

1 Introduction

In answer to a question from the Chairman and the General Manager of the RSGB regarding improving the 2014 RSGB Convention, inputs were solicited from those who signed in as members at the CDXC stand at the 2013 RSGB Convention. A couple of regular attendees who missed the 2013 event also made input. In all the comments below represent around 30 attendee's views – including those of the CDXC Committee who discussed it at a recent meeting.

Topics were suggested for a response format and these are shown in section 2 of this report. The various e-mail responses have been grouped into seven categories below and have been edited only to fit this structure. Each bullet point represents a different person's viewpoint – paragraphing being used for a longer response from the same person. All responses have been anonymised.

It is worth pointing out that to a person the respondents, and the CDXC Committee, praised the Society in asking for this feedback. We sincerely hope it helps and that as many of the wishes of our members as possible will be accommodated for 2014.

Chris Duckling, G3SVL
Chairman
CDXC: The UK DX Foundation
7th February 2014

2 Suggested Categories for responses

The following was suggested as a framework for response when the members were e-mailed.

- Getting there - comments on desires for taxi, bus, shuttle bus etc. to/from railway stations and airports
- Lecture Stream
 - how many should be running in parallel
 - what topics would you like covered
 - what would you not want
 - did the overlap timing work for you (done for catering reasons last year)
 - any specific lecture / lecturer you would like to see
 - what should the balance be HF/VHF/Technical/DXpeditions/IOTA etc.
- Social space
 - inside for ragchewing - any comments
 - outside seating?
- Martin Lynch stand
- Club stands (including CDXC of course!)
- QSL checking
- QSL drop for RSGB bureau

- Bar arrangements - staffing, real ale, bar snacks etc.
- Coffee / tea arrangements
- Dinner Friday - any comments
- Lunch arrangements Saturday/Sunday - range of offering, need to book in advance etc.
- Dinner Saturday - any comments (especially how did the two-dinner system work for you in 2013)
- Raffle, finish time, check-in time for rooms, registration process (on-line & on arrival)

3 Location and Getting there

- One of the disappointments at Wyboston and HH was the lack of overseas visitors so the Society needs to make a real effort to attract these guys. I suggest a series of international Press Releases to include: *"We have taken soundings from many past attendees. Overseas visitors found both Wyboston and Horfield House difficult to access because of the distance from airports. We have moved the Convention to a location much closer to several airports. We hope that this will enable many overseas visitors to join us; we would welcome your participation. For details of airport connections see"*
- I think this was a big issue at Little Horwood, regarding Foreign visitors, certainly heard some PAO's complaining.
- Due to Hotel's position from major airports. MK itself should be better in Taxi fares hopefully, another moan I heard.
- MK railway station:
 - Provide a meeter/greeter at the station directing delegates to :-
 - Bus – get timetable from MK city council
 - Taxi – find out fare to Kents Hill – taxi sharing.
- Adequate parking for those arriving Saturday or Sunday.
- I think it's critical that it's held somewhere where there are cheap hotels (Premier Inn, Travelodge, etc.) in the vicinity for those who'd like to come for the talks but who can't justify the cost of the main conference hotel
- Assume adequate parking at venue, most will arrive by car, but know some will be travelling by train, balance cost of shuttle against numbers expected to use.
- I came down by train - there was a complementary taxi from the railway station to the conference (one back after might be good!)
- Do more promotion of railway station shuttling please.
- The new location of the 2014 convention is better for those using public transport and avoids expensive taxi fares from MK station. A shuttle from the station would be useful for some.

- Given that quite a number of attendees fly in, I think a venue located for airport access would be better longer term. In the old days at Windsor, many more overseas visitors attended as it was close to Heathrow. Is Windsor now available again given the IOTA convention will be held there?
- Not so much in the sticks as Horwood is but still quite a long way from MK railway station for those who want to use public transport.
- The Lat' and Long' grid references should be published on literature, always a more accurate way to navigate when using SatNav.
- Rooms available for check in when I arrive on Saturday morning
- Rooms with free wi fi
- Speaking of internet, I know a lot of us found the poor quality WiFi and complete absence of mobile phone signal very frustrating at Horwood House; hopefully Kents Hill will be better in that regard. At modern conferences, good internet access is really a basic requirement.
- While talking about venues. And the other thing the hotel needs is good internet access. This is a technical hobby, and so basic wifi that can't cope with the number of guests, each with a laptop and smartphone, isn't acceptable. The RSGB needs to ensure that a minimum bandwidth agreement for the expected number of devices is written into the contract with the hotel.

