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:gi4bwm@rsgb.org.uk)



## Spectrum Forum

The Forum brings together the Spectrum Managers with an extensive range of participants from both inside the Society and external specialist groups. This broad membership brings with it a wide array of experience to the array of matters it comes across. It also facilitates a number of RSGB awards for QRP, VHF/UHF, propagation, space and microwaves. It was pleasing to see key volunteers were recognised at the 2024 RSGB AGM and by ARRL.

RSGB Spectrum managers also continue to facilitate 'Innovation bands' via Ofcom NoVs at 71MHz, 146MHz, 2300MHz and >275GHz.

As indicated in last year's report, the annual meeting pattern was changed to accommodate the workload, which in early 2024 was dominated by the rollout of the new Ofcom licence conditions on 21 February. A specific forum meeting covered the consequent adjustments to RSGB

band plans and guidance that successfully accommodated the changes and increase in demand for VHF/UHF assignments. This was followed by a more conventional annual meeting for group reports, which are available on the forum web pages.

The summer saw a response to an Ofcom consultation on greater shared use of the 2.3GHz band, which was followed by a busy autumn and forum meetings on 29 October and 30 November largely associated with international events.

The RSGB is a member of IARU Region-3 where initially WIA and later Region-3 considered proposals for 'harmonising' the global 40m band plan. This created numerous concerns and forum members assisted in collating these and underpin our online attendance at the November IARU Region-3 Conference where their approach to 40m band reform was significantly modified.

This was quickly followed by the RSGB's own preparations for the forthcoming IARU



Read more about the Spectrum Forum via  
[rsgb.org/spectrumforum](https://rsgb.org/spectrumforum)

Region-1 Interim Meeting that will be in April 2025, coinciding with the IARU Centenary. For the IARU meeting a total of six papers were drafted, reviewed and submitted on HF and VUSHF matters. Also covered in the autumn were the key agenda items for ITU WRC-27 and WRC-31. These are on a new special focus area of the RSGB website, and the Society is following two key CEPT Project Teams (PTA and PTC) associated with these in liaison with Ofcom.

Our microwave manager Barry Lewis, G4SJH, in his leading IARU-R1 role, continued to be occupied with the challenges

on the 23cm band throughout the year. Following the outcome at WRC-23, regulatory activity in CEPT gathered pace and a key implementation decision is expected later in 2025.

Returning to more domestic matters, whilst Phases 2 and 3 of the Ofcom licence changes have been delayed, it may be noted that other related adjustments to NoVs and reciprocal licensing did get underway, whilst the end of the year has allowed an assessment of where further VHF/UHF band plan updates are needed.

Continuing the recent pattern, the next annual meeting was deferred to early 2025 along with the annual consideration of awards and further band plan updates.

So, in summary, spectrum, operating and licensing matters remained a busy area for the Spectrum Forum, with further developments expected in the coming year.

#### Spectrum Forum Chair

Murray Niman, G6JYB

[spectrum.chairman@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:spectrum.chairman@rsgb.org.uk)

## HF Manager's report

**Summary:** HF band activity is peaking now on the higher bands as we reach the top of the sunspot cycle. Although this relieves pressure on the lower bands, the reduction in activity on the traditional CW and SSB modes is very noticeable.

This year sees the Region 1 Interim meeting coinciding with the 75-year celebration of IARU Region 1.

**IARU Digital Modes Band Plan Review:** the IARU HF band plan review for digital modes is to be re-addressed as it was felt the original proposal, now several years old, falls short in a number of areas. This will be addressed at the IARU Region 1 Interim meeting in April this year. The RSGB's position is to support harmonisation of the HF bands as far as possible across all regions whilst maintaining separation of differing modes. The key issues relate to the rapid adoption of FT8 and FT4 modes and how these should be incorporated into the band plans which largely predate the development of these modes.

IARU Interim Meeting April 2024:



The HF Manager encourages the flow of design and operating information within the UK, and between the UK and other countries.

Committee C4 deals with HF matters. There are some early submissions including two papers from the RSGB concerning digital voice and emergency centre of activities. It is expected that further papers on contesting and band planning will be discussed. Any agreements made during the interim meeting are subject to ratification at the subsequent general conference.

**5MHz:** the UK still has no access to the full WRC-15 allocation, and this seems unlikely to change in the near future. However, the RSGB supports and is pushing for the full allocation to be released in the UK. At risk is the ever-present activity of UK stations operating above 5358kHz, which is in violation of the licence conditions and the agreement with the primary user for access to a much larger segment of 5MHz in the UK.

**WRC:** the four-year WRC cycle is very relevant to the amateur service HF bands although, at the moment, there are no agenda items directly affecting the amateur service allocations. The prospect of further allocations at HF remains desirable, notably at 10MHz, but these are extremely unlikely in the next few WRC cycles. Current work is focused on protecting the existing allocations from interests by other services and the ever-present rising noise floor levels on the HF bands.

**HF Awards and DXpedition Fund:** the HF Manager is a *de facto* trustee of the RSGB DXpedition Fund, which raises money for DXpeditions through sales of raffle tickets at the RSGB Convention and individual donations.

The DXpeditions supported in 2024 are listed at:

[rsgb.org/main/operating/hf-dxpedition-fund/dxpeditions-supported](https://rsgb.org/main/operating/hf-dxpedition-fund/dxpeditions-supported)

The two awards for HF are presented at the RSGB Convention. The nomination process and committees are managed by the HF Manager. The committee decided not to award the G5RP Trophy in 2024 as there was only a single nomination.

ROTAB Trophy 2024: John Farrer, G3XHZ

G5RP Trophy 2024: not awarded

Ian Greenshields, G4FSU

RSGB HF Manager

[hf.manager@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:hf.manager@rsgb.org.uk)

## RSGB VHF Manager's report

The VHF Manager, John Regnault, G4SWX is responsible for RSGB spectrum matters for the VHF and UHF amateur bands from 50 to 432MHz.

**70.5 and 146MHz experimental spectrum:** a report was delivered to Ofcom on amateur experimental work at 70.5MHz and 146MHz highlighting the latest developments. The temporary experimental spectrum at 70.5-71.5MHz and 146-147MHz was renewed for a further year from November 2024 to November 2025. Although the number of digital



Antenna for the VHF and UHF bands.

experimenters using this spectrum is relatively small (128 NoVs (Notice of Variation) for 146-147MHz and 87 NoVs for 70.5-71.5MHz were issued), it is hoped that the resulting innovation with VHF spectrum justifies further temporary, shared amateur access to experimental spectra at 146 and 71MHz.

**VHF/UHF band plans:** the RSGB makes changes in the VHF/UHF band plans in line with those agreed by IARU R1 C5 VHF Committee. It should be noted that the RSGB policy is to develop the band plans based on the bandwidth occupied rather than allocating frequencies for every single mode of transmission. This means that not every mode will have a dedicated frequency or channel.

There have been concerns that there is not enough spectrum in the 144MHz band to accommodate all requests for the increasing number of incompatible digital modes. As a result of the changes in the amateur licence conditions earlier in 2024, most repeaters, beacons and gateways you will no longer require an NoV. However, for powers above 5W, a callsign must be obtained from the RSGB ETCC. Although the revised licence states, 'In all cases licensees will have to carry out an interference assessment to prove that they have minimised the risk of interference to other users'. With the increasing numbers of repeaters and gateways it is inevitable that coverage areas and some levels of low-level mutual interference will have to be accepted.

**Operating:** the general level of traditional VHF/UHF amateur FM/DV/SSB voice and CW activity continues to cause some concern with most narrowband activity becoming single-frequency FT8. The VHF Manager is grateful for those who are arranging activity periods for many traditional modes and their publicity in *RadCom*. It is particularly important to encourage newcomers who often start with cheap, FM-only transceivers.

**Outlook:** amateur radio is in a unique position in having access to spectrum which is dedicated to experimental transmission techniques, and we need to make greater use of it. Although the workload of defending amateur spectrum at VHF/UHF has currently been lower than some amateur bands in the past year it is important to push new innovative technologies and techniques to maintain credibility that the amateur spectrum is well used in terms that spectrum regulators understand.

John Regnault, G4SWX

VHF Manager

[vhf.manager@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:vhf.manager@rsgb.org.uk)

## Microwave Manager's report

The Microwave Manager looks after UK amateur interests above 1GHz and participates in the RSGB Spectrum Forum. These frequencies are home to a wide variety of innovation and operating modes, including narrowband analogue modes, propagation beacons, contest activity, satellite communications, digital and analogue ATV and Earth-Moon-Earth (EME) communications. Digital mode experimentation continues to grow, especially in the higher frequency bands. Active microwave band user groups in the UK include data and repeater groups, the UK Microwave Group (UKuG), BATC and AMSAT-UK.

The RSGB and the UKuG have continued to schedule contest events encouraging activity in all bands up to 248GHz. The most popular events continue to be those in the 1.3 GHz and 10GHz bands. The RSGB UK Activity Contest events continue to be popular and encourage activity in the lower microwave bands at 2.3, 3.4, 5.6 and 10GHz on a monthly basis. The BATC arranges TV contesting in the bands above 1GHz too.

Following a consultation, RSGB input and review by Ofcom, the amateur radio licensing framework has undergone an update that includes new privileges providing access to the lower microwave bands at 2.4GHz (13cm) and 5.7GHz (6cm) for Foundation licence holders. The aim is to encourage newcomers to these bands. Work to simplify the beacon transmitter licensing process for lower power beacons and streamline the process for higher power beacons continues.

