

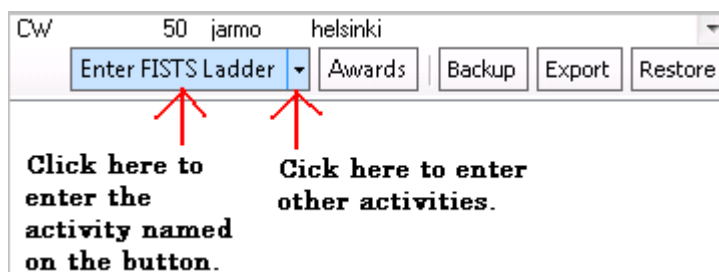


Welcome to this edition of BrassPounder, which covers FISTS Europe's on-air activities in January 2016.

I'd like to thank our retiring Activities Manager, Chris G5VZ, for his contributions over the past three years. These have included some interesting activities. I found the most surprising was the Two Metre activity, which I will admit to having some reservations about, yet it was well-supported and resulted in members (including myself) improving their stations and hence their 'reach'. So, well done Chris and many thanks.

I've recently released a new version of the [FISTS Log Converter program for Windows—version 3.2.3](#). This one supports all the 2016 FISTS Europe Activities, so if you are using an earlier version, please do upgrade. If you are using the program's own logbook (rather than reading an ADIF file created by another logbook program), you can also enter FISTS and EuCW activities more conveniently using the new 'Enter...' button towards the bottom right of the logbook tab:

- Click the left hand side of the button to enter the activity named on the button.
- To enter other activities, click the small downwards-pointing arrow on the right hand side of the button and choose the activity from the list.



(For those working towards FISTS Awards, there is also a new 'Awards' button to the right of the 'Enter...' button.)

Moving on to the [2016 Activities](#), new by request is the 5-day [Mechanical Key Days](#)—a variation on [Straight Key Week](#) with the use of semi-automatic ("bug") keys included. Also new is the [Accuracy Challenge](#), in which the accuracy of the exchanged information becomes key (!)

This year the Fifth Sundays activity has changed to be a 24 hour QRS activity—[QRS Fifth Sundays](#). The [Two Metre](#) activity is back for two months in the year. Other activities continuing from last year are the [Ladder](#) and [Straight Key Week](#). Additionally, [Exchange Your Age Week](#) is back by request after a year's absence.

In previous years some activities permitted a QSO with a station per band per day; this year, in the interest of keeping participants together and so increasing the probability of having QSOs, all activities allow one QSO with a station per session (Ladder) or per day (all other activities).

Note that for Straight Key Week, Mechanical Key Days, and QRS Fifth Sundays, qualifying QSOs must have **SKW**, **MKD**, or **QRS** (respectively) included in the log book's 'Comment' (or similar) field. This will make it simpler where an entrant has a mixture of qualifying and non-qualifying QSOs during the activities' time periods.

To see a list of dates and times for these and some other on-air activities, please visit the [Upcoming Events web page](#). There is a convenient [2016 Year Planner](#) available, showing all the dates on a single A4 page.

Many thanks to Robert DM4RW (EuCW Snakes & Ladders manager and FISTS member) for creating it. Speaking of Snakes & Ladders, this is also running in 2016 with two sessions: January–June and July–December.

Ladder Results

The Ladder is off to an interesting start with a strong performance by mainland Europe members. Firstly, here are the “soapbox” comments received:

