

Radio Society of Great Britain

Annual Report



YOUR
RSGGB

WORKING FOR YOU

1 January to 31 December 2007



INTRODUCTION FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Each year I start this introduction along the lines of "It's been another challenging year for the Society" or "I am amazed at the diversity of the organisation" or even "what an interesting year it has been". For 2007 I could use any of those phrases.

At the start of 2007, if asked I would have said that I expected it to be a reasonably quiet year. There was the World Radio Conference to prepare for, but apart from that there was no IARU conference and no major issues on the horizon. It was a year for taking stock. Funny how things never turn out quite as you expect them to!

So what did happen during 2007? At the start of the year the Board-sponsored 'Pathfinder' review was still ongoing and was looking at all aspects of RSGB operation, not just to make the Society more cost effective but also looking at how we could better serve the membership and the amateur radio community as a whole. At the same time this review was ongoing we commissioned an independent consultancy to advise on ways in which we could improve the marketing of the RSGB and the work that we do. Both these groups have submitted their findings and, over the course of the next year or so, you will see the Society take a more proactive approach in the way in which we communicate to our members, as well as changes in the day-to-day administration.

Work was still ongoing in getting recognition for the RCE examinations and although I have reported numerous times in the past that we are close to achieving our ambitions I am pleased to

report that we expect the QCA to give their approval shortly.

Of course the big challenge was the Board's decision to relocate the Society away from Potters Bar. Lambda House was becoming expensive to maintain and too large for the level of staff numbers now working there. As you will know, we are moving the administration to Abbey Court, Bedford, and the public face of the RSGB to Bletchley Park, Milton Keynes. As I write, the purchase of Abbey Court and the sale of Lambda House will be just about completed and the RSGB will bring the curtain down on the Potters Bar side of our history at the end of March. This move and the direction we are taking will not only secure the Society's financial future for many years to come, it will also give us the opportunity to build a very public headquarters in a place that is not only steeped in history but which also has a real synergy with Amateur Radio.

On closing this introduction to the Annual Report, it is pleasing to note that there are still plenty of people interested in becoming radio amateurs and for the first time since 1985 I can report that the Society had more members at the end of the year than it did at the start of the year. As always I would like to thank all the volunteers for their outstanding support and work, and you the membership for your continued support and encouragement. On both counts it's greatly appreciated.

Peter Kirby, G0TWW, General Manager



THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE: REVIEW OF THE YEAR BY THE PRESIDENT

By the time you read this report HQ staff will be just a week or so away from moving the Society's administration offices from Potters Bar up to Bedford, a move of just 40 miles but still an enormous task. The downtime is expected to be about a week before normal working is resumed and I would ask members to have patience during this period. We are hopeful that the move will be completed a couple of weeks before the AGM takes place.

This will be only the third time that the Annual General Meeting will be held in the early part of the year and although it has been policy in recent years to move the Annual General Meeting around the UK this will be the first time the event has been held in the West Country. I hope we can repeat the success of last year's event in Edinburgh and that the opportunity will be taken by members to attend and to meet your Board of Directors in Bristol, a centre of maritime history. I certainly look forward to meeting as many of you as possible.

The past year has been very eventful with Ofcom consultations to keep an eye on plus my personal involvement as an advisor to the UK delegation at the World Radio Conference in Geneva during October and November of 2007. This was my second WRC and certainly the hardest of the two. Those who say your representatives spend their times on 'jollies' should try attending meetings that start at 8.00 in the morning and four weeks later towards the end of the conference last until

3.00 or 4.00 the following morning. While the conference has been quoted in one trade publication as being a diplomatic event, the exchanges in the late evenings and early mornings could be described as anything but diplomatic. While not achieving the same level of success as we did in 2003 the Amateur Radio Services did manage to gain a new world-wide allocation at 136kHz as well as managing to place an agenda item on the agenda for WRC-11. This in itself is an achievement when a list of over 150 proposals has to be reduced to around 25.

Within the Society's organisation itself we continue to look at how we can improve the marketing of the Society to non-members as well as changing the image of the Amateur Radio Services as far as the general public is concerned. The General Manager has briefly mentioned this subject and we hope the establishment of a RSGB presence at the Bletchley Park heritage site will assist with this objective. We are hopeful that the new site will be up and running later in the year and this will include a new GB3RS HQ station, reference library and amateur radio museum that will work closely with the existing Bletchley Park main exhibition centre and become a centre of excellence in itself.

With substantial financial benefits resulting from the move to be fed back into improving services, the first increase in membership in many years and the promise of a new sunspot cycle, the future looks promising.

Colin Thomas, G3PSM, President

Company no. 216431

Radio Society of Great Britain

Report and Financial Statements

31 December 2007

Legal and administrative details

For the year ended 31 December 2007

Status	The organisation is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 21 July 1926.
Company number	216431
Registered office and operational address	Lambda House, Cranborne Road, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire EN6 3JE.
Honorary officers	
President	A Annan, MM1CCR (to 31 December 2007)
President	C Thomas, G3PSM (from 1 January 2008)
Treasurer	R Dingle, G0OCB
Company Secretary	R Thorogood, G3KKT
Principal Staff	General Manager, Peter Kirby, G0TWW
Bankers	Natwest plc, 181 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire EN6 1XT.
Solicitors	Eversheds LLP, Kett House, Station Road, Cambridge CB1 2JY.
Auditors	Sayer Vincent, Chartered accountants and registered auditors, 8 Angel Gate, City Road, London EC1V 2SJ.

Report of the directors

For the year ended 31 December 2007

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2007.

Principal activities

The principal activities of the Society are to provide services to members who are radio amateurs, short wave listeners or others with interests in radio communications. The Society represents the interests of UK licensed radio amateurs to the regulatory authority in the UK, Ofcom and via the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) to other international bodies.

The Society has continued to monitor the threat to the amateur spectrum allocations particularly from low power, short range "homeplug" devices that do not conform to the European Electro Magnetic Compatibility Directive (EMC Directive) which became law in July 2007. The Society has canvassed Ofcom on this matter and on other issues threatening the bands particularly the Microwave bands. The Society continued to work closely with Ofcom to improve the reporting and investigation of abuse on the amateur bands and it is hoped that from these discussions a Memorandum of Understanding will be put in place to allow much closer co-operation between the UK Regulator and the Amateur Radio Observation Service.

The Society was represented at the World Radio Conference (WRC) 2007 acting in an advisory role as part of the UK delegation. A number of items of interest to the Amateur Radio community were discussed and a proposal to include an Amateur MF allocation discussion to the WRC-11 Agenda was successful.

Throughout the year the Board sponsored "Pathfinder Project" was ongoing. The final report from the Pathfinder group was presented to the Board in September 2007. This report highlighted a number of areas where efficiency and cost reducing measures could be built into the rolling business plan.

It is pleasing to report that the numbers of candidates sitting the Radio Communications Examination (RCE) at all three levels has shown no signs of decline. And it is encouraging to note that numbers of candidates taking the Advanced examination continues to rise.

The Society continues to maintain strong links with Ofcom and other government departments to ensure that amateur radio continues to be recognised as a scientific hobby that has a role to play in education and in shaping the future of the radio communications workforce in the UK. In October 2006 the Society commissioned a consultation into aligning the Radio Communications Examination with the Government's National Vocational Qualification scheme. It is expected that the Quality and Curriculum Authority (QCA) will report the results of this consultation in April 2008.

GB4FUN has again been a very popular asset and many schools have benefited from visits. However, during the course of the year the project has been the subject of an independent review commissioned by the Board.

