

BRASSPOUNDER

May 2008



For those within FISTS who enjoy a challenge

Welcome to the May edition.

Yet another month rolls by, as I prepare this edition of BP We are enjoying some exceptionally nice weather. No doubt as you get to read this, the weather will have changed. I notice, reading from peoples comments, that the bands do seem to be in bad shape. Many have commented just how bad they have been, many have said that 30m has been the only band to show any reasonable response to "CQ's". As the year goes on, lets hope that condx do improve.

Lets get on with this months postbag. Once again, thanks to the people who enter and enjoy the activities, and take time to compile a monthly report or general observations with their entry.

Firstly. From Erkki. OH7QR.

Hello Robert,

Please find attached my Warc Band log for May. I was lucky to get two multipliers: JN45 (IK2RMZ) and KG43 (ZS6ME). Eric sends 73 to Fists Members. On 17th I made a round trip via three locators (KP32, KP33 and KP43). Four Fists-Members were with me during the trip, HI. At last has the summer arrived here. Today the temp has been about 20 degrees.

73 de Erkki OH7QR

Thanks for your report and news of your garden work Erkki. As I've said earlier, we have been enjoying warm temperatures here in the UK. We too have been taking time to attend to gardening chores. Many thanks for the relay of the message from Eric; ZS6ME.

From Peter. G4LHI.

Hello Robert,

I attach my claim for the May 2008 WARC Band Challenge and my report for the very interesting month's activities.

I found 4 new members amongst the 20 new locator (grid) squares I managed to find this month, very many thanks to those new guys and all that made this a very interesting and, as always, a very enjoyable month. Hope the rest of the year is as active & that the bands may be opening up a little for us.

A brief summary of my May log. 167 QSO's for 231 points and 20 multies.

The 20 nice new multies were:- LZ1JZ, Tony, KN22: ZS6ME, Eric, KG43: I5KHX, Daniel, JN52: EA6UN, Jurek, JM19: VQ9LA, Larry, MI61: AB3AB, Mike, FM29: N3IJR, Karl, FN00: KA8HFN, Larry, EN70: OH7QR, Erkki, KP32, KP33, KP43: (tnx mate): K8FN, Bob, EM79: G4AJA, Chris, IO91: G0ANV/M, Daryl, IO70 (hols in Bude, tnx m8): DK7VW, Joe, JN39: F/G4BJM, Fraser, IN96: GI4CRG, Roy, IO72: EA1DR, Oscar, IN83: GM4JUD, Chas, IO86: & Finally, PA3AFF, Piet, Schaft, JO21:

Again, very many thanks to the members and non members that managed to work for the maximum of four QSO's once again this month.

Apart from the DX stations worked in the new grids above, thanks also to IK2RMZ, Martin, KA1RVM, Bill, VK3DBD, David, (in UK now for a few months) WB2MIC, Jozef, IZ1CLB, Matteo, W4YE, Buddy, VK3FGE, David, and finally in the last few minutes of May, hi, K4UK Stan, and thanks also for a nice start to June Stan.

73 until the next time, de Peter G4 LHI # 2219 IO92.

Always a pleasure to receive your report Peter. Again, as mentioned earlier, the WARC Bands (Especially 30m) seem to be the most successful.

From Derek.MØDRK

Hello Robert.

Here are the logs for my Fists Ladder and Warc Band activity during May. Pleased that I managed to do a little better this time. Many thanks to all the stations who gave me points as well as very nice qso. What a splendid chap Erkki OH7QR is, working mobile and giving three multipliers in one day. Thank you very much indeed Erkki.

Very Pleased to meet Chris G4AJA and Paul G4BNU for the first time. It was nice to find Geoff G4AQZ on 30m, hadn't worked him for some time. Good to hear that the sun still shines in Clacton Geoff, hi. Tony G8XGQ and I have A devil of a job working each other on 30m but we managed it once in May, hope we can make it in June Tony.

