

BRASSPOUNDER

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A very happy new year to everyone. And, as the new year arrives, Graham, G3ZOD takes on the role of Activities Manager.

I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate Pete, M5ABN, winner of the 2015 Ladder and Peter, G4LHI, taking the top spot of SKW. I thank, too, everyone who has taken part in FISTS activities including those who have submitted check logs or simply turned up to give a few points away. The whole point of FISTS' activities is to promote activity on the air and to maintain the friendships we have as radio amateurs.

Over these last years the administration of activities has changed hugely: mostly due to the use of the [FISTS' Log Converter](#) for all FISTS Europe's events as well as its support for [EuCW Snakes and Ladders](#). The Log Converter gives participants the opportunity to focus on making contacts with much less admin effort. During my time as Activities Manager my own position has changed significantly, too. I've gone from having all the time in the world to enjoy amateur radio and organise activities to having more to do than I can easily manage. I am very grateful to Graham for his sympathy and his on-going support – as well as consistent help he has also bailed me out on a number of occasions.

So I know for sure that handing over to G3ZOD is absolutely the best step forwards for FISTS Europe and its members.

I shall look forward to being a FISTS member and to meeting other members on the air from time to time. I didn't attend a single rally during 2015 so this coming year I very much look forward to getting along to one or two and seeing fellow FISTS amongst the traders' stalls once again.

Best wishes to all and thanks to Graham. Good luck!

Chris
G5VZ

Comments received:

Phil 2E0DPH (straight key week)

Please find my entry for the SKW.

Due to many other commitments I was unable to give much time to SKW

Many thanks

73 Phil

2E0DPH Fists 14543

Chris EI6KH (straight key week)

Hi,

Here are my 7 QSOs with a straight key for SKW.

Thanks for putting on the event, even though I only had 7 that's a lot more than I've been doing for the past few months so it was great to get back into it.

Best Regards,

Chris

Richard G0ILN (straight key week)

Conditions were a bit mixed to say the least. Nice to meet old and new friends. I tried to stick to QRP but some days just defeated me! I used two keys: my trusty Swedish key and my new PS 213 copy.

Great fun as always.

Richard G0ILN F1st 398

Peter G3JFS (straight key week)

Only a token log as my activity was limited due to other more important family matters.

The few contacts that I did make were all "proper" qsos mostly lasting for 10 minutes or more.

There seemed to be plenty of activity at the times I was able to get on so I hope you get a lot of logs.

All of my contacts were QRP with 5 watts output to a 66 ft end fed bit of wire. This was tuned with a remote Smartuner in a shed at the far end of my garden.

The key was my 1947 Raymart Speed Key that I used to learn morse code. Like me, it is showing its age but still works albeit at much slower speeds than in the past!

73 Peter G3JFS

F1sts #8985

Chris G3XVL (straight key week)

Enjoyed SKW.... Shame about the contest clash. Could it be extended by 1 day to include 2 Sundays as that might help with any future clashes?

Tony G3ZRJ (straight key week)

Sorry very QRL so not a big entry but glad to take part and give out some points.

73 Tony G3ZRJ

Peter G4LHI (straight key week)

Pity the first day of the SKW clashed with the CQWW CW Contest at the weekend. Various contests & poor band conditions during the SKW made it tough going. This may be the reason for the lack of Fists members during the week? This reflects also on my total score this year of 286 points compared with 340 points last year for the same number of QSO's.

73 Peter G4LHI # 2219.

John GM0EPO (straight key week)

SKW is my favourite event and I tried hard to improve on my previous year's score. It wasn't easy, as I did not work any of the high scoring callsigns, which was probably a good thing as it meant I had to try a lot harder hi.....and I enjoyed every QSO.

73, John GM0EPO #209

Derek M0DRK (straight key week)

Sorry to not be able to put in a nice log for S K Week. So many other things happening during the week including a builder working at home QTH. A great deal of hammer drilling and grinding took place, and a QTH full of dust. Oh well, job done, thanks to stations for my points.

Pete M5ABN (straight key week)

Good fun as always

73 Pete M5ABN #6423

Mark M6MEN (straight key week)

Hi

Only two, apologies for late entry.

