



Annual Report of the RSGB ARDF Committee 2021

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.

It has been another very difficult year for ARDF with the impact of the ongoing pandemic.

Things started well in May with the ARDF Webinar in the 'Tonight at 8' series of RSGB presentations. This Webinar was well received and attracted a lot of interest.

Competitions in the English Midlands were least affected by the pandemic, with seven events in Regions 5 and 13. It was also particularly good to see two inaugural events in Region 8, Northern Ireland, using the RSGB loan kit. Elsewhere in the UK, there was just one event in the Thames Valley.

Internationally, competitions were similarly curtailed. The 20th World Championships, postponed from 2020 in Serbia, were rescheduled again, this time to 2022. In their place a Region 1 event was staged in Bulgaria, but with the number of Covid cases there being one of the highest in Europe, support came mostly from Eastern European Countries.

Another casualty of the pandemic was the opportunity to go out and interact with Society members and others at the RSGB Hamfest and the RSGB Convention. The knock-on effect of this was having fewer individuals in 2021 trying ARDF for the first time.

The task facing the Committee in 2022 is to re-launch ARDF in the UK and we are looking for volunteers from Regions where there is little or no ARDF activity outside of Club events. We wish to establish a much wider number of events and need individuals prepared to organise simple half day competitions with equipment, expertise and support provided by the ARDF Committee.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the enthusiasm and contributions of the Committee members in running events and promoting the sport.

The Committee is also grateful for the support it has received from the RSGB Board members responsible for Sport Radio, Len Padget GM0ONX and David Hills G6PYF and also from Radcom editor Elaine Richards.

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