

# Results from QRP Group Survey 2024

The survey received 19 raw-count responses. One responder double-dipped, reducing the effective number to 18. The double-dipper's second offering largely contradicted his first, neither response making much sense. Logically, one could say the survey received only 17 responses.

Nine of the 18 responders (50 %) appear to have never, or at least not-recently, participated in any QRP group activities.

That leaves only nine responders who could claim some level of experiential credibility. Nonetheless, all responses are presented from which readers may draw their own conclusions. A brief summary of each result is given where appropriate, otherwise no comments are offered until the editorial analysis at the end.

All comments attributed to responders are verbatim. Typographical errors, grammar and non-conformity with relevant standards are shown as received.

**Q1.** Answered by 18    Not answered by 0

Taking ownership of your answers and helping to paint a complete picture.

Initial categories:

- 1) Self-ID by responder callsign = 13
- 2) Anonymous = 5

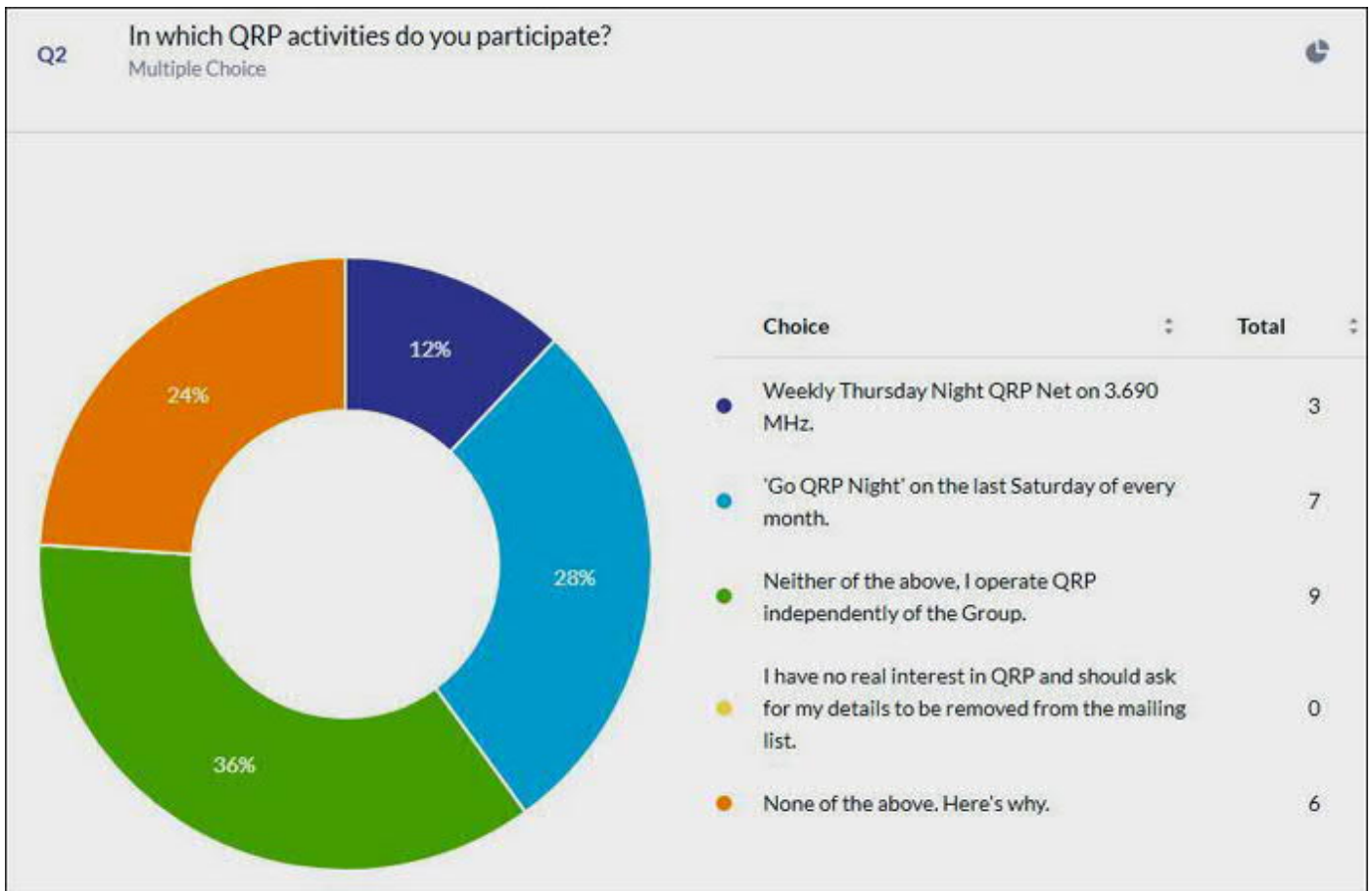
Responders' answers were able to be divided into three identity categories:

- 1) ID by callsign;
- 2) ID of anonymous deduced from answer context;
- 3) Truly anonymous.

Responders were able to be further divided into four 'participant' categories, determined from callsigns and contextual comments:

- 1) Active 1;
- 2) Partly active 4;
- 3) Non-participant 8;
- 4) Anonymous 5.

**Q2.** Answered by 18 Not answered by 0



**Partly active 1.** I've never tuned into the Thursday net. Perhaps I should check it out. However I have other things I regularly do in the evenings and I don't like to make a commitment.

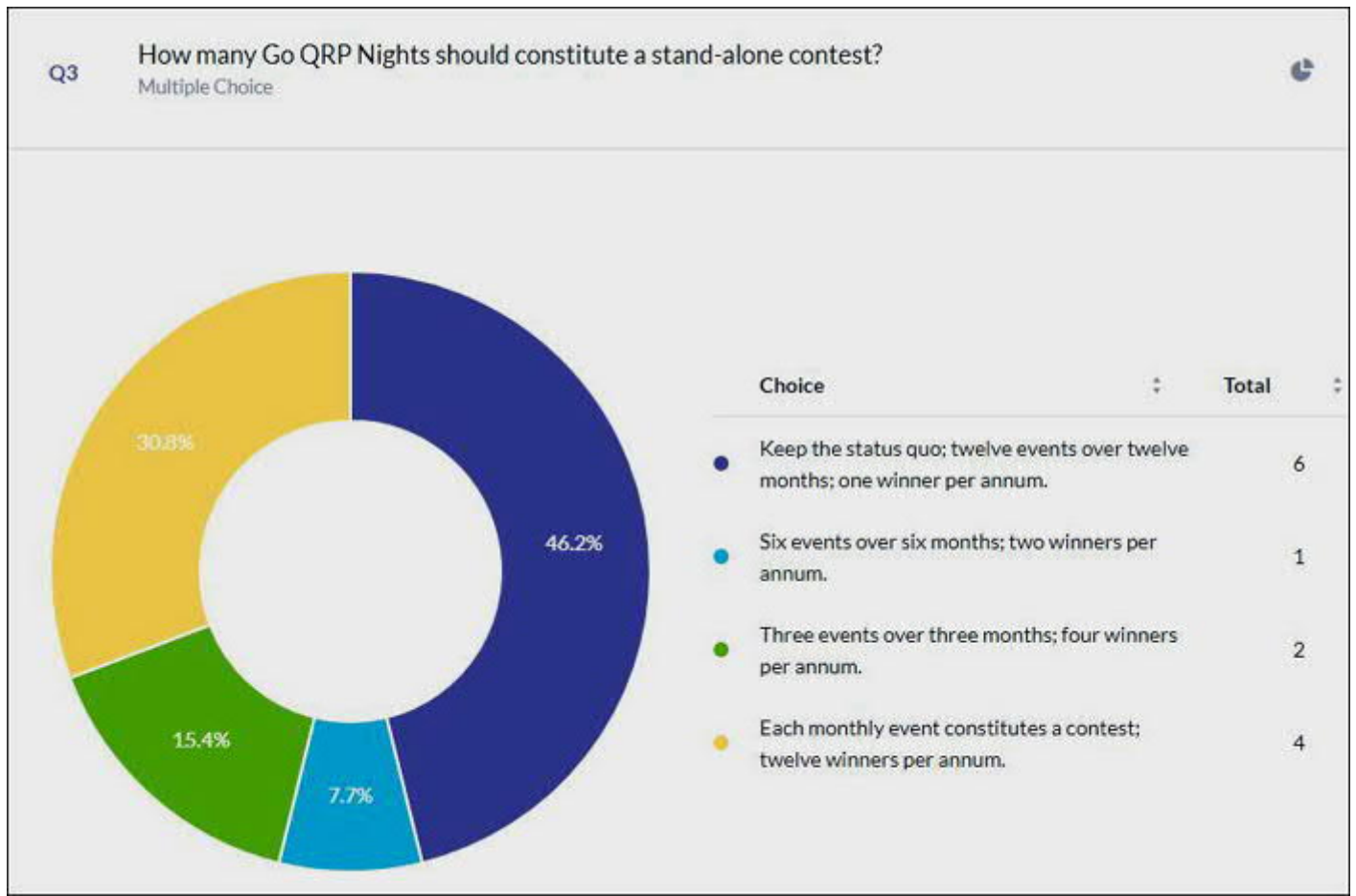
**Partly active 2.** Time poor at present and don't get on the air a lot.

**Non-Participant.** I'm sorry. I really ought to come up on the net night but I have only done so occasionally.

**Anon 1.** My home QTH is swamped by suburban noise. There's some rural spots that I could go to that are not too safe for anyone at night. Nevertheless, I'm ever hopeful to score a safe possie in due course. Furthermore I propose to experiment with a remote SDR for RX.

