

BRASSPOUNDER



JULY 2006

For those within FISTS who enjoy a challenge.

Contents this month

Faces behind the keys

This months Postbag

Update on DQ35AGCW from Martin #835, DL1GBZ/IK2RMZ

Band reports

The International G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest

Forthcoming FISTS Straight Key Week

Results Tables

Editors Comments

Obituary

Hi all

Our weather in the UK has been nothing short of amazing during July!

This glorious climate we've experienced has had a lot of us running for the shade.

(Me included)

Comments received from members telling me how hot it was in the shack and how they preferred to be outside doing other things and enjoying the warm spell.

Hence the monthly return suffered, but you have to make the most of this fine weather.

Before I start with the business in hand this month

I want to show these images of

“Faces behind the keys”

The first one sent by our friend Peter, G4LHI.



Hello Robert,

The rogues gallery from Huntingdon hi.

It is not very often that we all manage to get to the Huntingdon Radio Club, but this was such a unique occasion that we could not resist the temptation of a group photo, so here it is for your publication.

It was a joint effort. Frank, G4MSQ. (A Fists member who is not very active yet) Took the shot, Derek doctored it up a bit then sent it to Bob who added the callsigns who then sent it to me to circulate, phew.

Thanks for the image Peter.

Nice to see you all getting together.

Incidentally the lads from Huntingdon are involved in a Rally on the 28 th of August.

For more information visit;

www.hunts-hams.co.uk

I've also heard from Adriaan, PA0ATG

Who, you may remember was pleased to receive the 2 nd place certificate

(Representing the Benelux-QRP Club)

In the Class "B" section of the EUCW QRS Party held earlier this year.

Dr OM Robert,

Attached a picture showing me and the award.

Very hot in the shack today.



Age 68 yrs. Licensed since 1965.

Always using a CW key (I have six keys and only one microphone).

Using an old HW-8, TS120V or new IC-703 for QRP-QSO's and a TS430S for QRO-QSO's in CW.

Antennas: 20m end fed wire antenna and a GPA-30 vertical on the roof of the house.

95% of QSO's are with CW only. During JOTA or Club Activities I use the microphone.

73, de Adriaan, PA0ATG.

I'm very pleased to receive and publish the image and information from you Adriaan.

Glad to hear you're pleased with the award.

Lets have some more images like these!

It's nice for members to see the faces behind the key!!

This months "POSTBAG"

From Mark, M0CMQ

"Many thanks for Brasspounder.

I will be hoping to work the WARC bands with my recently installed radials for 30m and 17m.

(12m not available just now)

On my Sandpiper V9 vertical"

Mark goes on to ask what are the best times are to operate on these bands.

Now, I've my own opinions on the vagaries of 30m and 17m.

But lets throw it open to discussion within Brasspounder and I'll look forward to your thoughts and responses to Marks question and we'll publish all the offerings in future issues.

I know there is many experienced and not so experienced amateurs out there so pass on your experience or your opinions. Email or post them to me.

From Martin, who was operating the DQ35AGCW call.

(also signing/DL1GBZ)

"I have just finished my first campaign as DQ35AGCW. I made more than 800

QSO's in 5 days that was far more than I expected.

The weather helped a lot because it was so hot in the Black Forest that outdoor activities were impossible.

And the new super swimming pool for the town is late and won't be open before next week. That was bad luck for the swimming and relaxation but good luck for the QSO rate."

I did work a few FISTS-members; too, PA3AFF and G4LHI are in the log for sure.

I'll try to re-activate DQ35AGCW from August 14-18 and I would be happy to receive any sked request.

If all fails, the official call owner [DL1AH dl1ah@agcw.de](mailto:DL1AH@agcw.de) would accept the sked request, too.

