

## Setting up Multi-Tx events

### Difficulty and nature of sites

Please remember that the main aim of a Multi-Tx event is to encourage a beginner and stretch an expert. Since tickets only count when handed in to the Maxi operator, it is implicit that the Maxi must be easy to find once the site is reached. The function of the Maxi is to provide distant DFing skills, including map reading. The Micros are intended to allow beginners a chance to start developing on-site skills. The Minis should provide the challenge for the expert; our experiences this year have shown that they are more than capable of doing this.

This style of event should allow newcomers to be brought along with the expectation that the site will be reasonably safe and that they will be able to access stations without becoming severely scratched, stung or wet. (Traditional events need not comply with this!)

### Extended set up times:

Operators should not feel compelled to use all the toys in the box, a perfectly adequate Multi-tx event could be run by extending the distances and using just a Maxi and two Minis. On this type of event, the Maxi need not be so well hidden and could use a ¼ wave of aerial or less. The time saved should be more than enough to set up two Minis with very short aerials. Of course those with time on their hands may wish to use more Txs closer to the start. Variety remains the spice ...!

### Collecting in the Txs:

This needs careful thought in order to minimise the time involved. The method below combines successful elements observed this year, most of the coordination can be achieved by talking at the Maxi Tx but a mobile phone is a great help if competitors finish a long way from the operator. With adequate planning and coordination all Txs should be cleared away in 15 minutes.

The operator could coordinate the whole process by:

- i) having his mobile phone switched on to vibrate throughout the competition. This not only helps with clearing up but also means he can be made aware of any problems developing out in the field.
- ii) asking early finishers to find the most distant Tx that they know the location of. They can then switch it off at 9:15pm.
- iii) requesting that late finishers deal with the Txs set up close in.
- iv) contacting people still out in the field by phone if their help is needed. These people could ring the operator, if they finish close to a Tx, to see if it is appropriate for them to retrieve it.
- v) switching his mobile back to ring mode at 9:15 pm to prevent him missing calls.
- vi) establishing whether each Tx will be taken back to the cars or the pub.
- vii) monitoring the progress of Tx collection by listening for transmissions.
- viii) keeping his phone switched on until he is satisfied that all equipment is retrieved.

Sounds a long and complicated list but really all just common sense. Things only go wrong when we lose contact with each other. You will notice that coordination via the operator's Tx is missing from the list, the problem being that, with BFOs and VCOs, few competitors actually hear what is being said. A one way, unreliable communication link is probably best left out of the process altogether!