**Anon 2.** I'm an occasional login on the Thu 3.690. I don't participate in GQN, I'm not opposed to GQN but not particularly interested in the contest nature of it. I can't be bothered trying to figure and then submit the spreadsheet.

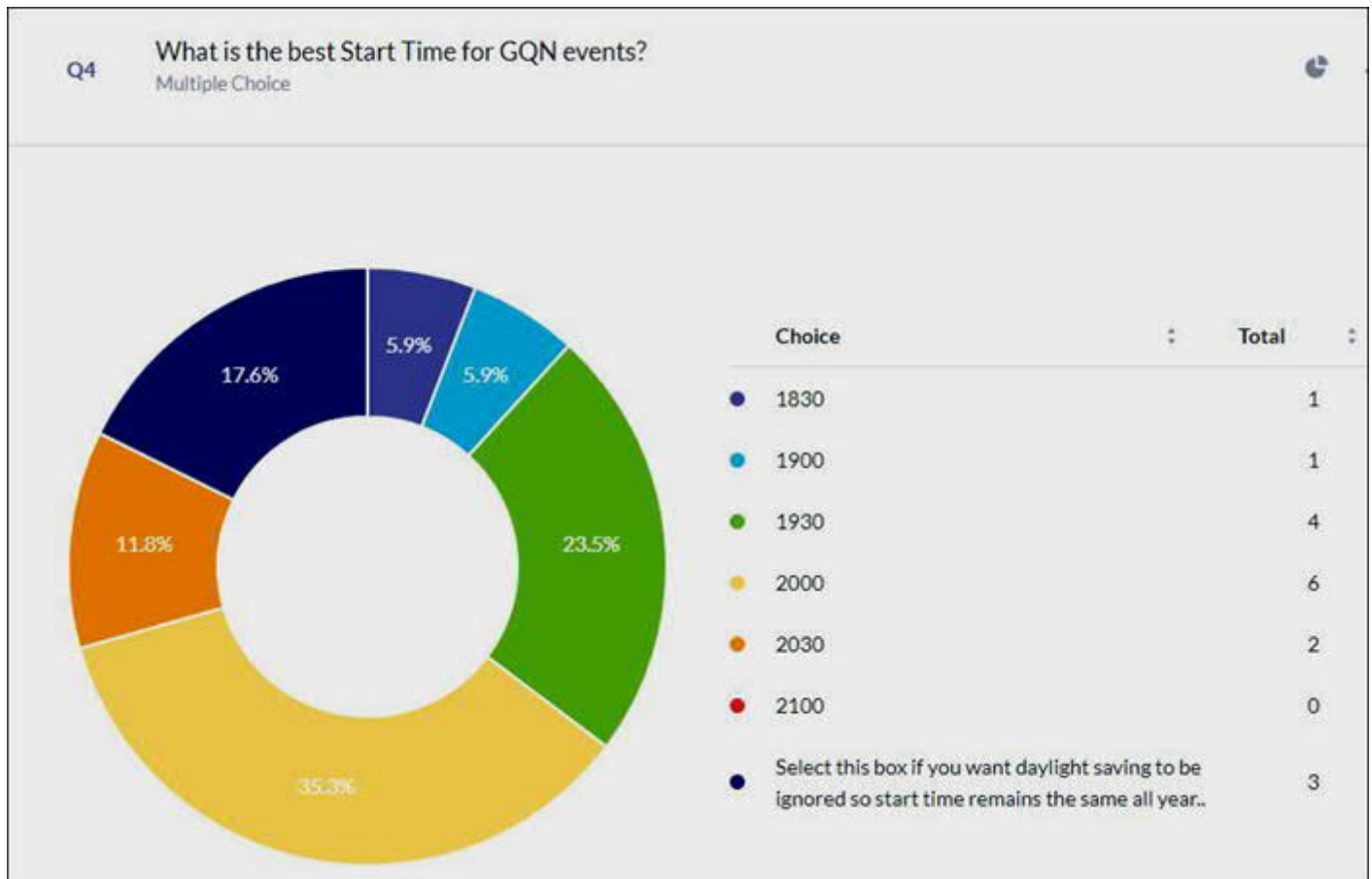
Q3. Answered by 12 Not answered by 6



Preference is Option 1. Keep the status quo.  
i.e. 12 cumulatively-scored events over twelve months with only 1 winner.

There were no additional notes.

Q4. Answered by 12 Not answered by 6

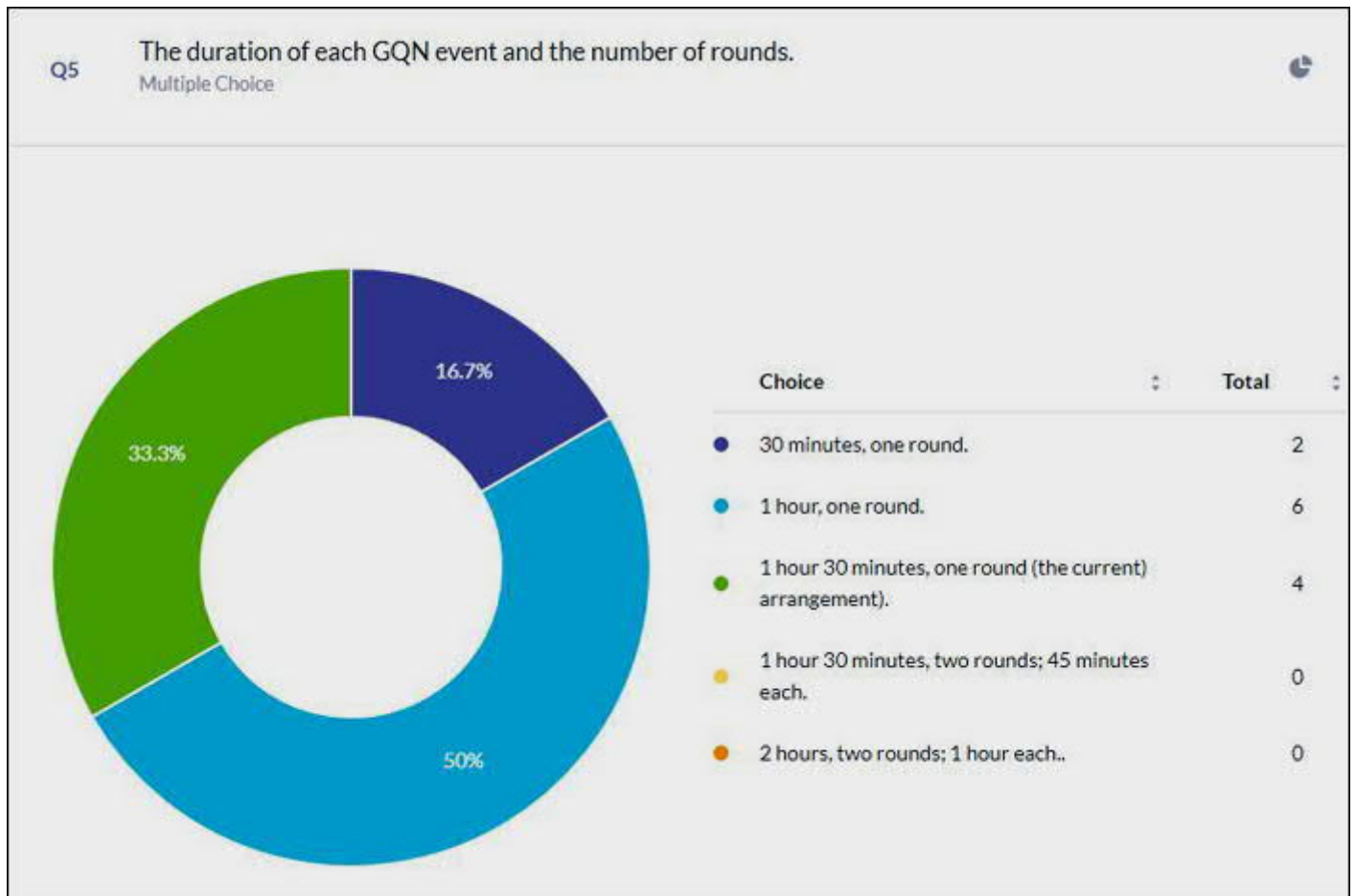


Preference is Option 4. Start time 2000 hours during NZST.

The majority want Daylight saving to be taken into account, thus delaying the start by one hour during summer to 2100 hours.

There were no additional notes.