For the 23cm band, the results from the 2023 ITU-R World Radio Conference (WRC-23) continued to be considered in the European region with CEPT developing regulatory decisions to protect the European Galileo positioning system in the 1258 to 1300MHz range based on the WRC outcome. The amateur community continues to be engaged and is represented by the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU Region 1) of which the RSGB is an active member. At the end of the year, Ofcom released further spectrum for "Shared Access" applications that include part of our 13cm band between 2320 and 2340MHz. The spectrum has not been removed from the amateur schedule, but licences will now be available for any interested party to apply for indoor usage in this band. The RSGB had requested an upward frequency shift to avoid our weak signal part of the band, but this did not come about.

The RSGB Spectrum Forum and the Microwave Manager collaborate with the IARU to monitor and directly contribute to UK and international spectrum discussions. Work in the ITU-R is increasingly considering the millimetre-wave bands and the RSGB has been contributing to the discussions.

Operating in the bands above 1GHz is rewarding and the UKuG has a growing range of loan equipment available to encourage newcomers onto the bands. As ever, it remains vitally important to demonstrate and publicise



10GHz portable operation (image supplied by G4SJH).

any experimentation and use of the microwave and millimetre-wave bands to ensure their retention by the amateur service.

Finally, a thank you to the RSGB HQ staff, contributors to *RadCom* and the Spectrum Forum members for their collaboration and support throughout the year.

Barry Lewis, G4SJH  
Microwave Manager  
microwave.manager@rsgb.org.uk

## Emerging Technology Coordination Committee (ETCC) report

The purpose of the ETCC is to support UK amateurs in the development of repeaters, gateways, data communications networks and propagation beacons, and to promote and assist in the introduction of new technologies.

We process all proposals for analogue and digital voice repeaters and gateways, analogue and digital TV repeaters, data communication systems, and beacons.

We assist the licensees who propose these systems, by vetting the technical details to ensure they comply with the new Ofcom licence conditions and checking that the proposed frequencies should not cause interference with others. This results in the issue of a document showing the frequency power and callsign have been coordinated to that end.

The initial surge of applications when the new Ofcom licence conditions were issued in February 2024 resulted in an overall increase of 36% in licensed installations. Gateway numbers rose from 269 to 454 and a resurgence in packet radio took numbers from 254 to 387. The demand has now however subsided to more normal levels.

**Spectrum issues:** the demand for spectrum in the 2m band has, for some time, exceeded availability in many parts of the UK so we have introduced two new channel pairs which has eased matters, but it is often difficult to encourage applicants to stick to the band plans. Frequencies in the 70cm and 6m bands can still be found



SK7MQ Repeater Tower (Intraframe. Own work. Licenced CC BY-SA).

in most areas. The 70cm band is much simpler now that MOD clearance is not required for new applications.

**Emerging technology:** the three main competing digital voice modes, DMR, D-Star and Fusion, continue to fuel demand for channels. Although multi-protocol repeaters and gateways are increasingly being deployed, single-mode repeaters still remain in demand.

**Repeater abuse:** repeater abuse is still a problem in some areas. ETCC maintains close co-operation with the RSGB's Operating Advisory Service (OAS) and HQ staff to promote action via Ofcom.

**Data communications:** faster data and digital-voice gateway proposals have been high and there is a steady demand for digital modes. Multi-mode digital voice gateways using MMDVM and similar, have showed some increase in popularity, especially as they can now be used by all amateurs.

**Processing and renewals:** we are still using a modified version of the original GM8LBC software and website, but there are plans for a major overhaul in 2025, to improve both resilience and security as well as streamline the frequency planning functions.

**ETCC membership:** the Committee membership changed in 2024 with the sad passing of G3VVT and the resignation of G4TSN. The numbers have been restored by the addition of MOZAH to boost IT skills and GODUB who will look after Raynet frequency allocations under the new rules. My thanks as always to all the members

## RSGB Board Director Stewart Bryant, G3YSX

I am Stewart Bryant, G3YSX. In addition to my duties as Board Chair, I am the Board Liaison for the EMC, Legacy and Nominations Committees as well as the Technical Forum. In both the later cases I am also an individual contributor to these activities.

As you will see from its report, the EMC committee plays a key role in the RSGB Spectrum strategy by working both at national and individual level to reduce harmful interference which is particularly deleterious to members operating with relatively low power from small gardens. Unfortunately, as we can see the light at the end of the tunnel for xDSL interference, RF pollution from green technologies presents us with serious new difficulties to address.

The Technical Forum, which aims to review all contributions submitted for publication in *RadCom*, fulfils a key role in maintaining the technical quality of the magazine. This is a key member benefit both nationally and internationally and thus makes an important contribution to the RSGB membership strategy.

The Nominations Committee plays a key role in the RSGB's governance by attracting and recruiting leaders with a wide variety of skills and experience to support the eclectic needs of the Society.

**Dr Stewart Bryant, G3YSX**

RSGB Board Chair

[g3ysx@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:g3ysx@rsgb.org.uk)



## EMC Committee (EMCC) annual report 2025

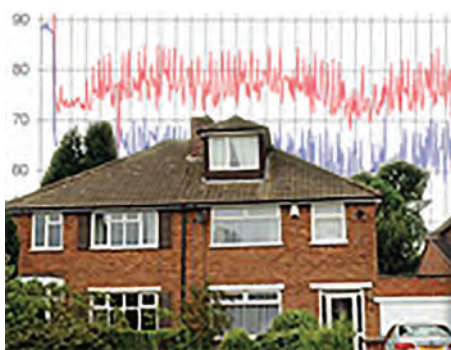
The pollution from Radio Frequency Interference (RFI), results in ever-increasing harmful interference to our licensed spectrum. This reduces the ability for weak signal communication. Unfortunately, new green energy schemes often result in significant interference, because the many different sources add up, whereas the standards only specify the limits for a single source.

EMCC aims to help people to:

- reduce the impact of interference on reception
- assist in identifying interference sources
- minimise the interference we may cause to shared spectrum users
- influence standards to prevent unnecessary spectrum pollution and
- investigate new technologies to identify threats to the amateur service

**Help and advice** to members is provided through the EMC Helpdesk and via the website. 60 cases were handled by the help desk in the year. The majority of RFI reported was caused by high current switching systems to convert AC to DC (particularly vehicle chargers) or to generate AC from DC (including solar PV and wind turbines) or heat pumps. Ken Underwood, G3SDW who has run the helpdesk for many years has handed over the task to John Livesey, GOJLL. The society thanks Ken for his dedication to the task and thanks John for taking over.

**EMF compliance checks:** very few questions were received this year as most people had used the tools we provide and only a small number of checks had been made by Ofcom. The change in permitted power requires further investigations. Above 400W the contribution from radials and feeders becomes more significant and the exclusion zones are more likely to include public accessible regions. This requires more care in monitoring the exclusion zones. Work on modelling these effects and measurements of antennas like verticals with radials, trapped antennas and small beams like the Hexbeam is planned for the next year. Work continues



To read more about EMC-related matters visit [rsgb.org/emc](http://rsgb.org/emc)

jointly with ARRL and IRTS on EMF advice and RF safety.

**VDSL interference and complaints to Ofcom:** we continue to provide support to members who are experiencing interference from broadband systems. Cases of amateur transmissions affecting G.Fast broadband have been reported. The steady uptake of Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) should reduce harmful copper cable radiation and susceptibility cases. One unexpected consequence of FTTP is that often the old copper line is not removed, and it carries conducted emissions from the cabinet which radiate from the drop-wire. Neighbours who continue to use FTTC also contribute to radiated VDSL interference.

**Investigations:** this work is reported through the EMC column in *RadCom*. Work has continued in monitoring RF interference emissions, and EMC standards for alternative power generation, as more cases of interference are being received from solar PV systems.

**Representation on national and international standards committees:** RSGB EMCC members continue to review relevant standards at BSI level and try to influence national committees prior to voting on selective key issues. IARU continues to inform the manufacturers, their agencies or representatives and standards bodies on matters of EMC compliance. CISPR

Standardisation continues to be represented at high level by IARU and nationally at BSI. Following lobbying by RSGB and IARU, the UK National EMC committee voted against changes to a generic emission standard in development for low power Wireless Power Transfer (WPT) in residential environments. Unfortunately, this failed to stop further progression of this Committee Draft to Vote (CDV) document, with only the UK, US and Norway voting against. Seventeen other countries voted in favour.

The EMC Committee members have been very busy with their diverse workload. More EMCC members are needed if we are to continue this crucial work. Recently a number of people have offered to join us in this work but more people are always needed – can you help?

**Dr John Rogers, MOJAV**

EMC Committee Chair

[emc.chairman@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:emc.chairman@rsgb.org.uk)

## Legacy Committee report

The Committee's function is to consider applications for funding of projects from the RSGB's Legacy Fund. It comprises the Chairman and three other members.

During the year the Committee has considered and recommended approval of several small applications. These have included projects relating to remote operation, power supply resilience for repeaters, an RSGB Convention workshop, an antenna project for a Scout group and funding for



To read more about the RSGB's Legacy Committee visit [rsgb.org/legacy](http://rsgb.org/legacy)



Visit [rsgb.org/nomcom](https://www.rsgb.org/nomcom) for more information about the RSGB's Nominations Committee.

a visitor interaction initiative at the National Radio Centre.

The Committee will consider a wide range of applications. Guidance is available on the RSGB website or directly from the Chairman.

