

# BRASSPOUNDER



July 2010 (Issue 52)

Welcome to the July edition.

Apologies for a later than usual edition this month, other commitments and whistle stop visit to Somerset has put me behind schedule. Incidentally, I noticed, South of Weston, on the A38; an impressive aerial farm consisting of a couple of towers which were supporting three HF Beams and an inverted vee wire.

Lets take alook at some of the reports received this month.

From Graham,2E0JYK who comments;

Hi Rob,

Enclosed my entry for the July ladder activity,I've had a very good time making these contacts, and thoroughly enjoyed the time on radio and look forward to getting more experienced with CW and meeting members on air. A thank you must go to G4LHI and others for their patience an time on air.

73. Graham 2E0JYK

Good to hear from you Graham, I'm sure the guys are very happy to spend time and help you along. After all, thats what we're all about!

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And from M6PHL

Hello Robert,

Please find attached my log for the July Fists Ladder.

Conditions still not the best on 80m but many thanks to all those I worked again this month including G4LNA Paul, and G3AHS Dawson, for the first time on the Ladder.

Hopefully conditions will improve before too long.

Why don't some of our new members join in?, it has been a great way for me as a relative newcomer to 'cut my teeth' into the world of CW, QRS QSO's very much the order of the day. Hi!

See you all again next month .

73  
Phil  
M6PHL  
Fists: 14543

Good to hear from you Phil. A valid point you make, it's always good to hear new members on the band.

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From Erkki, OH7QR

Hello Robert,

Attached my Ladder log for July. I forgot the sprint but I was participating in the Straight Key Day of SCAG on the Midsummer Day.

On 25th we were away but considering the Ladder I took my mobile equipment in the car. I was pleased to meet Peter. Also Dan G0SXM gave me a point. Many thanks both.

We are going to Sweden the next week and will return home on 8th August. I am not sure if I can participate in the Ladder. The ride from Vaasa to Tuusniemi is over 400 km and I'll perhaps be too tired after driving.

The new record temperature on our (unofficial!) digital thermometer was at 16:30 local time 32,9 C.

73  
Erkki OH7QR

Erkki's email was sent to me on the 28th of July! So 32.9c, not bad at all! I always admire Erkki's resolve with the ladder and other activities, taking the mobile equipment to keep in touch, I hope Leena didn't mind Erkki? Here's where a mention must go to the long suffering XYL's..Thanks from us all to you all for your patience and understanding!

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And from Jeremy G0AZR

Hope you are well young man.

July....well better than last month but I am realising that QRP is fun but not as lucrative in contacts. Having said that I enjoy it as much as QRO so no problem there. This month saw me manage to get a full half wave for 80mtrs up as an inverted V at 30 feet. \*Great says he....this will burn them up\*.

Nope....new aerial on East West axis.....much less QRN, but no signal strength into parts of Europe. I failed to work Erkki on the 25th,(he was 5.8.9 with me) and we are usually in direct contact. Peter, G4LHI, gave me 2.2.9 on 80mtrs.....if I plug in the old,low slung, noisy dipole on the North South axis.....better signal reports.

All good fun Rob.

Best wishes to all concerned

Keep taking the tablets

73

Jeremy  
G0AZR

Greetings Jeremy. Like the opening line mate, "Young man"; you've got my vote for "Fist of the year" (Hi). Didn't feel like taking one tablet when I read that comment!

To continue with your words regarding the inverted Vee. I've had much the same problem when trying these out, I've followed instructions from peers on this subject, fed with both coaxial and twin feeder, at best, I've found them to be as deaf as a post and poor on TX.

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And fro Peter G4LHI

Hello Robert,

I attach my claim & report for the July Ladder.

In spite of clashing with the F1 on the 25<sup>th</sup> & pretty ruff conditions on the bands again it was a bit of a struggle to get a decent score again this month, perhaps conditions will improve soon?

I did get the opportunity to be on for all four sessions this month & have chosen the two that give me the most points of course. Apologies to the guys I worked but could not claim, but enjoyed the chats & that is what this event is all about, having fun & meeting up with new & old friends, & trying to encourage new members to have a

go, it's great fun & please don't be afraid to ask for QRS if you find you are having difficulties, this is an ideal event to get some "on air" practice, come & join us. I did have 8 QSO's for 16 points on the 11<sup>th</sup> evening session & in the afternoon session on the 25<sup>th</sup> 9 QSO's for 16 points, (two non fists QSO's), giving me a very low total for July of 32 points, but as always a very enjoyable event & nice to meet new & old friends again, albeit not the sort of condx for a good old chat. Very many thanks to all for the QSO's the signals were up & down on all stations, but we made it.