The report on the findings recommended that in future the GB4FUN school visits should be targeted at schools who have encompassed the 21st Century Science curriculum. The report also recommended that the Society investigates other methods of delivery of the GB4FUN presentations.

Due to this report any decision to commission a second vehicle and make improvements to the current GB4FUN vehicle have been put on hold.

In November 2007 the Board took the momentous decision to relocate its head

office from Potters Bar to Bedford. Lambda House, the current headquarters, is now too large and costly to maintain. The relocation will involve moving the administrative side of the operation to Abbey Court, Bedford and the public face of the Society to Bletchley Park in Milton Keynes. The Bletchley Park site will house the Library, HQ Station and Museum. It is the Society's intention to hold all Society related meetings including Board and National Council meetings at Bletchley Park once the new RSGB building is refurbished and commissioned. This work is expected to be completed late summer 2008.

At the time of writing, it is expected that the move to Abbey Court will take place towards the end of March 2008. On relocation the QSL Bureau which has been run from Lambda House since 1990 will be outsourced. Some staff redundancies will occur, however, the Board has taken steps to ensure that key staff are retained and staff leaving are rewarded accordingly.

The Society's membership on the 31 December was 22,791 compared to 22,721 at the start of the reporting period.

Financial report

The financial result for the year, after interest income, was a surplus of £5,000, compared to a surplus of £1,000 for the prior year. The result includes a donation received from the Radio Communications Foundation towards the running costs of GB4FUN.

A number of membership initiatives have been undertaken this year to stabilise membership numbers. This has proved to be successful. Following on from this the Society has begun to work with a Marketing Consultancy to look at ways to increase membership and how to relay to members and potential members the work undertaken by the Society on their behalf. The findings of this exercise will be implemented over the course of the year.

Book sales have increased year on year but the margin has fallen due to higher costs on some items. A web site presence has been established that has produced a small amount of contribution this year. This is expected to increase in the future.

The advertising market has proved to be challenging with lower sales than in the previous year. Sales revenue has been obtained from web site advertising but the returns are still very low at the moment.

£12,000 of re-location costs are included in the accounts as is £12,000 irrecoverable VAT for the annual subscription adjustment. A rate rebate and savings on salaries, gas and postage offset this.

Outlook

The Society's impending move will release funds that will provide opportunities to invest in amateur radio and the future of the Society. The Board will discuss this in full in due course. Efforts will be made to ensure that the move does not impact on the financial well being of the Society. Current membership and marketing projects will continue.

Responsibilities of the directors

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the company as at the balance sheet date and of the profit or loss for the year then ended.

In preparing those financial statements which give a true and fair view, the directors should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Each of the directors confirm that to the best of his / her knowledge there is no information relevant to the audit of which the auditors are unaware. The directors also confirm that they have taken all necessary steps to ensure that they themselves are aware of all relevant audit information and that this information has been communicated to the auditors.

The directors who served on the board during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

A Annan	MM1CCR	Retired 31 December 2007
L Butterfield	G0CIB	
R Bellerby	GM3ZYE	Elected 1 January 2008
P Brooks	G4NZQ	Regional Council representative from 12 January 2008
R Constantine	G3UGF	Retired end of 6 year term 31 December 2008
D Field	G3XTT	Elected 1 January 2008
J Pink	G8MM	Elected 1 January 2007 resigned October 2007
B Reay	G8OSN	
J Smith	M10AEX	Co-opted 19 January 2008
J Stevenson	G0EJQ	Regional Council representative from 12 January 2008
C Thomas	G3PSM	
A Vinter	G0WFG	Co-opted 19 January 2008
D Wilson	M0OBW	

Every member of the Society undertakes to contribute to the assets if it should be wound up while he/she is a member or within one year after he/she ceases to be a member for payment of the liabilities of the Society contracted before he/she ceases to be a member.

Every member also undertakes to contribute to the costs, charges and expenses of winding up the same, and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributories amongst themselves, such amount as may be required not exceeding one pound. The number of guarantees held at the balance sheet date was nil (2006: nil).

Auditors

Sayer Vincent were re-appointed as the company's auditors during the period and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

The directors' report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part VII of the Companies Act 1985 relating to small companies.

Approved by the directors on 15 March 2008 and signed on their behalf by

Colin Thomas, G3PSM, President

Rupert Thorogood, G3KKT, Company Secretary

Independent auditors' report

To the members of Radio Society of Great Britain

We have audited the financial statements of Radio Society of Great Britain for the year ended 31 December 2007 which comprise the income and expenditure account, balance sheet and related notes. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out therein.

This report is made solely to the company's shareholders, as a body, in accordance with section 235 of the Companies Act 1985. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's shareholders those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's shareholders as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the directors and auditors

The responsibilities of the directors for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), are set out in the statement of responsibilities of the directors.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985. We also report to you whether, in our opinion, the information given in the report of the directors is consistent with the financial statements. In addition we report to you if, in our opinion, the company has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if information specified by law regarding the directors' remuneration and other transactions is not disclosed.

We read the annual report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, of the company's state of affairs as at 31 December 2007 and of its results for the year then ended; and
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985; and
- the information given in the report of the directors is consistent with the financial statements.

SAYER VINCENT

*Chartered accountants & registered auditors
London*

Income and expenditure account For the year ended 31 December 2007

	2007	2006
	Total	Total
	£'000	£'000
Turnover	1,501	1,478
Cost of sales	<u>(184)</u>	<u>(153)</u>
Gross surplus	1,317	1,325
Sales and distribution expenses	(246)	(295)
Other operating expenses	<u>(1,092)</u>	<u>(1,050)</u>
Operating deficit	(21)	(20)
Interest receivable	<u>26</u>	<u>21</u>
Surplus on ordinary activities before taxation	5	1
Taxation	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Retained surplus for the financial year	5	1
Accumulated surplus at the start of the year	<u>393</u>	<u>392</u>
Accumulated surplus at the end of the year	<u><u>398</u></u>	<u><u>393</u></u>

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities.
The movement in the income and expenditure account is shown in note 13.

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2007

	Note	£'000	2007 £'000	2006 £'000
Tangible fixed assets	7		81	<u>623</u>
Current assets				
Stock	8	73		61
Debtors	9	164		122
Cash at bank and in hand		494		503
Asset classified as held for sale	7	929		-
		<u>1,660</u>		<u>686</u>
Creditors: amounts due within one year	10	620		<u>605</u>
Net current assets			1,040	<u>81</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			1,121	704
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	11		11	<u>21</u>
Net assets			1,110	<u>683</u>
Capital and reserves				
Income and expenditure account			398	393
Revaluation reserve			<u>712</u>	<u>290</u>
Total funds	13		1,110	<u>683</u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part VII of the Companies Act 1985 relating to small companies. Approved by the directors on 15 March 2008 and signed on their behalf by:

Colin Thomas, G3PSM, President

Rupert Thorogood, G3KKT, Company Secretary

Statement of total recognised gains and losses for the year ended 31 December 2007

	2007 £'000	2006 £'000
Surplus for the financial year	5	1
Unrealised surplus on revaluation of properties	<u>422</u>	-
Total recognised gains and losses relating to the financial year	<u>427</u>	<u>1</u>