Thanks

Mark

Erkki OH7QR (straight key week)

Hello Chris,

Please find attached my SKW log. Success not so good but got 45 qsos with 95 points anyway. I met also some new Fists members. CQWW caused qrm on Sunday.

73 de Erkki OH7QR

Phil 2E0DPH (ladder)

Please find my log for the December Ladder 2015. Many thanks to all those I have worked in 2015 and I wish you all a HNY. I look forward to working you all again in 2016.

73 Phil 2E0DPH Fists 14543

Laurent F5OGJ (ladder)

On the 13th, I had the pleasure to meet up again with friends and to work some new friends as well. Condx were good in the afternoon but very poor during the evening time slot. On the 27th, I was away with no rig.

Vy 73

Geoff G0DDX (ladder)

Dec Ladder for G0DDX: Please note the 3 x VHF contacts were all on 7W Power, as some might qualify for 2x QRP (for the other end, not me!). Not sure how I show this in the log /claim.

Happy New Year
Geoff G0DDX

Dave G0DEB (ladder)

Please find attached 3 QSO's my meagre contribution towards the December Ladder. At least it's 5 more points towards my QRP Century, just 17 points to go!

73 Dave, G0DEB, #380

Richard G0ILN (ladder)

Well that finishes up the Ladder for 2015. Phew! Looking forward to 2016!

Richard G0ILN Fist 398

Michael G0POT (ladder)

Conditions proved very challenging operating /A from Wales with difficult HF conditions and gales battering my dipole. Hoping for more in 2016!

de Michael (G0POT)

Peter G0TLU (ladder)

Enjoyed taking part in the Ladder again this year. FISTS ops are always a pleasure to work!
Thanks for all QSOs.

Chris G3XVL (ladder)

Looking forward to working everyone in the 2016 ladder events.

HNY!

Peter G4LHI (ladder)

The cndx for the Dec Ladder, the last for 2015, could have been better, but it was enjoyable & fun as always, will be very interesting to see the final count up. .Very mni tnx to all members & non members that continue to keep these Fists events alive. .Looking forward to the 7 events in 2016. HNY to you all & mni tnx to the guys that look after our wonderful Club.

73/88 Peter G4LHI # 2219.

Pete M5ABN (ladder)

Well that's another year of Ladder activity over. As always it's been good fun, and a pleasure to work both old and new friends. Looking forward to 2016 with baited breath. Hi.

73 Pete M5ABN #6423

Mark M6MEN (ladder)

Hi. Thanks and a very happy new year

Mark

Erkki OH7QR (ladder)

Hello, attached comes my Ladder log. The Log Converter is a very great program. I updated to ver. 3.2.0 and it works OK. A very Happy New Year.

73 de Erkki OH7QR nr 8318

Andy SP9NLI (ladder)

Happy New Year!

I asked **Graham G3ZOD** to respond to some of the comments:

Hi Chris. The requirement for [FISTS Awards](#) with a QRP element is a maximum of 5 Watts output power. For the 2 X QRP awards, the claimant is responsible for recording whether his QSO partners are running QRP, so ideally stations running QRP should mention it during the QSO.

Concerning the clashes between Straight Key Week and the CQ WW DX CW contest, I have moved [Straight Key Week 2016](#) into early December. Currently this avoids any major CW contests, although of course this may change during the year as organisations announce further contests. Similarly I have tried to schedule [Exchange Your Age Week 2016](#) to avoid major CW contents.

73 de Graham G3ZOD.

Here are the final Ladder 2015 results.

Welcome to the new entrants for December: Daniele IK0NOJ, Dave G0DEB and Mark M6MEN.

In the skirmish between Pete M5ABN and Peter G4LHI, in the end Pete M5ABN prevailed, extending his lead by 2 more points. However, Phil 2E0DPH moved up to third place, displacing Richard G0ILN.

This has been by far the most well-supported Ladder for many years. The support from members outside the UK and from those who have submitted entries despite modest scores is noted and much appreciated. Please continue to support the Ladder in 2016 and make it even more successful!

