

BRASSPOUNDER



For those within FISTS who enjoy a challenge

December 2006

Greetings, and belated Happy New Year to you all.

It's been a busy time of the year for all of us, and yet, folk still have found time to support the activities within FISTS.

I applaud your resolve and say many thanks for your support during 2006.

To be truthful, I expected folk to "Wind down" and take December easy, but no such thing! Impressive scores from the WARC Entrants and one comment saying how pleased they were to gain another new multi with almost their last QSO of the year! Now, that's dedication for you!

So, its the end of the year as far as the activities go, and time to look at the final tables, say congratulations to the winners, runners up, but most importantly, **THANKS!** to all who participated and supported the activities during 2006, I've received quite a few enquiries and messages of support for the revamped ladder and the QRS Challenge, now active of course. Remember to follow the link from my home page to the activity calendar 2007 for a detailed breakdown of what's happening during 2007. Paul, M0BMN, has also added a link from the FISTS UK homepage.

[FISTS UK Homepage](#)

*****IMPORTANT NEWS*****

*I'm hoping that many have read my post on the NG regarding the announcement from the **RSGB** About the resurrection of **GB2CW**. Which you may remember was the network of QRS Morse Code transmissions during the days when the 12wpm pass was required for access to the HF amateur spectrum. This network was manned by*

amateurs who used to take time and effectively teach on air CW to students learning CW in readiness for the 12wpm test and the subsequent pass certificate if you reached the required standard.

*I think this is a huge step by the RSGB. And the two people responsible for getting the service up and running again are to be applauded and fully given our support as a Society concerned with the preservation of the mode. I honestly feel that we cannot afford to pass up the chance of doing our utmost to help restore the service. I'm asking you, as members to seriously consider the possibilities and offer your services to this new initiative. I do know that we have ex GB2CW op's amongst our membership, and very possibly, new ones. So I hope you will **SERIOUSLY** consider contacting the people responsible for getting it up and running again and offering your services!! Again, it is a very positive step and a very good thing for CW here in the UK since the abolition of the pass requirement. Both for present and future generations of CW enthusiasts.*

*This is the headline from the **RSGB** reproduced with kind permission.*

The GB2CW slow Morse transmissions have been resurrected by the RSGB.

Roger Cooke, G3LDI, has been appointed as coordinator of the revived services for an initial trial period of six months. Roger is the author of the popular book Morse Code for Radio Amateurs and regularly organizes Morse classes from his home.

The RSGB is keen that the appointment of Roger and the resurrection of the services will encourage more instructors to take advantage of GB2CW for Morse broadcasts on the air. If you would like to use the call, send an application to either Roger Cooke, G3LDI, or Phillip Brooks, G4NZQ, RSGB Region 12 Manager, who is supporting Roger with the administration.

Information in the application must include: the full name, address and call of the applicant, plus information about the proposed transmission schedules and frequencies. Please note that only RSGB members can apply.

I've been in touch with Phillip Brooks, G4NZQ, who is one of the people charged with getting the service up and running again. I've passed on our good wishes and support for the venture as CW preservation Society.

Roger Cooke, G3LDI, had this to say to me

"Encouraged by demand for my new book "Morse Code for Radio Amateurs" and enthusiasm for taking up my classes, the resurrection of GB2CW seemed an obvious next step in cultivating a manifest and growing interest in using CW as a worthwhile mode of communication. I am grateful to the support given to this initiative by the RSGB and hope that a national network of broadcasts can be created quickly to help bring Morse code rightly back in vogue."

I hope you'll offer your support to both Roger and Phillip with this venture.

Roger Cooke, G3LDI, can be contacted at gb2cw@rsgb.org.uk Phillip Brooks, G4NZQ, can be contacted at g4nzq@rsgb.org.uk

As an afterthought, why not email me with your thoughts on the proposals? I'll put a piece together with members opinions on the GB2CW resurrection in the next edition!!

LETS TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING DURING DECEMBER.

I dislike having to start proceedings with bad news. And I had this news delivered to my inbox on January 7th. It came as a shock to many. That is the passing of Oscar, ON5ME, Recently retired President of EUCW.

