



# International Amateur Radio Union Region 1



## 2017 General Conference – Landshut, Germany 16 – 23 September 2017

Subject	<b>Activity Contests – Weekday evening scheduling</b>		
Society	<b>RSGB</b>	Country:	<b>United Kingdom</b>
Committee	<b>C5</b>	Paper Number	<b>LA17_C5_42</b>
Author	<b>Andy Cook G4PIQ</b>		

### 1. Introduction

The activity contests which run on Tuesday and Thursday evenings organised by several IARU Region 1 societies are very popular. However, the current distribution of days means that two of the most popular events occur 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays and Thursdays, bunching-up activity and making the rest of the month quiet. We believe that making some small changes will increase activity overall and allow the contests to be more family and work friendly.

### 2. Background

Although not formally IARU co-ordinated contests, there are now many IARU Region 1 societies running short activity contests on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. In general societies have informally aligned their dates to maximise the concentration of activity. The current arrangement of dates and bands is:

Day of Month	Band	UK Entrants in 2016
1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday	144 MHz	647
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	432 MHz	470
2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday	50 MHz	496
3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	1 296 MHz	230
3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday	70 MHz	269
4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	SHF	65

This data shows the very high popularity of these events in the UK, but was taken during 2016 when all RSGB events were on Tuesday evenings. For 2017, the RSGB has moved to fully align the dates with the rest of Europe, to provide a 70 MHz contest every month (previously on 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays) and to separate 50 MHz and SHF nights, fully implementing the schedule shown above. However, we have received strong feedback from a significant number of entrants that, for family or other reasons, it is difficult for people to dedicate two nights a week to radio. We have seen a small decline in entry levels for the Thursday events, while activity on Tuesdays continues to increase. Many stations go out portable for these events, so the level of commitment required to enter is high – typically 6 hours per contest including travel, set-up, operating and tear-down.

### 3. Key Points and Proposal

We propose to swap the slots for 50 MHz and SHF, generating the following revised schedule

Day of Month	Band
1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday	144 MHz
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	432 MHz
2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday	SHF
3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	1 296 MHz
3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday	70 MHz
4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	50 MHz

This proposal in general runs the highest activity contests on Tuesday nights. Although activity is slightly higher in the UK on 70 MHz than 1 296 MHz, we recognise that 1 296 MHz is more widely active across Europe and therefore propose that 1 296 MHz should retain the Tuesday slot.

We believe that making this small change will help increase activity levels across Europe since it makes a more family friendly schedule.

#### 4. Recommendations

Where societies are organising weekday evening activity contests on 50 MHz and upwards, the recommended schedule for these events is

Day of Month	Band
1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday	144 MHz
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	432 MHz
2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday	SHF
3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	1 296 MHz
3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday	70 MHz
4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	50 MHz

This schedule will minimise the number of entrants who will wish to operate two contests in the same week, and will focus the highest levels of activity on a Tuesday night. This allows for easier planning of contests around family or other commitments and would be expected to increase activity across Europe.