

## RADIO SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY WHICH  
REPRESENTS UK RADIO AMATEURS

Founded in 1913 incorporated 1926.

Limited by guarantee

Member society of the

International Amateur Radio Union

**Patron:** HRH Prince Philip,  
Duke of Edinburgh, KG, KT

Membership is open to all those with an active interest in radio experimentation and communication as a hobby. Applications for membership should be made to the Subscriptions Department from which full details of Society services may also be obtained.

### General Manager:

Peter Kirby, FCMI, MISM, GOTWW

**Honorary Company Secretary:**

Rupert Thorogood, G3KKT

**Honorary Treasurer:**

Dr R Dingle, G0OCB

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P Brooks, G4NZQ (co-opted 15 January 2011)

L Butterfields, G0CIB

J Gould, G3WKL

C Morrison, G14FUE (co-opted 15 January 2011)

I Phillips, G0RDI

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Details of the Society's volunteer officers can be found in the RSGB Yearbook and on the RSGB website.

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Website: www.rsgb.org

Members Area: www.rsgb.org/membersonly

Log-in using your callsign in lower case as the user name, and your membership number without the leading zeros (see RadCom address label) as the password.

The online RadCom can now be found at

www.rsgb.org/radcom.

## “Are we letting ourselves down?”



Happy New Year everyone, I know this is the February edition but as I sit here writing this leader it's the first week in January, the snow has just disappeared and we are all back from the Christmas holiday.

New Year is a strange phenomenon, we are still in the depth of winter, the weather is generally dull and dank and there is that anti climatic feeling following Christmas yet everyone tends to be positive in outlook and looking forward to the New Year ahead.

Some people own up to making New Year resolutions and some people don't but I would like to make a New Year's resolution on behalf of the whole of the UK radio amateur community. And that is 'Let's try and clean up our act in 2011'.

Over the last couple of years there has been a real push to improve operating standards, but this has generally fallen on deaf ears. Standards are still falling and the complaints still come tumbling in regarding contesters operating outside of the band, deliberate interference of DXpeditions, repeater abuse, profane language, general poor operating during QSOs. It's all in there. And who is responsible? We are! It's no good passing the buck, it's those in the hobby that have allowed the standards to drop. It's not the people coming into the hobby, it could be said that they know no different.

When the RSGB introduced the Foundation licence, part of the negotiations prior to the introduction of the licence was a relaxation of the old 'Greetings Message' format. Candidates under training can now go on the air under supervision every day if they want but how many have access or are encouraged to do so by their instructors or the clubs that are running the courses? Most newcomers

entering the hobby take the QSO practical test while they are doing their Foundation course and that is it. Their next exposure to amateur radio operating is when they get their licence and go on the bands – and what a fine example we experienced operators set them. Just spend some time monitoring 40 and 80 metres and you see what I mean. Long rambling conversations, no callsigns given or in most cases abbreviated calls and every interpretation of the phonetic alphabet apart from the real one! Try breaking into a net... Sometimes the response is not what you would expect from mature 'adults' taking part in what is supposed to be a scientific hobby.

Why do people jam and abuse over repeaters? What do they gain? DXpeditions are costly to mount and those fellow radio amateurs that go off to far-flung countries and islands so that we can work towards our DXCC and IOTA awards do so voluntarily and without remuneration and in almost every case covering the cost of mounting the DXpedition, sometimes even risking their lives in doing so. Why do some of us want to cause disruption by jamming? It just doesn't make sense. It's all there on our bands, gutter language, poor operating, bad manners and WE are responsible for it.

What can we do about it? Well the first thing you can do is look at yourself. What is your operating like? Do you follow the procedures? I bet most of us would say we could do better and that's where it must start. Unfortunately, what we do on the bands and how we behave is open to public scrutiny and it is being noticed more and more.

It is spoiling the hobby and the reputation of amateur radio and the only people that can do anything about it is US. That's my New Year's resolution on behalf of us all. Please help me to keep it.

**Peter Kirby, GOTWW**  
RSGB General Manager

## Handbook Author Wanted

Mike Dennison, G3XDV, is coordinating the editing and production of a new edition of the Society's flagship publication, the *Radio Communication Handbook*. He is looking for one or more people who are able to revise and update the chapters on HF Receivers and HF Transmitters/Transceivers. A royalty fee is paid based on the size of the contribution and the number of books sold. If you are interested or need further information, contact Mike by e-mail to mike.dennison@ntlworld.com.

## CONGRATULATIONS

To the following members whom our records show as having reached 50, 60 or 70 years' continuous membership of the RSGB.

### 70 years

Mr A Ellis, GW2HFR

### 60 years

Mr C N Wridgway, G3GGO

Mr J Allan, G3IJA

Mr J L Hall, G3TOK

Mr J D Nias, G3VRB

### 50 years

Mr A S Foster, GM30XA

Mr D C Griffiths, G3RDQ

Mr A G Rumbold, G3ORX