I was very pleased to work two new members, ON4YZ, Jake 14592, & Fred, M0ICW, 9870, QSL's via the Buro in due course.

G3SCD (VK3DBD) David who is on holiday in Lincolnshire , still joining in the Ladder, hope you worked a few guys mate & many thanks again for chat & points for Ladder.

I see Graham, 2E0JYK, # 14822, joined in again this month, many thanks for the points Graham, looks like Graham is going to be a regular on the Ladder lets hope we can encourage a few more newer members to take an example from him, well done Graham.

That's all for now folks, see you on the Ladder in August, will also soon be the SK Week hi.

73/88 de Peter G4LHI # 2219 & Jean

Hello Peter.

To echo sentiments by M6PHL and yourself, it is good to see newer members on air during any activity, looking at logs received, I see many new members in peoples logs, always gratifying. It's always a pleasure too; to see early FISTS numbers in members logs.

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And from Piet PA3AFF

Dr Robert,

For the month of July I selected the 3rd timeslot to be active for the Fists ladder competition. Happy to have worked ON4YZ, a new Fists member.

Hope to meet you all next month.

73 Piet PA3AFF Fists 445

Good to hear from you once again Piet, glad you're finding time to get on mett new members.

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From Bill GOBAK.

Hi Rob,

I hope that I find you and your family well. Please find attached my Log for July 2010.

Once again this month little time was found for playing radio. I could only manage the afternoon session on the 25<sup>th</sup> and the conditions were terrible.

Having said that, I managed a few contacts in order to achieve 11 points. A disappointing score and I feel that I shall be slipping down the Ladder soon.

I made worked two new members to me this month, Wolf, DL1CC and Bert, F6HKA. Both giving me some points on the Ladder and towards my CC award.

This month I have had a 2/70 and 6 meter vertical antenna put up by my good friend M0FJM, Fred. He was kind enough to lift my G7FEK OC Dipole up higher using the pole that supports my new vertical. Weird though, lifting the long leg up to a Horizontal plane from the inverted v position has made things worse. The antenna now is not performing as well as before yet little has changed with the SWR etc when examined with the antenna analyser. I can only assume that before I was getting more of a vertical radiation pattern and now it is maybe more directional. Either way it needs attention.

I will not be active much, if at all during August due to Holidays. We are abroad for the first session and at the In laws Caravan on the East Coast for the second session. If I can get a wire lifted with a Kite I may manage some qrp with the FT817. Either way listen out for G0BAK/P, hi.

Can I just wish Peter G4LHI & Jean my best wishes as I have not had a chat for a while. With conditions being so poor this month, we only managed to exchange details as the band was terrible on 80 metres.

Well that's it for another month. My best wishes to all Fists members.

Bill, G0BAK

Fists 13262.

Hi Bill, Always a pleasure to hear from you, it seems like both yourself and G0AZR have been having aerial problems this month, I wonder if youtwo can open a dialogue and share your findings with us all, or even perhaps one of our aerial peers will offer some guidance? Either way, it'll be good to share your finding with us all via BP.

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From Derek M0DRK

Hi Robert,

Hope all ok with you. Here is my log for the July Ladder. Really nice to have Graham 2E0JYK join us in the Ladder activity. Hope that you are enjoying CW Graham and look forward to many more QSO's with you. Thanks to all who gave me points again.

Mollie and I just got back from North Wales where we had a great time dodging the rain. Weather did not stop us from enjoying visiting areas that we had not seen for about ten years.

Take care Robert, see you next month, 73 from Derek, M0DRK

Good to hear from you once again Derek.

Yes, good to see 2E0JYK joining in, of course, worthy of a mention is, the fact that the higher membership numbers that our newer members hold are a great find for others who are working towards their millionaire award, and/or endorsement sticker if they already hold said award. So the ladder and other activities are a good place to meet and gain the necessary points needed.

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I've received this image and words from Ian G6TGO which made a large grin come to my my face when I read it, I hope it'll make you smile just as much...Read on...