Later, Martin contacted me again to thank me for publicising his activities with DQ35AGCW

And went on to say;

These are the QSO's I had with fellow FISTS members:

F5NTP 20060711 1913 20M CW 599 VA3UU 20060711 1921 20M CW 599
F6IIE 20060713 0648 40M CW 599 SM5JAB 20060710 1134 30M CW 599
G0CHV 20060710 0727 20M CW 599 PA7RA 20060711 1117 30M CW 599
G0GYY 20060711 0603 40M CW 599 PA3AFF 20060711 1505 40M CW 599
G0IUM 20060713 1827 10M CW 599 PA3AFF 20060710 1919 80M CW 599
G0LWI 20060711 2013 20M CW 599 PA3AFF 20060710 0931 30M CW 599
G0TBD 20060713 1146 30M CW 599 PA0FAW 20060710 1103 30M CW 599
G0VFX 20060711 0543 40M CW 599 ON6ZJ 20060714 1034 30M CW 599
G3CWW 20060713 1414 12M CW 599 ON6ZJ 20060714 1023 40M CW 599
G3HAL 20060712 1546 30M CW 599 ON6ZJ 20060714 1023 40M CW 599
G3ICO 20060713 1115 20M CW 599 ON4LBV 20060711 2003 20M CW 599
G3KYF 20060713 1436 20M CW 599 LZ1CY 20060711 1911 20M CW 599
G3LIK 20060710 1110 30M CW 599 LZ1AF 20060711 1958 20M CW 599
G3NYY 20060711 1549 40M CW 599 I2VRF 20060710 1415 20M CW 599
G4LHI 20060712 1145 30M CW 599 I1MQ 20060711 2024 20M CW 599
G4MSR 20060711 1556 40M CW 599 I1MQ 20060711 0659 40M CW 599

G4OEC 20060712 0742 20M CW 599 GM0VIT 20060711 1147 20M CW 599

G4PRL 20060714 1518 40M CW 599 GB2MC 20060712 1032 30M CW 599

G4SOZ 20060710 0830 17M CW 599 G8VG 20060712 1641 30M CW 599

G4WZI 20060713 1827 10M CW 599 G6NHY 20060710 0609 20M CW 599

G4ZIB 20060710 1449 40M CW 599 G4ZPI 20060710 1932 80M CW 599

Thanks for the information Martin.

It's nice to see that EU members are present on the bands, with a good few members from the UK also active.

(Where are they on the ladder weekends?)

Here's a thought from Martin, which is again open to discussion.

How to ask for the locator on the air?

Correct answer: LOC? (This short answer is even recommended by the IARU I believe)

Old answer: QRA? This is a Q-code abuse which existed up to the early 1980's

when our locators had the format AA00a. In some Latin countries QRA? is

understood as "what's your name?".

Equally non-compliant with international Q-code but quite common and not too ambiguous since most of us don't have their ham radio stations aboard a ship :-)

US answer: pse ur grid square, or: grid? The US stations seem to be the only ones in the world who prefer our generous 4 character format.

UK answer: anything but not the US version since it will most certainly

Prompt a reply with a WAB grid.

JA answer: GL? meaning grid locator.

WWL? (world wide locator) seems to be used very little.

From Peter, G4LHI regarding the ladder weekend.

Started off very poorly Sunday afternoon session, lots of long gaps, began to think would be a very poor claim, but thanks to the boys in Dudley it was a fair effort, but a lot of the regulars were missing, can't blame the footy this month, guess it was the warm wx & they were all at the coast.

But Peter M5ABN & David G3LUB took their rigs with them & worked /P from their holiday location, that's what I call "keen" hi, many thanks lads.

I enjoyed " Brasspounder" again, many thanks for that.

Thanks for your kind words Peter.

from Mark, M0CMQ and Derek, M0DRK regarding the ladder.

Mark asks the question

"Where were all our fellow members this weekend"

And Derek comments

"Many thanks to those stations who I worked for the points"

Also from Peter, M5ABN

Regarding the ladder weekend

The first four hours were from Thetford Forest where I was for the weekend in the caravan, and I was operating from the boot of the car !! Rig used was my Yaesu FT 857 and an 80M whip borrowed from Peter G4LHI and tied to a wooden post about 2 feet above ground level. The second session from the home QTH on Sunday using my Icom 746 into G5RV, not much activity on Sunday so was very pleased to work MX5HDF and also GX2HDF, thanks lads for activating the club stations for us.

73 for now,

Peter M5ABN #6423

From Stan K4UK

Sure enjoy the monthly newsletter.

