



Welcome to this edition of *BrassPounder*, which covers FISTS CW Club Europe's [on-air activities](#) during June 2016.

This month it includes the Ladder and Mechanical Key Days 2016 results as well as details on the new [FISTS Americas Cumulatives](#) activity and a new website feature to show [DXCC Leagues for FISTS members](#).

Firstly though, the activity results.

## Ladder Results

Here are the comments received:

Entrant	Comments
<b>Richard G0ILN</b>	Conditions could have been better but good fun as always. Richard G0ILN Fist 398.
<b>Chris G3XVL</b>	Good fun as always, shame about band conditions.
<b>Peter G4LHI</b>	I attach my log for the Fists June Ladder & was pleased to find conditions v much better this month, but a lot of deep QSB on the second session. Also still a lack of attendance by members. No doubt the football did not help? Hi. Mni tnx fer the QSOs guys, cul in the Fists Ladder on 10th July – fingers crossed about conditions hi. de Peter G4LHI # 2219
<b>Vanni I5ECW</b>	Hello. Here is my June entry. A lot of friends on third session, great fun as usual! See you next month. 73 Vanni
<b>Emil I5EFO</b>	I'm very sorry – I had to stop almost immediately my participation on 26 June. 73 Emil I5EFO
<b>Derek M0DRK</b>	Hi Graham. A better log for June. 40 mtrs not yet back to how it was though. 2 mtrs still coming in handy for closer stations and some success on 20 mtrs. Thank you to all stations for I worked for qsos and points. See you next month, 73 for now, Derek, M0DRK, Nr. 8344.
<b>Pete M5ABN</b>	Please find my Ladder log for June. Pretty awful conditions again; let's hope things improve soon. 73 Pete M5ABN #6423
<b>Jarmo OH2BN</b>	As a precaution, had to cut short this month's last ladder session due to an approaching thunderstorm ... the wise thing simply was to unplug everything..... 73 - Jarmo OH2BN – FISTS #16593
<b>Erkki OH7QR</b>	Hello Graham, Please find attached my log for June Ladder. As usual all my QSOs were on 20M. Thanks and 73, have a nice weekend. Erkki OH7QR nr 8318
<b>Andy SP9NLI</b>	See you again in July.

There was no change in the top five positions. Vanni I5ECW now has a lead of 36 points and is looking very secure in 1<sup>st</sup> place. Tony G3ZRJ achieved the largest change in position, moving up from position 23 to 19. As has become normal this year, participants reported disappointing propagation, although a number of entries achieved higher points than in May.

Here is the results table:

**Ladder table:**

Callsign	Position	Previous	Movement	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
I5ECW	1	1	-	245	36	46	30	42	41	50
G4LHI	2	2	-	209	36	44	34	30	30	35
M5ABN	3	3	-	185	17	39	38	33	37	21
G0ILN	4	4	-	177	22	32	42	23	29	29
2E0DPH	5	5	-	159	27	41	24	26	20	21
OH7QR	6	7	↑	155	34		18	35	35	33
SP9NLI	7	8	↑	149	20	28	19	20	32	30
G3XVL	8	6	↓	145	24	31	34	23	12	21
M0DRK	9	9	-	113	21	23	23	16	8	22
I5EFO	10	10	-	104		18	22	18	21	25
OH2BN	11	13	↑	67	16		8	10	13	20
M0GGK	12	11	↓	64	4	24	8	8	20	
F5OGJ	13	12	↓	63	26	28			4	5
M6MEN	14	16	↑	45	8		2	12	17	6
EA4BL	15	14	↓	44	6		10	14	14	
IK0NOJ	16	15	↓	40	40					
G0POT	=17	=17	-	35		24	11			
G4IZZ	=17	=17	-	35	15	20				
G3ZRJ	19	23	↑	33			5	4	8	16
G4KLE	20	19	↓	28		28				
DM4RW	=21	=20	↓	20	10	8	2			
G0DDX	=21	=20	↓	20	8		12			
IU1DZZ	23	22	↓	18		8	8	2		
G0OTT	24	24	-	15			15			
OZ8AGB	25	=27	↑	14	4		2		4	4
G4FWA	26	25	↓	12	6	6				
G0HGH	27	26	↓	11			11			
GW0VLN	=28	=27	↓	10		4	4	2		
HA7HF	=28	=27	↓	10		10				
DM5RS	30	30	-	9			9			
G4RHR	31	31	-	7				7		
EI6KH	32	32	-	4					4	
PA1FOX	33	33	-	2		2				
ON6PJ	34	34	-	1					1	

