

Report to the RSGB Spectrum Committee Meeting - November 2012

1 General position

Membership of CDXC remains around the 750 mark with a continual need to recruit new members to replace those who are leaving the hobby or becoming SK. Our members are active primarily on the HF bands and use CW, SSB and Data in their pursuit of DX and contesting.

We held two very successful social events and ran two 'challenges' during the year. We have an extremely active - and may I say, polite - Reflector which draws on the experience of our members. Our bi-monthly magazine, the CDXC *Digest* is well regarded and is produced in only printed format by popular demand.

We give financial support to DXpeditions and in the last year have provided sponsorship in excess of £6,000. We have an internal debate about which DXpeditions should receive that money and as stated below we are looking at ways of using our sponsorship to incentivise better operating standards.

I regret that I will not be able to attend this year's Spectrum Forum and thus CDXC will not be represented in person. I am happy to answer any questions by e-mail prior to the meeting.

2 Spectrum abuse

The issue of poor operating at HF continues to be a source of concern to our members. We also see it very much as a European problem with our friends in the USA being less concerned (or perhaps less affected by it).

What has become clear is that the skills and behaviour of the DXpedition operators has a dramatic effect on the amount of deliberate QRM (DQRM) that occurs. Notable 'good' operators and good operations have far less of a problem. We are working with GMDX, the RSGB and the UK's DX Hall of Fame members to enhance the DXpeditioners Code of Conduct and will enforce it via our DXpedition support finance.

One aspect of interest is that the problem of poor(er) operating standards on DXpeditions appears to be greater on SSB than on CW. CDXC believes there needs to be more training opportunities for phone operators before they try to handle their first pile up. CW operators have access to computer-based simulators; we need one for phone (and data perhaps). Ideas are welcomed.

CDXC is appreciative of the efforts being proposed by the RSGB to raise the profile of operating standards at IARU R1 level.

3 PLT and other interference

The situation with PLT is not improving and we are mindful of the problems with our fellow societies' support of the new regulations, despite the efforts of the RSGB. We must continue to push to ensure a total protection of the HF spectrum – but appreciate we must not lose our notched HF band frequencies in the process.

General urban noise from electrical devices is often cited as a reason to give up the hobby. With the increase in consumerism it seems likely that this will eventually drive urban dwellers away from HF.

4 New Band Plans

The CDXC members' wish list continues to include 1,800 – 1,810; full legal power in the 1,850 – 2,000 segment; 3,800 – 4,000; 7,200 – 7,300 and an extension to all WARC bands. There is growing demand for a high power license as we have seen in EI; this is especially requested for chasing DX and contesting, where we are at a disadvantage to nearly all of our neighbours.

Chris Duckling, G3SVL
Chairman CDXC