Quote.

We have the regret to inform you of the passing of Oscar Verbanck ON5ME.

He was 65. Oscar was the founder of two clubs dedicated to high speed telegraphy, The Super High Speed Telegraphy Club (SHSC) and the Extremely High Speed Telegraphy Club (EHSC) and currently their President. For about 15 years he was also the President of the EUCW, Federation of European CW Clubs, counting about 40 Societies in Europe and three other associated in USA, Brazil and Argentina.

Because of his competence, he was also an important CW consultant for the UBA.

from F5NQL



Oscar Verbanck, ON5ME SK

I had only recently begun to get to know Oscar via email with the EUCW/FISTS QRS Party and other EUCW matters. I found him to be a Gentleman and always having the time to answer to any query I may have had. We have lost a staunch advocate of CW. May he Rest in peace.

OK, lets get onto business and some nice comments in this months postbag, and also some interesting statistics from people summarizing their 2006 entries which do make interesting reading, and show just what is possible with an ordinary station during the difficult time with the solar cycle. As many of us agree, CW does get through during difficult times.

I've heard from Erkki, OH7QR #8318.

I got tired of calling CQ in vane with the QRP-rig and used my FT-897 at the end of the month, (Hi). And really, I managed better with it. The Ladder was not so good and because I participated in Original QRP Contest (96 QSO's) I hadn't enough time for the ladder, sorry. But I managed anyway to get two ladder-qsos on Sunday.

Many thanks for the good work you have done during 2006 and also thanks for the new rules for Fists Activities for 2007. I'll try to be active in every one of them.

Thanks Erkki for your kind comments, hope to see you in 2007.

From Stan, K4UK

I wasn't able to operate up to the last minute (2359 UTC) of the year, because we were invited to dinner with my daughter. It was held at the house they are renting while they are here on furlough from their missionary post in Goure, Niger.

The WARC Band Challenge was great fun. I see you've got it running again in 2007. Think I'll run QRP only and see what I can do - Hi !

The WARC bands continue to amaze me, especially the DX you can work. I worked 111 countries and all continents.

73, Stan - K4UK

Thanks for your comments and observations over the past twelve months Stan. I had originally envisaged it for a one year operation, but many contacted me to ask if it would be operational again in 2007. So I've decided t continue it for a further year, and

lets hope more members come on board and realise the potential of these underused allocations.

Stan contacted me later to see his breakdown of the years operation during his WARC Challenge entry. Makes interesting reading, and, as many of you are aware, Stan operated mobile on the WARC bands during his trips to and from his golf course.

Rob - M0BPT:

I spent some time Monday reviewing my overall Log. You might find some of the "data" interesting:

Of the 1014 QSO's I made this year on the WARC bands:

619 were on 30 Meters, 389 were on 17 Meters and 6 on 12 Meters

462 were with FISTS members, 15 were with FISTS clubs and 537 were with non-members.

Those 1014 QSO's were with 727 different stations:

284 different FISTS members, 13 different FISTS Clubs, 430 different non-members

I worked 378 different grids and worked FISTS members in 186 different grids. Breakdown by band:

30 Meters - 281 different grids - FISTS in 151 grids

17 Meters - 218 different grids - FISTS in 59 grids

12 Meters - 4 different grids - FISTS in 2 grids

Ended up with a total of 177 QSO's on the WARC bands while operating mobile:

37 were on 30 Meters and 140 were on 17 Meters

61 were with FISTS members and 116 were with non-members

Worked 130 different grids - FISTS in 49 grids

Sure hope we can get more FISTS members over here in the "Colonies" to participate in the Challenge this new year. And I hope more of them will send you their logs.

Thanks for all the work you do promoting contests for FISTS. Hopefully one of these days I may have a QSO with M0BPT - Hi !

73, Stan - K4UK

Thanks for taking the time to give us an overall summary of the year.

What did come as a surprise to me was the ability to make a 177 QSO's whilst mobile!