4 Lectures & Lecture Streams (by far the biggest list of comments)

- Not sure if it would be better to split HF & VHF. Anyway not applicable to this year.
- My main moan would be the streams, not much for me, but I only like HF, DX and Contest. I was more than happy with the venue. When you are catering for such a large group with such a wide diverse range of interests it is going to be difficult. I'll still be booking for 2014 :-))
- The programme should be published by end July then participants know what they are buying. This used to happen in the old days. It's much easier to sell a product than a promise!
- The need for training to improve behaviour on the bands and in particular to help operators to work pile ups has been mentioned. The DX University material could be a basis for such talks.
- I thought the 2013 HFC streams were poor as far as I was concerned. The streams did not really have anything that I was interested in and I only attended 3 streams all weekend.
- Run HF- VHF in parallel. Cover DX/PED, Contest, IOTA, Antennas, Homebrew, Contest University
- Lectures should be 1 hour duration with time to allow presenters to set up between lectures.

CDXC Member Feedback: How to make the 2014 RSGB Convention the Best Yet?

- 3 Streams: HF, VHF, Iota and contests. My interest is in technical content lectures. Recent lectures on propagation by RAL, Jim Bacon always interesting. Talks by Peter Hart on technical parameters of receivers. How about some practical demos of erecting antenna masts safely in dxpeds, supporting antennas from dx locations? Presentations from antenna manufacturers? More demos on SMD construction techniques.
- Lectures not to be staggered - to allow visitors to pick and choose between streams
- Disappointing 2013 with too much standing in lectures due to staggered events. Spent a lot of time sipping coffees
- Convention should go back to a mainly HF focus. Last year there was too broad a range of topics covered. If this broadening continues, not sure I will go again! My main amateur radio interest is in DXing on the bands 160 to 10 meters.
- Try and tighten up talks. Some are OK, but many are badly paced. Starting slow, then running out of time. Make sure that a talk that people are attending because they want to ask questions has enough time for them to ask them. e.g Propagation or Antenna Modelling. Get a run through of the presentation to someone who at least knows how to present. AVOID – Death by PowerPoint !
- Be selective on the DXpedition talks. Too many are of the same format: We went to the airport, we got delayed, they lost our luggage. Cut to scenes (many) of a beach with antennas, photo album shots of the group and the obligatory results slides. I find that much of the convention is about deciding which of the DXpedition talks will not put me to sleep....
- If the talk is a popular one provide a mobile microphone so everyone can hear the question, not just the response. The video of the RSGB's London event was a classic case in point. And that was done by BATC – really, are we just amateurs?
- Make something about what is going to happen. Maybe an announcer (MC) who just before the next set of presentations says in a loud (professional) voice in the coffee area – something like: *“Ladies and Gentlemen – the next sessions are about to commence. In the XYZ room we have G9BF and his presentation on how I win contests. In the ACD room we have that tremendous team from Surrey that can assemble a K3 in 30 seconds. To get to the XYZ room you turn right, and the ACD turn left.”*
- Three, maximum four running in parallel. I'd like to HF, DX, Contests lectures and none on VHF, UHF. I attended few lectures so the overlapping wasn't an issue. I am only interested in HF DX and Contests
- Generally, I think the last few years' conventions have been great from a content point of view - a nice mix of technical, expedition, education, and historical aspects of the hobby. I think that's something that would be nice to see continue - I know some feel a more single-threaded approach (a "VHF only" or "DX only" convention) would be better, but for me part of the enjoyment is moving from one lecture on the fun behind HK0NA to another on the technical aspects of 2.3GHz EME.