**Richard Horton, G4AOJ**  
**Legacy Committee Chairman**  
[legacy.chair@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:legacy.chair@rsgb.org.uk)

## Nominations Committee Annual report

The Nominations Committee, or NomCom, is a committee of five members of the RSGB which has the primary role of reviewing the balance of skills, experience, diversity, knowledge and independence of the Board and of making recommendations for the candidates for the three Nominated Director posts described in Clause 28(c) and 33(c) of the Memorandum and Articles. In addition, NomCom seeks other potential volunteers who wish to serve the Society and holds interviews for potential candidates, not only for nominated director but also for individuals who reach out and contact NomCom to explore the role of being a volunteer. Sometimes, volunteer roles considered are at a senior level and sometimes can be more of a consultancy-type basis or operational in nature. All roles are on a volunteer basis.

NomCom meets when volunteers have approached NomCom and of course when nominated Board director roles are to be made and recommended to Board. NomCom will interview and then make recommendations to the RSGB Board on whom they consider will be a good fit in terms of skills and abilities and experience and diversity. NomCom also advises the Board on volunteer positions but excludes elected directors, Regional Representatives and the position of President.

The nature of the work and interviews is sensitive and confidential but formal nominated director interview outcomes are minuted for public record. During 2024 NomCom interviewed candidates for two Nominated Board director vacancies and the outcome of these interviews produced two candidates that were recommended for Board appointments. The Board accepted NomCom's recommendations and Ben Lloyd, GW4BML and Nathan Nuttall, 2M00CC were duly appointed.

NomCom also interviewed other potential candidates for volunteer roles and their skills and attributes were advised to Board throughout

the year. These were members who offered to volunteer to the Society. Their skills were explored and, if needed for the future of the RSGB, were passed on to Board for consideration.

If you consider that you have the skills, and perhaps have external related industry experience, that could support the Board and the RSGB as a volunteer, then please contact the Nominations Committee Chair for a confidential discussion via [nominations.chair@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:nominations.chair@rsgb.org.uk)

**Bob Beebe, GU4YOX**  
**Nominations Committee Chair**  
[nominations.chair@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:nominations.chair@rsgb.org.uk)

## Technical Forum report

The Technical Forum (TF) is responsible for the technical side of the RSGB's activities and is a reflector- and email-based group allowing rapid response and discussion with all the forum's members having access, and being able to contribute immediately. There have been no annual meetings this year.

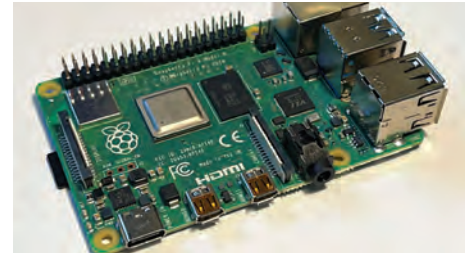
Technical review of articles for *RadCom*, and the other RSGB published electronic magazines, forms the bulk of the activity we perform. Any technical article being considered for publication is sent by the Technical Editor to the Forum for review. We look at its suitability, technical merit and for any safety implications. Articles are sent out as general release to the TF and members respond individually as appropriate within their areas of expertise occasionally a few are 'pushed' in the direction of individuals for their particular area.

Absolute technical correctness in certain areas is not always challenged, especially for *RadCom Plus* where it is realised that experts and beginners will approach some areas in a different light. Certain articles have been 'allowed through' in spite of a few concerns and, in such cases, it is left to readers and the correspondence columns to discuss them.

The members of the Forum have a breadth of specialist knowledge to cover many of the areas needed for detailed review. Software radio and the new data modes and 21st century techniques are rapidly moving into the hobby so it may be necessary to use external experts, particularly if there could be safety and legal implications involved. Advice on earthing is one particular point that has caused some problems which still raises its head from time to time.

Another task we perform is the selection of award winners for the five RSGB technical awards. The winners are selected through a voting system by forum members after a list of all suitable publications and candidates is first drawn up and circulated. They are then sent to the Board for approval.

Increasingly, comments (and complaints and criticism) on published articles are appearing first on various independently run social media platforms and groups. In an attempt to streamline online discussion around



For more information about the RSGB's Technical Forum visit [rsgb.org/main/technical/forums](https://www.rsgb.org/main/technical/forums)

*RadCom* and other RSGB publications, the RSGB-Workshop@groups.io group was set up under the auspices of the Technical Forum in order to try to concentrate online activity into one place. It is hoped, although hasn't happened in all cases, that the writers of the technical articles as well as columnists will join the group so that the fastest feedback and turnaround can be achieved.

As with all such online forums, subjects and posts often turn into a long discussion, frequently veering way off topic but so far it has seldom been necessary to step in and cut off further posts. The breadth of subjects has covered too huge a range to even begin to list here, going from basic construction right through to advanced and specialist techniques being discussed. Antennas, EMC matters and licensing issues continue to dominate and are easily the most popular subjects. As is often the case, some seemingly quite trivial subjects often generate a huge discussion thread. Some *RadCom* articles generate a huge response and discussion, and members of the Technical Forum keep an overview of the threads and can respond with an official view if needed. With the wide range of expertise and experience amongst the subscribers, most questions soon get answered to the satisfaction of their originator.

It is not within the scope of the Technical Forum to develop technical training amongst the Society's members. However, the TF may be able to stimulate the writing of articles or make some direct contributions in areas of interest via the various *RadCom* publications. If you have any ideas on areas you would like the Society's publications to cover, or any direction you think we should take, please let us know.

Please note that the TF is not a 'member-facing' group, and should not be seen as a point of call for individual technical assistance. The best approach for that is on one of the many specialist groups such as the independently run RSGBTechnical Group.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members of the Technical Forum for their time and the support provided.

**Andy Talbot, G4JNT**  
**Technical Forum Chair**  
[tech.chair@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:tech.chair@rsgb.org.uk)

## RSGB Board Director Peter Bowyer, G4MJS

I'm Peter Bowyer, G4MJS and I joined the Board in 2024. My Board Liaison areas are contests and trophies. The hard work is carried out by our three contest committees and Trophy Manager whose reports follow this introduction. My job is to represent their work at Board level, and make sure they've got the resources they need. I have also recently also taken on the role of Vice-Chair to spread the Chair's workload.

**Peter Bowyer, G4MJS**  
RSGB Board Director  
g4mjs@rsgb.org.uk



## Contest Support Committee (CSC) report

The Contest Support Committee is one of the three contest committees that are responsible for the administration of all RSGB contests. The other two committees are the HF Contest Committee (HFCC) and the VHF Contest Committee (VHFCC).

The Contest Support Committee is responsible for the adjudication of all RSGB contests and, at the end of 2024, had 13 members. The CSC also provides support and advice to the HFCC and the VHFCC. A list of the current CSC members is available at: [rsgbcc.org/vhf/committee\\_members.html](http://rsgbcc.org/vhf/committee_members.html)

This team of experienced and dedicated volunteers adjudicated 230 contests (51 HF, 179 VHF) in 2024. Over 23,000 logs were received and adjudicated during 2024. One contest (IOTA) received 2,087 logs.

A comprehensive in-house developed website is run by the Contest Support Committee with links to all RSGB contest rules, results (past and present) and to the log submission robot. A list of the winners of past contest trophies – the Hall of Fame – is available at:

[rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/trophies.pl](http://rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/trophies.pl)

The adjudication software used by the Contest Support Committee has been upgraded several times during 2024 to

cater for minor rules changes and to further increase the scope of the fully automatic adjudication routines. All RSGB contests, including the IOTA contest, are adjudicated using this software.

The three Contest Committees (HFCC, VHFCC and CSC) periodically publishes via email a free newsletter containing notable contest related events including new contests and major rules changes. The newsletter has a current circulation of 1100. To subscribe to this newsletter, please visit: [rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/subscribe.pl?subtype=news](http://rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/subscribe.pl?subtype=news)

The Contest Support Committee also processes all Special Contest Call (1+1 callsigns eg GOA, M9Z etc) applications and issue all Special Contest Call Notice of Variations on behalf of Ofcom. There are 520 special contest calls and currently, as at the end of 2024, 273 SCC Notices of Variation have been issued. Details of how to qualify for a Special Contest Call are available at [rsgb.org/scc](http://rsgb.org/scc)

Please use [scc@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:scc@rsgb.org.uk) for all questions and enquiries about obtaining a special contest call.

**Ian Pawson, G0FCT**  
Contest Support Committee Chair  
[csc.chair@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:csc.chair@rsgb.org.uk)

## HF Contest Committee (HFCC) report

2024 was a good year for HF contests with conditions approaching their peak for solar cycle 25. Our combination of legacy contests, club-based contest series and FT4 events had good participation. We also saw some great UK & CD scores in International HF contests.

We are pleased to see newcomers taking part in many of our contests and are glad that participation overall is maintained with good numbers in all our events.

We are particularly encouraged that our historic contests are maintaining excellent numbers of entrants. The Commonwealth Contest had over 250 participants again in 2024. Following the contest, analysis of the results led to discussions with representatives from the main participating nations resulting in consultation on some significant changes to the governance of the contest into the future, as well as rule changes which are designed to encourage intercontinental QSOs.

From 2025, the Commonwealth Contest will be governed by representatives from the National Societies of Australia, New Zealand,



10m QSOs by MD4K (G3NKC) in CQWW SSB 2024.

Canada, India and the UK, making the contest represent the Commonwealth more accurately.

Our 'flagship' contest IOTA maintains around 2000 entrants each year. With our witnessing a reduction in SSB activity generally, and in contests too, RSGB are permitting self-spotting in 2025, following the example set recently by ARRL. This will affect the IOTA contest significantly and should improve QSO rates and add to the entertainment of the event.

