

Report of the RSGB ARDF Committee for the period ending 31 Dec 2016

The ARDF Committee is a group of committed volunteers who have been driving forward the development of this aspect of 'Sport Radio' in the UK.

On the International scene, the 18th World Championships were held in Bulgaria in September. The highlight of our success was the gold medal won by David M3WDD in the M50 category (men aged 50-59) of the Sprint competition. This was only the second time an RSGB member has won gold at a World Championships.

A total of twelve events were staged during the year including three competitions at the British ARDF Championships which were held in the West Midlands in May. Competitions have embraced not only the 'Classic' format of five transmitters in a five minute cycle, but also the FoxOring and Sprint formats. Some organisers used other variants, often using 7 transmitters in a five minute cycle.

The RSGB equipment has been loaned to a number of affiliated Societies and Scout groups during the year. This is now configured to provide 5 transmitters in a five minute cycle accompanied by ten receivers. A map of the area is not essential and it gives a realistic feel for the 'classic' ARDF format.

During the year a generous donation from John M1SHE has provided some loan equipment for the 144MHz band to complement the existing kit which uses 3.5 MHz. The 144MHz equipment includes a set of five transmitters and antennas but there are no receivers included. This is in contrast to the 3.5MHz provision which, as mentioned above, includes 10 receivers as well as 5 transmitters and aerials.

The 21st IARU Region 1 ARDF Championships will be held in Lithuania in September 2017 and the hope is that the RSGB will again send a strong team.

Also looking ahead to 2017, the Committee wishes to do more to promote participation. Our stand at the RSGB Hamfest and at the RSGB Convention has become a familiar feature. We hope that by working with some of the Regional Managers to stage local introductory competitions, more RSGB members will be tempted to try this exciting activity which has implications for good health as well. There are Regions in which there is no local ARDF activity outside of Club based events and the Committee is always eager to hear from members interested in 'kick starting' activity in these areas.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the enthusiasm and contributions of the Committee members in running events and promoting the sport. In addition those who ran events without being committee members are also thanked. These were Stuart G1ZAR, Michael M6MDD, Robin RS213497 and David G6HGE. The Committee is also grateful for the unfailing support it has received from the RSGB Board member responsible for Sport Radio, Stewart Bryant G3YSX and from Radcom editor Elaine Richards.

R G Titterington
G3ORY
Chairman RSGB ARDF Committee

Composition of the RSGB ARDF Committee at the end of 2016

Chairman: R G Titterington G3ORY

Full members:	J R Vickers G3ORI V Boev 2E0VLB D Williams M3WDD J Little M1SHE A Soltysik G4KWQ
Corresponding Members:	D Hutchinson GI4FUM F Heritage M0AEU T Mitchell GM0JHF D Deane G3ZOI
Ex Officio	S Bryant G3YSX