For anyone who is not aware, Stan only uses 14w approx from a K2 to a mobile vertical aerial. And it is actually

"Mobile in Motion"

Also heard from Martin, IK2RMZ with his final entry for the year, he also sent in a summary of his years operation.

Hi Robert,

this concludes my contributions for 2007. Dec conditions were mostly unfavorable, it's a pity that I the holidays didn't bring more condx. But to my delight Dec 31 brought a 17m opening and I worked my very last multi on the very last day of the year.

This is my overall DXCC statistics:

IK2RMZ statistics WARC competition 2006

Number of DXCC entities

30m 62

17m 77

12m 37

Total 98

30m

3B8 4L 4X 9A 9H 9J A6 C5 DL EA EA6 EA8 EI ES EW F FO FP G GD GI GJ GM
GW HA HB I JA LA LX LY LZ OE OH OH0 OK OM ON OZ PA RA RA9 S5 SM SP ST
SV T9 TA TF UA2 UN UR VE VK W YI YO YU Z3 ZA ZB

17m

4J 4S 4X 5B 5Z 7X 8P 8Q 9A 9M6 A6 A7 BY C6 C9 CO CT DL EA EA8 EI ES EW
EX F FG FM FP G GD GI GM GW HA HK HL I J5 JA JW KP4 LA LU LZ OH OH0 OK
OM OZ PA PY RA RA9 S9 SM SP SV T9 TA TF TL UN UR V5 VE VU W XE YI YL YO
YU Z3 ZA ZB ZC4 ZL

12m

4X 5B 6W 7Q 9A 9K CT DL EA EA8 EW F G GI GM GW HA HB I LA LY LZ OH0 OK
OM PA RA S5 SM T7 T9 UA2 UR VK YO ZA ZB

The percentage of FISTS QSO does not even reach 12 per cent.

I was surprised about the number of DXCC countries.

Thanks for ur good work all over the year and beyond. I liked all activities but found the WARC most enjoyable. The other activities were equally nice but more intrusive because of the prescribed time frames.

Have an excellent 2007

Thanks for your input Martin. Both yourself and Stan K4UK have been surprised by the potential of the WARC Band allocation. Also Peter, G4LHI has commented over the year that he's found it surprising and enjoyable, and I recollect Peter saying that "He's had more QSO's during the past year on the WARC Bands than ever before" When the three of you examine the final table for 2006, you'll notice just how little separated you, it was the Multiplier squares that boosted the overall scores!

From Peter, M5ABN. Regarding the Activity ladder.

Well, only managed to get into the shack for a short time, what with family etc. Still every little helps
My log is attached, and am looking forward to this year's activities. All the best & and thanks again.

73 de Peter M5 ABN #6423

Thanks for your support over the year Peter, As you quite rightly say "Every little helps" (Said the old lady) :-)

I've left the final summing up of the year to our dear friend and stalwart supporter of the FISTS activity scene, Peter, G4LHI.

Hello Robert

Firstly let me take this opportunity to wish you both & all your family a very Healthy & trouble free, Happy New Year from Jean & me & to thank you for all your help & support during 2006.

Looking forward to trying out your well-prepared "Activity Plan" in 2007.

Now to the work in hand!! I have attached both of my claims for December.

LADDER.

Conditions & other contests not cause any great problems this month, just the lack of Fists Members support. I know it was a Bank Holiday weekend but the QRP guys were out in force & having a whale of a time in their "Winter Sport" hi. I do hope all your efforts to encourage the Fists Activities for 2007 are not in vain Robert, but at least there should be no complaints & "I did not know anything about it" with all the publicity you have given to the 2007 activities mate I guess my score of 36 is not too bad considering & I did work 3 new members, Vern M0WQR, 12550, Phil 2E0BBP, 12544 (I was his first ever Fists QSO) & Michael 2E0BFO, 12506. I would like to thank them all also all the other stalwart members who gave me support for this month & all other activities during the year & hope to find them & a lot of new members many times during 2007 activities.

WARC BAND CHALLENGE.