2024 saw the RSGB continue to join forces with the UK/EI Contest Club in partnering promotion of two annual International 24-hour HF contests – CW on the last weekend in April and SSB on a fifth weekend in the autumn. The number of UK and Irish participants is continuing to show the value of this strategic alliance.

The FT4 Contest Series which was introduced in 2019 has remained popular with over 160 UK & CD entrants plus over 160 non-UK entrants. This was the fourth year with a multi-band format, but this year included five bands: 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10m. For 2025, we are running events for each of the 12 months, and extending the sessions to two hours, to encourage activity from North America. The FT4 International Day was expanded to a 24-hour format in 2024 in response to requests from overseas participants.

The RSGB Contest Club continues to provide support to RSGB contesters and volunteer operators for the HQ stations that are part of many of our contests. The Contest Club provided support to the YOTA month RSGB activity in December 2024 which was coordinated by Jamie, MOSDV. In January 2024, Contest Club members activated special callsigns with 'WWA' suffixes as part of an Italian-run marathon initiative. This fun activity, although not strictly a contest, provided great pile-up practice for contesters



Steve, GW1YBB's car-based portable station on the 70cm band.



G4FAL's homebrew nine-element 2m band Yagi antenna.

and DXpeditioners alike. This will be repeated in 2025 with some 40 RSGB activators.

The Contest Club holds the permanent callsign GR2HQ, as HFCC coordinates the UK's station in the IARU HF Championship in July each year. In 2024 the RSGB station achieved second place in the HQ competition – our best result for many years. Tim, G4FJK is the committee member with a role to develop our GR2HQ station; he is working to encourage more UK stations to call the HQ station during the contest. In 2025 the contest will be from 1200UTC on Saturday 12 July, for 24 hours, and we will look for UK callers on the six contest bands from 160m to 10m, on both CW and SSB with the 'GR2HQ Challenge' which was added to our calendar in 2024.

The core HFCC membership in 2023 were: Nick, G4FAL; Tim, G4FJK; Gordon, MMOGPZ; Stewart, GWOETF; Paul, G4PVM; Allan, GM4ZUK; Nick, M1DDD; and Graham, GONBI. In 2024 committee members and friends have been authoring the *RadCom* Contesting column aiming to compile a series of articles that cover the basics of amateur radio contesting.

We work closely with the CSC and VHFCC, with Ian, GOFCT and Andy, G4PIQ, and with the technical and practical support of Pete, G4CLA on web resources and Mike, GOGJV providing adjudication software – we are very thankful for their contribution to the success of our calendar of contests.

We welcome Mike, G3VYI as manager of the RSGB Trophies and Peter Bowyer, G4MJS who taken on the role of our Board liaison.

**Nick Totterdell, G4FAL**  
**HF Contest Committee Chair**  
 hfcc.chair@rsgb.org.uk

### VHF Contest Committee report

The VHF Contest Committee is responsible for setting the strategy and rules for the RSGB's Contest programme on 50MHz and above.



Read more about the RSGB trophies at [rsgb.org/trophies](https://rsgb.org/trophies)

One of our strategies to increase participation in VHF Contests has been to encourage competition between affiliated societies. These structures tend to create keen competition between clubs which encourages more activity from their individual members who can all contribute to the club score. This year we made changes to the scoring schemes to allow entrants lower down the results table to play a larger part in contributing to their club's score.

We also tried an experiment this year in our Monthly FM activity contests designed to try and encourage more Intermediate and Foundation licensees into the event. We did this by giving each class of licence their own section rather than splitting in more traditional ways. Sadly, it didn't increase activity, so we are reverting to sections based on power for 2025.

2024 brought with it a number of welcome changes to the licence conditions and we made a number of changes to reflect Phase 1 of the Ofcom implementation. This included the ability for non-licensed operators working under appropriate supervision to enter contests. We believe that this could form an important mechanism to engage more people in amateur radio.

Activity levels have shown a slight decline during 2024 although, as ever, some events have seen increases and some decreases. The short weekday evening UK Activity Contests with their friendly, but competitive club rivalry, continue their success, with an increase in clubs taking part, but a decrease in the number of individuals. We will analyse this and consider how best to respond as we move through 2025.

We ran a successful consultation exercise with the contesting community with nearly 300 responses and have used that as the basis to set the contest rules for 2025. As we move into 2025, we have made some further tweaks to the rules – many with the intention of making contesting more attractive to stations further down the tables and to ensure that we do everything that we can to maximise activity. We believe that activity

breeds more activity since it keeps the events fast-moving and interesting for all concerned, and maximises the likelihood of operators coming back for the next contest. As part of that focus, we have moved the May 2m band event to a slot coordinated with Europe and shortened it to six hours.

The VHF Contest Committee role is to set the rules and the strategy for events. The really hard work of adjudication is done by the Contest Support Committee who once again have done an amazing job of getting the results for around 180 events in a really timely and accurate fashion. We could not run these events without them, and I thank them for their enthusiasm and commitment. Pete, G4CLA and Mike, GOGJV do fantastic work on the software needed to automate our website and adjudication and are critical to the speed and accuracy of adjudication.

**Andy Cook, G4PIQ**  
**VHF Contest Committee Chair**  
 vhfcc.chair@rsgb.org.uk

### Trophy Manager's report

As volunteer Trophy Manager I can report, that the role has now transitioned to myself from Jacqui, G6XSY and I supported the Convention at Milton Keynes with the help of Jacqui; Ian, GOFCT; Mike, GOGJV; and Board member Peter, G4MJS. At the Convention all trophies were displayed for viewing for both days, which was generally well received. At the award ceremonies for HF and VHF, the trophies were presented along with a certificate for each award (the certificates are retained). In addition, the various trophies which are donated by outside donors, eg CDXC, were organised by me and obtained and dispatched to the winners by the kind donors.

Going forward, there will be a working group set up under Peter, G4MJS to discuss future trophies policy changes, if they are needed.

**Mike Franklin, G3VYI**  
**Trophy Manager**  
 trophy.manager@rsgb.org.uk

## RSGB Board Director Ben Lloyd, GW4BML

My name is Ben Lloyd, GW4BML. In my role, I look after the Youth team, ARISS and ARDF. I am also the leader of the Outreach Team, which was formed to focus primarily on attracting youth to the amateur radio hobby.

The past 12 months for me as an RSGB Board Director have been extremely busy, very positive, and certainly exciting! To begin 2024, we formed the Outreach Team. One of our first goals was to create some new activities for British Science Week (BSW) 2025, and make sure we submitted two chosen activities to the BSW contact, to be in with a chance of getting into the BSW UK pack. This pack is distributed to all youth organisations across the UK. I can confirm we had success, and one of our activities was chosen. It is in the BSW 2025 Community Pack – a brilliant result! You can find out more on the RSGB website via [rsgb.org/bsw](https://rsgb.org/bsw)

The next goal set for the Outreach Team, was to focus on getting at least four youth organisations to fill the ARISS application form in, for a chance to host an ARISS contact in the second half of 2025. I can confirm we achieved this goal of four applications. We didn't receive a contact from those four applications but the youth organisation that was chosen for an ARISS contact did get in touch with the RSGB for help in completing its form – so it's another great result!

YOTA camp was held in Prague this year (2024), so the next goal was to seek new young amateur radio participants to attend. We did this by creating an attractive advertisement and promoting this great event. We sent one young radio amateur, representing the RSGB, who did a perfect job of keeping a daily blog, and reporting back to the RSGB Comms Manager each day. His reports show how much fun young amateurs can have, so do read them and share the link – you can find them by going to [rsgb.org/main/about-us/yota/yota-summer-camps](https://rsgb.org/main/about-us/yota/yota-summer-camps) and choosing the YOTA Czechia 2024 sub-page on the right-hand side.

While YOTA camp was taking place, we were busy moving on to our next goal. This was to create two new activities to support National Coding Week which took place in September 2024. We managed to create a number of new activities and shared them across the UK to different youth organisations such as schools, universities and Scout group etc, trying to advertise the exciting aspects of the amateur radio hobby to attract young people – we received really positive feedback! You can find all our National Coding Week activities via [rsgb.org/coding](https://rsgb.org/coding)

As you can imagine, from just some of the above work, we needed to expand the youth team. I wrote an article for RadCom, advertising for four Youth Champions. One to look after schools, one to look after universities, one to look after Scouts, cadets and Girlguiding, and one to help with resources. I can confirm, we have now got three roles filled, and are looking to fill the final role, which is the champion for resources. Please contact me if you are interested in joining the team – you'll have great fun working with us!

To finish the year off, we had YOTA month in December 2024, which ended on a high. Youth organisations from all over the UK took part in this event, and many QSOs were made between different countries all over the world. A great end to the year!

I was announced as the Board Liaison for ARDF later on in 2024, so I will be supporting Bob Titterington, G3ORY and his team, who do a fantastic job, in the near future.

These are just a few things me and my team have been working on over the year. Going forward, our aim is to continue promoting amateur radio to all youth organisations across the UK, offering our support where needed, and attracting more young people to take the great hobby up. We've got a lot of ideas and would welcome new team members to support specific activities. If you are proactive and enthusiastic, or know anyone who is, and would be willing to help support the good work our teams are doing, please contact me for a chat.

**Ben Lloyd, GW4BML**  
RSGB Board Director  
[gw4bml@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:gw4bml@rsgb.org.uk)



## British Science Week Coordinator

In 2024, British Science Week (BSW) ran from 8 to 17 March. The event, which takes place each year, is a celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths and the theme last year was 'Time'. I was appointed as RSGB British Science Week Coordinator and it was great to see some burgeoning interest from across the country with groups and individuals supporting amateur radio-related BSW activities.