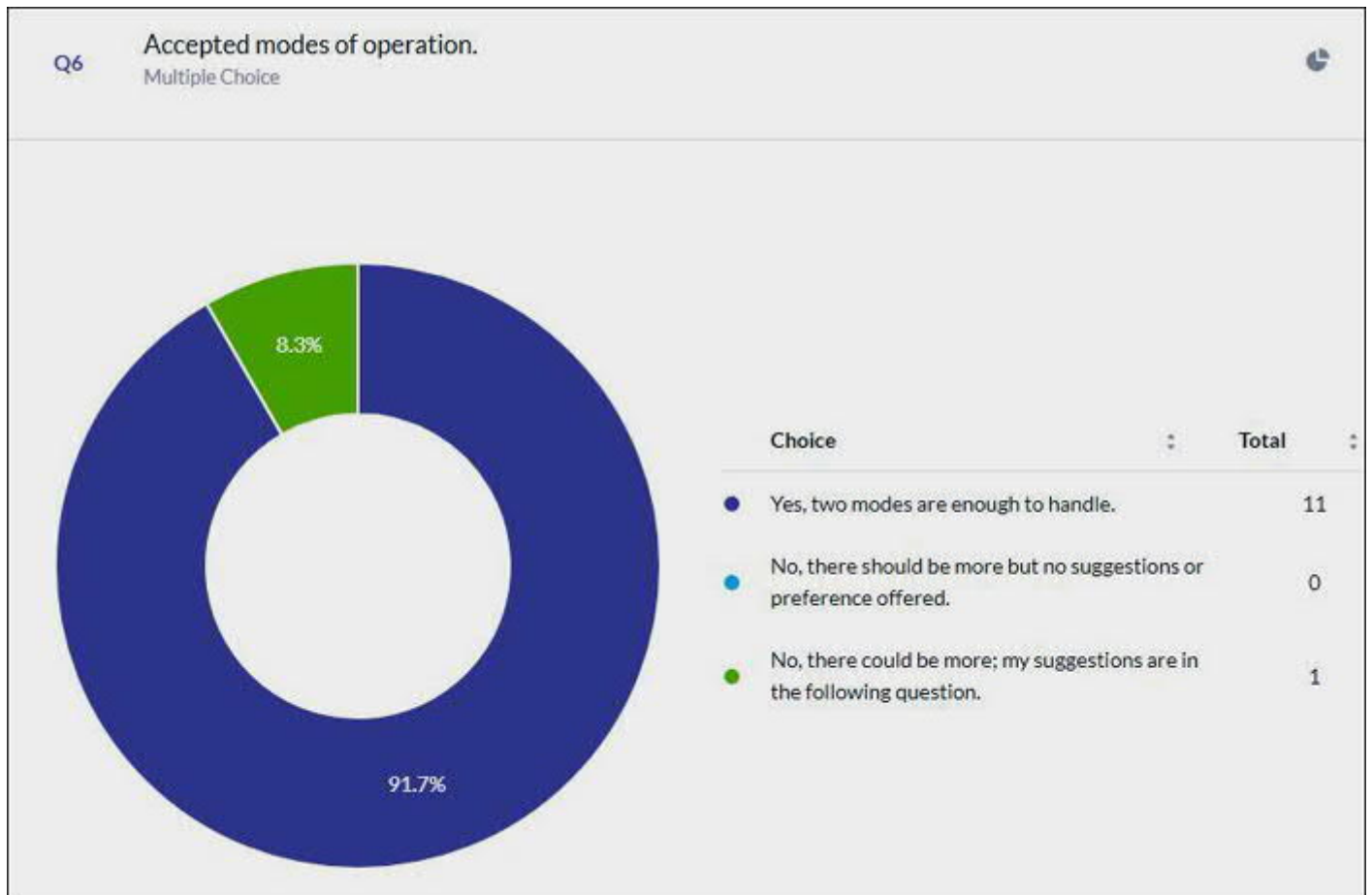
**Q5.** Answered by 11 Not answered by 7



**Preference is Option 2.** Duration of one hour and only one round.

There are no additional notes.

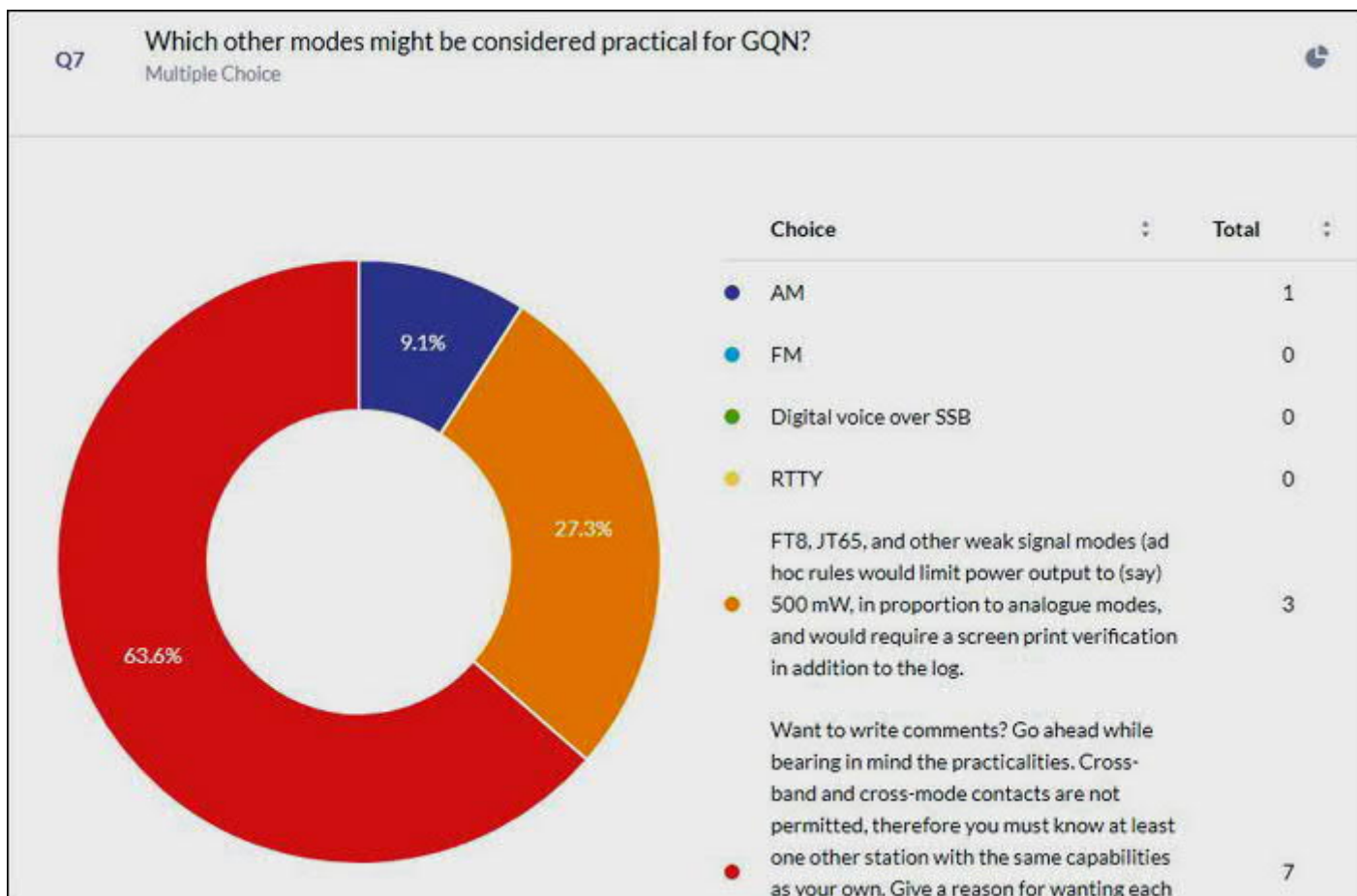
**Q6.** Answered by 11 Not answered by 7



Preference is Option 1. Two modes only, SSB and CW.

There are no additional notes, however there are comments on this general subject in answers to Q9.

Q7. Answered by 7 Not answered by 11



**Partly active 1.** SSB and CW keeps it fair for all across the country, FM and AM may advantage those with close contacts locally available.

**Partly active 2.** FT8 would be a valuable addition, in keeping with modern times and attracting younger competitors.

**Non participant 1.** Digital mode are very popular. I suggest FT4 as the QSOs are faster than FT8 and JT65. I think 500mW is too low. I suggest 5W.