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2007

1. Accounting policies

- a) The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Companies Act 1985, modified to include the revaluation of land and buildings.
- b) Turnover represents the invoiced amounts of goods sold and services provided, net of Value Added Tax and trade discounts. Turnover comprises subscription income, book income, advertising income and exam income. Subscriptions income is recognised on a monthly basis over the duration of the subscription; book income is recognised on despatch of books; advertising income is recognised on publication date; and exam income is recognised on the date of the exam. All income arises in the UK.
- c) Depreciation is provided on all tangible assets at rates calculated to write each asset down to its estimated residual value evenly over its expected useful life (except freehold land which is not depreciated), as follows:
- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Freehold buildings | 2% |
| Computer equipment | 20% - 33% |
| Fixtures and fittings | 10% |
| Furniture and equipment | 20% - 25% |
| Motor Vehicles (not leased) | 33% |
| Leased assets (motor vehicles) | over the period of the lease |
- d) Where the carrying value of an asset will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through continuing use, the asset is classified as held for sale and stated at the fair value less costs to sell, following the adoption of a

policy of revaluation for this class of asset. No depreciation is charged in respect of current assets classified as held for sale.

e) Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. In general, cost is determined on a first in first out basis and includes transport and handling costs. Net realisable value is the price at which stocks can be sold in the normal course of business after allowing for the costs of realisation. Provision is made where necessary for obsolete, slow moving and defective stocks.

f) Any charge for taxation is based on the surplus for the year and takes into account taxation deferred because of timing differences between the treatment of certain items for taxation and accounting purposes. When this arises it appears in the income and expenditure account. Deferred tax is recognised, without discounting, in respect of all timing differences between the treatment of certain items for taxation and accounting purposes which have arisen but not reversed by the balance sheet date, except as otherwise required by FRS19.

g) Leases acquired under finance leases are capitalised and the outstanding future lease obligations are shown in creditors.

h) The Society contributes to group personal pension policies to provide benefits for employees on a defined contribution basis. The assets of the policies are held separately from those of the Society in independently administered funds. The amount charged to the income and expenditure account represents the contributions payable to the policies in respect of the accounting period.

i) Under FRS 1 the company is exempt from the requirement to prepare a cashflow statement on the grounds of its size.

2. Turnover

	2007 £'000	2006 £'000
Subscription income	854	853
RadCom advertising income	170	175
Book sales	345	326
Other income (note 3)	<u>132</u>	<u>124</u>
	<u>1,501</u>	<u>1,478</u>

3. Other income

	2007 £'000	2006 £'000
Foundation licence	41	39
Intermediate licence	16	12
Full licence	9	10
GB4FUN donation	40	40
ICOM Sponsorship	10	2
Sundry income	10	15
Rallies and exhibition fees	6	6
	<u>132</u>	<u>124</u>

5. Staff costs and numbers

	2007 £'000	2006 £'000
Salaries and wages	452	473
Social security costs	43	45
Pension contributions	13	14
	<u>508</u>	<u>532</u>

One employee earned more than £50,000 during the year (2006:Nil).
The average weekly number of employees (full-time equivalent) during the year was as follows:

	2007 No.	2006 No.
Headquarters staff	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>

4. Surplus on ordinary activities before taxation

This is stated after charging / (crediting):

	2007 £'000	2006 £'000
Depreciation on owned assets	38	41
Depreciation on leased assets	16	15
Interest receivable	(25)	(21)
Directors' remuneration	-	-
Board reimbursed expenses	21	15
Regional Committee reimbursed expenses ...	35	28
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	1	(8)
Auditors' remuneration:		
Audit	8	8
Non-audit services	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>

Expenses totalling £21,000 (2006: £15,000) were reimbursed to 10 Board members (2006: 9) for travel and subsistence costs of attending meetings, and other sundry costs.

6. Taxation

	2007 £	2006 £
UK corporation tax	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

7. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £'000	Computer equipment £'000	Fixtures and fittings £'000	Furniture and equipment £'000	Motor vehicles £'000	Totals £'000
Cost						
At the start of the year	550	279	100	167	51	1,147
Additions in year	-	8	-	6	16	30
Disposals in the year	-	-	-	-	(18)	(18)
Revaluations	379	-	-	-	-	379
Reclassification as an asset held for sale	(929)	-	-	-	-	(929)
	<u>-</u>	<u>287</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>173</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>609</u>
Depreciation						
At the start of the year	30	266	76	138	14	524
Charge for the year	13	9	5	10	17	54
Disposals in year	-	-	-	-	(7)	(7)
Revaluations	(43)	-	-	-	-	(43)
	<u>-</u>	<u>275</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>148</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>528</u>
Net book value						
At the end of the year	<u>-</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>81</u>
At the start of the year	<u>520</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>623</u>

Included in the total net book value of motor vehicles is £24,000 (2006: £36,000) in respect of assets held under finance leases. Depreciation for the year was £16,000 (2006: £15,000).

Prior to 31 December 2007 the Society resolved to sell its offices at Lambda House in Potters Bar. The Society has decided to relocate its headquarters to Bedford and the heritage side of the Society to Bletchley Park, Milton Keynes. The sale is expected to be completed late March 2008.

Previously, the freehold land and buildings (comprising Lambda House, Cranborne Road, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire EN6 3JE) were professionally valued on 30 June 2004. The valuation was performed by AC Marriott, FRICS AClArb of Wright and Partners Chartered Surveyors. The valuation was performed in accordance with the RICS Statements of Asset Valuation Practice and Guidance Notes. Based upon that valuation, the Board concluded that the property should be valued in the accounts at £550,000.

The fair value for the freehold land and buildings has subsequently been revalued at £950,000 (the market value for the property) less costs to sell of £21,000. This value has been included on the face of the balance sheet as a current asset held for sale.

The following information shows the original cost of the land and buildings and what depreciation would have been charged.

	2007 £'000	2006 £'000
Historical cost of revalued assets	422	422
Aggregate depreciation thereon	(184)	(179)
Historical cost net book value	<u>238</u>	<u>243</u>

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13. Reconciliation of movements in members' funds

	Income and expenditure	Revaluation reserve	2007	2006
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Members' funds at the start of the year	393	290	683	682
Surplus for the period	5	-	5	1
Other recognised gains and losses	-	422	422	-
Transferred from creditors	-	-	-	-
Members' funds at the end of the year	<u><u>398</u></u>	<u><u>712</u></u>	<u><u>1,110</u></u>	<u><u>683</u></u>

14. Pension scheme

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charged for the period represents contributions payable by the company to the scheme and amounted to £12,511 (2006: £14,431). Outstanding contributions at the year end amounted to £1,763 (2006: £1,229). These are included in other creditors at the year end.

15. Related party disclosure

On the 13 November 2003 the Radio Communications Foundation was registered as a charity, number 1100694. Dr R J Whelan, past president and Peter Kirby and Marilyn Slade, two officers of the Society, are trustees of the charity.

Since its inception, the Society has provided the Foundation with management services at no cost.

16. Post-balance sheet events

At 31 December 2007 RSGB had taken the decision to relocate its head office from Potters Bar to Bedford. This relocation will involve moving the administrative side of the operation to Abbey Court, Bedford, and the public face of RSGB to Bletchley Park in Milton Keynes. The Bletchley Park site will house the Library, HQ station and Museum. Since the end of the year RSGB has put the Potters Bar property up for sale. Information about the property's market value and amount to be reinvested is included in note 7.

17. Move to Bedford - Contingent Liabilities

RSGB expects to incur additional costs as a result of the relocation, these will include redundancy costs for those staff who will not be able to relocate. These costs cannot be measured with sufficient reliability so have not been included in these accounts.