Bands have not been too bad this month, but other than Peter, G4LHI I'm still not hearing many FISTS members over on your side of the pond. Continue to work folks like Andy, HB9CVQ and the various DQ2006 stations.

Did work Del, KL7HF in Anchorage on 18.076 MHz on the 3rd. Also Gian, I2VRF called me in answer to my CQ on 10.118 MHz on the 6th.

Other "DX" includes: Frank, GI4NKB in Belfast; John, ZL1BYZ in Paerata; and FISTS members Tony, EI5EM in Dublin and Josh, 6Y5WJ in Malvern.

Look forward to QSO with you one of these days.

Thanks for your comments Stan.

It was a pleasure to see you worked Gian, "Very Reliable Fellow" I haven't heard him myself for sometime now. Pleased to hear that he's still active.

I was hoping to get back on air pretty soon, although I've suffered a bit of a setback owing to the asbestos that's been found in the soffit and fascia boards at the new home, hence we're now

waiting for the scaffolding to be erected around the place and a specialist firm to be present to remove the offending material. So no aerial farm will be put up yet.

But I look forward to hearing your signals in the ether in the not too distant future.

[I heard from Stan later when he sent in his monthly WARC return.](#)

[He had this to say;](#)

Wow! what a finish to July. I was trying to get up to 100,000 points during the month, but couldn't find many new multipliers until the last four days. Then I picked up 10 new ones. July turned out to be the second best month so far.

Lots of thanks to Rob, K0RU, who took a trip from his home in Gardner, KS to the West end of the state and then back home by way of Oklahoma. He got me four new grids -

DM99, DM98, DM97 and EM06.

The only new "DX" grids I got this month were Gian, I2VRF (JN45) and Tony, EI5EM (IO63)

So, I did get to the 100,000 point goal.

I've had 91 QSO's on the WARC bands while mobile in motion, most of them on 17 Meters.

I continue to get a big kick out of the Challenge.

Stan is still "Mobile in motion" on a weekly basis.

As I remember, there's only Peter, G4LHI, that I'm aware of who's worked Stan whilst on the way to golf course. Stan would be only too pleased to work any of our EU FISTS members.

Listen out for him.

[From Peter, G4LHI regarding the WARC Challenge.](#)

Here we are again & enclose my July WARC Band Claim. I am fairly happy with my scores but did not find, and missed QSO's, with a few of my regular "friends" this month, think the condx were not too good for stateside in July.

I found Martin, IK2RMZ, only once, & nothing from Stan, K4UK at all, hope for better condx in August.

I was very pleased to find a couple of new UK QRA squares, way down South for Mick, G3LIK, & Northern Ireland for George, GI4SRQ, very many thanks for those chaps. I have worked 10 UK QRA squares now & would dearly love to find the rest before the end of the year! You can only dream can't you (hi).

[John, M0CDL has made me aware of a memorial contest.](#)

[Organised by FISTS USA.](#)

[Here are the full details.](#)

The International G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest

The International G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest will be 2300Z September 8 to 2300Z September 10. Everyone is welcome to participate, but only the logs of those using straight keys for all claimed contacts are eligible for awards. **BANDS:**
Operation is limited to 3.5, 7, 14, 21, and 28 MHz amateur bands. No WARC bands.
Work stations only once per band.

ENTRY CLASSES:

There are three entry classes:

QRO: QRP: Club: Entry class MUST be shown on logs to be considered for entry in a particular class, or will be assumed QRO.

An entry must be ONE class only, no combination of classes is allowed.

CALL: CQ FS (short for fists straight = straight key)

EXCHANGE: RST, U.S. state/Canadian province/DXCC country, first name, FISTS number (or power output for non-FISTS).

MULTIPLIERS:

Each U.S. State and Canadian province counts as 1 multiplier. Count each only once, no matter how many times worked.

Each DXCC entity counts as 1 multiplier. Count each no matter how many times worked.

SCORING:

Each QSO with a FISTS member: 5 points.

Each QSO with a non-FISTS member: 2 points.

Final score is total QSO points times multipliers.

