

## **Email from Andy Collett (for discussion)**

With regard to the rules, I think it best for competitors and easiest for starters to allow competitors to leave the start as soon as they like post 13:20. If a competitor wants to leave a couple of minutes before everyone else, what does it matter?

The other point which comes up time after time, is how to make the hobby attractive to young people today. How 'cool' is it for teenagers to be seen with a group of middle-aged (okay; young, sporty,...) ladies and gentlemen dressed up in ex-army green shirts walking around with odd-looking radios? How can we make the hobby become something like a Play Station game? Is this what the 2m/80m version is all about, or do we want Top Band df to remain unchanged regardless? Can we make use of handheld computer technology perhaps by building and programming a navigation system (rather than using commercial devices) which will appeal as did building and developing our df sets to most of us? Can we use laptops in the car? I guess one problem with introducing anything like new technology is keeping the playing field level for all competitors. Or, is Top Band df just what it is, and we accept there is no room for change? Some ideas on how may be to keep the hobby alive.

Another potentially contentious point. Given what I see as more teams coming out with just the one 'skilled operator' and a 'non-radio' navigator or passenger (me included), I am keen to see such teams with just the one competitor on-site and doing all the 'running in' given every chance against teams with two and more skilled operators. I find it increasingly difficult to find motivation to compete, and sadly we have lost the likes of Mike Hawkins from the national scene with comments about df having become about keeping out competitors rather than getting them in. I have noticed a number of famous faces appear less often, and surely more, me included, will follow. I think it's about maintaining a level playing field for all such that individual's skill, determination, instincts, and often bucket loads of good fortune, all remain the keys to success. I want to turn up at the start knowing I have every chance of winning against all my fellow competing teams. Awarding points for putting on events and similar suggestions, not for me, thank you. Please, let's keep it fair for all.

Also, my apologies, as it is likely I will miss the meeting.

Regards to all,  
Andy