I have been in Cornwall early June 2010 operating 50Mhz QRP bedroom portable with a TS690 Mk2 3w battery operated and a whip aerial see picture. I Worked UW5Y, SM6CCO, SF4J, LA1XFA, SE6Y, LA4KBA all on CW.

Managed a few SSB's as well from the bedroom and even operated from the Marazion Beach car park near Penzance, Cornwall (IO70) this attracted not only the local Police but a passing German Coach party plus a passing chap from a VK on hearing my CW came to see what I was up to!

He was a Radio Amateur but I never asked his call because of the interruption by the local Police. I had a crowd of people around me hence why the Police arrived!

The Police were fascinated that I was sending morse and wondered if I was a Russian spy? their words not mine!. The questioning was in good humour and I

showed them my Licence and an Ofcom contact business card and off they went . Sadly despite my efforts no cw contacts were made from that location but at least a lot of tourists had a picture of an English eccentric at work hi! 73 de IAN.G6TGO.



Well well, a rather unusual way to get the hobby noticed Ian. (Hi)

From a personal point of view, I'm wondering if this sort of "Paranoia"? albeit good humoured, is induced by the changing face of our world these days? Acts of terrorism etc.

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From Gra G3ZOD.

## Ladder

I could only make it for the 27th July this month. All I could hear on 80m in the afternoon was a very weak Peter G4LHI but I didn't succeed in a contact with him. I had more success on 20m, having contacts for the first time with members Wolf DL1CC and Bert F6HKA. The 80m propagation in the evening seemed much improved and this time I did manage to have a QSO with Peter but sadly not with anyone else.

## 6m CW

I'm still bashing away on 6m CW although finding it hard to work any stations that aren't already in my log for this year. Two surprises: working into the USA on my bedroom dipole+25 watts and coming 8 out of 15 in the 6 hour section of the 6m Trophy contest. It goes to show what a big advantage using CW is!

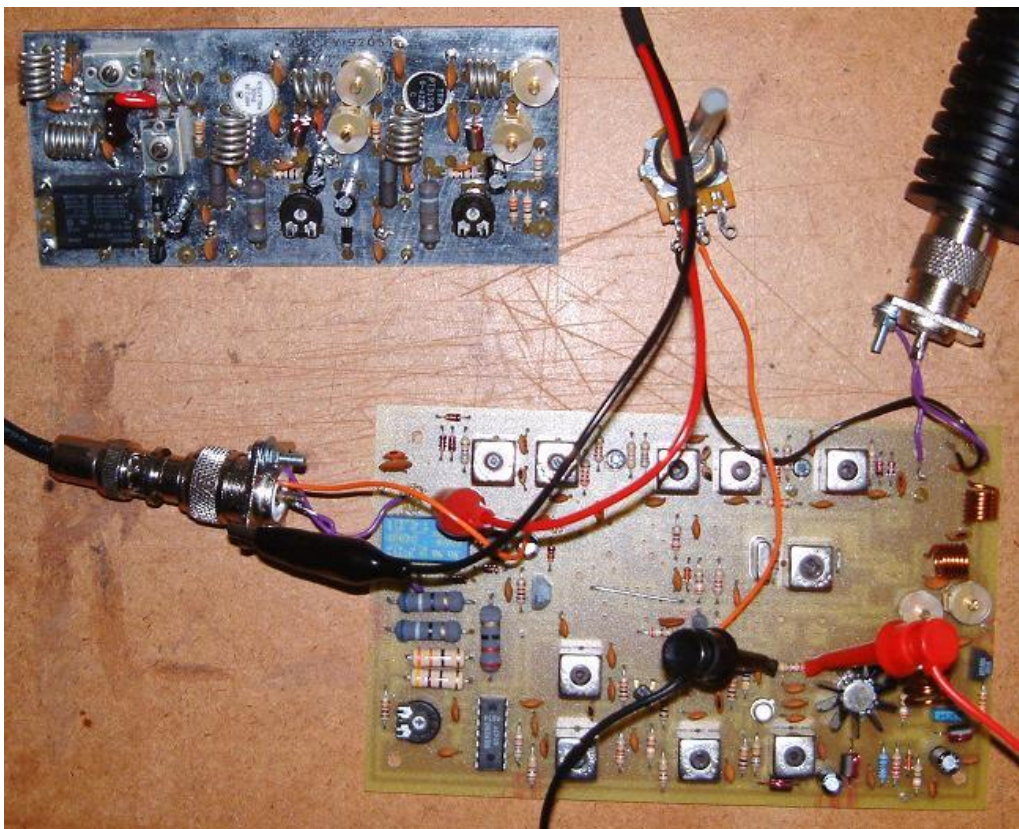
I went on as usual for the July UKAC and thought that I was going to score a "duck". However, three CW stations came to my rescue. I'm very glad to say that two were FISTS members: Roger G3XXR and Paul M0PNN - big thank you chaps!