Logs within 30 days to Lee Hallin N7NU 3413 Walton Ln, Eugene OR 97408

Or email (ADIF, Excel or ASCII format) to hallin-L@lanec.edu Logs must indicate type of key used.

Our own "Straight Key week" will be starting during September.

Here's a reminder of the rules.

Join in the fun, if you're not fussed about sending in an entry, come on air (At a speed you're comfortable with) and give your number away to the members who are. You may find you'll enjoy it and decide to send an entry in!

STRAIGHT KEY WEEK.

0001 UTC on 3rd September to 2359 on 9th September 06.

Frequencies; All licensed amateur bands except the WARC bands.

Scoring; 3 points for a Club Station, 2 points for a Fists Member, 1 point for a Non Member.

Exchanges to be RST/NAME/QTH/FISTS No or NM/DAY No.

Sunday is Day 1 Monday is Day 2 and so on To Saturday as Day 7.

All entrants must have used a straight Key for all their QSO's but the worked station does not have to use a straight key.

PLEASE vacate or pass on the FIST calling frequency after 5 continuous QSO's or QSY off the calling frequency .

LOGS to include DATE/CALL/NAME/QTH/QRG/RST/TIME/FIST Nr or NM/DAY No/POINTS.

All entries to be received by the 23 rd September 06.

PLEASE NOTE, These contests are meant to be fun and friendly as well as competitive.

Any contact not showing the required return information will be excluded from the total scores.

All entries (IN EXCEL FORMAT please) can be received by post or E-mail to;

R.D.Walker. 125, Devereux Road, West Bromwich. B70 6RQ.

m0bpt@blueyonder.co.uk

With most of the various clubs and organisations operating a gentleman's agreement as to their chosen calling Frequencies and the growing number of amateurs using the bands a clear frequency is sometimes hard to find And as the main aim of all our contests/challenges is for them to be friendly and fun as well as competitive, and to hopefully Attract more participants I am asking you all to pass on the calling frequency after 5 QSO's, or to QSY off the Calling frequency. This I hope will encourage others to take part and call CQ when the frequency is clear or Handed to them after the 5 QSO's.

From a post by Ralph, ZL2AOH

"One of our Down Under members VK4BCM-Bevan-9053 is going to be staying in Godalming during September/October. He would like to eyeball with any FISTS members in the vicinity.

If anyone can help, please email me direct at zl2aoh@ihug.co.nz and I will make the necessary introductions."

Vy 73 de

Ralph Sutton ZL2AOH

Here are the results tables for the month of July.

FISTS LADDER

TOTALS 2006

CALL	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
G4LHI	42	39	42	47	46	36	43						295
G6GUN	35	41	37	45	35	42	39						274
M5ABN	43	31	35	32	0	26	31						198
IK2RMZ	0	0	0	39	9	28	30						106
M0DRK	15	0	14	22	17	8	12						88
M0BHA	12	19	12	22	0	0	14						79
2E0TEK	20	0	21	0	32	0	0						73
OH7QR	5	13	25	8	0	7	2						60
MX5HDF6	9	9	7	7	13	0	11						55
G8XGQ	8	6	12	4	0	6	10						46
G0XAH	0	0	11	17	0	0	0						28
M0CMQ	0	0	0	0	4	6	5						15
PA3AFF	0	0	10	0	0	0	0						10