Members of the RSGB Outreach Team developed a series of time-themed resources that covered topics as varied as time zones, timing in Morse code, satellite speeds, radio signals and space probes.

Over the weekend of 16 and 17 March, three events were held at Bletchley Park. All three were joint efforts by the Radio Communications Foundation (RCF) charity, the RSGB and the Bletchley Park Trust. A total of nine volunteers were involved and over thirty youngsters found out more about radio communications, electronics and amateur radio. Everyone enjoyed themselves, and it was a fantastic demonstration of what can be achieved through teamwork. Other events happened throughout the week across the country, organised by RAF Waddington Amateur Radio Club, Hilderstone Radio Society with St Peter's CE Junior School in

Broadstairs, Bishop Auckland Radio Amateurs Club with Stanley Crook Primary School and Staindrop CE Primary School, RSGB District Representative Simon Harris, G4WQG with Melksham Oak Community School, and I worked with the University Technical College South Durham. Norfolk Amateur Radio Club was given a large classroom to demonstrate many aspects of amateur radio and electronics for the City of Norwich School's annual Super Science Saturday on 16 March.

There isn't enough room here to describe the variety of amateur radio activities that were enjoyed at those schools or events, so do take a look at pages 64-67 in the June 2024 RadCom and be inspired by the information and the photos of youngsters learning about amateur radio. The resources the RSGB Outreach Team created are still on the RSGB website so have a look and try them with your local school or group – go to [rsgb.org/bsw](https://rsgb.org/bsw) and choose the 2024 image on the resources page.

Last year built on the foundational work done in previous years to use BSW as a springboard for wider youth outreach, and our plans to develop that further in 2025 have already seen significant success.

**Prof. Ian Neal, MOKEO**  
British Science Week Coordinator  
[bsw@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:bsw@rsgb.org.uk)

## Youth Champion - Schools

Since I took on the role of Youth Champion for Schools in October 2024, the main goals have been to:

- Get more school groups up and running, and
- Kickstart a DMR project to keep young operators on the air and build confidence

Initially my plan was to publicise my own school club activities on X and traditional media to show the opportunities that can come from a school radio club. Examples can be seen here:

- [x.com/gm0whs](https://x.com/gm0whs)
- [wickhighschool.co/2024/12/17/wick-high-school-radio-club-goes-from-strength-s1-to-strength-s920/](https://wickhighschool.co/2024/12/17/wick-high-school-radio-club-goes-from-strength-s1-to-strength-s920/)
- [rsgb.org/main/blog/school-zone-stories/2024/09/25/wick-high-school-radio-club-collects-time-zones/](https://rsgb.org/main/blog/school-zone-stories/2024/09/25/wick-high-school-radio-club-collects-time-zones/)



Read more at [rsgb.org/youth](https://rsgb.org/youth)





Students from St Peter-In-Thanel School take part in Time Zone activity with Hilderstone Radio Society.

The idea behind sharing the positives (and some challenges) for the club has been to show that a school club can fit into the curriculum, can indeed support cross-curricular links and also can enhance the wider achievement offering for schools.

I am also engaging with existing schools in the RSGB School Zone to encourage them to keep stations up and running by maintaining contact via email. This has proved to be very successful so far. We are offering these schools groups the chance to take part in an RCF/RSGB Youth funded FM radio building project to support British Science Week this year. This has been very well received by link schools. Keep an eye out for new school clubs which may be popping up soon!

**DMR project:** as an active school club whose main aim is to encourage students to undertake their Foundation licence, I am seeing first-hand how much young people are getting from talking on the air and learning the fundamentals of amateur radio. I can see confidence build with every QSO when it comes to events like Youngsters on the Air (YOTA). However, what I am now also seeing is that these young people are lacking in the confidence to get on the air themselves (MM7SJJ is the exception - he is a fantastic operator who has set up an HF station at home). To encourage this confidence we're working on a DMR project which we will roll out in 2025, so keep an eye on comms to see how your school or youth group could be involved!

**YOTA:** in my school teacher role I offered three YOTA slots to groups in December for YOTA month. Two with Wick High School and one with 2nd Thurso Scouts. For the school events we had one open session for any pupil to attend in school and another supported by Caithness Amateur Radio Society for our qualified operators to give them more on-air experience.

The one takeaway I took from the open session was just how much appetite there was for amateur radio in my school. Of the 12 students who signed up with no prior radio experience, ten are now sitting their Foundation course. In my mind this shows how just being visible and getting kids on the air really helps build interest and engagement.

Our Scouts event was a success and learning opportunity in one. The learning opportunity came as our HF station failed completely. Possibly

conditions. Possibly shielding in a built-up area.

However, our backup digital voice (D-Star) station proved a huge success and a great draw for the Scouts. They had access to the world. Making many contacts all over the world was great fun. It would have been great to make contact with other Scout groups. I can take that on for next year.

Looking forward: looking forward to 2025 the Youth Team are really driving forward with the above plans to engage more with youth and schools and continue to build on the successes we have seen so far. We have seen that there is a place for amateur radio in schools and we hope to further support schools in their journey into amateur radio

**Chris Aitkin, MMOWIC  
Youth Champion – Schools  
youthchampion.school@rsgb.org.uk**

### ARISS report

What is ARISS? ARISS stands for Amateur Radio on the International Space Station and is an internationally coordinated activity amongst the five 'space regions' (North America, Europe, Canada, Russia and Japan) that contribute to, and support, the International Space Station. The primary goal is to increase the level of interest in STEM/STEAM subjects by offering a unique opportunity for pupils to talk to astronauts in orbit on the International Space Station through the medium of amateur radio. Outside of these school contacts, ARISS offers amateur radio facilities to the worldwide amateur community as well as competitions such as the successful SSTV events that are run throughout the year.

Educational contacts: 2024 saw an active year for ARISS in the UK with four contacts happening with schools and organisations. Two of these contacts were the traditional 'direct' contacts where the ARISS UK team established the ground station at a school/organisation and two were of the 'telebridge' variety where the school was linked to the ARISS ground station elsewhere in the world via the internet.

Of note on the direct contacts, was the very successful event at the Brooklands Museum in Surrey with the Girlguiding Surrey West organisation. This contact also featured HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh as a special guest.



HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh taking part in the ARISS contact at Brooklands Museum in Surrey.

She sent a greetings message as Patron of the Girlguiding Association as well as asked Astronaut Sunita Williams a question during the ten-minute contact in October.

New developments: the Interoperable Radio System, or IORS, has now been firmly established in both the Columbus and Russian Service Module for a number of years and continues to operate in both the cross-band repeater mode and packet mode.

The Columbus Module radio uses the callsign NA1ISS and the new Service Module radio uses RSOISS. Aside from the callsigns, the radios are identical and packet operations are the same as before. You can use RSOISS, ARISS, or APRSAT as the packet path. Also, both radios are expected to be on full-time, except during educational contacts, EVAs, and dockings or undockings.

Details of the current mode, plus any upcoming changes to it are regularly posted online at <https://www.ariss.org/current-status-of-iss-stations.html>

As ever, competition to use the cross-band repeater is high on most passes so not all attempts have been successful. ARISS recommends a maximum uplink power of no more than 25W ERP (5W to a 7dBi gain antenna) to access the repeater or the packet system.

The HamTV unit has been returned to the ISS after its failure on orbit in 2018. After extensive testing, and the fitting of additional filters to satisfy new NASA/ISS emissions requirements, the HamTV unit is now expected to be reinstalled again sometime in 2025.

2024 saw the launch and commissioning of a new SSTV system for the Russian Service Module and a welcome return of the popular SSTV transmissions. Many more SSTV transmissions are planned for the coming year.

2024 also saw the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the first use of amateur radio in human space flight. This was a special gathering at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida in February 2024 and featured many of the notable names and faces of those who worked to get Owen Garriott, W5LFL operational from the Columbia Shuttle STS-9 mission. It also covered the SAREX, SAFEX, MIREX and ARISS programmes spanning the Shuttle, MIR and ISS years and heard from astronauts and other notable figures who have worked to make amateur radio in human space flight a reality.

Looking to the future: ARISS remains strong and active in the space STEM/STEAM outreach arena and continues to attract significant reach for its activities. 2025 will continue with school contacts and further developments in 'Beyond the ISS' where operations are expected to integrate to other commercial space stations when they are flown as well as lunar operations with the Lunar Gateway and Artemis missions to the Moon and beyond.

**Ciaran Morgan, MOXTD  
RSGB Lead for ARISS  
and ARISS-UK Operations Coordinator  
ciaran.morgan@rsgb.org.uk**

## ARDF Committee report

The ARDF (Amateur Radio Direction Finding) Committee is a group of committed volunteers who have been driving forward the development of this aspect of 'Sport Radio' in the UK.

ARDF is still recovering slowly from the effects of the Covid Pandemic. However, a number of factors improved during the year.

The National Hamfest returned to the calendar in 2024. We were thus given the opportunity to attract interest from many recently licensed individuals. In the past, this event has been a very valuable way to attract amateurs to ARDF. Rather more disappointing was the number of individuals who 'signed up' for a special introductory event at Donisthorpe in early November and then did not attend on the day.

In 2024, competitions in the English Midlands, the Region 13 summer series, took place. In addition to this, a similar series was run in Region 9 (Thames Valley) thanks to the contributions of Robin RS21349.