**Non participant 2.** experimental digital modes.

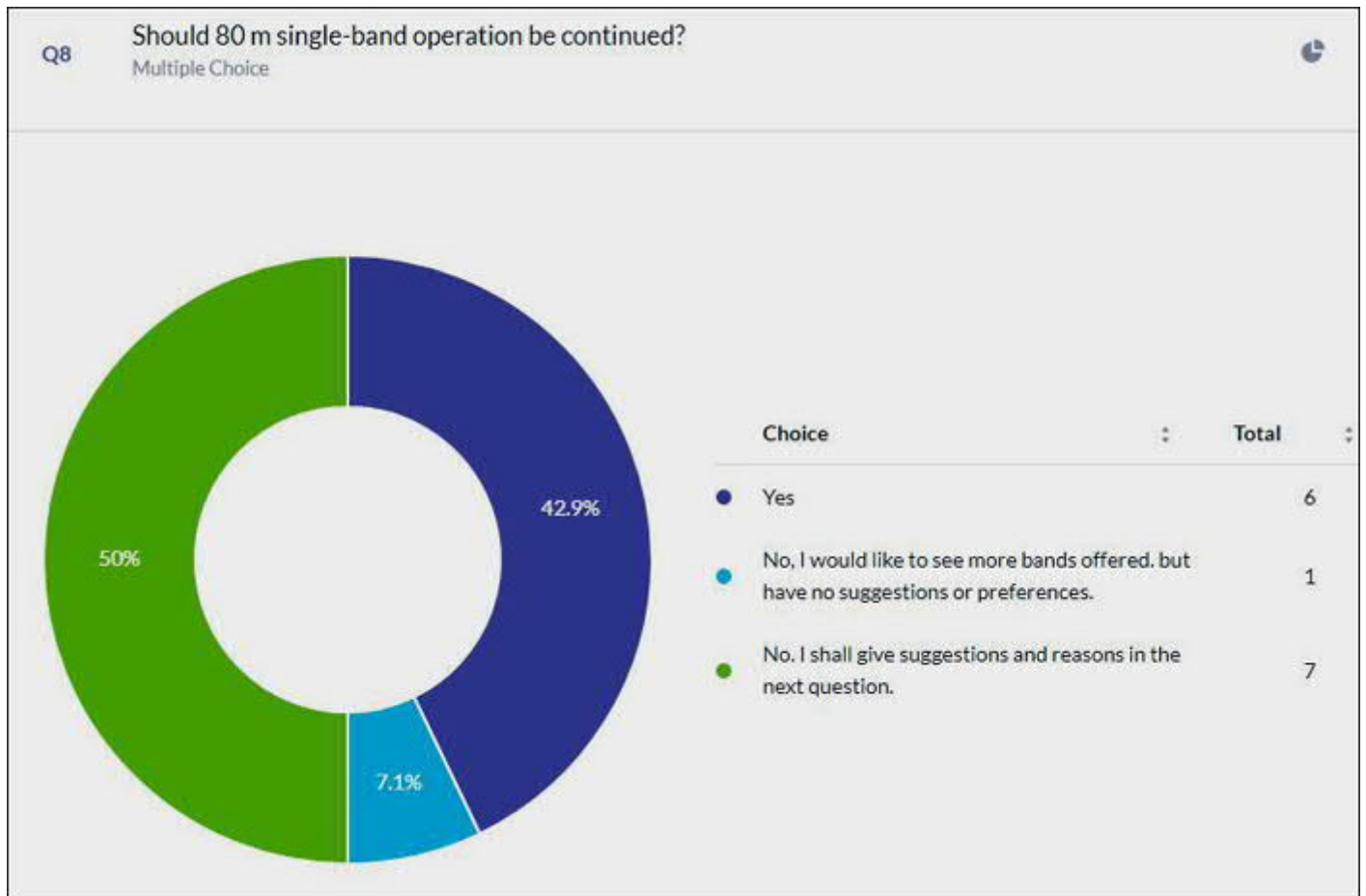
**Non participant 3.** FT8 should be 5 watts. 0.5 watts is too hard to set and police.

**Anon 1.** Establish a GQN Special to run for 12mths where any other mode can be used No Cross Band or Cross Mode for those who want to experiment.

**Anon 2.** AM

**Anon 3.** there is enough to take out portable /back country now with out adding more.

**Q8.** Answered by 13 Not answered by 5



[Referring to Option 3.](#) Suggestions and reasons given in Q9 need to be considered before making a decision on the matter of whether to continue operation on 80 m only.

There are no additional notes.



**Q9.** Answered by 8 Not answered by 10

Q9. Give your suggestions for additional bands and the reasons they could benefit GQN.

**Partly active 1.** it has been tried before having 40m to start with and 80m later.

**Partly active 2.** I'm happy for things to continue on 80 metres, but perhaps if 40 metres was an option it might suit some people better because they might have a location which favours 40 over 80 and because a 40 metre dipole is shorter. 80 metres doesn't work too well at my home QTH compared to 40. I've taken down my makeshift 80m wire.

**Partly active 3.** 40m all the way. Still relevant for communicating at a national level, half the noise and most importantly - half the antenna size. This would be a significant boost to the attractiveness of the event, in my opinion.

**Non participant 1.** I don't have an antenna for 80m. I have antennas for 40m, 30m, 20m, 17m, 15m, 12m, 10m.

**Non participant 2.** 60m .. under utilised and low power limit makes qrp a necessity also interesting propagation 40m .. better propagation at times 30m .. better propagation at times suggest choose last 2 digits of KHz freq be same on all bands (except 50m due to limited allocation(e.g. 3535, 5353, 7035, 10135, 14035)

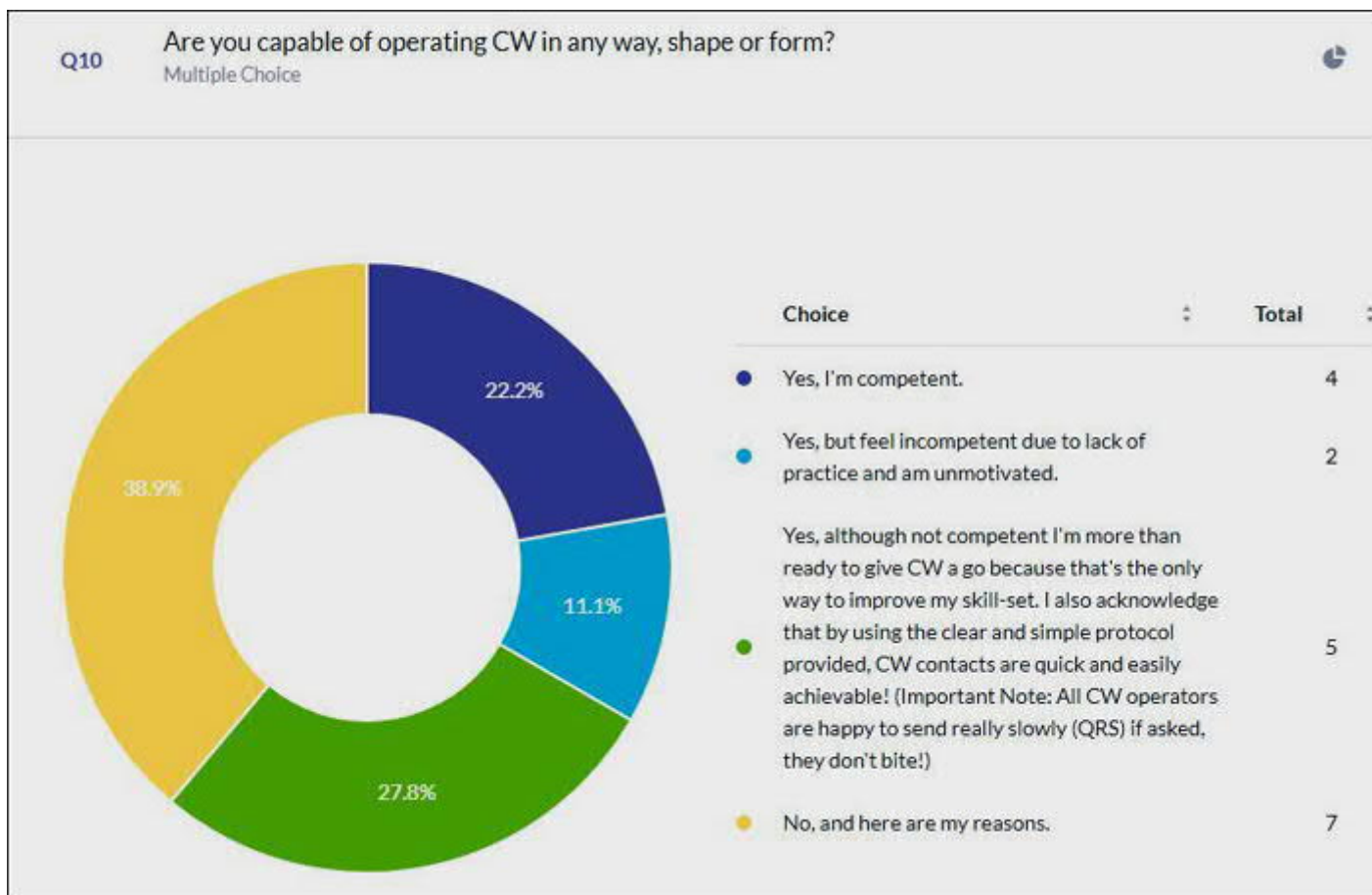
**Non participant 3.** 80m is only of use for portable operation, during the day, if there is someone else about in NZ. If you look at the JW field day stats, 40m has far better communications than 80m. At my QTH there's lots of QRM on 80m at many times of the day or night. For portable operations, during the day, where you can actually make contacts on FT8 QRP, you need to operate on 10 to 20m.

**Non participant 4.** 40m. From here in Christchurch, and with no room for a dedicated 80m antenna, I'm out of the running on 80m - most of the other operators are out of reach on QRP.

**Anon 1.** The use of 40m

**Anon 2.** 40mtrs would be easier for portable ?. but 80 has been o.k

**Q10.** Answered by 17 Not answered by 1



No planning decisions intended from this data, the result is only to reveal the level of interest.

**Partly active.** Very motivated, however attention and time are valuable commodities.

**Non participant 1.** None of the above four possible answers fit my situation. I am motivated but I need to work on my cw.