## Mechanical Key Days 2016 Results

Here are the comments received:

Entrant	Comments
<b>Richard G0ILN</b>	Conditions were not always the best, only adding to the fun. I even managed (by chance) a Miami Fist member! My key was a Raymart straight key from the 1950's(?) bought at a junk sale when I first started in amateur radio. 73's Richard G0ILN Fist 398
<b>Chris G3XVL</b>	I purchased a 1958 Vibroplex Lightning a few months ago and practiced quite a bit off air before the event. This event gave me the confidence to use it on air. I didn't forget the straight key though! Thanks to Graham for organising.
<b>Tony G3ZRJ</b>	Keys used were: RFT German hand key, Hi-Mound BK-100 Bug and Dentsuseiki MS2 sideswiper. Rig IC706 MK1 80W Antenna Inverted Vee doublet centre at 30 feet. I very much enjoyed the event. 73 Tony G3ZRJ 7727
<b>Peter G4LHI</b>	I attach my log for the Fists MKD. I was looking forward to this event but disappointed about the poor conditions & lack of attendance by members. No doubt the condx did not help? Mni tnx fer the QSOs guys, cul in the Fists Ladder on 12th June; fingers crossed about conditions hi. de Peter G4LHI # 2219 k
<b>Erkki OH7QR</b>	Hello Graham, Attached comes my log for MKD-week. It was an enjoyable event. I used mostly my Swedish Key; only in two QSOs did I work with a Vibroplex Bug. Many thanks for this new event. I hope it will happen again in 2017. 73 and cu Erkki OH7QR nr 8318
<b>Andy SP9NLI</b>	For five days my only CW instrument was a Junker straight key. It was great fun, and a good opportunity to meet a lot of other FISTS.

It's a shame that the continuing poor conditions affected the activity. The number of logs sent in (9) was neither the worst nor the best we've experienced. It will be up to next year's Activity Manager to decide whether to repeat the activity or not, but I would say the chances of it are promising.

Thank you to everyone who participated and congratulations to the certificate winners:

1<sup>st</sup> place, **Peter G4LHI**. 2<sup>nd</sup> place **Erkki OH7QR**. 3<sup>rd</sup> place **Richard G0ILN**.

### Mechanical Key Days table:

Callsign	Position	Total
<b>G4LHI</b>	1	119
<b>OH7QR</b>	2	72
<b>G0ILN</b>	3	67
<b>G3ZRJ</b>	4	61
<b>G3XVL</b>	5	57
<b>SP9NLI</b>	6	54
<b>M6MEN</b>	7	38
<b>I5ECW</b>	8	25
<b>2E0EML</b>	9	22

## FISTS CW Club DXCC League

There is a new page on the website that shows the [club's DXCC league](#), based on data from Club Log.

The league includes current (paid-up) members and is in order of the number of "slots", which is the number of DXCC entities worked on CW for each band added together. Bands from 160m to 13cm are included.

