

# Sangster Contest Milestones from the Roll of Honour

2017 was the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the first Sangster Shield contest readers may be interested in the following milestones extracted from the roll of honour.

This publication was printed in the March/April issue of Break In 2017 & has been updated for the website to include more recent milestones.

1927 – First award to ZL1AE Vern Roberts.

- Districts were evenly matched in those days:- 1928 to ZL2AA Don Cooper, 1930 No award, 1929 to ZL3CI Bob Kay, 1931 to ZL4CA Casey Harris.

1930 – No award was made – *I do not know the reason for this but I gather that a contest did take place.*

1940 – 1945 No contests were held - owing to NZ Government imposed 2<sup>nd</sup> World war blackout of all Amateur radio operations.

1956 – Contest Manager reported lowest ever number of contestants – my records currently go back to 1957 when 6 entrants were recorded which the Manager stated “is better than 1956 which was the lowest ever”.

1959 on – Only CW to CW contacts were allowed – up until 1958 CW to Phone contacts were permitted.

1959 on – Hourly repetitive scoring was introduced for ZL to ZL - overseas contacts could still be claimed only once during the contest.

1960 – First ever Open Section 3 time winner – ZL4GA Alan Frame.

- The only other 3 timer to date is 1993 - ZL1AXX Bob Smith.
- BUT there are a number of 4 timers and even more - See “1984”, “2022” & “2023”.

1962 on – Points system changed from "BERU system" Call area multipliers to 1pt for >5w, 5 for 5w or under & 10 for DX 5w or under.

1962 – QRO section > 5w DC input was first introduced

- 1999 - The last year that a QRO contestant provided an entry log.
- 2016 QRO section was deleted as a log entry criteria.

1964 on – “Own Branch” contacts deleted as a contest multiplier but still counted for QSO points.

1966 on – Hourly repetitive scoring was extended to include Overseas contacts. The “5 minute rule” was also introduced to define how a successive contact with the same station is to be handled.

1966 – The Transistor Trophy was first introduced as an award to the highest scoring entrant using transistorised TX output stage. ZL1WI Roy Milam was the first 1966 winner. Roy ran 4 watts DC input to a germanium AUY10 transistor final and was the only transistor entrant. Home brew (rigs!) were the order of the day during the 1960’s.

- TenTec Argonauts (initially not accepted as “transistor” entries) soon became the most favoured Sangster rig and were quickly classed as transistor entries.
- 1981 - When almost all Open section winners were using transistor rigs the rules were changed for this Shield to go to the highest scoring entrant licensed for less than 1 year with no transistor requirement. 1981 saw no eligible entrants & the first award in this form was in 1982 to ZL2BMM - I.L. Pickering.
- 2016 - Because of low entrant numbers for this section the Transistor Trophy was made available to the highest scoring first time Sangster entrant regardless of license date. Non NZART members may also enter this section provided they have not been licensed for more than 1 year. Lars Norling ZL1IF operating the Whangarei Club station ZL1AM won both the Open section and the Transistor Trophy in 2016.

1968 – Award (Certificate) prior to the repurposing of the Transistor trophy was introduced for the highest scoring entrant licensed for less than 1 year. ZL2BHA L.J. Frost was the first winner in 1969.

- 1981 See above - the Transistor Trophy became this award.

1984 – First ever Open Section 4 time winner – ZL2OM Rod Blagdon.

- Other 4 timers to date are:- 2002 - ZL1PZ Ian Sexton; 2009 - ZL1PC Paul Slako & 2010 - ZL1ALZ John Balsillie.
- Two wins in a row are common (7 times) but no Open section winner has ever achieved a hat trick. *Will you be the first?*

1986 – Power limit changed to 5 watts output “in line with overseas thinking” (previously 5 watts DC input).

- 2016 - Power output redefined as 5 watts pep to remove any liberal interpretations of “average power” etc. often introduced by April Break In articles.

1990 – Reduced Duration of Contest - as far as I know the Contest was 4x1hr periods each night since its inception up until 1990 when it was reduced to 6x½hr periods each night due to lower number of participants and continuing requests for earlier finishing times.

- In the early 2000’s winning entrants consistently worked up to 24 contacts per ½hr with averages near 20 for the entire contest.

1991 – Arthur Stevens (South Island) Award was first introduced for the highest scoring South Island entrant & was won by ZL3LP Harry Brown.