It would be nice to see Contest University make a return, if this can be done in conjunction with marketing it to newcomers to the hobby - I think that could offer a lot of value if clubs doing license schemes can promote it to their new graduates. This does make scheduling a

problem, particularly with as many streams as we had in 2013 (I know you aren't after feedback on that, but I think it's a useful reference point).

The overlapped scheduling made this particularly challenging, with moves between streams happening in zero minutes at times - or worse, if the presenters overrun. I think limiting to four parallel streams would be ideal - that seems to be a tractable number to choose from, if suitably large rooms are available.

One aspect that would be wonderful to see would be video recordings made of the lectures. I know that historically there has been some resistance to this idea for fear of reducing visitor numbers, but the ever-increasing popularity of the event suggests to me this is unlikely to be very much of a concern. If it is, videos could always be limited to those who attended, while still avoiding the problems of "But I want to see G4BAO and Joe Taylor at the same time!" that inevitably crop up otherwise. I don't believe cost or equipment should be a major issue here either - either get BATC involved, or a number of us who likewise have the kit to do it and would be happy to do so for free (myself included - yes, that is an offer). If got internet access is available, we could even live stream one of the lecture streams - which could be a major publicity boost to the event, particularly overseas!

- Adequate sized lecture rooms for the numbers - historically too many people having to stand or sit on floor.
- Suggest 3 lecture streams, 4 at most.
- Have major lectures given more than once to enable people to schedule round clashes.
- ... the problem is the variable quality. The proportion of DXpedition talks has seemed to decrease of late (which is welcome) but it is very difficult to tell from a one-paragraph synopsis whether the talk will be interesting or whether it will be yet another talk of the *'here's where I went, here's some boring photos of me (probably half-naked) in front of a radio, and a couple of sunset shots, and this is how many QSOs we made'* variety. I'd suggest that future proposals for DXpedition talks should insist on the synopsis including what will be said that is new information to a largely-experienced audience, and what will make the talk interesting and innovative.

The people deciding which talks to feature should then be much more picky about which sound good, regardless of how visible the operation was on the bands. This applies to the non-DXpedition talks too. Some I have been to have been too technical for me to enjoy; others have appeared interesting but failed to deliver by not being detailed enough. This will be a problem at any conference, of course, but it would be useful to have a guide to the intended audience (prerequisite knowledge level) in the programme too. Again, the Society should be more careful in choosing those that don't promise to be suitable for the 'average' person there. As an example, Dr. Lucie Green's talk in 2012 was almost perfectly pitched in my opinion.

On similar lines, some people are good at presenting, others aren't so strong at it. At almost every commercial conference I've been to, one of the questions on the feedback form at the end is 'who would you like to see again next year, and who would you like to present for the first time?'. This question really key to ensuring that spaces go to the most engaging presenters but I don't recall ever being asked it after the RSGB Convention. I've mentioned the problem of boring DXpedition talks but I think this is indicative of another problem.

CDXC Member Feedback: How to make the 2014 RSGB Convention the Best Yet?

Since the Convention ceased to be HFC, the Society have tried to pack too much into one weekend. I have no issue with VHF+ talks; indeed, I've been to many really good ones. The issue is that an attempt to cater for everyone has led to trying to have too many streams, which then have to be filled with lower-quality presentations. Rather than trying to have four themed streams, why not aim for two and use it as a showcase for all the diverse aspects of the hobby, even if that means hardcore HF DXers aren't fully occupied for all of the days? This, of course, means that you need a much bigger venue, which I understand is on the cards anyway.