18. Funds held on behalf of trusts

RSGB acts as custodian for the funds below and holds the amounts below within accounts for each fund. These funds are repayable to the individual trusts upon demand, and as such are not recognised as assets held by RSGB. The movements on these funds are shown below.

	At 31 December 2006	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	At 31 December 2007
The J Fraser Shepherd Prize Fund	1,118	52	-	1,170
DXpedition Fund	7,787	2,709	(2,414)	8,082
K M Bennett Legacy Fund	955	27	-	982
The Pilot Officer Norman Keith Adams Prize Fund	1,079	60	-	1,139
The Legacy Fund	<u>12,905</u>	<u>5,432</u>	-	<u>18,337</u>
Total trust funds	<u><u>23,844</u></u>	<u><u>8,280</u></u>	<u><u>(2,414)</u></u>	<u><u>29,710</u></u>

These amounts are not included in the balance sheet of RSGB at the year end.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The **Amateur Radio Development Committee's** main focus of activity is the UK's Radio Communication Examination, its supporting infrastructure and the support of those offering training to new and developing radio amateurs. Brian Reay, G8OSN, explains: "The 'Train the Trainers' sessions, which offer instructors the opportunity to learn the details of the progressive examination scheme from the members of the team who developed it, plus advice on teaching 'best practice' from experienced instructors and professional educators, continue to be well attended. In the period, sessions have been held in Northern Ireland, Scotland, Reading and Yorkshire. In cooperation with the Regional teams, six further sessions are being planned for the first half of 2008."

As in previous years, the ARDC organised a 'one-stop' Radio Communication Examination session at the RSGB HF Convention, allowing candidates to complete the assessments and examination(s) for one or more levels. It is planned to offer similar facilities at future HF Conventions.

The International Amateur Radio Examination (IARE) continues to be offered twice per year and, following the endorsement by the IARU, continues to offer a viable examination option for countries that lack the resources to support the progressive style of examinations.

The Morse Proficiency Programme is progressing slowly, in the main due to a lack of resources. In particular, amateurs who are keen to assist in the active promotion of Morse code are needed in the Regions to act as instructors and examiners. Those interested in being part of this programme should contact Roger, G3LDI, or Brian, G8OSN.

R G Titterton, G3ORY, the Chairman of the **ARDF Committee**, writes that 2007 was another year in which significant progress was made in the development of the sport. In May the Society staged the very first International Festival of ARDF to be held in the UK. It was held in the Ludlow area in conjunction with a big orienteering event over the Bank Holiday weekend. Three days of ARDF saw a 'Foxoring' event on Saturday, an 80m event on Sunday and a 2m event on the Monday. President Angus Annan presented the trophies and took the opportunity to try ARDF for himself. The Festival attracted a significant number of overseas visitors from China, Germany, Russia and Kazakhstan and was featured on the cover of *RadCom*, giving ARDF a high profile among the membership.

2007 also saw the publication of the *Radio Orienteering* book by G3ORY, M3WDD and G3ZOL. The Society is the only one in the IARU to have produced an English-language book on this topic and hopefully there will be demand for it from overseas.

The British ARDF Championships were held for the third time in 2007. This year an 80m event was added to the 2m event that has run hitherto. The Championships were held in conjunction with the International Festival at Ludlow.

The priority of the Committee during the year was how to expand participation in this exciting aspect of amateur radio. A symposium was held at Wakefield in April. Two Scout Groups from Chesterfield and Sheffield were represented, as was the North Lancashire and Cumbria ATC. A programme of short

presentations and practical sessions were held in the grounds of Silcoates School. In addition a shop was provided where equipment and books were on sale. The Committee provided a stand at the Leicester Show and the HF Convention. At the HFC, a demonstration mini DF hunt was held using the 3.5MHz band. Interested attendees were loaned a DF receiver and then located three milliwatt-power transmitters secreted around the grounds of the Wyboston Lakes Centre.

The IARU Region 1 Championship was held at Bydgoszcz, Poland, in September. A British team of two attended and whilst not being in reach of a podium place, did acquit themselves well in a sport dominated by former Eastern bloc countries. The UK competitors were entirely self-funded.

An event was held in the north of England for the first time in November. Events are the lifeblood of this radio sport and the contributions of all who organised them are greatly appreciated.

Looking ahead to 2008, the Committee sees the continuing need to focus on increasing participation. The spread of activity to the north of England needs to be nurtured and the Committee is keen to see centres of activity appearing outside south central England, the Midlands and the North. 2008 is a World Championship year and the event is being held in Korea in September. It is hoped that the RSGB will be represented.

Tony Selmes, G4KLF, the **Amateur Radio Observation Service** co-ordinator, says that progress has been made on several fronts, including setting up relations with Ofcom. We had lost our previous connections with the RA, which had taken many years to build up.

Ofcom is going through dramatic changes with an emphasis on cutting staff. Although it is not our problem, this has had a tremendous effect on radio amateurs as our cases have been put on the back burner whilst they sort out their own departments. Recent meetings with Ofcom have confirmed this, but a new policy means we are no longer the lowest priority. The cases which are being forwarded by me or sent by amateurs direct to Ofcom have now been given a different slant. High priority cases such as those which endanger life or are causing interference to a vital radio service such as Aviation or Maritime are dealt with immediately. In other cases a code of approach is being finalised between Ofcom and the RSGB, outlining what is to be done on a self-help basis before Ofcom looks at the case.

Most amateurs do not take kindly to offensive, abusive, sexist or racist comments on the air, and a majority of cases are of this nature. The onus of stopping this has been put mainly in the hands of radio amateurs and we are now expected to do what the radio authorities used to do on our behalf. Ofcom will only proceed with a case that is provable and stands a chance to succeed in a prosecution. This is the 'light touch' approach by the government.

Nevertheless, cases have been investigated and solved, although feedback is not always provided. Feedback about whether the problem has been solved or is still continuing is always welcome from the original complainant. G4KLF concludes, "Problems can take some time to be solved and while I know it is of little consolation to the persons affected, the

wheels of justice are very slow moving. I have certain areas which are not covered, so I would welcome anyone who would like to be involved as an Observer. Just contact AROS at RSGB HQ and you might just help to fill the gap in our coverage."

The combined **Contest Committee** has now been operating for a full year, says Don Field, G3XTT, and a lot of progress has been made in dealing with issues of concern to contest entrants, such as speed of turnaround of results, issue of certificates, etc. An agreement has been made with the *RadCom* editor to run a Sport Radio supplement every six months, which will help enormously in allowing the publication of contest results while freeing up G4VXE's *RadCom* column for other matters such as contest operating advice and guidance.

The Committee continues to deal with a very substantial workload. The HF calendar includes 33 events, while the VHF calendar has 66. Some of these are short weekday events, others more substantial. But, overall, the Committee is adjudicating an average of two contests a week, with all the pre- and post-event activities such as publication of results, write-ups for the web pages and *RadCom*, issue of certificates, etc. The level of correspondence which this entails can be judged from the fact that the Committee reflector carries about 3500 e-mails a year, or roughly 10 a day. HF events alone attracted 5747 different entrants, including 869 UK call signs and in the IOTA contest some 519 UK stations made at least 10 contacts each. It is clear that over 1000 UK amateurs take part regularly or occasionally in contest activities.

Logs received for HF contests included 846,000 QSOs; that's an awful lot of cross-checking! Over 1000 certificates have been mailed during the year and the Committee works closely with RSGB HQ to ensure that trophy presentations run smoothly. In response to demand from the VHF fraternity, the VHF contest trophy presentations have been returned to the early part of the year, with presentations now taking place at the Kempton Park rally.