Towards the end of the year, John, G0JJL got in touch to offer help and support. He lives in Lancashire, and Region 3, and he proposes to run a full ARDF programme next year in 2025.

The task facing the Committee in 2025 is to continue to improve the number of Regions where there is active and regular ARDF activity. We are seeking to find individuals prepared to coordinate ARDF in RSGB Region 4 (England Northeast). In addition, we have been trawling for support in South Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire as well as in Kent. We are looking for individuals in these areas prepared to coordinate simple half-day competitions with equipment, expertise and support provided by the ARDF Committee.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the enthusiasm and contributions of the Committee members in running events and promoting the sport.

**Bob Titterington, G3ORY**  
ARDF Committee Chair  
[ardf.chairman@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:ardf.chairman@rsgb.org.uk)



To read more about ARDF visit [rsgb.org/ardf](https://rsgb.org/ardf)

## RSGB Board Director Len Paget, G00NX

I am Len Paget, G00NX and I am currently the Board liaison for Exams, the Planning Advisory Committee and the Operating Advisory Service. The Exam teams in particular have had a busy year related to the knock-on effect of the changes to the licence conditions requiring an update to the syllabus and question bank. The size of this task should not be underestimated as the work was done in addition to their other duties.

The Planning Advisory Committee continued its work in providing advice on planning matters to members. The recent changes in the 4/10 year rule generated a significant increase in their workload on its introduction.

The Operating Advisory Service saw a steady stream of enquiries throughout the year giving advice to those affected on how to deal with matters such as interference and on-air abuse. It has also liaised with Ofcom on such reports when it was required.

I would like to record my personal thanks to all the volunteers that I work with – without their dedication amateur radio would be diminished

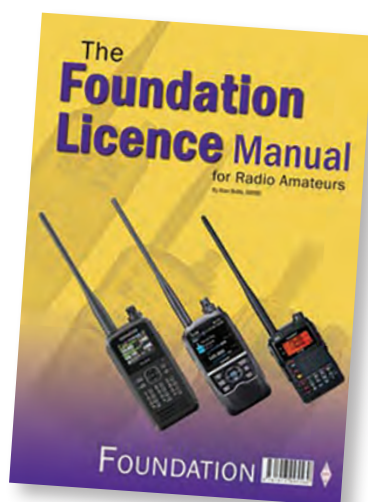
**Len Paget, G00NX**  
RSGB Board Director  
[gm00nx@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:gm00nx@rsgb.org.uk)



## Examination Standards Committee and Examinations and Syllabus Review Group reports

This report covers the work of the RSGB Examination Standards Committee (ESC) and its sub-group, the Examinations and Syllabus Review Group (ESRG), during 2024. The role of the ESC is to ensure the standards of the amateur radio examinations are maintained at a level that ensures the aspiring radio amateur has an adequate understanding of contemporary radio communications technology and can operate legally, safely and without causing interference to other services. It also ensures that the UK licence is broadly in line with HAREC and CEPT TR 61-02, so that UK amateurs can benefit from reciprocal licensing arrangements. The ESC monitors the work of the RSGB Exams Department, which organises the examinations, and it appoints and oversees the ESRG. The ESRG does the day-to-day work of maintaining the syllabus and exam question bank and considers any candidates' challenges to exam questions.

The ESC considers the examination



For more information about exams visit [rsgb.org/exams](https://rsgb.org/exams)

statistics, reports of exam irregularities, appeals against the outcomes of challenges and produces an annual report on the performance of the examinations system. The latest of these, covering the 2023 examinations year can be found at:

[https://rsgb.services/public/publications/esc/reports/2024/examinations\\_standards\\_committee\\_report\\_2024.pdf](https://rsgb.services/public/publications/esc/reports/2024/examinations_standards_committee_report_2024.pdf)

The membership of the ESC can be found at:

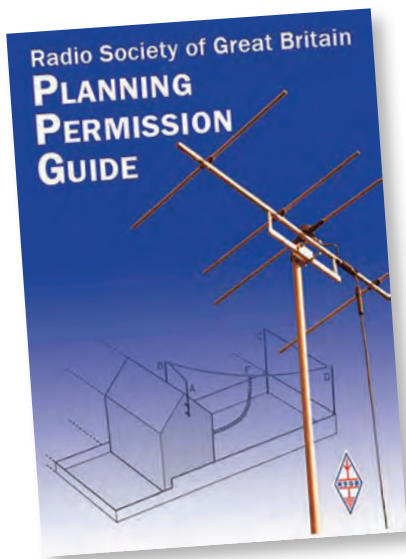
<https://rsgb.org/main/about-us/committees/examination-standards-committee/members/>

During 2024, Dr Donard de Cogan, MOKRK joined the ESC as one of the four independent members (members with no direct involvement in the administration of the exams) and Len Paget, G00NX joined the ESC as the new RSGB Board Liaison member. The membership of the ESRG can be found at:

<https://rsgb.org/main/about-us/committees/examination-standards-committee/exams-group/members/>

During 2024 Graham Smith, G4NMD; Mark Savage, MOXIC; and Ian Suart, GM4AUP joined the ESRG. I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank all members of the ESC, ESRG and the Exams Department at RSGB for their work during 2024.

Due to the hard work and enthusiasm of



Visit [rsgb.org/pac](http://rsgb.org/pac) for more advice on planning matters.

the team of RSGB remote invigilators and club exam secretaries and invigilators, a total of 2,947 candidates sat an exam in 2024. The exam data for 2024 (2023), not including the numbers of registered candidates that didn't attend their exam is: at Foundation 2,166 (1,500) candidates and 1,898 (1,282) passes; at Intermediate 459 (416) candidates and 401 (361) passes; and at Full 301 (289) candidates and 191 (191) passes. That's a total of 2,490 (1,834) candidates who have achieved the standard necessary to obtain their first amateur radio licence or to upgrade to a higher class. In 2024 here were 21 (27) Direct to Full (D2F) candidates and 18 (12) passes. It is especially pleasing to see the upturn in the total number of candidates in 2024 compared to the recent low in 2023. Of the 2,947 candidates, 2,599 sat the exam online with remote invigilation and 348 sat the exam with in-person invigilation in a club.

One of the main activities of ESC/ESRG in 2024 has been completing and publishing the syllabus updates (three tier v1.6 and D2F v2.0) and reviewing the exam question bank to align with Ofcom's significant changes to the licence conditions, which were introduced early in 2024. Exams to the revised syllabus started in September (three tier) and October (D2F).

In March, the ESC made the decision to publish the exam question bank, starting with the Full level technical sections. The ESRG started the process of vetting the question bank before publication.

Looking forward to 2025: work will continue with vetting the exam question bank. ESC/ESRG will also begin a more substantial syllabus review, which will fully consolidate all the license changes since the introduction of syllabus 2019 and consider data on pass rates and progression through the levels.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank again everyone involved

in the examinations process: the staff at HQ, members of ESC and ESRG and, most importantly, the tutors and invigilators that make the system work and so contribute to the health of amateur radio during 2024.

**Prof. Tony Kent, G8PBH**

Examinations Standards Committee Chair  
[esc.chair@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:esc.chair@rsgb.org.uk)

### Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) report

The abolition of the four-year rule in England which offered a degree of protection to installations without planning permission, has been changed in favour of a ten-year rule generated a significant number of enquiries in 2024. The change in the legislation is effectively delayed until April 2028 as it does not apply to installations completed or substantially completed prior to 25 April 2024. The four-year rule remains unchanged in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The Planning Advisory Panel has been fortunate to recruit additional members to the Committee in 2024. However, it should be remembered that they are all unpaid volunteers who do their work in their spare time and as such may not be able to provide an instant response to your enquiry. RSGB Planning Guidance booklet, downloadable free of charge from the members area of the RSGB Website, gives advice how to make a planning application, the planning appeals process and what to do should you receive a planning enforcement notice. Members should read this guide before making a planning application or appeal and contact the Planning Advisory Committee for one-to-

one advice if additional help is needed. PAC can also provide a letter of support for your planning application for your local planning authority.

**Len Paget, G00NXX**

Board Liaison member for the Planning Advisory Service.  
[gm0onx@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:gm0onx@rsgb.org.uk)

### Operating Advisory Service report

The Operating Advisory Service (OAS) has dealt with issues such as deliberate interference or jamming, harassment and abuse, use of another person's call sign, unlicensed operation etc. In most cases it has just been a case of suggesting how best to approach dealing with the issue and usually did not require further action. Occasionally OAS has advised Ofcom of a potentially more serious issue that may involve them as a backup to any complaint received from an individual.

It should be noted that all contact with OAS is treated confidentially and not discussed with other parties within the RSGB, unless it involves the area of responsibility of a specialist Committee or Honorary Officer or it is of such a serious nature that the Board liaison member needs to be informed.

**Ian Suart, GM4AUP**

Operation Advisory Coordinator  
[oas@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:oas@rsgb.org.uk)



Find out more about the RSGB's Operating Advisory Service by visiting [rsgb.org/oas](http://rsgb.org/oas)

## RSGB Board Director Mark Jones, GOMGX

I'm Mark Jones, GOMGX and I joined the Board at the AGM last year. My committee and Honorary Officer responsibilities are:

- GB2CW
- Morse Competency
- Intruder Watch

I also look after the overall strategy of the RSGB and the annual construction competition.

GB2CW is a morse training broadcast service provided by the RSGB via a team of volunteers. The coordination is managed by Roger Cooke, G3LDI, RSGB GB2CW Coordinator. There is a schedule of HF and VHF transmissions designed to aid learning and progression in Morse code.