- Another reason I didn't go last year is that, judging by the schedule, it was clear there was going to be chaos during the breaks between lectures. To have staggered breaks which didn't allow you time to get from one lecture to another seemed utterly ludicrous frankly, particularly given how crowded the smaller rooms can get, and the distances involved. Breaks should always allow time for a toilet trip (including queuing time), a coffee, a couple hellos, and a walk between the furthest lecture rooms, before the next talk starts.
- Why does the RSGB continue to resist video recording the talks? There's at least a really good potential in loaning DVDs of the better talks to clubs, which might make club evenings more interesting, promote the Convention for future years to people who haven't been before, and help spread knowledge in the hobby. The Society must also realise that an increasing number of members are older, and as they become frail they won't be able to travel to the Convention. Streaming the talks online (assuming adequate bandwidth from the venue, probably with QoS so the video stream gets prioritised over other use) would be really good for them, and I'd be really happy to help with this given the opportunity.
- No more than 2 streams in parallel. Overlap time was good move.
- No more than four streams in parallel, Don't have all HF or all VHF at the same time! Less bizarre topics. Some have been over the years and not well attended.
- Is there a vetting procedure?....some speakers need a bit more practice.
- Start on the Friday eve with some talks, perhaps or rehearsals for the following days, gives those on Friday something to do in the eve apart from go to the bar; on the other hand that's not such a bad idea.
- Suggested topics: Rig performance issues, EMC and antennas always popular, what about ARDWIO, or an example of multiple wide band skimmers in operation (see HFCC!) or multi channel contest on data modes sort of SO2R.
- Can't help thinking there are too many of "*I went on a trip to play radio talks*". I use to find them interesting but less so now and only go to very few over the w/e.
- No more than two running in parallel, i.e. one HF and one VHF to appeal to two groups
- More lectures on Top Band DX working. Propagation/solar activity.
- Overlapping worked more or less last year
- Contest University please!

CDXC Member Feedback: How to make the 2014 RSGB Convention the Best Yet?

- Important I think - promote to Foundation licencees a talk on what contests are all about and where to start.
- Overlapping worked mostly - access to pre-packed snacks/meals for people to eat whenever they want to suit say, a stay over from one talk to another in the same room. (food trollies if possible?)
- Lecture please on using linux in amateur radio and what can be done
- Lecture Stream: 25% Contests (about doing them and hear from DX-expeditions), 25% Technology (basic / specialist / advanced), 25% Operating - intro LF, MF, HF, VHF, SHF & above (light), 10% licence conditions talk/discussion - suggest how we can put forward changes which will make it better, 15% Other specialist talks
- Number of streams - my view 3 ideal - 4 max, otherwise one could miss a lecture which you wanted to attend at the same time as another . e.g.. 1. HF / technical stream, 2. IOTA and Dxpedition stream, 3 Contest stream 4.VHF/UHF stream (if we must). Hope the lecture rooms are big enough at the new venue as Horwood was very cramped for the popular talks.

Definitely there should be a contest stream this year (missing in 2013). Not necessarily in the contest University format but perhaps covering some topics which could be a little more advanced on the lines of the webinar topics run in the states by WWROF and PVRC. Also more HF technical lectures - antenna topics, HF terrain analysis, SO2R set-ups, RX performance, and practical use of SDR's come to mind. There also should be an HFCC forum where RSGB contest issues can be debated - completely separate from trophy presentations so there is enough time for debate.

No more historical topics - done to death in 2013 for understandable reasons. Not too many repeats on the Sunday other than the obvious stadium fillers otherwise there may be gaps causing too much beer to be consumed!

No overlaps - doesn't work if you want to switch streams but the catering needs to be able to cope!

Lecturers I would like to see: Peter Hart on rig performance update, Karl K9LA on propagation. Ofcom - good speaker and good insight last year - need to keep the rapport going. Michael VJR always inspires me!

In terms of balance, I would keep the various elements in 3 or 4 separate lecture streams as outlined above. Perhaps 1 or 2VHF / UHF technical lectures of interest might draw a few HFers in and vice versa?

- Last year had far too many lecture streams running, best to keep it to 2 - 3 and avoid obvious clashes with popular ones. Broadly interested in technical ones and HF operating, I am not an IOTA chap and one DXpedition talks get a bit repetitive. HF, though I have been known to go to the odd VHF one.

Contesting got a very low look in last year, hopefully there will be a contesting forum (preferably on the Saturday..). Contest University is fine but it assumes you will spend all day there, most of us want to do other things. Overall I found last year's programme disappointing with very few 'must see' talks.

CDXC Member Feedback: How to make the 2014 RSGB Convention the Best Yet?