2007 highlights include the very successful 70th anniversary Commonwealth Contest, with its innovative team event. A couple of experimental HF 'sprint' events were run and proved popular, so will be repeated. Thanks are due to Marios, G0WWW / 5B4WN, who continues to innovate with the multimedia IOTA Contest website which, this year, allowed *YouTube* links as well as the existing links to *Google Earth*.

On the VHF side, 144 UKAC activity levels have significantly increased, which is encouraging, while the web-based log entry system (thanks G4CLA) has proved extremely popular with everyone who tried it.

One element in encouraging contest participation is undoubtedly the fast turnaround of results for events such as the VHF Activity Contests and the 80m Club Championship. This is largely due to online submission, the adjudication software and web publication of results. Thanks are due especially to G0GJV for his excellent software, which is a big factor in delivering rapid results.

The Committee is well aware that HF contests (not so much VHF) tend to attract criticism from some quarters for the QRM that they can cause on the bands. The Committee

takes seriously its responsibility to ensure that contest rules are obeyed and that lack of adherence to published band plans, badly over-modulated signals or other failings are penalised in an appropriate manner. It is important to point out though, that we cannot be held responsible for non-RSGB contests!

One of the main problems facing the Committee is that the workload is high, while potential volunteers tend to be busy people who like to spend their leisure hours operating, rather than doing adjudication! So volunteers are always sought and are asked to contact the Chairman.



John Pink, G8MM, reports on a busy year for the **EMC Committee** and Advisors. Advice to members has been provided frequently throughout the year, ranging from answering specific questions on EMC issues on hearing aids, through dealing with Ofcom station inspections. There have been many requests for advice on very specific items of common household apparatus, low energy lighting, burglar alarms, doorbells, PIR detectors, TV receivers, DVD players, sewing machines, switch-mode PSUs, and domestic boilers, to name just a few. There has been a considerable build-up of knowledge and experience on which we can fall back as new occurrences emerge.

The frequency and diversity of types of problem, all relating to consumer items, provides a worrying trend for the future. Despite the expectation that the Society can bring pressure to bear to stop spectrum pollution, very little can be done by force. Clearly, extreme cases of non-compliance with the EMC Directives or Standards can be and are taken forward to the relevant authority. However, even DBERR / Ofcom are reluctant to become involved in legal confrontation with a commercial enterprise. Our most effective approach is by persuasion, through standards committee work, presentations to learned bodies, and the very many personal contacts that we are fortunate to have.

This year we have seen real results from our investment into EMC standards. Members of the Committee attended and contributed to work on standards at British Standards (BSI), the IET, the Special International Committee on Radio Interference (CISPR), and various EMC conferences throughout the year. Sometimes the attendee is specifically a

representative of the Society, but in other instances they are there as 'independent' experts in the field. As a result of the contributions that have been made over very many years, we have earned a place and considerable respect at these meetings.

It is five years since G0SNO discovered that certain TVs emit more interference on standby than they do in normal operation, and the committee discovered that the product standard for TVs did not require any test in standby mode. We had help from the RA in bringing this issue into the open before they were 'zapped' by Ofcom. However, recently we have promoted an understanding among test houses and standards committees that standby mode is important, and this will eventually be set out in a standard. A most notable contributor this year has been Richard Marshall, G3SBA. His work on identifying the source of interference at the station of G0MIV, led him to be able to show a major inadequacy in the existing standard relating to emissions from TV receivers. Work will now start to change the standard, but in the meantime all the major manufacturers around the world have been alerted to the deficiency and are implementing changes. The value of this work cannot be over-estimated. We have seen a considerable increase in emissions from TV receivers, line / frame time base and switched-mode power supply. Richard's finding will lead to these being reduced, a massive step forward. An article on this will appear in *RadCom*.

Computer power supplies have received a great deal of attention from members. We have recently had the opportunity to do a detailed analysis of the causes. Robin Page-Jones, G3JWI, and Dr David Lauder, G0SNO, discovered that some PSUs are particularly noisy, almost certainly as a result of the suppression components having been omitted. With strong evidence now available relating to particular brands, the Committee will be taking the case to DBERR, with the objective of preventing these cheap imports entering the EU. In the meantime members are advised to "avoid the cheap units".

Robin Page-Jones and Hilary Claytonsmyth, G4JKS, started our involvement on PLT 12 years ago and with other committee members and the IARU have played a significant rôle in preventing the widespread adoption of access (street) PLT. Working within BSI we are influential at a national level, and gain an understanding of the industry pressures that are being exerted by the PLT lobby. In turn this equips us to take an effective defensive position in the international debate, which take place at CISPR/I/PLT. Fortunately, as far as the UK is concerned, there is a much-lessened prospect of access PLT being rolled out across the power networks.

Derivatives of *HomePlug*, capable of distributing the Internet in hotels and TV in the home, are potentially the greatest threat to amateur radio in the UK. It is a worst case scenario for HF users, since it is necessary to 'fill' the bandwidth to ensure good throughput and more particularly the data content is high, unlike a file transfer, which is finished quite quickly. Our work continues to stop this technology from gaining more ground.

The CISPR/I/PLT group has recently put its work on access PLT on the back burner, and is evaluating innovative technical proposals to reduce the interference from in-house PLT. John Pink, G8MM, represents the RSGB on this group wherever it meets. The

continuing regular attendance (which is partly covered by the government department support) is of vital importance.

Spreading the news has been a key objective in 2007. David Lauder features the work of the Committee in his *RadCom* column, highlighting many of our findings. Members of the committee have also provided evening talks at affiliated societies throughout the year. The talks are based upon a prepared slide presentation and we hope that it will also be used by EMC Advisors to make the same presentation in their Region. Wherever and whenever we have talked to a club, we have been well received, and there has been good feedback.

John McCullagh, G14BWM, Chairman of the **Emerging Technology Co-ordination Committee**, writes that 2007 was a year of change for the Repeater Management Committee (RMC) and Data Communications Committee (DCC), which merged in June to become the ETCC. A press release explained the rationale behind this merger: "A study of the work of the Data Communications Committee and the Repeater Management Committee has revealed increasingly common ground, especially where Internet Gateways and Internet linking to Repeaters are concerned. Advances are also being made towards the introduction of digital modes such as D-Star and ACPO25 that amongst other newer technologies can carry both voice and data streams. With this in mind it has been agreed that a new committee based on the Repeater Management Committee structure and to be known as the Emerging Technology Co-ordination Committee will replace the DCC and RMC with immediate effect. The new committee will be chaired by John McCullagh, G14BWM, with Iain Philipps, G0RDI, as Vice-Chairman. Other committee members will include current Regional Repeater Managers and Steve Morton, G8SFR, who will continue to co-ordinate Internet Gateway applications."

The first formal meeting of the ETCC took place in September, although it was business as usual throughout the year as members continued their work in considering proposals and liaising with keepers.

It was interesting to see that new technology did emerge in the autumn in the shape of a number of proposals for D-Star digital voice systems. The Committee was able to identify some suitable UHF spectrum already used by digital modes for these proposals and this facilitated the rapid issue of NoVs by Ofcom. Early experience was thus gained in the operation of this technology and work continues with Ofcom and the Primary User to find a more permanent 70cm 'home' for digital voice nodes. 2m, being much more congested, is unlikely to be able to support many digital proposals unless existing frequencies are relinquished. We would emphasise that the ETCC has a firm technology-neutral stance on all proposals and we will consider all applications on their technical merits.