Thanks for all that you do in keeping things running, hope all ok with you. Take care. 73 for now, Derek M0DRK.

Hello Derek. Thanks for your kind words and enquiry. Yes. We are all well here thanks. Indeed, Erkki has been mentioned to me many times in May regarding his mobile operation and new grid multipliers. I must add my thanks to Erkki too. A thoughtful gesture to all concerned, and all of you who "Followed him around" during his mobile operation are worthy of a mention. Thanks to you all.

From Graham.2E0TEK. Good to have you back in the activities Graham.

Hi Robert

Had a good month for once on the WARC band challenge managed 7 Multipliers and 44 points. I am very pleased with the start although I know it will be hard to follow that score each month. Hope to catch you on air sometime, look forward to next months contests.

Graham 2E0TEK.

An excellent entry Graham, depending on band condx, with results like this every month, you'll be having the others looking over their shoulders (Hi)

From Martin. IK2RMZ.

Hi Robert,

This is my very 1st entry over 300. Thanks to the great round trip of Erkki, there are even quite a few multies. The Activity Week of the German AGCW, several holidays, and very good short skip openings both on 17 and 12m contributed to the good score.

An excellent entry for the month Martin. Your observation on the short skip openings on 17 & 12m was a surprise. Most are saying that "CQ's" on both bands yield nothing! As a news item for the WARC entrants, Martin tells me that he will be operational with DP6M/DL1GBZ during the 1st week of July from grid JN48. Hope you'll listen out for him.

From Stan. K4UK.

Enclosed is the WARC Band Challenge log for K4UK through May. Finished off the month with a QSO with one of the newest members of FISTS over there - G4LMW # 14000. Also worked Peter, G4LHI and Bob, G6GUN just before midnight - Hi ! Also enclosed is the WARC Band Challenge Summary for W4FCR through May Sure nice to hear Jackie, 3B8CF and Jurek, EA6UN on the WARC bands

73, Stan - K4UK

Pleased to hear that you managed to get your own call and that of the FISTS Club station W4FCR on air during May Stan. Very nice to hear that Jackie is still active on the WARC's.

Graham. 2E0TEK sends in this comment with his activity ladder log.

Hi Robert

Nice to finally get back into the activities, have had rig and antenna problems once again over the winter which have stopped me being able to transmit as much as I would like. Was going to join in on the first Sunday ladder but radio problems, so only managed to participate yesterday. A Little disappointed with both sessions but got a few new members which was nice. 73 for now and watch this space for the WARC bands Challenge. Graham. 2E0TEK.

From Martin. IK2RMZ. With his activity ladder report, he makes some observations which have and do affect us all.

Hi Robert. This entry is quite modest but to reach it the effort was considerable. I missed the first date and had to compete with the WPX which was quite painful. On 20m the situation was hopeless, except for DK6AS who called CQ on 14060 kHz. Even though the QRG's above 14060 do

not belong to the contest preferred segments they were filled up with CQ test callers.

I would like to invite all hams who take the IARU band plans seriously to get in touch with the organizers of the WPX. The only thing which I saw functional in the struggle against sub band abuse is that the organizers impose contest free section explicitly in the contest rules and that they foresee penalties for offenders.

This would be possible if the organizers wanted it. It's our task to let them know our opinions on the matter. The non-contesters are an overwhelming majority and they deserve a few kHz for peaceful QSO's on 20m. Please make your voices heard.

On 80m the situation was a bit less tense since the bulk of contest stations didn't like to make an effort to struggle with QRN there. So I took my first profit from my newly built 80m dipole.

Martin's comments have raised the issue yet again of observation of the band plan. We know this has been rumbling on for many years..... Over to you for your input.

From Peter. G4LHI and a fine report on his month with the ladder activity. Peter also observes that the "CQ Test" mentioned by IK2RMZ had an impact on him too.