Size of lecture rooms has always been a problem, some at Horwood were really too small and in some cases uncomfortably hot.

Timing fine, but the lectures ran a little late in the afternoon for us day visitors. The Sunday programme is quite short and not good value for day visitors (reduced price on the Sunday?...).

- As to lectures, mostly they need bigger seating capacity. I think a couple of lectures on basic decent working antennas would help, as some folks seem to do their utmost to have a crap signal. I often wonder if they work hard to this end, or just do not understand antennas.
- Lecture Stream -- The fewer the better when it comes down to personal interest to avoid missing any chosen ones. Repeats at different times and/or on the second day do help.

Topics -- my interests are wide: the presentations on unique, unusual and major DXpeditions the Convention provides head my list; propagation news and related scientific aspects second; then antenna subject studies etc.; plus amateur training and examination information, updates which are essential these days.

Not want -- equipment reviews. Like to see -- data modes (of which my experience is well behind many Ops..). Balance -- equal portions but VHF subjects are low on my list.

- Overlap timing -- Definitely not wanted, even short 10 minute overlaps are disruptive to everyone.
- Probably 5 or 6 - basically HF Technical, HF DXpedition, HF Contesting/Awards/IOTA. VHF Technical, VHF operating/DXpedition/contesting. Equipment testing and reviewing by G3SJK. The work of the IARU by G3PSM. DXpedition funding methods in view of the increasing costs. DXCC - should countries not active for 10 years be removed from the list - and the same for IOTA. Antenna design and evaluation - Justin from Innovantenna perhaps? (That might be difficult to be 'just HF' or 'just VHF - covers both). Introductory talks for new licencees - how the QSL Bureau works, Good and bad operating (like the pile up where the DX says 'The SM5 station ONLY' and various G stations call - some of them licenced long enough that they should know better and some of them actually CDXC members!).

Would you not want: SSTV, RTTY (unless on contesting), Radio Orienteering (used to be called D/F Hunts, then Foxhunts, now it IS Orienteering!

As for balance, I suspect 60% HF, 30% VHF, 10% general - Ofcom, IARU etc. Technical probably about 40%, operating topics (DXpedition, IOTA)50%, 10% others.

Overlap timing didn't affect me one way or the other

- I think streams are about right, sadly I have had difficult choices, but sometimes catch the one I missed the next day. As for topics, I think VHF / DX Peds / Antenna / New Modes /and the Historic Theme was good this last year. Perhaps a talk on reviving and operating old Valve gear.

As for what I don't want - I know you need VHF, and Geeky things, But!!! If the support for them is there then fine you will need to keep them.

Overlap worked as the coffee breaks, and Lunch were less manic!

- LECTURE ROOMS --

--- majority must accommodate say, 80 to 150 seated persons as a minimum. Plus larger assembly rooms for the total number expected on any one day for opening and closing ceremony's. A form of census in advance might give guidance to how many will attend certain subjects favored by a majority for which a large room is essential.

--- seating-- space set aside for anyone in a wheelchair. Level wheelchair access to all rooms. Minimal changes of floor levels between meeting rooms.

--- need adequate mechanical ventilation and air conditioning whether windows open or closed.

--- must have near 100% blackout for projected visual presentations.

--- complete sound isolation between meeting rooms and from outside noise.

--- audio visual presentation equipment sorted out and set working before the presenter and visitors arrive in the room.

--- a person in each room performing the duty of setting up the equipment early and welcoming the speaker and visitors, giving latest notices and safety information etc..

- EVERY year, I have been allocated a room which is far too small, ending up with people sitting on the floor in the gangways! (regular presenter)

- SOMETHING NEW

We need to make the convention more inclusive to newcomers without alienating the existing attendees. Thinking on what I have seen at Friedrichshafen I was impressed by the number of newcomers that were taking part in constructing projects. These were not just the young, but a mixture of ages. Maybe we could expand on that with small sessions that were run in parallel with the main stream activities. Perhaps a number of small tables, or even rooms.