## 4m CW - beginnings

I thought it was time I got back on 4m after a break of over 35 years and finish off a transverter kit that's been underway rather longer than it should. Here's the beast under test:

(The board at the top left is a PA for it.)

Although I haven't got the transverter transmitting to my satisfaction, it was working enough for me to have



a dabble in the 4m Trophy contest. This is the point I came to realise that working CW on 4m is not like 6m. The band plan doesn't include a sub-band for CW, so I ended up amongst the SSB stations. The inevitable happened and two SSB stations replied to my CQs and consequently I had cross-mode CW/SSB contacts. This is a bit disconcerting as it requires both rapid tuning and also the filtering is a dilemma - setting the DSP narrow gives a better signal to noise ratio for weak CW stations but of course makes SSB unintelligible. Adjusting the filtering *and* the RIT in reply to a station who gives their callsign only once or twice is "interesting", HI. All good fun.

I've found the little spring-loaded clip gizmos a major asset for connecting a test meter. In the past I've accidentally caused shorts trying to use standard meter probes, so these were a worthwhile investment - I'd definitely recommend them to anyone interested in construction



### Awards

Congratulations to Bert F6HKA #14577 on achieving the Millionaire Award.

73 de Graham G3ZOD FISTS #8385

Thanks for all the information and report this month Gra.

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From Sandy G0VQW

The link will take you to my new video on youtube.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EglZZ1vpcQ> Taken whilst on holiday in Pembrokeshire. Features /portable cw operating and a few holiday snaps to boot.

Hope you enjoy it. You might even hear Eddi DK3UZ if you listen carefully!

Unfortunately conditions during the SSN were poor and the G0GSY special had a fault!

Hope you had a good holiday Bryan?

All the best  
Sandy



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I've been asked to remind all who may read this publication to check if your memberships have been renewed; if you haven't please do so without delay should you wish to remain a member.

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That about wraps it up for another month. Just the ladder table to include...BUT... Before I go, and while I have your attention, I'll remind you of FISTS Straight Key Week (SKW) Here's the chance for you all to put your paddles away and blow the dust off the pump keys and get on air and have some FUN!!!

Dates: 5th to the 11th September 2010

Full rules to be found here [events calendar 2010](#) I do hope you'll be able to get on air for the weeks activity, this is the final one of the year. I look forward to meeting you on air with the HQ Call(s) during the week; check the FISTS NG for updates when I'll be active.

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Here's the latest ladder table

CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTALS	PWR
G4LHI	31	38	45	33	31	27	32						237	QRO
G0BAK	21	29	28	29	19	9	11						146	QRO
M6PHL	13	15	28	19	18	18	21						132	QRO
G0AZR	8	29	21	22	23	6	13						122	MIX
OH7QR	16	0	15	24	13	23	23						114	QRO
M0DRK	11	22	20	15	7	6	16						97	QRO
G3ZOD	8	16	11	16	8	13	6						78	QRO
G0OTT	0	19	21	21	0	0	0						61	QRO
M5ABN	0	0	0	16	20	23	0						59	QRO
G3LHJ	0	0	28	20	0	0	0						48	QRO
GI4CBG	6	4	10	14	8	0	6						48	QRO
2E0JCY	0	14	14	19	0	0	0						47	QRO
PA3AFF	0	0	22	0	8	5	11						46	QRO
M5FRA	0	0	0	14	10	0	0						24	QRO
G4MSN	0	11	11	0	0	0	0						22	MIX
2E0JYK	0	0	0	0	0	7	13						20	QRO
G4CMZ	0	0	0	18	0	0	0						18	QRP
M0GGK	7	0	0	0	0	0	0						7	QRO
M0XED	0	0	6	0	0	0	0						6	QRP
PA1SOP	0	0	0	4	0	0	0						4	QRO

Thats all from me for another month. Till next time, keep well;

"Keep pounding Brass"

73. M0BPT



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