**Non participant 2.** Mouse code is not for me. My hearing and memory don't work well with it.

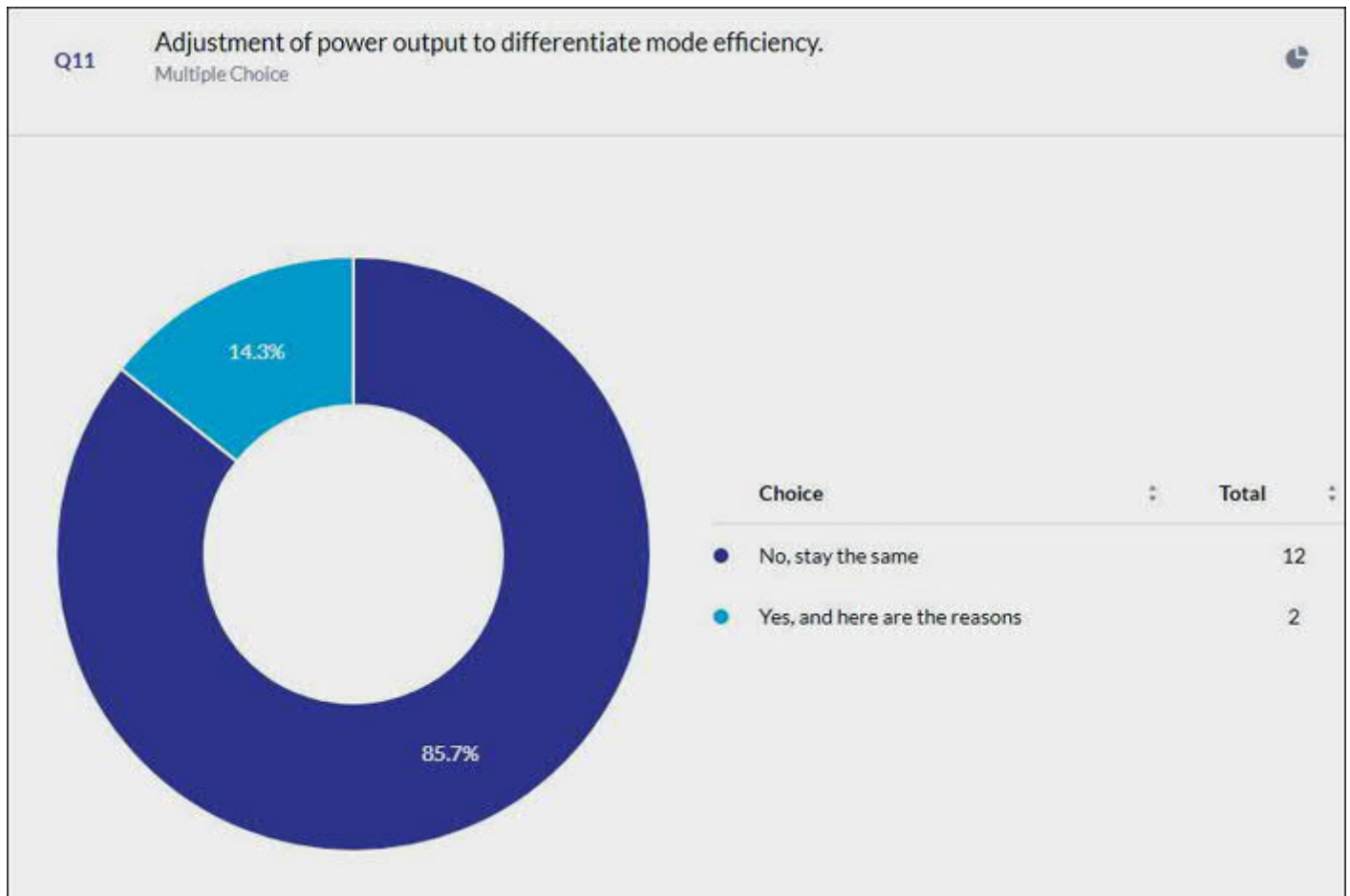
**Non participant 3.** Yes, but feel incompetent due to lack of practice and am unmotivated.

**Non participant 4.** not enough time to learn

**Anon.** Hearing Loss

**Anon.** no training not used enough to be any good at it

**Q11.** Answered by 13 Not answered by 5



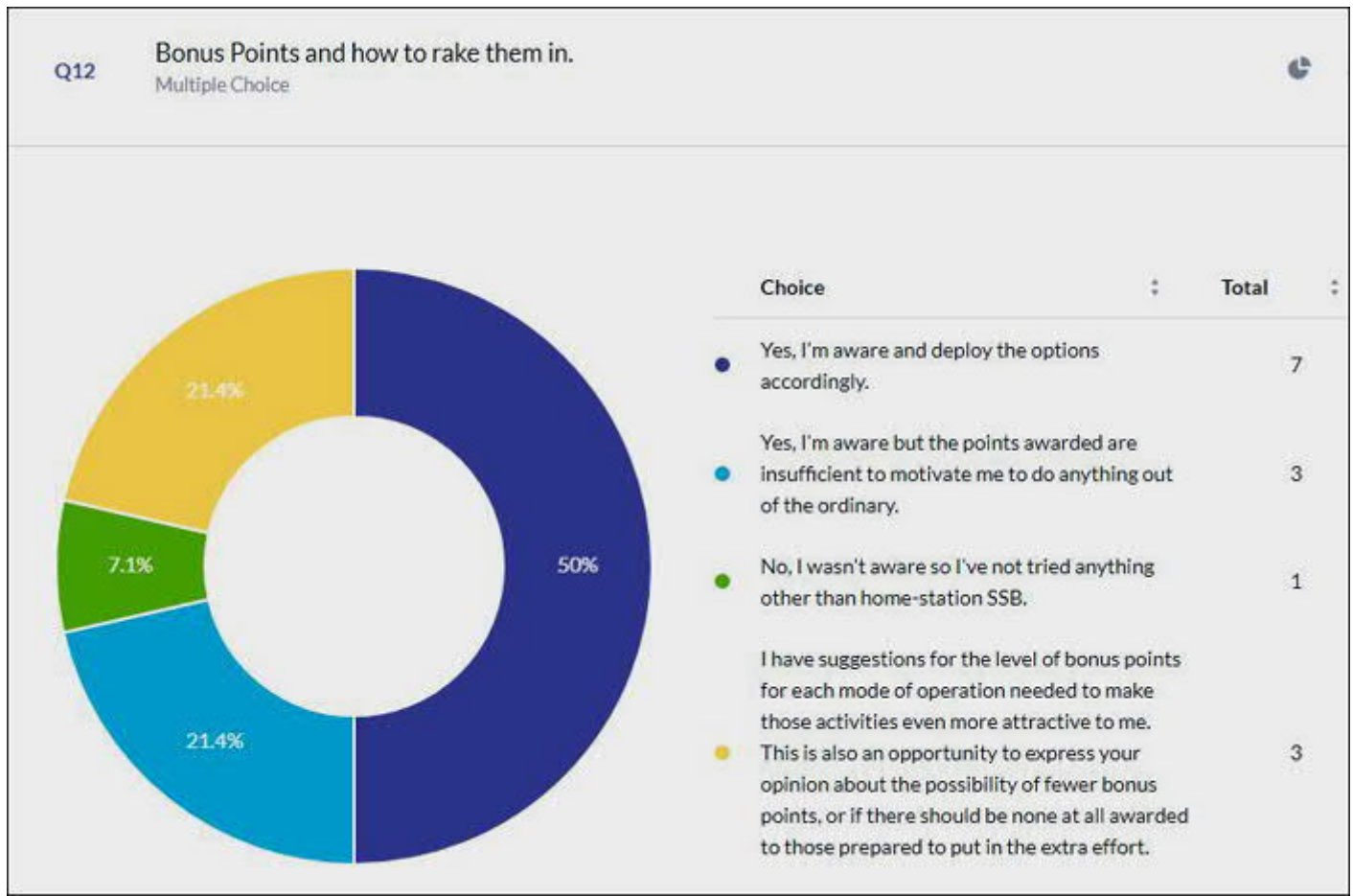
**Preference is Option1.** Stay the same.  $\leq 10$  W PEP output for both modes.

**Partly active.** It doesn't bother me what the power limits are. I enjoy using as little power as possible and it is interesting and satisfying to have a contact where the other operator is using very low power at a comparatively long distance. Amateur radio is a broad field. Currently the thing I find the most interesting is using simple gear with low power levels to see what happens. I'm not a competitive sort of a guy, but the regular GQN enables me to listen to other QRP operators.

**Non participant.** a lot of 20 w rigs (e.g. g90) .. maybe a handicapp based upon power out

(Ednote: *Xiegu G90 specification states RF output power is adjustable between 1 W and 20 W*)

**Q12.** Answered by 12 Not answered by 6



**Active.** A suggestion to consider would be for less power = more points. I do not have suggestions as to how this could be moderated nor structured, but the notion has been brought up multiple times by different guys around here.

**Non participant.** I do not participate in GBN and I do not have any suggestions.

**Anon.** as we have said before maybe portable is worth an extra 1.5 points than home station ?

**Q13.** Answered by 12 Not answered by 6

Q13. If you're NOT a regular participant in Go QRP Night ... Please give a couple of reasons why you don't participate and what would make GQN sufficiently attractive to bring you on board.

**Partly active 1.** personal circumstances but keen to get back on the air.

**Partly active 2.** I can't commit to participating every time. We spend a bit of time with our extended family, and I may go out several nights a week for pest control activities.

**Non participant 1.** Any competitive activity does not interest me. I will operate qrp for two reasons - 1. Its all I can do when I'm tramping. 2. I enjoy constructing radios and testing them. They have always been qrp - building QRO doesnt make sense because my commercial rig will do that. There are lots of reasons why one would want to operate qrp.