DISCOVER YOUR HOBBY

Small groups of people (mainly newcomers to the hobby) sitting with a mentor who has a) expertise in the subject, b) able to listen, c) willingness to pass their knowledge on at the right pace. Rather than lump them all under one banner, these groups could concentrate on a small segment of the hobby. How is it arranged ? You will probably get no one perfect way ! Some ideas...

Technical

How to read a circuit diagram. How to solder: Coax cables, thru hole components, SMD components

How to fault find: Breaking the problem down, Types of Test Equipment, Aerials, Simple types, What is SWR etc – Big black hole !

Operating

How to call CQ, How to conduct an interesting QSO, What to avoid, Contests - What are they about?, the exchange, How to get better?, DX'ing - What is that about?, How do I make the contact?, The exchange, What is "Split"?,

I am sure that there are a number of old Farts just like me that would enjoy imparting knowledge at this stage and making new friends. This is surely preferable to all the carping criticism levelled at newcomers who, having got their FL were dropped in the deep end - sink or swim.

5 Social space & tea and coffee

- Social space - inside I thought it was fine. Social space - outside seating? Too cold
- If there is a tea/coffee room, effort needs to be made to clear away rubbish between breaks.
- Social space - inside for ragchewing is important
- In terms of the social aspects, for me this is one of the major factors in attending, and there always seem to be more people than I have time to properly catch up with. However, aside from ensuring sufficient seating, I don't think any change from previous years is needed there. One trivial, yet potentially rather beneficial suggestion: rather than the bean-to-cup style coffee machines, have large flasks of coffee ready to go at the break times - these can service people much more quickly, reducing queues and leaving more time for chat!
- More tea/coffee facilities at the short breaks to meet the demand in a short time.
- Similar large lounge area inside please - Social space - outside seating? Judging by last year's weather - no!
- Coffee / tea arrangements? Should be plenty of both
- Coffee tea on tap throughout day in open seating area
- Somewhere with seats - a place where a level of general chat will cause problems for oldies hearing (I mean a low roof) - Get RSGB staffers to walk and talk.. be seen.

Social space - outside seating? Yes - Get RSGB staffers to walk and talk.. be seen

- Social space - inside for rag chewing - lots and lots of space in the bar area essential with free tea / coffee on tap. I thought this was a plus for Horwood House
- Social space - outside seating? - not essential it can be cold in October but you never know.
- As well as social space, social time is important. Maybe longer breaks between lectures as I find I miss many people because they spend the whole day in a lecture room.
- ... I don't frequent the bar myself, but the general lounge area at Horwood was about right in size.
- Tea-trolleys if poss?
 - Somewhere nice outside so I can have a fag or two.

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- Social space -- adequate seating and tables needed around the tea/coffee points. If meeting rooms are divided in different buildings then each building should have its own 'Social space'. Some outside sitting and tables could be useful depending on the weather.
- I thought space inside was OK: the wx would likely make outside a gamble.
- Social space - inside for ragchewing - any comments sadly Little H was not laid out the best for this, hopefully the new venue will improve.
- Coffee/tea arrangements -- yes please, plenty on a self-service basis with GOOD replenishing servicing attention by the venue staff.
- Tea/coffee throughout the day is a must, but there again the arrangements vary. Having it from real tea pots rather than help yourself machines and dunk in bags would make it a far more enjoyable experience (though I guess that also costs...).
- Coffee / tea arrangements Not Bad, But the table clearing / Wiping was poor.
- More than one [coffee/tea] station to preclude queues

6 Trade & Club Stands

- Martin Lynch stand: Part and parcel of the Convention. Club stands (including CDXC of course!): Yes, need them
- Small Selection of trade stands, rsgb bookstall, cable suppliers
- I cannot see the point of equipment stands like ML&S. I'd rather pay a small increase in ticket price and have no commercial sponsors.
- Very happy to have more manufacturer/dealer/club stands.
- Martin Lynch stand - Of course!
- Martin Lynch stand -- yes. Club stands (including CDXC of course!) - Yes (seats to talk to people by each one if they want)
- Martin Lynch stand - keep, nice to see what's on offer and good to chat to Martin who is very supportive of the event. Club stands - could be expanded - other national clubs ?- local radio clubs?
- The various stands were a bit hidden at Horwood, things like the RSGB one should be right there when you come through the door without being told there is more behind the bar area
- Martin Lynch stand -- yes please and manufactures stands. Club stands -- CDXC; RSGB; QRP etc.
- Martin Lynch stand - He has supported this event for many years, So I think that requires some respect. Club stands - They are ok, seemed a little thin this last year, but I may be wrong.