By default, the web page shows the league for FISTS Europe current members. However, the league for members from FISTS Americas, FISTS Down Under, FISTS East Asia, or all FISTS Chapters can be shown by choosing the chapter or "All" and clicking the *Show* button. Alternatively, direct links that can do this are:

FISTS Americas: <http://fists.co.uk/dxccleague.aspx?c=am>

FISTS Down Under: <http://fists.co.uk/dxccleague.aspx?c=du>

FISTS East Asia <http://fists.co.uk/dxccleague.aspx?c=ea>

FISTS Europe <http://fists.co.uk/dxccleague.aspx?c=eu>

All FISTS Chapters: <http://fists.co.uk/dxccleague.aspx?c=all>

Some of the callsigns in this issue of *BrassPounder* are to be found in the league! If you'd like to join in, it's necessary to:

1. Set up a [Club Log account](#).
2. Ask to [join FISTS – FISTS CW Club](#) on Club Log.
3. Periodically [upload your logs](#) to Club Log. You can do this by exporting and uploading an ADIF file from your electronic log book (or some log book software will allow you to upload your QSOs directly).

## EuCW Snakes and Ladders

[EuCW Snakes and Ladders](#) is in two, six-month seasons, with the new season started on 1<sup>st</sup> July and finishing on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016. So, if you haven't been submitting logs, now is a good time to join in.

If you use FISTS Log Converter to submit entries, please use [version 3.2.10 or later](#) because they incorporate the [rule changes](#) introduced for June onwards.

## QRU?

The [next activities](#) are:

Date	Event	Times
Sat 09 Jul	<a href="#">FISTS Am Summer Unlimited Sprint</a>	0000-0400 UTC
Sun 10 Jul	<a href="#">FISTS Eu Ladder</a>	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 24 Jul	<a href="#">FISTS Eu Ladder</a>	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 31 Jul	<a href="#">FISTS Eu QRS Fifth Sunday</a>	0001-2359 UTC
Sat 06 Aug	<a href="#">FISTS Eu Two Metre Activity</a>	0800-0900 UTC
Sun 07 Aug	<a href="#">FISTS Eu Two Metre Activity</a>	0800-0900 UTC
Sat 13 Aug	<a href="#">FISTS Eu Two Metre Activity</a>	0800-0900 UTC
Sun 14 Aug	<a href="#">FISTS Eu Two Metre Activity</a>	0800-0900 UTC
Sun 14 Aug	<a href="#">FISTS Eu Ladder</a>	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 14 Aug	<a href="#">FISTS Am Cumulatives</a>	1900-2100 UTC

The [FISTS Americas Summer Unlimited Sprint](#) ('unlimited' in that there is no speed restriction) is on 9<sup>th</sup> July 0000-0400 UTC. As mentioned in the June BrassPounder, the Summer Sprints are well into the wee small hours for us Europeans, but if you are a night owl, please do take part and send in a log.

The third [QRS Fifth Sunday](#) takes place for 24 hours on 31<sup>st</sup> July (let's hope that this time contests and propagation are kinder to it!)

The new [FISTS Americas Cumulatives](#) activity takes place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in each month, starting in August and finishing in December. This is along similar lines to the FISTS Europe Ladder with notable differences being that QSOs must be a minimum of 5 minutes long, bands allowed are 80m, 40m, & 20m, and there is a single 2 hour session per Sunday, which occurs in the US afternoon and European evening. The exchange is:

*RST, name, QTH or state, and member number (if applicable).*

Calling "CQ FISTS" is recommended. FISTS Log Converter includes the Cumulatives from [version 3.3.0 onwards](#), so if you have an earlier version, please upgrade.

Finally, don't forget that the [FISTS Europe Two Metre activity](#) is back and runs during August and November. There are changes since last year, specifically:

- The recommended centre frequency is now 144.052. However, when having a QSO, please keep at least 1 kHz away from 144.050 MHz.
- During August, the times are 0900-1000 UTC each Saturday and Sunday morning.

That's it for this month. If you'd like to read previous *BrassPounders*, they are [available on the website](#).

Have fun with CW!

73 de Graham G3ZOD  
[activities@fists.co.uk](mailto:activities@fists.co.uk)