It is an unfortunate fact of life that some amateurs still find it amusing to make life difficult for others by jamming and deliberately interfering with repeaters and the packet radio system. Discussions continue with Ofcom on how the perpetrators can be dealt with and advice on combating abuse has recently been published on the ETCC website at www.etcc.rsgb.org. Downloadable forms are also provided on the site, giving an all-electronic repeater application process.

There were 34 proposals that followed through to an NoV being issued by Ofcom:

2007	6m	2m	70cm	23cm	3cm	TV
New:	1	2	17	2	1	0
Changes:	3	1	6	1	0	0

Further streamlining of the application and licensing processes by the ETCC and Ofcom was carried out during the year. The average time for applications from acceptance by the Proposals Manager to an NoV being issued was just over two months.

In the case of Simplex Internet Gateways, 182 new applications were processed, some of which were for multiple frequencies. Not all of these resulted in the issue of an NoV, some having to be rejected for one reason or another. Additionally, there were renewals for some 170 existing Gateways, although only nine 'Packet' NoV applications were received and processed during 2007.

GB2RS News Manager Gordon L Adams, G3LEQ, reports that the total number of newsreaders continues to be just over 100, whilst the number of news readings each Sunday is around 90. These are distributed over nine bands, the most popular being 145MHz. Whilst the VHF transmissions are primarily FM, there remain a few on 144MHz USB.

At the end of 2007 Peter Torry, G3SMT, moved away from the Manchester area, and consequently had to give up his 2m USB news reading after more than 33 years. Fortunately other readers in the north-west were able to join standby newsreader Bill Furness, G3SMM, in the long-established 10.00am schedule. It is worth mentioning that SSB coverage on VHF is much greater than that achieved with FM, and Peter had several regular listeners as far afield as Northern Ireland.

The best national coverage throughout the sunspot cycle has to be the 60m reading at 12.30pm on 5403.5kHz USB. This was established five years ago as part of the ongoing 5MHz Experiment, and attracts a large after-news net from across the UK.

After several years of successful operation, the MT63 data news transmissions on 160, 80 and 60m were terminated at the end of October 2007. This was brought about due to the small number of volunteer data news transmitters, and also an apparent fall-off in those making use of the transmissions. One of the reasons for this is that those equipped with MT63 could equally well read GB2RS News on the RSGB's website.

About 20% of newsreaders without PCs still receive their script through the post. The day before the Sunday reading the RSGB's Propagation Studies Committee provides a last-minute update of their propagation forecast, which some newsreaders download and incorporate into their scripts.

Over a period of time an increasing number of newsreaders complained that the script could not be read within the 30 minutes allotted if the Regional news items were to be included as well. During 2007 the length of the main news bulletin has been reduced and the average news reading time should now be no more than about 23 minutes. Changes were also made in the RSGB Editorial Department and the result has, we hope, been an improvement in the content and style of the script writing.

HF Manager John Gould's, G3WKL, says that the single most important focus for the

year was WRC-07, where support was given to IARU effort on a range of issues: 7MHz expansion, a new 5MHz band, securing a global allocation at 136kHz and getting an amateur allocation near 500kHz on to the agenda for WRC-11.

Much of the preparation for the 7MHz item was developed prior to 2007, although the other items needed considerable preparation, including helping to gain consensus between the three IARU Regions. Without doubt the largest effort went into raising interest in gaining an allocation near to 500kHz within IARU and the minds of Administrations. Agendas for WRC are set many years ahead so we knew that a Herculean effort was needed to get our interest added into the existing agenda. This was an international effort and the work of DARC HF Manager Ulrich, DK4VW, in getting German Administration to take a lead deserves recognition.

The other big issue in 2007 has been the study on means of combating deliberate interference, which is a growing problem that threatens to damage a key part of the hobby on HF, namely DXing. Good progress was made gaining IARU Region 1 agreement to our proposal to improve training and education material. This was endorsed at international IARU level and detailed work is in hand. However, the RSGB still firmly believes that more needs to be done. With significant support from Chiltern DX Club members, and also involvement of a number of technical experts, we have carried out a comprehensive study of both the policy and technical issues of creating a technical response to the problem. The studies are continuing, with further experiments planned and the RSGB will submit a proposal at the IARU Region 1 Conference in 2008.

Another constant source of concern from members is the issue of contests and their impact on non-contest activity on the HF bands. The root cause of the problem is undoubtedly the major contests, many of which are organised by concerns outside the IARU and thus there is very little that can be done either through the Society or IARU. The effects are also exacerbated during the period of sunspot minima. Without going into the pros and cons of contesting, as a spectrum manager there is a case for influencing contesting behaviour within IARU sponsored or affiliated contests and this is where efforts have been focused.

A number of volunteers continue to support our experimental access to 5MHz channels, either through the 5MHz Working Group or through direct support of the data collection and processing for the 5MHz Experiment. The *5MHzLog* program is now the accepted way of collecting and submitting QSO logs for the database. Other work has been undertaken to make the database available online which will improve data



The 2007 RSGB HF Convention at Wyboston Lakes, Bedford, was a huge success.

integrity and provide ways to check and extract data for analysis.

On LF / MF, the main issue has been to provide support to Ofcom for the approval of Special Research Permit Applications for 500kHz and provide feedback on the experimentation. Support from members has enabled the RSGB to put a strong case for extending our period of access and increase the permitted ERP and Ofcom has agreed to a year's extension and ERP increase of 10dB. The main issue concerning 136kHz continues to be the interference from the UK LORAN-C station that moved from Rugby to Anthorn. The RSGB raised concerns with Ofcom and has submitted a detailed technical paper.

Preparations have been made for the IARU Region 1 Conference in 2008. As well as the proposal on deliberate interference, proposals have been approved for agenda items concerning 40m band planning and amendments to the 136kHz band plan, and at the time of writing a proposal on contest management is still being discussed.

For the year ahead the main workload will be the Region 1 Conference in November. The proposals submitted by other national societies require detailed consideration. On-going work will be required on the issue of deliberate interference and further liaison with contest community representatives. Interest in new allocations, such as our experimental access to 5MHz and 500kHz, will continue to demand support, the latter particularly so as preparation for WRC-11 gains momentum.

Generally, the **IET Liaison** officer is a low-key role, writes Peter Saul, G8EUX, consisting of reporting IET events to the RSGB where there is some common ground, chiefly of course in radio. These are from time to time published in *RadCom*, although any members wishing to find an immediate update should look at www.theiet.org

RSGB members who are also IET members may attend local or national meetings; indeed many meetings are open generally, although where there are attendance fees the member rates are preferential.

In the coming year, the intention is to write a brief article on the IET and the place of radio amateurs in the development of electronic engineering in this country. This is a role which is both historic and continuing.

Chris Cummings, G4BOH, co-ordinates the work of **Intruder Watch**. The most prolonged problem on the exclusive amateur bands during the year was once again caused by the Beijing-controlled jammers targeting the 'Voice of Hope' clandestine broadcasting station. 18160kHz was the frequency of choice, and the complaints from national authorities, Intruder Watch Coordinators and ordinary radio amateurs rained down on both Beijing and Taiwan. It appeared to have worked eventually as the problem only lasted for about one month compared with six months across several frequencies during 2006.

Other problems dealt with include the appearances of NATO STANAG 4285 modems on 21MHz in October and on 14MHz in December. Both were confirmed as being located on Cyprus and disappeared within minutes of enquiries being made on our behalf by the Ofcom monitoring station at Baldock. These are transmissions which are made in error but it does no harm to let the people

making the errors know that we are listening! This contrasts significantly with the administration which is responsible for the overwhelming majority of the intrusions into the exclusive amateur bands. The Russian military continue to use our bands, along with most of the HF spectrum, for the data signals and modems which appear to be essential to their operations.