7 QSLs

- QSL checking – Yes. QSL drop for RSGB bureau – Yes.
- RSGB QSL bureau drop (without the 2013 rude staff trying to justify not accepting QSL cards at an RSGB convention). QSL checkpoint for IOTA awards. QSL checkpoint for DXCC. QSL checkpoint for WPX awards
- QSL checking - yes, but acknowledge the hard work of the checkers, not just K9LA. QSL drop for RSGB bureau – important
- One comment on the QSL bureau drop-off - last year it was very unclear about whether this was going to be an option, with many conflicting reports received. I think this is a very valuable service, but it needs to be advertised well in advance. (Dropping off cards at the Newark National Hamfest paid for my diesel to get there and back in saved postage!)
- QSL checking (and drop) very useful.
- QSL checking - Yes please. QSL drop for RSGB bureau - Yes please
- QSL checking - Yes & ARRL etc, QSL drop for RSGB bureau - Yes
- QSL checking - keep- very useful saves a lot of "worry" sending hard won cards over the pond. ? more checkers? QSL drop for RSGB bureau - yes needed but make it clear well ahead of the event that the service will be available.
- I have used QSL checking in the past but unlikely to do now as all my DXCC is via LOTW - bureau drop off is fine, but there again I don't send that many cards to the bureau so it is not a big issue.
- QSL Drop off a must.
- QSL checking -- not concerned me so far. QSL drop for RSGB ... -- have not used this facility up to date.
- QSL checking - for which awards? Karl and Vicky do a fine job for DXCC - what else would be possible? QSL drop for RSGB bureau. VERY MUCH SO!!! HIGHLY DESIRABLE!
- QSL checking YES please keep this. QSL drop for RSGB bureau I was really not pleased at the society's attitude last year!!, and I am glad you sorted it out Chris with CDXC. I DO HOPE THE SOCIETY this year corrects this serious oversight!!

8 Bar, Lunches & Dinners

- Bar arrangements - staffing, real ale, bar snacks etc. – Yes fine. Dinner Friday – Yes fine. Lunch arrangements Saturday/Sunday – Once you knew to buy in advance it was OK.
- Dinner Saturday – I managed to get into the main dinner. Difficult when catering for such a lot of people at the same time.
- Dinner with G3RJV a highlight of last years convention again please George !! Lunch buffet style fine

CDXC Member Feedback: How to make the 2014 RSGB Convention the Best Yet?