Entrant	Comments
Robert DM4RW	<p>Hello Graham. A new year, new habits. Finally, I managed to make an entry for the FISTS ladder! I'm happy this event exists, it is great for meeting others, and I'll surely try to be more active this year.</p> <p>73 from Bavaria!</p>
Laurent F5OGJ	<p>Glad to see that number of participants is significantly increasing. Vy 73.</p>
Geoff G0DDX	<p>Jan Ladder for G0DDX</p> <p>Busy Band on the 24th. Looking forward to 2016 Ladder.</p> <p>Geoff G0DDX</p>
Richard G0ILN	<p>Here we go again!</p> <p>Richard G0ILN Fist 398</p>
John G4FWA	<p>Off and running (hopefully!)</p>
Peter G4LHI	<p>The cndx for the Jan Ladder, the first for 2016, were considerably better than the end of 2015. Let's hope we get some good cndx now & can enjoy the Fists Events again. However towards the end of the afternoon session on 24th it was all hell let loose on 40m, not sure what that was all about hi. Very mni tnx to all members taking part, I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did & looking forward to the QRS Sunday. 73/88 to all & a special thank you to our guys at the helm.</p> <p>Peter G4LHI # 2219.</p>
Derek M0DRK	<p>Hi Graham, My first Ladder Log for 2016, hope it's ok. Thanks to all who gave me points to start my year off.</p> <p>73 for now, Derek, M0DRK, Nr. 8344</p>
Pete M5ABN	<p>Not a very productive month due to family and other commitments. Will have to try harder. Hi</p> <p>73 Pete M5ABN #6423</p>
Erkki OH7QR	<p>Hello Graham, Attached comes my log for January Ladder. The condx were quite good yesterday. I worked also a member (M0HTE) for the first time.</p> <p>73 Erkki OH7QR</p>
Andy SP9NLI	<p>I hope my February Ladder log will be longer. 73!</p>

Next, the results table:

Callsign	Position	January
IK0NOJ	1	40
G4LHI	=2	36
I5ECW	=2	36
OH7QR	4	34
2E0DPH	5	27
F5OGJ	6	26
G3XVL	7	24
G0ILN	8	22
M0DRK	9	21
SP9NLI	10	20
M5ABN	11	17
OH2BN	12	16
G4IZZ	13	15
DM4RW	14	10
G0DDX	=15	8
M6MEN	=15	8
EA4BL	=17	6
G4FWA	=17	6
OZ8AGB	19	4

QRS Fifth Sunday Results

This new 24 hour activity's focus is on having QRS QSOs during the day. As such, maintaining scores is to some extent about keeping it interesting. To make the activity approachable, exchanging FISTS member numbers is not a requirement. Initial indications from the first day on 31st January are that it has been well-received despite issues with a concurrent contest:

Entrant	Comments
Richard G0ILN	<p>Good fun. I didn't intend to take part but I got carried away! I met several Fists members that I hadn't worked before so that was good.</p> <p>Richard G0ILN Fists 398</p>
Peter G4LHI	<p>I attach my log for the first QRS Sunday event. I was looking forward to this but was very disappointed with the French Contest dominating the bands. No doubt this was the reason why not many Fists Member were about? Better luck on the next 5th Sunday. Mni tnx to all members that did brave the QRM for the QSO's we had & to Graham for organising the 2016 program of events.</p> <p>73 de Peter G4LHI</p>
Derek M0DRK	<p>Hi Graham. Many thanks again for the stations for giving me points for the first 5th Sunday QRS Activity. As I am only in the shack for short periods, not too many in my log, but all great QSOs. I think more stations would have been on but bands were rather busy with stations working on another activity, but very much enjoyed taking part in QRS event myself.</p> <p>73 for now Graham, Derek, M0DRK, Nr. 8344</p>
Mark M6MEN	<p>QRS SUNDAY..... BRILLIANT</p>

Here is the results table:

Callsign	Position	January
G4LHI	1	25
IK0NOJ	2	16
I5ECW	3	14
G0ILN	=4	10
G3XVL	=4	10
HA7HF	=4	10
M0DRK	7	9
2E0DPH	8	8
M6MEN	9	7
2E0EML	10	3
SP9NLI	11	2
M0CDL	12	1
M5IPX	C	3

'C' represents a check log.

QRU?

That's it for this month. The next activities are:

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sun 14 Feb		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 28 Feb		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 06 Mar	Sat 12 Mar	FISTS Eu Exchange Your Age Week	0001-2359 UTC
Sun 13 Mar		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 27 Mar		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

Have fun with CW!

73 de Graham G3ZOD
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