Great fun as always, with very low propagation conditions it was again a bit of a struggle & the majority of my points scored were single non Fists squares & I only managed 2 multiplier squares

this month, but guess at the end of the year I had just about saturated what Fists squares I could work. Hope conditions improve in 2007 & we can find a lot more Fists squares to log. I must once again thank all those stalwart members that have given me maximum points again during December & also thank all members that have been there when there was an opening slot during the year & hope those slots get bigger in 2007 & we can make good use of them to fill in those Fists members squares. I did manage two very difficult QSO's with David VK3DBD 3756, during Dec, not a whisper from over the pond, but very grateful for maximum points from our dear friend Erkki, OH7QR 8318, many thanks.

Not a lot of DX this month, just a JA & 3XD for one point each, but fairly good reports with my little bit of wire 30m dipole.

That's about it for 2006 Robert, I do hope you get a good response from members during 2007, but you can rest assured that I will still be there pestering you with my claims etc hi hi

Thanks for your summary of December with both activities Peter, I was heartened when I saw your three new QSO's, all member numbers are quite recent ones, and especially pleased to see that your were the 1st in 2E0BBP's log of FISTS QSO's. It does tell us that our members are becoming more and more active as time goes on. Whether or not they enter the activities, its always nice to get the new (And not so new) members in the log.

I received an email from Paul, F2YT FISTS #12511 Early in the New Year, telling me that he'd mailed a December entry for the WARC Challenge to me, and duly after a few days, the postman knocked on the door at M0BPT and thrust his pencil at me with the words "Sign for this" Paul's log had arrived.

On opening it, I had to look in amazement at the entry, no less that Thirty, yes, THIRTY A4 pages containing his December entry of contacts on 30, 17, and 12m. On checking through the log quickly before continuing with whatever else I was doing at the time I realized this was going to be an exceptional entry, when I'd sat down at my desk and digested all the information contained in the log sheets, I had to sit back and take in the magnitude of the entry for one month! After entering it into Excel and doing my checks for the usual errors, (As one or two of you know when you receive a mail from me saying "Can't allow that!) I marveled at the score. You'll see it in the table, but I'll tell you that in one month, Paul amassed a total of 836 points with 58 multipliers to achieve a score of 48488 points! This has catapulted him into fourth place overall! Amazing!! Well done Paul! And thanks for your entry. I believe he only found out about the WARC Challenge when speaking to one of our entrants during a QSO on there.

OK, Let look at the final tables for 2006. Firstly the Activity Ladder.

FISTS LADDER TOTALS 2006

CALL	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DECE	TOTAL
G4LHI	42	39	42	47	46	36	43	38	42	52	43	36	506
G6GUN	35	41	37	45	35	42	39	23	24	47	28	0	396
M5ABN	43	31	35	32	0	26	31	32	44	20	12	14	320
IK2RMZ	0	0	0	39	9	28	30	31	25	0	0	0	162
M0DRK	15	0	14	22	17	8	12	12	12	16	13	0	141
OH7QR	5	13	25	8	0	7	2	12	2	10	0	8	92
M0BHA	12	19	12	22	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	79
2E0TEK	20	0	21	0	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	73
MX5HDF	6	9	9	7	13	0	11	7	0	10	0	0	72
G8XGQ	8	6	12	4	0	6	10	0	6	6	4	0	62
G0XAH	0	0	11	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28
M0CMQ	0	0	0	0	4	6	5	6	6	0	0	0	27
DL1GBZ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	0	0	24
M5FRA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	6	0	22
GM4WZL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	2	0	16
G0OYH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	15
PA3AFF	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10

As you can see, Peter, G4LHI came through in the end to take first place this year, although not as close as last year, if you remember, Peter, M5ABN pipped G4LHI at the finishing post to win by a margin of just two points. Congratulations Peter for the 2006 win, Congratulations go also to Bob, G6GUN for getting second place, and again congratulations to Peter, M5ABN for third place, and also commiserations for not repeating last years success.

Thank you all for your support throughout 2006.
Certificates to the first three.