G3ZQS WARC BAND CHALLENGE

MONTHLY TOTALS 2006

CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTALS	MULTIES	MASTER CALL	PWR
K4UK	57	93	111	173	130	134	132						127	105410	K4UK	QRO
G4LHI	77	78	88	125	130	94	112						49	34496	G4LHI	QRO
IK2RMZ	0	0	9	237	215	173	113						37	27639	IK2RMZ	QRO
G3ASG	0	26	133	196	0	0	155						22	11220	G3ASG	QRO
DQ35AGCW	0	0	0	0	0	0	275						10	2750	DQ35AGCW	QRO OPERATOR DL1GBZ
DL1GBZ	0	0	0	96	15	70	35						9	1944	DL1GBZ	QRO
OH7QR	18	25	31	30	14	11	5						9	1206	OH7QR	MIXED
G0UQF	20	5	50	0	0	0	0						10	750	G0UQF	QRO
M5ABN	23	20	18	20	0	0	8						7	623	M5ABN	QRO
KI4DEF	0	0	0	27	29	0	0						14	433	KI4DEF	QRP
G6GUN	22	8	0	0	0	8	18						4	224	G6GUN	QRO
G0XAH	0	0	26	23	0	0	0						4	196	G0XAH	QRO
2E0TEK	23	0	10	10	23	0	0						1	66	2E0TEK	QRO
GX2HDF	0	6	4	5	0	0	0						2	30	GX2HDF	QRP
DQ2006A	0	0	0	0	0	19	0						1	19	DQ2006A	QRO OPERATOR DL1GBZ
G8XGQ	6	0	0	0	0	0	6						1	12	G8XGQ	QRO

I was pleased to see a breakdown of FISTS members worked by Martin when operation with DQ35AGCW. The amount of EU/UK members who called in to work him with the call is very encouraging. This tells me that folk are realising that our society is still active, and are using their membership numbers on air again.

This, I think has a lot to do with the hard work done by Paul, M0BMN and faithful allies who work with him to get KEYNOTE printed, packaged, and off to the Post-office. Plus the electronic version that arrives in members mailboxes.

I'm hoping that, now things are becoming much more encouraging, that perhaps we'll see them active during challenge/ladder weekends! As I've said earlier, "If they're not too bothered about sending an entry in, wouldn't it be fine if they'd come on air and give away their numbers to members who are"

I'm also heartened when reading the reflector, posts saying "Hi all, I'm pleased to let you know that I've received my membership number, it's xxxxx, looking forward to hearing you on air soon using my number" Something else I've noticed is the fact that a significant number are folk who

have entered our hobby since the 12wpm code pass requirement for HF was abolished. And are learning the mode not out of necessity to do so but (As I would imagine) as a challenge.

This is why we should encourage the use of slow code on air, how many of us have listened to the nervous beginner, (We were all there at one time in our lives) Sending a "CQ" only to answered by a "Pneumatic Drill"

I know that a few of our members take time to go on air and actively encourage slow code transmissions. Also members still take time to learn others, either at their home or on air. We should applaud these actions and take time to go and join them, this is the only way that we're going to keep the CW side of our hobby active!

So if you're in QSO with another member, stop and have a think about who might be listening!

"Accuracy Transcends Speed"

"Courtesy at all times"

This is the only way we're going to encourage people to discover CW.

OBITUARY

Finally, a few words from me paying tribute to a West Midlands amateur, who sadly became silent key recently.

Tony Faulkner, GOSKG was always to be heard on 2m sending CW From Dudley when the old 12wpm Morse pass was a requirement to access the HF bands. Tutoring class "B" amateurs to the 12wpm requirement.

I can recollect one or two members of FISTS who used to go on air and listen to his broadcasts when trying to achieve the 12wpm pass.

Tony had suffered with Multiple Sclerosis for many years and although his condition "Got him down" from time to time he always enjoyed giving his on air lessons.

I was privileged on two occasions to repay his kindness, by helping to set up and operate special event stations at his respite care home in Warwickshire during their fundraising weekends.

Without his ongoing enthusiasm for the mode I'm sure there are many amateurs in the area that would not have been successful in the 12wpm code pass.

A lasting memory of Tony will be the time when he sat in his wheelchair at a rally sometime ago bartering with Martin Lynch about the price of a pair of Yaesu headphones for his FT1000MP.

(I'm pretty sure Martin gave in and let him have them at the price he wanted to pay)

All who knew him will miss him.

(From Martin on hearing of his passing.)

"Pity he's gone. He was a character and all of us will miss him at ML&S."

Regards

Martin Lynch G4HKS.

ML&S Martin Lynch & Sons Ltd

Outline House 73 Guildford Street,

Chertsey, Surrey. KT16 9AS UK

**That's all from me this month, lots of topics covered, a bumper edition of
"Brasspounder"**

As ever, I can be contacted at

m0bpt@blueyonder.co.uk

73, "Keep bashing the brass"



[back to homepage](#)