- Arthur Stevens ZL1MT was a long time consecutive entrant of the Sangster from at least 1957 and continued to use crystal control with a (trusty) 53 tube as his final stage right up until his last log in 1986. His SK was recorded in the Jan/Feb 1990 Break In.

1993 – First Branch Award (certificate) to the highest scoring Branch total with a minimum of 3 entrants. First won by Branch 03 Western Suburbs.

- 2015 the Branch Award certificate was replaced by the Tony Fletcher (ZL2ALJ) Memorial Trophy first won by Tony's home Branch 50 Wellington who currently also manage the annual financing of this award from a generous donation made from Tony's estate.

1994 – Date of Contest was moved to 3<sup>rd</sup> full weekend in May (from earlier in May) to avoid Mothers Day weekend & "May school holidays" back in the 3 term years. This timing has survived & still avoids school holidays.

1999 – First YL Winner - ZL1PD Alison Ede took out the Transistor Trophy (*From my records Alison looks to be the only YL entrant to date in any section of the contest*)

2007 – Record Number of Contacts – ZL1KMN Armin Ficza with 254 contacts (over 21 average per ½hr).

2011 – First time that an Arthur Stevens (South Island) winner ZL2LN Barry Davenport also won the Open Section.

- Barry repeated this in 2013.
- ZL3VZ Bill Cousins also matched this result for 2012 & 2015.

2014 – First Open section winner using Software Defined Radio (SDR) transceiver – ZL2APV Graeme Jury following his second place and first ever Sangster SDR entry in 2013. His homebrew radio was based on Linux OS & Graeme advised he wrote a percentage of the software himself. His entry was battery operated and mains free including the shack lighting!

2016 – Revision of rules:

- Output power clarified as 5watts pep or less.
- Over 5 watt class eliminated as entry criteria.
- Exchange (cypher) changed to add contact serial number and delete sending of power output.
- DX points claims independent of power used by overseas stations.
- Emailed log formats defined with contact details & comments encouraged.
- *In 2016 exactly ½ of entries were emailed to me & 90% of entrants provided an email contact address.*

2016 – Replacement Sangster Shield Trophy donated to NZART by Barry Kirkwood who has won the Open section twice & gained podium honours on 6 other occasions between 1971 & 2002 with callsigns ZL1BN, ZL4OK and ZL1DD.

- The new Shield consists of a central replica of the original with mounted silver miniatures of the first 10 winners, itself mounted on a large Rimu faced backboard with silver miniature shields in columns for every remaining winner to date.
- Sufficient space exists on the backboard to accommodate winners for at least another 90 years of contesting!

2017 – 90th Anniversary of the first Sangster Contest:

- As Sangster manager, and on behalf of Barry Kirkwood, I handed over the replica shield to NZART at the 2017 conference in Rotorua.

2022 – First ever Open Section 7 times winner – ZL1PC Paul Slako, also record 10<sup>th</sup> time South Island (Arthur Stevens Trophy) winner – ZL2LN Barry Davenport

2023 – First ever Open Section 8 times winner – ZL1PC Paul Slako,

That's about all I know from my limited years of operation & management. I landed a first in the Open section back in 1997, a podium 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2010 and 3<sup>rd</sup> again in 2022. *At the age of 80 it seems I am still too young to be a really consistent CW operator.* I would appreciate hearing from contestants or members who may have comments or corrections to the above record.

My personal thanks and acknowledgement to:-

- NZART Publication Ham Shacks, Brass Pounders & Rag Chewers by Ian Dougherty.
- All previous Contest managers responsible for Sangster Shield rules, results & comments. Most notable and prolific of course was Jock White ZL2GX (SK May 1997).
- Douglas Birt ZL1BFS (SK July 2022) who kindly scanned Break In rules, results, reports & snippets from 1974 back to 1957 from his own and from his local club's collections.
- Ken Holdom ZL4HU (now SK) who has researched Break In's back to 1927 and early Call Books to verify entrant's names etc.
- Barry Kirkwood ZL1DD for his generous donation of the replica Sangster Shield and his enthusiasm to raise the profile & standing of this contest.
- NZART Contest Manager Geoff Clark ZL3GA for Contest website support, addition of Sangster entry forms, past results & reports.

73's & I hope readers will work me in the contest next year. See the NZART website for current rules.

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