Well done to the overall (QTH anywhere) certificate winners:

- **1st place: Pete M5ABN**
- **2nd place: Peter G4LHI**
- **3rd place: Phil 2E0DPH**

Additionally, well done to the following who will receive certificates for the three highest places in the additional "QTH outside England" category:

- **1st place: Erkki OH7QR**
- **2nd place: Laurent F5OGJ**
- **3rd place: Jarmo OH2BN**

Callsign	Posn	Prev	Move	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
M5ABN	1	1	-	441	45	48	41	39	41	32	38	23	32	41	22	39
G4LHI	2	2	-	436	36	44	41	35	36	34	30	23	36	39	45	37
2E0DPH	3	4	↑	371	23	44	25	38	32	37	24	28	22	24	37	37
G0ILN	4	3	↓	364	28	29	34	27	35	23	29	26	30	39	36	28
OH7QR	5	5	-	335	31	35	31	17	29	29	33	26	30	21	35	18
G4KLE	6	6	-	231	19	25	22	43	38	35	27		22			
M0DRK	7	7	-	202			24	11	24	22	21	22	16	24	29	9
G3XVL	8	8	-	144	32				17	10		7		31	26	21
F5OGJ	=9	10	↑	125							18	8	18	33	22	26
G0DDX	=9	9	-	125	10	10	12			9	18	22	20	6	10	8
OH2BN	11	11	-	96		4	2	10	12	11	6	4	10	8	21	8
G0TLU	12	12	-	91	4	20	14	13		8	6	4	2	8	2	10
SP9NLI	13	16	↑	87										17	27	43
G3ZOD	14	13	↓	76	10	2	18	2	10	4		4	14	12		
G0HGH	=15	14	↓	49					22	13				5	9	
G0POT	=15	15	-	49				4	15	1	11		7	8	2	1
G3ZRJ	17	17	-	36	24									12		
ON7AMI	18	18	-	34										14	20	
G4RHR	19	19	-	32										6	26	
2E0JCY	20	20	-	31					31							
OK2VWB	21	21	-	29								6		6	17	
M0GGK	22	22	-	24								6	18			
IK0NOJ	23	-	↑	22												22
F5IYJ	24	23	↓	20										20		
G0OTT	25	24	↓	16	16											
G0MJP	26	25	↓	10	10											
G0DJA	27	26	↓	8					6						2	
G7JMZ	28	27	↓	7							2	5				
2E0EML	=29	=28	↓	6				6								
G0DEB	=29	-	↑	6												6
M6MEN	=29	-	↑	6												6
MI0AHH	=29	=28	↓	6						6						
OZ8AGB	=29	=28	↓	6										6		
GM0EPO*				4	4											
MX5IPX*				84		13		15	10	18			8	6	14	
GX0IPX*				14											14	
GX3ZQS*				10	10											

* is a check log.

Here are the Straight Key Week 2015 results.

Members reported less than helpful band conditions this year, but nevertheless we had twenty logs sent in. This is two more than last year and is despite the absence of the usual four logs from G3ZOD and the three club callsigns – thank you to everyone for your support.

Well done to the certificate winners:

- **1st place:** Peter G4LHI
- **2nd place:** John GM0EPO
- **3rd place:** Chris G3XVL

Callsign	Posn	Points
G4LHI	1	286
GM0EPO	2	201
G3XVL	3	110
OH7QR	4	95
G0ILN	5	79
2E0DPH	6	78
IK0NOJ	7	72
SP9NLI	8	52
M5ABN	9	36
G3ZRJ	10	27
G3JFS	11	25
M0DRK	12	21
OK2VWB	13	19
EI6KH	14	15
GM0SEF	15	9
2E0EML	=16	6
M6MEN	=16	6
G0DJA	18	4
F5OGJ	=19	3
G0PJO	=19	3

Coming Soon

- The first [Ladder](#) sessions for 2016 are on Sunday 10. January and 24. January, 1400–1600 and 1800–2000 UTC.
- [QRS Fifth Sunday](#) is on Sunday 31. January, 0001-2359 UTC. Max. 14 words per minute.

73 and keep on pounding the brass!

Chris
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