**Non participant 2.** I am more interested in DX contacts.

**Non participant 3.** limited time and confusion over where to find stns as to call freq

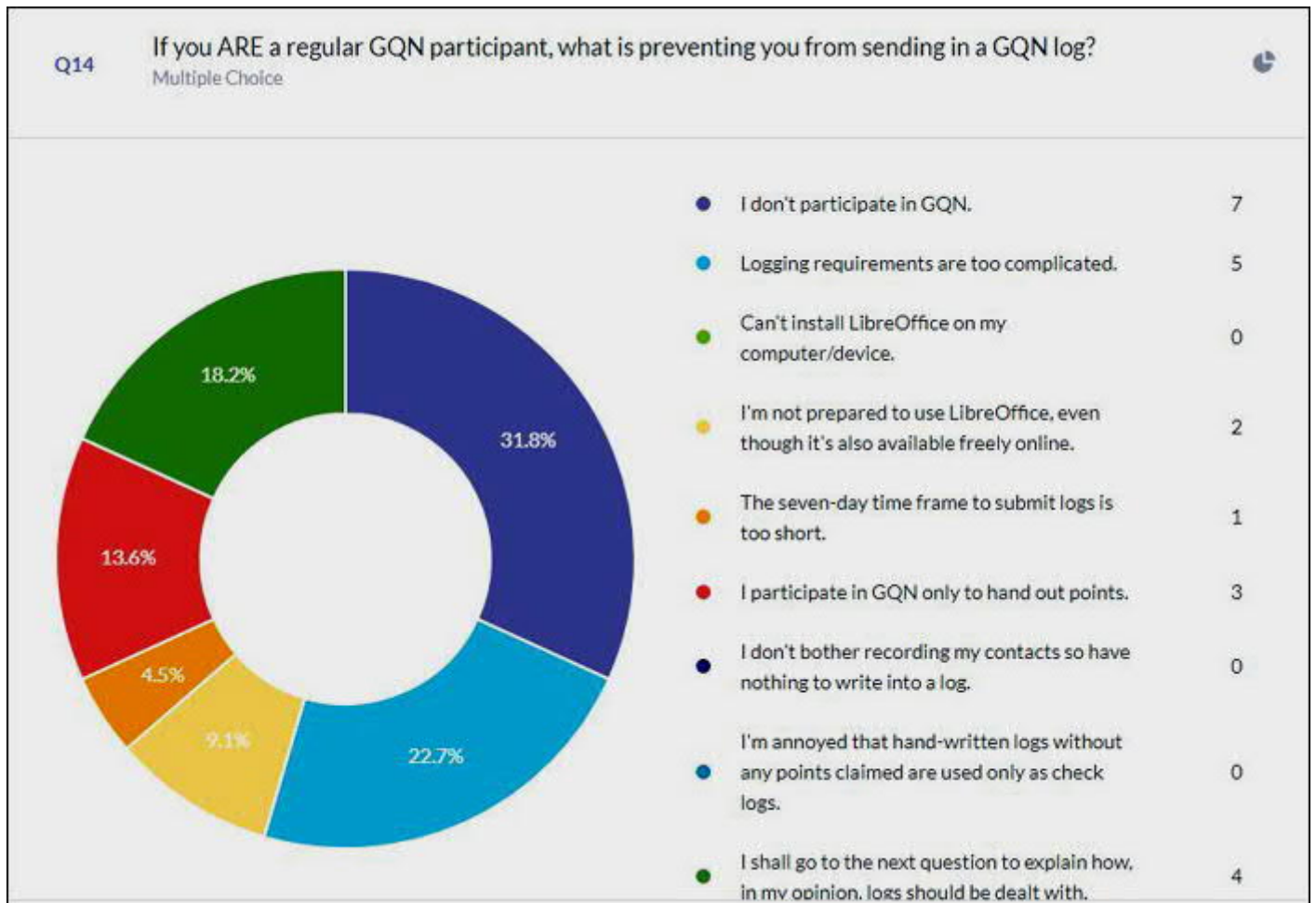
**Non participant 4.** No Mouse Code spoken here. I also work 20 to 50 DX stations a day, during the day using 5W FT8, usually every day, and need to take a break. One contest a year is enough for me, and that's the field day. I'm more than happy to sit on the side and support the QRP group.

**Non participant 5.** As noted above my situation and equipment make 80m QRP impractical. I regularly use 5W DSB on 40m and am building experimental gear for 10m and other bands.

**Anon 1.** Suburban Noise.

**Anon 2.** Can't be bothered with the log / scoring system. Perhaps run a system like POTA ... those interested submit logs and those not interested don't get "shamed" for not submitting (check) logs? Yes, this might skew points but is GQN about encouraging QRP or is GQN a contest?

**Q14.** Answered by 13 Not answered by 5



There are no additional notes.

**Q15.** Answered by 5 Not answered by 12

**Q15.** From your previous choices ... please expand on your reason(s) for not sending in GQN logs.

**Partly active 1.** I'm not competitive and it is unlikely that I will participate every month. I hope my participation enables other operators to accumulate points whether or not I submit a log. Trust is a good thing.

**Partly active 2.** I participate in GQN nights to get out there and try new antennas, new locations, deal with changing weather conditions, changing band conditions, to catch up with friends on the air, to learn new things and enjoy the experience. This is what amateur radio should be about. Frankly I do not care about points and care even less about the absurdly complex rules that have been introduced this year. The unanimous opinion among nearly all operators here in Nelson is that the event has become too stringent, too strict and too complex. People have been put off by borderline over-zealous moderator behaviour and the constant challenging of the validities of their movements and actions. The result is to cease participation which I see as a total loss. It is not a high-performance, high stakes and high-accuracy interrogation. The event should be casual, fun, and welcoming once more. I welcome this request for feedback and will continue honesty and clarity, as asked :)

**Partly active 3.** Can't be bothered with the log / scoring system. Perhaps run a system like POTA ... those interested submit logs and those not interested don't get "shamed" for not submitting (check) logs? Yes, this might skew points but is GQN about encouraging QRP or is GQN a contest?

**Non participant 1.** scanned and emailed handwritten logs ... saves operator time

**Non participant 2.** Not really aware of QRP operation groups activities but would like to give it a go when i can

**Non participant 3.** As noted above, I haven't got to the stage of submitting a log in any format.

**Anon.** I do send in my logs in a timely manner. If I don't then I haven't joined on the night. I work shifts and nit able to attend every gqrp night.

**Q16.** Answered by 14 Not answered by 5

**Q16.** If you're NOT a regular participant in Thursday's QRP Net ...  
Please give the reasons why you don't participate and what would make the on-air, Thursday night QRP group net sufficiently attractive to bring you on board.

**Partly active 1.** Shorter antennas and a more relevant band! Erecting an 80m setup and attempting to pick up faint signals through the noise does not appeal to me, least of all on a weekly basis.

**Partly active 2.** I don't know anything about the Thursday QRP net. If I was told about it, I've forgotten the bulk of the conversation. I was vaguely aware that it existed, but only because I've been reminded about it by this survey. What I seek is information regarding home-brew QRP circuits and ideas and observations regarding ways to get the best results with the least power and the simplest gear. Perhaps things like this are already discussed. A net is undoubtedly useful, but an internet chat page would suit me better as I would not have to make a regular commitment. If the QRP net is on 80 metres I wouldn't bother because of my noisy QTH and the lack of room to sling a decent antenna.

**Non participant 1.** I prefer to use my time on DX contacts.

**Non participant 2.** Need to complete build of QRP.

**Non participant 3.** no home station 80m so i don't get on during the week.

**Non participant 4.** My FT8 operation doesn't fit with the general mode and discussions.

**Non participant 5.** Different/additional band(s).

**Non participant 6.** Work away from home so not available to participate usually, but will try tonight as i am now working from home

**Non participant 7.** Its more a matter of remembering and also managing the time. I think it is the ONE thing that must be retained if the group is to persist. Its not a problem with the group - its a problem with me! Maybe a reminder email ( some sort of auto thing?) on a wednesday might help - but hey, you have enough to do now. So .... I must try harder!!

**Non participant 8.** limited time

**Anon 1.** Cant get reliable 80m at my qth.

**Anon 2.** Suburban noise.

**Anon 3.** I have high noise level at home, plus work a lot of pm shifts at work.

**Anon 4.** Winter okay, summer propagation too difficult - I'm in the south island, most stations are (upper) north island.



**Q17.** Answered by 10 Not answered by 8



**Partly active.** These answers do not cover all bases. I used to greatly enjoy producing content for the 5-watter and could enjoy the opportunity to resume such work.

**Anon 1.** I lack the time to help much will take the odd photo for the news letter.

**Anon 2.** Yes! Although I have not offered any suggestions I am keen to help with administration, thereby providing input to further the aspirations of the QRP Group. Then from THE SAME respondent: No ... I have no interest in administration.