Morse Competency testing is a service offered by the RSGB enabling individuals to formally recognise their Morse skills. Tests are available on demand at 10, 12, 15, 20, 25 and 30wpm with certificates being awarded to those that pass. This service is managed by Eric Arkinstall, MOKZB.

Intruder Watch is a monitoring system coordinated by the RSGB that forms part of the IARU Region 1 monitoring. This service is managed by Vaughan Ravenscroft, MOVRR. The service submits reports of non-amateur transmissions on the exclusive HF frequencies to both the Ofcom Monitoring Station at Baldock and IARU Region 1.

**Mark Jones, GOMGX**  
RSGB Board Director  
g0mgx@rsgb.org.uk



## GB2CW Report

GB2CW is a special callsign used by the team to provide on air CW tuition. A team of volunteers across the country provide the service and the current schedule is on the RSGB website:

<http://rsgb.org/main/operating/morse/certificate-of-competency/gb2cw-broadcast-schedule/>

The schedule remains healthy but I am keen to add to it. As a team we continue to maintain the status quo, but if anybody would like to provide additional services in your area, please email [gb2cw@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:gb2cw@rsgb.org.uk) and I will be only too pleased to add you to the team.

The up-to-date schedule on the RSGB website will be maintained and updated going forward by the board member with responsibility for GB2CW.

My local club, Norfolk Amateur Radio Club is very active in providing Morse Classes. We have made several changes in the last year and we have several students joining in each week. Classes are held on the local 2 metre repeater GB3NB as well as simplex and on Zoom. This has the advantage of catering for both tutors and students who might have an inferior 2 metre antenna, plus it attracts others from further away. We have modified classes to suit the students with varying the days and times. The new schedule for 2025 will be updated on the RSGB GB2CW page soon and participants are welcome on-air in the locality or via zoom.

We decided to run the classes at the level of the student with the lowest fundamental speed and just wait for all to catch up, rather than push too hard and lose students. This is working well.

Learning the whole code seems to be a problem so I have modified the weekly class to just five letters, five numbers and four punctuation and will then move to the next five letters when the students have mastered the first five. This has slowed things down considerably but it all depends on practice times and those times seem to be minimal.

I would like to thank ALL the volunteers for their dedicated work and effort in the continuing process of teaching Morse Code and letting new students master a unique mode of communication that will never die. Roger Cooke, G3LDI

Bootcamps have not been so active in the last year or so and Covid still seems to be taking its toll on these. However, the Essex club ran one again this year and it was very successful.

Certificates have not been issued in Norfolk for some time now and we hope to improve that situation during 2025.

FISTS and CW OPS have both been very successful in encouraging newcomers in their activity periods on the air and CW OPS have a CW Academy that you can sign up for. Take a look at their web site for more information:

<https://cwops.org/cw-academy/>

**Roger Cooke, G3LDI**  
GB2CW Coordinator  
[gb2cw@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:gb2cw@rsgb.org.uk)

## Morse Competency Tests Report

Morse Competency applications continue to dribble in with 15 Competency test passes in 2024. These were boosted by our attendance at the RSGB Hamfest I thank Mark Jones, GOMGX for his input for that.

I was very impressed by the interest shown at both the Hamfest and the Convention. There is little doubt that the interest in Morse Code is still alive I will look to capitalise at both the Hamfest and the Convention this year.

I have started accepting Morse applications from abroad; they have been showing interest over the last couple of years, our overseas friends are very welcome.

The Assessor Group is getting smaller due in the main to Assessors getting older, not wishing to take part or not able to take on-line candidates' in fact some have become Silent Keys. I fully intend to make more use of the Team this year by encouraging them to use on-line Media where applicable. Perhaps

using a rotary system whereby everyone gets a turn.

I would like to contact all RSGB Affiliated Club secretaries with a view of encouraging the older experienced Morse experts to pass on their skills to those that are interested.

It would be good if the various 'Boot Camps' incorporated a Competency Certificate at the end, I would be prepared to travel to issue gained certificates personally.

I hope to increase Competency applications this year possibly by advertising or direct approach to those clubs showing interest.

All in all, I have a positive feeling for 2025.

**Eric Arkinstall, MOKZB**  
Morse Competency Project Lead  
[morse.tests@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:morse.tests@rsgb.org.uk)

## Intruder Watch Report

As usual we have regular intruders to the amateur bands that unfortunately we cannot do anything about; the biggest offender is over the horizon radar (OTHR). In 2023 for our IARU region OTRH made up just over 30% of all reports, in 2024 with an increase of 46% to just over 50% of all reports. Others include North Korean Diplomatic FSK link, teletype radio diplomatic usage, also known as DPRK-FSK. There are often short instances of non-amateur traffic both voice (many languages), analogue and digital.

The role of the co-ordinator is not one of a single person monitoring system but to co-ordinate report made to the IW mail box, this year most enquiries are very local in nature or are known issues so have not been reported on the IARU Monitoring System as a dupe and not originating in the UK so will not meet requirements to report to Ofcom.

There have been 14 reports to the co-ordinator ranging from HF intrusions of the

aforementioned OTHR, to local qrm issues where advice is given. There was also a case of a second hand repeater being put back on air without being reprogrammed, this had already been reported to Ofcom by the “people in the area” but assistance was being sort from the RSGB via IW; again advice as to the remit of IW and the RSGB but to log any transmissions. Interactions all very polite and advice accepted.

There is an overall reduction of reports into IW may be as a result of increased publicity on the use of OTHR on various lists, forums and social media. Amateurs are perhaps reaching the conclusion that the regular intruders are things we are now forced to put up with. I would like to propose a change to the IW structure where we create a role for regular volunteers who wish to submit reports. I am not proposing we remove the existing “front-

door” process where anyone can make a report via the IW inbox. We simply need more ears on the bands.

**Vaughan Ravenscroft, MOVRR**  
**Intruder Watch Co-ordinator**  
 iw@rsgb.org.uk

**RSGB Board Director Nathan Nuttall, 2M0OCC**

I’m Nathan Nuttall, 2M0OCC and I joined the Board at the AGM last year. My committee and Honorary Officer responsibilities are:

- Awards
- Special Interest groups
- Beyond Exams
- Accessibility



I’m also part of the Regional Team in Region 1.

Awards are looked after by Lindsay Pennell, G13KME who has been looking into new and different awards for the RSGB members to participate in as well as awards to celebrate events across this year.

Special Interest Groups are looked after by Philip Hosey, MIOMSO. He has been looking after the groups for the year and helping where needed. He is always interested to hear for any groups so please get in touch with him.

**Nathan Nuttall, 2M0OCC**  
**RSGB Board Director**  
 2m0occ@rsgb.org.uk

**Awards Manager report**

The Operating Awards Manager receives and validates applications for the various awards available from the RSGB, encompassing HF and V/UHF operating in addition to awards related to special events. While validating applications, it is sometimes necessary to explain to applicants the details of award requirements and the application process, especially in respect of the requirements for QSLs or card-checking. It should be noted that the Awards Manager does not need to be sent QSL cards in the post to support applications. He is quite happy to receive scanned images

of the cards, or set up a short Zoom call to check them visually.

The Awards Manager is also required to promote the awards schemes and look for opportunities to develop the Society’s offering in this area, liaising with other teams where activities cross boundaries. In 2024, we expanded the IARU Region 1 award scheme to add versions of the awards for ‘WARC Bands only’ and single-band awards for the 30, 17 and 12m bands.

2024 saw the total number of awards issued drop substantially compared to previous years (see below), although this

drop appeared to be mainly amongst UK amateurs, since the applications from non-UK stations was relatively unchanged. The stand-out feature from award statistics seems to be the popularity of the Commonwealth Century awards, and the substantial drop in VHF/UHF and 6m band awards. The operating focus for awards chasers does seem very much to be HF.

Here are the summary statistics for awards approved during 2024 compared with the previous three years:

Summary Stats	2021	2022	2023	2024
IARU Region 1 Award All Bands	35	16	13	14
IARU Region 1 28MHz Award	2	0	2	4
IARU Region 1 Single Band Award	0	0	0	1
Foundation Award	2	0	10	2
Intermediate 100 Award	2	0	0	0
Commonwealth Century Award	8	10	4	9
Worked ITU Zones Awards	6	0	2	2
Worked All Continents Award	2	0	1	0
50MHz Awards	32	9	8	4
70/144/432MHz Awards	2	1	1	0
Youth Award	3	1	0	2
V/UHF Activity Award	2	3	2	0
Radio Surfer Award	6	1	11	0
Total	102	41	54	38
Non-UK Applications	32	11	14	23
% Non-UK	31%	27%	26%	61%

From these statistics, we can see that the IARU Region 1 Award continues to be the mainstay of award activity, along with the new popularity of the Commonwealth Century Award. It seems clear that a renewed effort is needed to remind people of the value and benefits of award chasing, which (apart from shack wallpaper) are:

- A focus for operating activity, in targeting achievements
- A way of increasing activity on certain bands
- A way of demonstrating the capabilities of the operator and the station

Looking ahead, the Awards Manager has been working recently with the Communications and News teams on a series of awards connected to the anniversary of the GB2RS news broadcasts, and some new award schemes focused on different areas of operating activity. Watch this space!