On to the WARC Challenge

G3ZQS WARC BAND CHALLENGE MONTHLY TOTALS 2006

CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL	MULTIES	MASTER	CALL	PWR
K4UK	57	93	112	173	130	134	132	135	93	194	107	138	1498	186	278628	K4UK	QRO
IK2RMZ	0	0	9	237	215	173	113	107	215	215	51	92	1427	82	117014	IK2RMZ	QRO
G4LHI	77	78	88	125	130	94	112	93	73	150	140	140	1300	63	81900	G4LHI	QRO
F2YT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	836	836	58	48488	F2YT	QRO
G3ASG	0	26	133	196	0	0	155	313	166	108	0	0	1097	39	42783	G3ASG	QRO
OH7QR	18	25	31	30	14	11	5	11	5	50	46	32	278	16	4448	OH7QR	MIXED
DL1GBZ	0	0	0	96	15	70	35	26	0	22	28	0	292	15	4380	DL1GBZ	QRO
DQ35AGCW	0	0	0	0	0	0	275	83	0	0	0	0	358	11	3905	DQ35AGCW	QRO
G0UQF	20	5	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	75	10	750	G0UQF	QRO
M5ABN	23	20	18	20	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	89	7	623	M5ABN	QRO
KI4DEF	0	0	0	27	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	56	14	784	KI4DEF	QRP
2E0TEK	23	0	10	10	23	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	78	3	234	2E0TEK	QRO
G6GUN	22	8	0	0	0	8	18	0	0	0	0	0	56	4	224	G6GUN	QRO
G0XAH	0	0	26	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	49	4	196	G0XAH	QRO
GX2HDF	0	6	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	2	30	GX2HDF	QRP
DQ2006A	0	0	0	0	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	1	19	DQ2006A	QRO
G8XGQ	6	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	12	1	12	G8XGQ	QRO

Congratulations to Stan, K4UK for taking first place with an exceptional score. As you may know, Stan spent most of his operational amateur time on the WARC frequencies during 2006 and has been justly rewarded. you'll notice from his report earlier in the publication that he has been surprised by the potential of these much underrated frequencies.

Congratulations also to Martin, IK2RMZ who has produced a very good return during 2006, eventually overtaking Peter, G4LHI during the latter part of the year to gain second place.

Congratulations to our dear friend and stalwart supporter of the FISTS Challenge scene, Peter, G4LHI for achieving third place. Peter fought hard throughout 2006 dividing his time between this and the other FISTS activities to gain this position. Peter also commented on his surprise of the abilities of the WARC frequencies and was having a good time meeting up with old FISTS friends on there!

Congratulations also to Kevin, KI4DEF who takes the QRP Certificate for 2006.

And mention must go too, to Erkki OH7QR, another stalwart supporter of the FISTS Challenges for his (And only) mixed log entry during 2006. I'm using my discretion and sending Erkki a certificate marking his achievement as more than 90% of his QSO's were done with QRP output (5W) and the remainder with no more than 50W.

Incidentally, Stan, K4UK informs me that he's going to run QRP only with the WARC during 2007 just to set himself an extra challenge and see how well he can do!

Thanks again to you all for your support. Congratulations to all who worked so hard during the year to achieve your goals. And I hope during 2007 you may do even better if you decide to enter again.

I shall be contacting the award recipients during the next few days.

Thanks to you all for taking time out during 2006 to get involved with what's been happening and thanks for taking time to send in your observations, comments, statistics etc. for all to read. Hope you'll do the same in 2007. Without your input there'll be no Brasspounder!

From a personal point of view, how Brasspounder has evolved over the past year has surprised me somewhat! As you all know, it only started out as a quick "This is what's happening" Newsletter so everyone knew who they had to catch up with during the Ladder activity.

I hear from people in different parts of the globe, who, just a matter of months ago, were complete strangers. And now I'm pleased to call them friends!

And all through this wonderful hobby of ours!

Amazing!!

It all adds to the theory;

AMATEUR RADIO ENTHUSIASTS ARE NOT STRANGERS,

JUST FRIENDS WHO HAVE NEVER MET!

Sincere good wishes to you all during 2007

73,

Keep bashing the Brass



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