**Q18.** Answered by 16 Not answered by 2

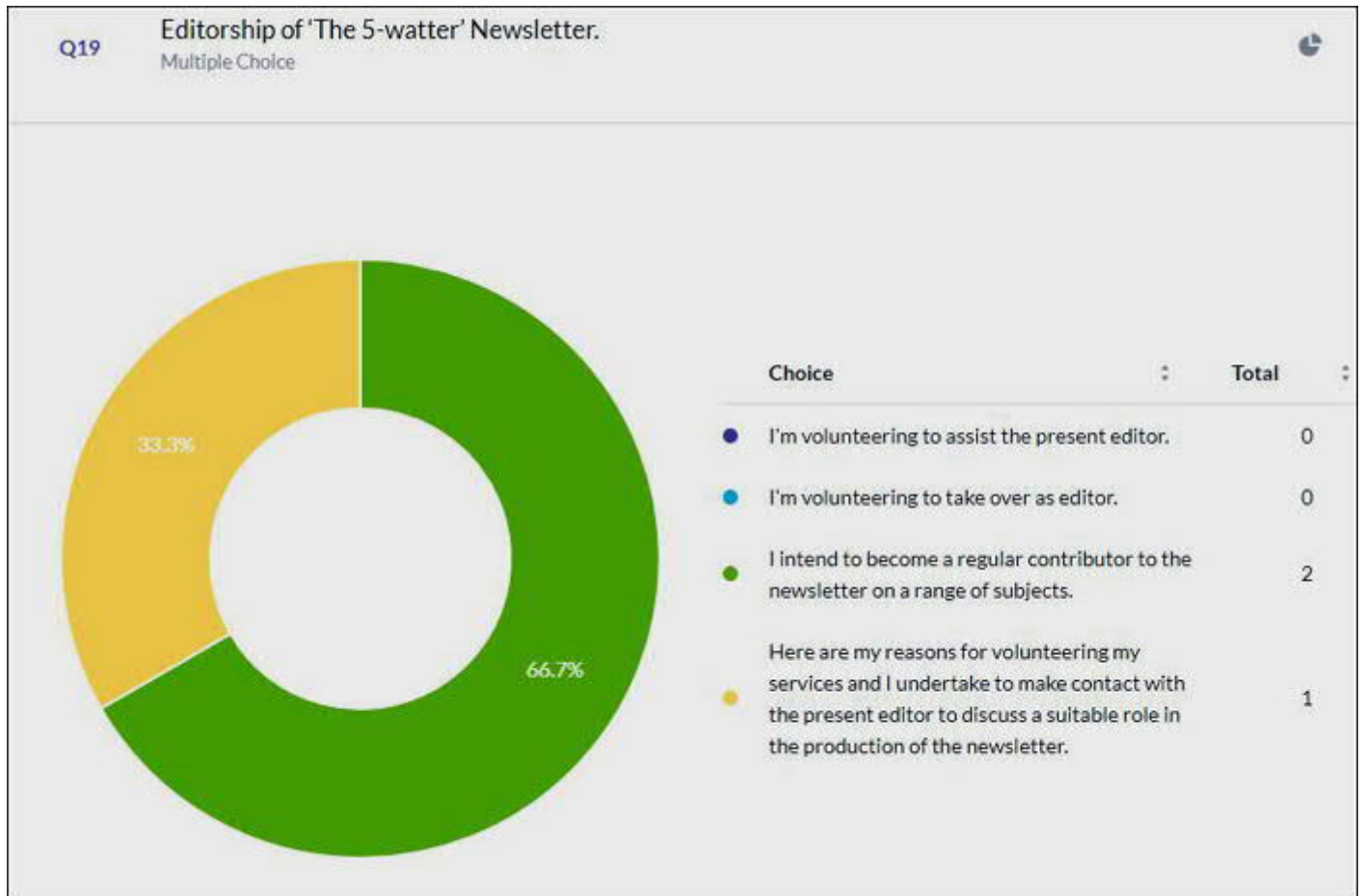


**Partly active.** Always interested to read what others are up to with QRP... particularly if it is home-brewed. But people are busy and I wouldn't like to pressure anyone into doing more than they have the time to.

**Non participant.** I'm not sure anyone reads it. I offered to do 3D printing for free plus postage and there was not one person who showed any interest.

**Anon.** liked it monthly even if it is light in detail

**Q19.** Answered by 3 Not answered by 15



**Partly active.** As mentioned above. *(in reference to what exactly?)*

**Non participant.** I intend to become a regular contributor to the newsletter on a range of subjects.

**Anon.** I intend to become a regular contributor to the newsletter on a range of subjects.

**Q20.** Any closing remarks?

Partly active. I hope what I've written is useful. Best wishes.

**Non participant 1.** thanks for this email and look forward to being more involved

**Non participant 2.** Re the 5-watter. I really need to submit some technical info. I'm already being published by the G-QRP SPRAT magazine fairly regularly so I guess some of those could be rehashed for the above. But are there any of the group who are interested in building things?

**Non participant 3.** I will email in some information.

**Non participant 4.** Enjoy the Newsletter, interesting information

**Non participant 5.** I think a QRP group is a good idea, but ham radio is more than CW and weekly contests. That's why I do my own thing with FT8. The 5 watter publication is a good but small addition to my daily ham radio activity, and I enjoy reading what other people are up to, even if it is not my thing. Most people play with antennas or operating conditions. I think there should be less focus on 80m, if you want more portable operations to take place, as the antennas required are so much bigger and from my field day experience, 40m produces far more contacts. Good luck

**Anon 1.** I go out portable due to my noise levels at home, i enjoy this but fresh in the winter months more work keeping gear dry from dampness, would like to try a bit more back country this year. maybe the contest could be run over 12 months -- able to drop the points from your worst round so 11 months of points. Gives you a chance if not able to make a round. Lets keep it fun we locally like to teach others on the qrp night with a good group of locals joining in. maybe winter up the points for portable, than summer months? nice to stay home by a fire in the winter.

**Anon 2.** Would it benefit the group if 'we' designed or supported/endorsed someone else's design for, appropriate QRP equipment. (provide a compass or construction opportunities). Maybe another survey to establish what the punters have bought or built or modified over the years (collect some history). Thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback.

## General Editorial Comments

Thanks are due to the eighteen members who responded to the survey. Seems a shame that only one active member is among them. For the record, I did not respond to the survey myself. Neither did I make comments until now, to avoid introducing spin while the results were being read. A number of non-evidence based comments, unsupported by theory, will be encountered throughout the survey's results.

It is impossible to do an accurate statistical analysis because no one has compiled a membership database. The Googlegroups page is unhelpful. It shows 51 members but no email addresses, however it is obvious there are many more 'members' who are not listed. Pseudonyms and most of the callsigns mean nothing to me. From running down the list it is clear the majority, possibly ca. 80 %, have never participated in any QRP activity, at least to my knowledge.

I'm going to hazard a guess that the number of notional members could be in the region of 90, so I will use that figure in the absence of anything better. We see that 20 % responded to the survey. The reality: only one responder is known to be consistently active, specifically 1.1 % of the membership. Decide for yourselves whether the survey presents a true picture or has been largely a waste of time.

A couple of good ideas may have emerged, e.g. the seasonal adjustment of bonus points to encourage portable operation during winter months, and introducing diversity of propagation by including 40 m.

Where responses are noted as having come from a 'Partly Active' member, in most instances the descriptor has been applied **very generously**. Most of those described as 'Partly Active' are in fact very close to the inactive end of the range.

The few active members have segregated themselves into two centres of activity which rarely mingle. It seems a pity that QRP in New Zealand is disunited in this way.

Since the majority of submissions are from 'anonymous' and non-participants, is there any value in making plans for future QRP activities based upon the opinions of persons who arguably have either none, or little practical experience of contemporary QRP?

One respondent comes across as hostile towards the rules for GQN. He offers no alternative to those rules and shows a hypocritical attitude considering he has been the beneficiary on a number of occasions of those very rules! He has also chosen to self-elect as proxy for an unknown number of others, none of whom have complained on their own behalf. Has he played the proxy card in an attempt to justify his own narrow outlook? Flawed human nature has again obfuscated the real purpose of this survey.

Evidence of the deeply embedded lack of motivation in QRP surfaced following casual non-QRP QSOs within days of the survey's closing date. Four operators, two of whom had been heard on a QRP activity only once and who claimed to have no knowledge of the survey, requested a link to the survey be emailed. Their requests were complied with immediately and the closing date extended by one week to accommodate them. **None of those four subsequently responded to the survey.** Draw your own conclusion.

## Analysis of Individual Questions

### Q2. In which QRP activities do you participate?

False information in some check boxes, e.g. two respondents claimed to have shown up on GQN every month, yet have never been heard.

### Q3. How many Go QRP Nights should constitute a contest?

Interesting how 46 % of respondents want to retain the status quo, i.e. one 12 month-long contest with only one winner annually, yet a significant 31 % want the exact opposite, 12 individual contests and 12 winners. But it seems the 31 % have failed to understand how historical data points to the same winner, month after month, so how would such a change benefit GQN?

### Q4. What is the best start time for GQN events?

No reasons were given. What are they? One assumes quite reasonably the later start is to make use of more favourable propagation on 80 m, but is that true and the only reason?

### Q5. The duration of each GQN event and number of rounds?

This question has shown 67 % of respondents want the event to be of shorter duration, which raises the question of how many members really have their hearts and minds in GQN? Does anyone remember that GQN has always been 90 minutes?

Meanwhile, no one spotted the advantages of retaining the *status quo* and splitting GQN into two 45 minute rounds. That would result in many more opportunities and a much higher return-on-investment ratio for those who consistently put in the effort to go portable.

Duration	Rounds	In favour
0.5 h	1	17 %
1.0 h	1	50 %
1.5 h	1	33 %
1.5 h	2	0 %
2.0 h	2	0 %

### Q6. Accepted modes of operation?

92 % sensibly want to retain only two modes.

### Q7. Which other modes might be considered practical for GQN?

**Partly active 1** failed to understand that both AM and FM are valid modes on HF. No mention was made in the survey of including VHF and above, so where does the idea of local contacts come from?

**Partly active 2** failed to provide supporting evidence for his claim. There seems to have been little thought given to the logistical practicalities of digital modes and how little if any effort is required. How many points should an automated digital contact earn?

If **Anon 1** would like to demonstrate both how to do it, and that he actually has a *get-up-and-go* attitude, by all means establish a *GQN Special* where any mode can be used. Meantime, clearly the majority have decreed digital modes remain outside the remit of standard-edition GQN.

### Q8. Should 80 m single-band operation be continued?

Reading the comments in responses to Q9, please observe the 2:1 ratio of (non-participants plus anonymous), to those who are, even if only in a small way, active.