**Lindsay Pennell, G13KME**  
**Awards Manager**  
 awards@rsgb.org.uk

## Special Interest Group report

The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) has a vibrant community of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) that cater to various aspects of amateur radio. These groups provide members with opportunities to engage in specialised activities, share knowledge, and collaborate on projects. This report highlights the key activities and achievements of the RSGB SIGs over the past year. Key activities are outlined below:

1. **RSGB Convention 2024:** the annual RSGB Convention, held in October 2024, was a major highlight. The event brought together hundreds of members in person and many more via livestream. The Convention featured a diverse range of speakers, workshops, and practical activities. Special Interest Groups such as AMSAT, ARDF, BATC, BRARS/RAOTA, BYLARA, Chiltern DX Club, DXCC Card checking, Radio Officers ARS, RAIBC, RAYNET, UKBOTA/145 Alive, RSGB Contest Committees, UK Microwave Group, VMARS, Worked All Britain, and WRTC 2026 participated in the event.
2. **Workshops and Forums:** throughout the year, various SIGs organised workshops and forums to help members enhance

their skills and knowledge. These included microcontroller programming workshops, Morse code competency tests, and forums on specific topics related to amateur radio.

3. **Online Resources:** the RSGB provided online resources, including presentations and livestreams, to ensure that members could access valuable content even if they couldn't attend events in person. These resources covered a wide range of topics, from getting started in amateur radio to advanced operating and technical skills.
4. **Collaborations and Partnerships:** the RSGB maintained strong links with affiliated national societies and other organisations. This included collaborations with AMSAT UK, British Amateur Radio Teledata Group, British Amateur Television Club, and other groups. These partnerships helped to promote the hobby and provide members with more opportunities to get involved.

Here are some key achievements:

1. **Increased Membership:** the RSGB SIGs saw an increase in membership over the past year, reflecting the growing interest in amateur radio. This growth

has allowed for more diverse activities and a stronger sense of community among members.

2. **Successful Events:** the RSGB Convention, and events organised by the SIGs, were highly successful, with positive feedback from participants. These events provided valuable learning experiences and opportunities for members to connect with like-minded individuals.
3. **Knowledge Sharing:** the RSGB SIGs facilitated knowledge sharing through workshops, forums, and online resources. Members benefited from the expertise of experienced amateurs and gained new skills and insights.

**Conclusion:** the RSGB Special Interest Groups have had a productive and engaging year, with a range of activities and achievements that have strengthened the amateur radio community. The continued growth and success of these groups are a testament to the dedication and passion of their members. We look forward to another year of exciting activities and collaborations.

**Philip Hosey, MIOMSO  
National Societies and Special Interest  
Groups Manager  
sig.manager@rsgb.org.uk**

## RSGB Board Director Tony Miles, MMOTMZ

I'm Tony Miles, MMOTMZ and I am the Board Liaison for the Regional Team and the Propagational Studies Committee.

The Regional Team is the public-facing arm of the RSGB volunteer team and meets the amateur radio community face to face at rallies and club meetings throughout the UK. It is currently looking at additional ways by which they can engage more effectively with both the amateur radio and non-amateur radio community to promote and support amateur radio.

The Propagational Studies Committee (PSC) continues its work in promoting interest in radio propagation amongst radio amateurs and shortwave listeners. The presentation material produced by PSC has proved popular with those seeking a greater interest in the science of propagation and I thank them for their work.

**Tony Miles, MMOTMZ  
RSGB Board Director  
mm0tmz@rsgb.org.uk**



## Regional Forum (RF) report

The Regional Forum comprises all of the thirteen RSGB Regional Representatives and, together with the District Representatives from all the regions, makes up the Regional Team (RT), amounting to around 84 volunteers all across the UK.

It is the volunteers from the RT that you may be most familiar with, as they frequently get asked to assist members with local issues, especially with EMC, planning, operating and with helping families dispose of a member's station when they have become a silent key. These requests for help from members of the RT are the routine ones that we are engaged in all year round.

In addition to this, the RT does get asked, either directly or through the help from members of a local club, to assist those that need help, perhaps due to a disability or have gone into some care facility, from where they

want to stay on the air.

Members of the RT are also often found at the many rallies around the country and, yes, we often have RSGB books and merchandise to sell (at discounted rates to our members), but we also sign-up new members and get asked many questions that come up in a face-to-face conversation.

The questions could be around operating practice, DQRM, licence conditions, the availability of local training facilities, guidance on what equipment might be best for getting started on the HF or VHF bands, antennas best suited to specific situations, about setting up and operating various modes. We also get asked for guidance when things just don't work as expected.

You should also be familiar with seeing members of the RT at your local club. On occasion, we are invited by the club to give a presentation, often about the RSGB, or

what we are doing locally in the region to promote the hobby, the Society and assist members. We too, are the local volunteers to support clubs and individuals participating with the Beyond Exams scheme, which is to help showcase and mentor on the wide experiences available within amateur radio.

The RT also operates the regional Facebook pages (each region has its own), which is for everyone in the hobby to share news, requests and publicise achievements. It is especially helpful for clubs and those organising events to share their information, and promote these activities to others widely around the region using social media.

In most instances these engagements are on-going, but we do have vacancies in some regions for local District Representatives (DR). Your Regional Representative (RR) would be keen to hear from you and to get you involved with the team, if you are able to give the

time and are committed to fulfill the role as a DR, to support the local affiliated clubs and groups, to assist the RSGB members locally and promote the hobby more widely at the regional level.

It has been my privilege to chair the RF since the last AGM. This year I step down from the RT after completing my two terms as RR for region 10. I appreciate very much the support of everyone, the RT and individual RSGB members, but especially the DRs and clubs in region 10 that have been supportive and appreciate what the volunteers of the RT do.

I wish the RT and my successors every success in building on what we have done, and to strengthen the outreach of the RT to all our members.

**Keith Bird, G4JED**  
Regional Forum Chair  
rr10@rsgb.org.uk

### Propagation Studies Committee (PSC) report

The purpose of the Propagation Studies Committee is to promote interest in radio propagation amongst amateurs and shortwave listeners, to enable them to make better use of the amateur bands and encourage research.

James Watson, MODNS/HZ1JW (Propy) reports that, in addition to the normal maintenance updates, he has updated the Propy page to incorporate a 'planner' web service. The URLs are long but are intended to be used from within scripts.

Rohde and Schwarz approached him and requested that he add data for two of their antennas (HX002H0 and HX002H3) using models that they provided. These have been added to the 'Area' page.

George, G0HSV has been studying the VOACAP tool on HamClock, comparing the results with the RadCom propagation predictions. The next step is further exploration of HamClock as a useful tool for HF/Space Communications.

John, G4BAO says his project for 2024 has involved his new 24GHz WebSDR in Kent. He built the hardware for it a couple of years back and it went live from Margate in the summer at: trig01.ddns.net:8073

After giving his talk about the WebSDR at the RSGB Convention in 2024 he was approached by fellow PSC member Gwyn, G3ZIL who offered to help with recording software to enable it 24/7, together with environmental data.

The objective is to show what could be done initially using the Clacton GB3PKT 24GHz beacon, which is receivable 24/7 via the WebSDR, before setting up permanent monitoring across the North Sea to the low countries, the project's final objective. He's leveraged a lot of work he and others have



Gwyn Griffiths, G3ZIL (left) shows his work to Jim Bacon, G3YLA on the PSC stand at the Newark Hamfest.

already done on his various other HamSCI HF WSPR projects.

The next stage is to modify the code to monitor beacons running PI4 digimode to allow PSC to monitor one of the Dutch beacons. Also, to improve the WebSDR receiver with better hardware that can be locked to the on-site GPSDO.

Gwyn, G3ZIL presented a paper in person at the Cleveland, Ohio, HamSCI workshop in the USA on how the October 2023 eclipse affected HF propagation across North America. Those results, and the blackout of WSPR spots on 21MHz during the April total eclipse, have been described in three propagation studies articles in RadCom, at the Newark Hamfest, the RSGB Convention, and in a Tonight@8 webinar.

Jim, G3YLA has continued his role of trying to reveal links between weather and some of the more VHF-oriented propagation modes like Sporadic-E and Tropo. He has also maintained the propquest.co.uk website to visualise the current state of E- and F-layer propagation. He also continued his VHF contribution to GB2RS and gave talks to radio clubs on propagation, particularly Tropo and Sporadic-E, plus a presentation to the RSGB Convention.

Barry, G8AGN set a new world record of 523m on 30THz. He also gave two lectures on 30THz and stealth technology



PSC members Professor Cathryn Mitchell, GOIBG and Dr Chris Deacon, G4IFX outside Bath Abbey after his PhD graduation ceremony.

at each of the Martlesham Microwave and the Finningley Microwave Round Tables. An article on 30THz appeared in RadCom Plus (volume nine, number one).

Gwyn, G4FKH gave a talk to his local club on HF propagation and wrote one article for RadCom. He also continued to produce the monthly HF predictions table for RadCom.

Chris, G4IFX's PhD was successful, and his graduation ceremony was held in Bath. In March, Chris attended the HamSCI Workshop in Cleveland, Ohio and presented an update on his PhD work entitled 'Why is sporadic-E propagation so weird?'. In October, he presented an expanded and 'amateur friendly' presentation on the same topic at the RSGB Convention. Finally, two articles about the ionosphere, based on non-mathematical versions of chapters from his PhD thesis, have been published this year in the UK Six Metre Group journal, Six News.

And finally, PSC chairman Steve, GOKYA continued to produce the HF section of the GB2RS Propagation Report, and prepared a propagation handout for the NRC. He also gave a talk at the RSGB Convention on Solar Cycle 25.

**Steve Nichols, GOKYA**  
Propagation Studies Committee Chair  
psc.chairman@rsgb.org.uk