- Did not like the 2 Dinner system. Missed chatting to some at the "other" dinner!
- Bar arrangements - real ale please! sensible (pub) prices. Dinner Friday - much better value to go to a local restaurant with pals. Lunch arrangements Saturday/Sunday - need sandwiches/snacks. Dinner Saturday - seems a bit daft having two.
- I've never gone to the Friday evening dinner - it always seems very poor value compared to going down to one of the local pubs or curry houses as a group of 6-10. Or cooking a few burgers in the car park while playing on 2 and 40m and enjoying a couple of pints, but maybe that's just us! On the other hand, the Saturday evening dinners are normally a good excuse to dust off the suit, and I was glad of the extra capacity this year.
- Adequate staff on bar prior to dinner. A method of reserving dinner seating would be useful.
- Dinner Friday - Last year quite adequate so similar would be fine. Lunch arrangements Saturday/Sunday - KISS principle, reasonable prices. Dinner Saturday - Standard dinner preferred, no "posh nosh".
- Bar arrangements - staffing, real ale, bar snacks etc. - Yes to all. Dinner Friday - it was ok - make it easier for those on their own who don't know anyone to find a place easily. Lunch arrangements Saturday/Sunday - best possible please. Dinner Saturday - two dinner system worked very well - please repeat. Offer unorganised alternative as well.
- Lunch arrangements have been variable over the years. They were excellent at the two times we were at Gatwick. Horwood has been disappointing and last year quite pricey and little choice (not even any vegetables if I remember right). I hope the new venue is better, though looking at their website suspect it will still be pricey. Lunch is normally the best place for us day visitors to have a quiet chat and is an important part of the arrangements.
- Bar. Yes to all (real ale, snacks etc.)
- Bar arrangements -- minimal use by me but essential with venue staff on duty all day. Drinking water in the meeting rooms in addition to the bar. Dinner Friday -- have not needed this facility but it must be useful for early arrivals especially if catering is not available nearby away from the venue. Lunch arrangements Saturday and Sunday -- found I prefer to cater for myself. Dinner Saturday -- have recently chosen to eat earlier away from the venue but this would be reviewed at the new venue.
- Bar arrangements - staffing, real ale, bar snacks etc. Real Ale in larger quantities VITAL. Lager and fizz beer for those with no taste! Bar snacks - sandwiches, rolls etc. at lunchtimes a good idea. Start and finish times fine for me. For a technical dinner, whether or not I would go to it rather than the main dinner would depend on who the speaker was.
- Bar arrangements - staffing, real ale, bar snacks etc. Finally were quite good at LH, But Still lack of Staff at the Peak times, They need to know that Beer Pileups are not popular, But the Discounted Prices were BIG Bonus. Lunch arrangements Saturday/Sunday - Not bad for the money, and acceptable, I would prefer a better Choice, But that would increase cost, So probably not a popular move. Dinner Saturday - any comments (especially how did the two-dinner system work for you in 2013) A very good idea! But the hotel Coked up and it ended in a shambolic mess. Our table ended up ½ empty, Great there was spare wine!!

9 General Comments

- I still attended solely for the social side to meet people who I speak to on the air and nice to put a face to the name. Along with this a group of us who are dotted all over the UK meet every year at the HFC, it's like our [CDXC] AGM, hi.
- Raffle, finish time, I've normally gone by then.
- My interest in the convention is to expand my knowledge of ham radio both in technical and operating techniques.
- Registration needs to be smoother and a lot more professional.
- ARRIVAL - Streamline check in. Large card badges for EVERYONE with call and name in BIG LETTERS. Most badges worn are too small to read, and to newcomer reinforces cliqueiness. OK to wear RSGB, CDXC, Order of Lenin badges, etc but try to make things more inclusive. Same BIG badge will help.
- Raffle, finish time, check-in time for rooms, registration process (on-line & on arrival) - no problems
- I absolutely love the conventions, and they're basically what's responsible for getting both myself and several others I know much more involved in the hobby, and anything that can share that with a wider audience, from beginners right up to the experts, should be encouraged.
- For a new venue it will need good signage.
- I didn't attend in 2013 for a variety of reasons but chiefly that it is an expensive weekend if you don't feel you can get much out of it..... Frankly, I'd prefer to use my cash going on DXpeditions than talking about it. And, judging by the published programme, it was indeed more of the same.
- That's about it really, the rest seems to go OK, think the balance is about right.
- The HF station needs to be closer to the action and representative of a top notch home/contesting station with something to inspire the younger ones to have go. Not just a transceiver and tribander. Years ago there was a high demand for a operating slot on the HF station at Windsor, prob because we put up all sorts of antennas inc a 40m 4sq! The antennas themselves attract a lot of interest. How about a 20m HF mono bander at 100ft! and 400W as a starter, and some 70cm (easy) 6m (harder)EME for a challenge?
- It's a good weekend end but too short.
- Raffle -- OK but have yet to be lucky! Finish time has been OK for me. Check-in time for rooms has been OK in the past. Registration online is good to speed people through check-in on the 2 days but it is essential to ensure that there is no possible way for those who may try it to make free copies for their friends.
- Raffle, finish time, check-in time for rooms, registration process (on-line & on arrival) Not too bad this last year.