### Q9. Give your suggestions for additional bands and the reasons they could benefit GQN.

**Partly active 3** shows he hasn't experienced the fickleness of intra-ZL propagation on 40 m at night.

**Non participant 2** Doesn't understand contests are not permitted on 60 m.

**Non participant 3** might have trouble showing how 80m (sic) is only of use for portable operation during the day. [strange comment] Nonetheless, there is a case for the conditional inclusion of 40 m.

Has anyone detected the conflicting requirements revealed by this survey?

What is to be gained and where is the sense in introducing more bands and more modes, while at the same time shortening the duration of each event?

Then there's the matter of log sheet logistics. The simplest possible automated log sheet which accommodates all current variables is already unpopular among the digi-phobics and 'fun-philiacs', both groups having seemingly forgotten that GQN has always been a serious contest.

Extrapolating their notions, has anyone considered what would happen if several more variables were to be added, the automated log sheet abandoned and a hand-written log was the only way to claim points? Think entropy, chaos and unworkable.

### Q10. Are you able to operate CW in any way, shape or form?

Two respondents (11 %) were honest enough to admit they are unmotivated. Other answers brought only feelings of sadness. So many will never experience the thrill of achieving on-air communication solely through their-own personal, learned skill, which was after all, one of the founding premises of Amateur Radio.

Motivation results in action. As time has passed, except for a new generation of operators going portable thanks to SOTA etc., we have seen little innovation among QRPers.

You'll have seen the derisive use of the words 'Mouse Code' in the comments from a non-participant. To put his attitude in perspective: I recently I worked an Australian ARO on CW who, apart from passing his Morse test many decades before, never used it and began learning practical Morse at age 86. His motivation? He was tired of the mind-numbing, vacuous garbage on phone which CBers have brought with them to the amateur bands since the lamentable dropping of examination standards.

Few can imagine the level of motivation it would have taken, and the concerted determination to achieve CW competency at 86. Now 93, he was sending beautiful Morse with good spacing on a brass straight key, and responded very well to my sending at ~ 18 words per minute. He proved that Morse can be mastered at any time, even when starting as an octogenarian. The derision levelled at Morse Code in this survey, whether joking or not, is disappointing, regrettable and completely uncalled for.

**Q11.** Adjustment of power output to differentiate mode efficiency.

It seems that signal : noise and signal-plus-noise : to noise ratios are not understood. A suggestion to bring about a more balanced opportunity between modes has been rejected. Meanwhile neither comment addressed the question.

Is anyone able to understand **Non-participant**'s comment?

**Q12.** Bonus points and how to rake them in.

A couple of good ideas here, but these bring up the perennial problem of log sheets. The current LibreOffice automatic-points-calculation log sheet has come in for more than its fair share of criticism, yet it has proved month-after-month to be a repeatable, predictable, effective and efficient solution.

Hand-written log sheets on a number of occasions have been sent incomplete and almost illegible. Several showed no attempt to calculate or aggregate points, so no points were deemed to have been claimed. There has never been the expectation in any contest for the contest manager to do contestants' work.

Can anyone suggest, how if more variables were to be added to the contest, logs might be handled without further automation to overcome latent virtual illiteracy?

**Q13.** If you're NOT a regular participant in Go QRP Night ...

Can anyone figure out how, by sitting on the side, **Non participant 4** is supporting the QRP group?

Further, it's quite beyond me to understand **Anon 2** who states he 'Can't be bothered ...' Anonymity sure helps in such situations, raising the question: why was he sufficiently bothered to compose such an unhelpful answer?

Further, **Anon 2** has failed to understand that GQN is both a contest AND encourages QRP. Two for the price of one, both attributes which go unrecognized by those who don't have the time to be 'bothered' doing anything for themselves, or by extension, for anyone else.

**Q14.** If you ARE a regular GQN participant, what stopping your sending in log sheets?

A test question to evaluate the level of participant comprehension is often included in professionally prepared surveys and examination papers. Option 1 should have received zero responses, instead it received seven, despite capitalization of the key word. Such a high failure rate brings into question the reliability of all results obtained in this survey.

**Q15.** From previous choices, please expand on reason(s) for not sending in GQN logs.

Complaints pour forth about the log sheet by non-participants who have never even tried it.

Amazing that **Partly Active 2** has failed to understand GQN is a formal contest, and always has been. Further he usurped the right to act as self-appointed proxy for "the unanimous, nearly all", who they are he doesn't say, do they even know he is representing them? Let's read that again: *unanimous, nearly all*. In response to **Partly Active 2**'s remarks, he was given the opportunity to take over GQN and was offered every current resource to run it, web pages and all, that way he could do as he pleased to suit himself. Anyone guess his response?



### Q16. If you're NOT a regular participant in Thursday's QRP Net

The responses demonstrate how it is impossible to provide the conditions many seem to demand. Changing the net to 40 m would probably not make much difference considering the fickleness of 40 m for intra-ZL contacts at night and the attitudes which prevail. The only way to find out is by running the QRP Net on 40 m. Give it a month then evaluate the level of participant satisfaction.

### Q17. Volunteering for administrative responsibilities.

**Partly active** is of course quite correct, the survey doesn't cover all bases. Show me an equally complex survey which does cover all bases so we can emulate it ... but then we'd be accused of making the survey too onerous. No winners.

There's only one conclusion to draw and question to ask: no one is interested in admin - after all why put in any effort yourself when it's so much easier to sit back and leave the work to someone else? Human nature.

### Q18. The '5-watter' newsletter

Changes will be happening, up to and possibly including the *cruellest cut of all*.

Responsibility for keeping '5-watter' viable lay with all of us, not just the editor. The responses to Q17 aptly reveal the real-life situation when respondents who claim to have good intentions simply don't deliver.

Suffice to say, no one who offered, or undertook, to contribute to '5-watter' has made contact with the editor in the five weeks since the survey closed. Draw your own conclusion.

### Q19. Editorship of the '5-watter' newsletter.

None of the responders are interested in taking over the reins as editor. No surprise there, refer to Q18.

### Q20. Any closing remarks?

One wonders how much thought **Non-Participant 5** put into his comment about the superiority of 40 m. Of course there'll be plenty of contacts on 40 m on field days - it's a national contest with dozens of clubs out there mostly running 100 watts and all with the same goal. How would 5 watts fare under the same circumstances?

## Implementation of Survey Results

A proposed structure for GQN in 2025, based entirely on *what the majority allegedly want*.

Paradoxically, these 'wants' have all come from partly-active and non-participant members!

- 1) 12 events over 12 months; cumulative points with one winner annually.
- 2) Both 40 m and 80 m operation.
- 3) SSB and CW only.
- 4) Power output for both modes  $\leq 10$  W PEP.
- 5) Summer start time 2100 NZDT.
- 6) Winter start time 2000 NZST.
- 7) Duration 1 hour only.
- 8) Increased bonus points for portable/back country operation with seasonal adjustment.
- 9) Hand-written log sheets will be accepted. Contestants must accept responsibility for their entry. Conditions for hand-written logs to qualify would include:
  - 1) using only the official worksheet as a template;
  - 2) all data printed in block capitals;
  - 3) all data 100 % legible;
  - 4) points calculated and totalled correctly.

It's up to the new manager of course, but where errors are detected the affected contact(s) will be disallowed and no correspondence will be entered into.

This hand-written-log policy works on the same principle as tolled-roads. A free, and in this case jolly-sight easier alternative route, is available.

### Suggestion 1:

Make a significant increase to the bonus points for those who go portable, then an additional seasonal adjustment in top of that. GQN management acknowledges such operators deserve better acknowledgement for their effort.

### Suggestion 2:

Make a proportional increase in bonus points for CW, also with seasonal adjustment. Think frozen-hand syndrome; the discomfort in winter and the discipline required to operate CW properly year-round has to be worth something.

### Suggestion 3:

Add a two or three-step inverse scale of bonus points for using power levels lower than the maximum allowed. Obviously a variable-power policy would rely even more on honesty than the current single maximum.

#### Suggestion 4:

Establish a once-a-month, 'Free-for-All QRP' night (FFA QRP) designed to both encourage QRP and satisfy the non-competitive faction.

Only one rule is needed: power output  $\leq 10$  W PEP.

Any mode, any band, no logs, no points, just the much-vaunted 'fun', and except for complying with the Radio Regulations, no one has to accept responsibility for anything. Sounds pretty attractive, doesn't it?

Well, let's see how well it works in practice. All we have to do is wait to see if the proposer lives up to the conviction of his words and organizes such an activity.

The fact that, except for one, no active QRPers took part in the survey, might indicate the majority are happy with the status quo or have more productive things to do with their time than fill in surveys. Call me cynical, but history tells us no matter what changes are made, it's most unlikely there will be (m)any new participants from within the present group for either of the two existing QRP group activities. Human nature.

Is there anyone willing to put in some effort to prove me wrong?

How about instead of forcing '5-watter' into retirement, some of those who have expressed great intentions but so-far failed to deliver put in some effort to keep 5-watter running?

My sincere hope is that new GQN management will implement wisely researched changes to remediate the areas in which genuine shortcomings have been pointed out, and to make QRP in general, more attractive. Finally, I take full responsibility for my personal observations including the structural suggestions offered, and apologize for any errors.

73 de Stan ZL3TK

“You can please some of the people some of the time, all of the people some of the time, some of the people all of the time, but you can never please all of the people all of the time”.

– originally by 15<sup>th</sup> century poet John Lydgate, later erroneously attributed to Abraham Lincoln.