Several broadcast transmitters developed spurious transmissions which were dealt with as soon as they were informed by Baldock at our request. One such transmitter operates on 9495kHz from Austria for Trans World Radio. This was causing problems across the 10.1MHz band but was dealt with after some concerted action by Baldock.

The major activity in 2007 for the **IOTA Committee** was the introduction of the NGIS - New Generation IOTA Software. John Butcher, G3LAS, reports: This Internet-based system is an online resource for IOTA users which has revolutionised the process for record-keeping, application, checking and monitoring of user activity. It also provides a comprehensive information source on all matters connected with the IOTA programme. Launched in August 2007, the software was developed by a team of enthusiasts led by Dominic Smith, M0BLF, and Martin Atherton, G3ZAY. It involved many months of effort involving state-of-the-art programming techniques. We are fortunate in having such expertise available within the IOTA community, enabling the task to be undertaken at a fraction of the cost of a commercial commission. Nevertheless, it could not have been undertaken without the support of Icom UK and their generous sponsorship of IOTA.

Reaction from the user community has been extremely positive. The ground-breaking features have attracted the attention of potential collaborators such as the developers of logging software, cooperation with whom may well encourage future extensions of the software. A very large number of people are accessing the website: no fewer than 1648 new users have applied for passwords, roughly the same as the number of previous (active) members of the IOTA programme. Of course, not all of these will continue and remain active. The number of potential active users in Europe has more than doubled while that in North America has nearly tripled. As a measure of interest in the UK, the number of users in England has moved from fifth to third in the countries table. It is clear that such an increase in activity, if continued, could only be managed with the degree of automation offered by the NGIS. Experience in the coming months will show how the expansion will affect the workload on checkpoints and other programme team volunteers, including the IOTA Manager, Roger Balister, G3KMA.

Looking to the future, we will continue the development of the NGIS. This will be a full-time task for the existing team but it does represent by far the most important area for IOTA progress. Any other significant initiatives would need to be resourced by the recruitment of additional help from within the IOTA community. This would enable alternative promotional work to be undertaken especially in countries where the potential for expansion may be significant. Readers of this report are encouraged to visit the website at www.rsgbiota.org to see for themselves the features offered.

The **Management Committee** advises the RSGB Board on strategy, focusing particularly on the issues of finance and commercial performance, membership numbers and business development. It is advised by the senior staff of HQ and for 2007 it was chaired by Colin Thomas, G3PSM. The Chair for 2008 is Angus Annan, MM1CCR, who sent this report. The membership of the committee is a mix of board representation and others with business experience and knowledge of amateur radio affairs. It meets bi-monthly and closely reviews the financial and commercial performance of the Society.

In 2007 it was particularly concerned to advise the Board on the financial aspects of the sale of the Potters Bar HQ and the acquisition of new premises at Abbey Court and Bletchley Park. It was also concerned with ensuring an effective RSGB presence at UK amateur radio rallies and international events such as Friedrichshafen and Dayton. The committee welcomed the sponsorship achieved for the IOTA programme and looks to further development of this RSGB flagship enterprise. The business aspects of the RSGB HF Convention are monitored by the committee and all concerned were delighted with the success of the 2007 event at the new site of Wyboston Lakes.

The Committee is closely involved in the setting of the annual budget and it was pleased to note that for the Year End 2007, the Society achieved a small surplus against a forecast deficit and the number of members at the end of the year was slightly up on the numbers at the start at 22,791.

Murray Niman, G6JYB, was appointed as **Microwave Manager** in January 2007, succeeding Mike Dixon, G3PFR, who was honoured for his long service by being made an RSGB Life Vice-President at the 2007 RSGB AGM. Grassroots amateur activity continued at a high level in 2007, Murray writes, despite various spectrum issues and a (predictably) disappointing WRC-07 outcome for the amateur microwave bands.

During 2007 the UK Microwave Group continued its series of pioneering Beginner's Workshops (including one at RSGB HQ) and various other construction, contest and roundtable activities. The period has certainly been one of the most positive on record for beacon refurbishment and successful licence applications, aided by excellent service from Ofcom and a technical support scheme. Plans for 2008 include a new web-based beacon reception reporting system and two new roundtable venues.

BATC is expanding 'spectrum friendly' DATV developments. This holds excellent promise at a time when spectrum is under pressure and the hobby needs to keep pace with the wider context of broadcast TV digital



In August 2007, *RadCom* carried the article 'Getting started on 3cm'.

switchover. Experiments using Digital QPSK transmissions enable better performance than wideband FM in smaller bandwidths and enables domestic satellite receivers to be adapted. Adding Internet camstreams to several repeaters also shows the activity to a far wider audience. It is expected such developments will gather pace in 2008 with more digital outputs being added to repeaters, and new activity to develop narrowband digital colour TV on 70cm.

AMSAT-UK has continued its SDR, transponder and educational initiatives. During 2007 they provided substantial financial support for European satellite construction with notable donations to the AMSAT-DL Phase-3E satellite project and the ARISS-Europe antennas on the Columbus Laboratory.

Close liaison has been maintained with Ofcom throughout 2007, with eight papers submitted to consultations, on topics that included auctions, WRC-07, UWB, licence exemption and the 2012 Olympics.

On the international front, early 2007 focussed on the IARU-R1 Interim conference at Vienna where RSGB, with seven papers, was the largest contributor to Microwave matters in the C5 committee. The latter half of 2007 has focussed on actions from this and preparations for the full Region 1 conference scheduled for November 2008 where again a major contribution is planned to underpin the positive direction that amateur microwaves is currently experiencing.

Len Paget, GM00NX, reports on the work of the **Planning Advisory Committee** during 2007. The panel provided members with vital information relating to planning enquiries, applications, appeals and enforcement issues. It has also had a number of enquiries directly from Local Planning Authorities and has been able to allay concerns over amateur radio installations.

The Committee now has a list of all planning appeals in England since 2005 and is the process of obtaining copies of the determinations. Such information can provide a useful insight into the Planning Inspectorate's current thoughts on development related to amateur radio installations. Although each appeal is determined on own merits, information obtained from previous appeals can be persuasive to a planning inspector. A request for information from the Planning Inspectorate in Wales and SEIRU in Scotland has been made and it is hoped to have information shortly.

There are concerns over the number of Local Planning Authorities requesting that members supply ICNIRP certification that their installations comply with international standards. So far, with Planning Advisory Committee intervention, the Local Planning Authorities have been persuaded that amateur radio masts and antennas are residential development and therefore there is no requirement for ICNIRP certification. As a precautionary measure, the Committee is preparing guidance to members on ICNIRP certification should it become necessary in the future.

Although the Planning Advisory Committee has sufficient members to deal with the current workload, we would still welcome assistance from potential panel members who are involved professionally in the planning process in the North of Scotland, South West England and particularly Northern Ireland.

Prof Martin Harrison, G3USF, reports that the highlight of the year for the **Propagation Studies Committee** was the commissioning of the four-band beacon cluster at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory near Didcot, on 40, 50, 60 and 70MHz, joining established beacons on 5 and 28MHz. PSC had harboured ambitions along these lines for many years and it was gratifying to see the proposals come to fruition. The beacons provide operators with timely pointers to rising (and falling) MUFs in the lower VHF range and serve as a basis for propagation studies. Particular thanks are due to all those outside PSC who undertook the design, construction and installation of the beacons, saw them through licensing and who now maintain them.

Much of PSC's work is on a continuing basis, including preparation of weekly reports and forecasts for GB2RS and the monthly predictions for *RadCom*, available in updated form on the Committee's web page and now including predictions for major DXpeditions. A recent addition has been a version for visually-impaired operators. G4FKH also prepares predictions for the ARI journal *RadioRivisita* and the Singapore national society, SARTS. G0KYA's propagation feature for *This Week in Amateur Radio* was named best podcast in the 2007 Communications in Business awards. PSC members undertook a substantial revision of the propagation chapter for the new edition of the *Radio Communication Handbook* and additional material was supplied for the *RSGB Yearbook*.

The Committee web page continues to offer the most comprehensive range of information on Internet sources on propagation. The HF and 50MHz beacon lists continue to provide up-to-date information world-wide. G0KYA contributed an article on the GB3SSS experiment to *QST* and spoke to the Norwegian DX association on propagation to the 3Y0X DXpedition, while G4FKH gave a talk at Donington on working DX using propagation prediction programs. Other members spoke on propagation topics at local radio clubs. Interrupted production of the *Six and Ten Report* resumed in October 2007. The HF beacons reflector, carrying technical discussion and monitoring reports, linked beacon aficionados in many countries.

The Committee's projects for 2008 include continued work on greyline and VLF propagation, with further investigations of multihop sporadic-E and Es scatter at 144MHz and on multipath reflections, with particular reference to aircraft flutter.

Colin Thomas, G3PSM, is RSGB Spectrum Director and Chairman of the **Spectrum Forum**. He writes that the Spectrum Managers met in January 2007 and that there was a full meeting of the Forum at RSGB HQ in June 2007, but again much of the work was carried out by electronic means. Much of the work of the Spectrum Forum is covered in the respective Spectrum Managers and Committee reports but a number of developments needs to be highlighted. The release of a small frequency segment at 501 - 504kHz on a Secondary basis was welcomed and thanks must be given to both Ofcom and the Marine and Coastguard Agency (MCA) for their cooperation. Although the power limitation of -10dBW (100 milliwatts) ERP provided a major challenge, a number of contacts have been made over several hundred kilometres. Ofcom has now agreed an extension to this arrange-

ment from March 2008 for a further year, with a power increase to 0dBW (1W).

The Spectrum Director, acting as an adviser on amateur radio matters to Ofcom, represented the Society at WRC-07. Unfortunately the work to achieve a frequency segment at 5MHz was not successful at WRC-07 and neither was a move to have the topic placed on the agenda of the WRC-11 conference. On a more positive note, the current CEPT allocation at 136kHz was adopted as a global allocation for the Amateur Service on a Secondary basis. This means the allocation becomes part of the ITU frequency table from 1 January 2009. Also successful was a move to have a proposal regarding 500kHz included on the agenda for WRC-11.

Representatives of the Forum have been present during the quarterly meetings between Ofcom and the Society. This has resulted in positive moves forward especially where the MF and Microwave bands are concerned. A topic that will gather in momentum over the next few years will be the spectrum requirements for the 2012 Olympics.

Thanks go to the various Special Interest Groups that provide input to the Forum. It remains a valuable focus point for the exchange of information on spectrum usage. At the time of writing the UK Six Metre Group still remains unrepresented.

Tony Plant, G3NXC, Chairman of the **Technical Committee**, writes, "Particularly sad news this year was the death of Dr Dick Biddulph, M0CGN. Dick was my immediate predecessor as Chairman of the Technical Committee (Technical and Publications Advisory Committee as it was then) and was a pillar of support during my early days in post. The Committee has lost a valuable member but our loss is nothing compared with that of his family to whom we offer our sincere sympathy. On a more positive note, Dave Stockton, GM4ZNX, has now joined the Committee and we look forward to gaining the benefit of his considerable experience."

The main activity of the Committee has remained that of reviewing technical articles prior to publication. Owing to personnel changes at HQ there has been a slowdown in the process of sending out articles to the Committee for review. We hope that this situation will improve in the near future. If any authors are concerned about an apparent lack of progress with articles that they have submitted they should contact the editor and me so that we can establish where they are in the system. Perhaps I should add that we aim to complete a review within three weeks of an article being sent out by the editor and do usually achieve this.

The Technical Committee is also responsible for answering queries of a technical nature raised by members of the Society. Although we do not guarantee being able to provide an answer, the breadth of knowledge covered by the members of the committee is such that it is very rare for us not to be able at least to provide a pointer to one. It is encouraging that there has been an increase in the number of questions being submitted, which have ranged in complexity from the straightforward to the obscure. Hopefully we have managed to satisfy most, if not all, of those raising the questions. Perhaps I could reiterate that this is a service available to all members and that we are happy to accept questions at every level; we certainly do not regard any as being too

trivial to deal with.

A final responsibility of the Committee is that of nominating recipients for four of the Society's awards and prizes, these being the Ostermayer, Courtney-Price and Wortley-Talbot Trophies and the Norman Keith Adams Prize. The criteria for these awards are, in order: for the most meritorious description of a piece of home constructed amateur radio or electronic equipment published in *RadCom* during the year; for the most outstanding technical development in amateur radio during the year; for outstanding experimental work in amateur radio during the year; and for the most original article published in *RadCom* in the year. The members of the Committee are not eligible for any of these awards.

VHF Awards Manager Bill Salt, M0CBQ, reports that the number of claims has declined by 22% compared with the previous year, with only 27 being received during 2007. Of the claims which were received 18 were for the 50MHz band, one was for the 70MHz band, five were for the 144MHz band and three were for the 432MHz band. Only 16 members made a claim during 2007.

Details of the awards that have been issued and what awards are available can be found on the awards website and in the *RSGB Yearbook*.

VHF Manager David Butler, G4ASR, writes, "In January 2007 I submitted two papers requesting the placement of beacons on spot frequencies at 40MHz and 60MHz. I am pleased to report that by summer 2007 clearance had been given by Ofcom for units on 40.050MHz and 60.050MHz."

The expansion of the 70MHz band within Europe is difficult as national authorities are loath to grant permanent access to the band as it is not mentioned in the European Common Allocation (ECA) table. A briefing document has been submitted to the IARU Region 1 representative attending a WGFM meeting in Athens where this issue is to be discussed.

One issue concerns the use by a minority of operators of AM on 145.800MHz. This frequency was allocated by IARU over 10 years ago for use by the International Space Station. It is recommended that stations who wish to use AM on 144MHz select an unused channel within the All-modes section, preferably 144.570MHz. It could be noted that the UK VHF AM *Yahoo* Group formed over three years ago with over 100 members has settled on the following 'centres of AM activity': 50.570, 70.260, 144.570 and 432.570MHz.

A small number of enquiries and subsequent vetting of SRPs relating to 50, 70, 144 and 430MHz have been dealt with during the period. It is pleasing to note that the SRP/NoV process is working very well on most of the VHF bands.

As a member of the IARU Region 1 VHF UHF/Microwaves Committee, G4ASR represented the RSGB in international VHF-UHF liaison work, mainly in band planning issues although other aspects such as 40MHz beacons and 70MHz authorisations have also been dealt with.

In February 2007 he attended the interim meeting of the IARU Region 1 VHF/UHF/Microwaves Committee and submitted four papers which will be discussed at the IARU Region 1 Conference in Slovenia in 2008.

The Committee Reports will also be posted on the members-only website at www.rsgb.org