Hello Robert,

I attach my claim for the May 2008 Activity Ladder. Quite an interesting month, 19 QSO's in the two periods for a total of 36 points, this includes two one point non Fists member QSO's & who knows perhaps future members hi. We try our best to encourage them.

Very many thanks for all the guys that make this a very enjoyable couple of Sunday afternoons on the key & for struggling through that dreadful "CQ Test" on 20m on the second Sunday. What ever pleasure is there in this "599 tnx CQ CQ test". Nothing like our very friendly & chatty Fists activities, its great fun & nice to find the same guys supporting the club each month & to meet new members. I met two new members this month G0BAK/qrp, Bill in Leeds, 13262 & G4MSN/qrp, Ray also in Leeds, 13248. Many thanks guys & hope you join us again on the Ladder & perhaps the WARC Band Challenge?

Nice to work my dear friend Daryl, G0ANV/m, 2270, whilst on holiday in the West Country, he found time during his sight seeing trip with his family to work a few of his local mates for the Ladder (also on the WARC bands – nice square thanks Daryl)

I did manage to give a couple of points to my fellow RSARS members for their May Anniversary Contest, in one case with dear Bill GM3KHH from Buckie who just happened to also be a Fists member, thanks Bill. Think the bands maybe opening up a little.

Lets take a look at the tables for this month. There have been a few changes in position. But almost half-way through the year, there's plenty of time for even more change.

Firstly, the Ladder table.

CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTALS
G6GUN	22	34	43	37	43								179
G4LHI	30	25	37	32	36								160
IK2RMZ	15	33	18	24	9								99
OH7QR	14	27	7	14	14								76
M0DRK	16	10	18	15	17								76
G8XGQ	16	19	8	0	16								59
M0JRQ	24	13	8	0	0								45
2E0TEK	0	0	0	0	21								21
G0MRH	0	0	9	0	0								9

And now the WARC Table.

CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL	MULTI	MASTER	PWR
G4LHI	201	182	152	166	231								932	55	51260	QRO
IK2RMZ	137	182	115	201	325								960	52	49920	QRO
K4UK	23	83	42	81	92								321	56	17976	QRO
G6GUN	34	38	61	103	99								335	27	9045	QRO
OH7QR	87	57	101	66	87								398	12	4776	QRO
W4YE	32	48	46	14	46								186	22	4092	QRO
M0DRK	20	33	45	31	52								181	15	2715	QRO
G8XGQ	14	24	11	16	26								91	6	546	QRO
KA3NZR	0	1	26	2	12								41	11	451	MIX
DL1GBZ/DP6M	0	0	117	0	21								138	3	414	QRO
W4FCR ©	0	11	0	14	8								33	11	363	QRO
2E0TEK	0	0	0	0	44								44	7	308	QRO
K4ORD	3	13	9	7	0								32	8	256	QRP
G0XAH	0	0	33	0	0								33	4	132	QRO
PA3AFF	0	0	0	0	1								1	1	1	QRP

As you can see the ladder is very close with the top two scores being very close. The WARC Activity has had a change of leader this month with G4LHI taking the top spot from IK2RMZ. G8XGQ has also significantly climbed up the listing with a good month. Also, 2E0TEK with his first monthly score of 308 places him well to climb up the list during the coming months.

I must mention that the awards for EUCW and MKW have been sent to the recipients. I look forward to having images from them with their awards in future editions of BP. Our next event is Straight Key Week In September. Hope you'll all be dusting off your pump keys ready for the event. Remember, it's the last activity of the year, so I hope you'll enter the weeks activity and make it a success. Remember to send in your entry no matter how large or small. Rules can be found [HERE](#)

Another reminder: As reported in Keynote. We have decided to re-instate the EU "FIST OF THE YEAR" Award. As many of you will know, this is an award made by you, the membership to another member of FISTS; who you think has done the most to further the aims of the society during 2008. voting forms will be in a forthcoming Keynote, I hope you'll take time to vote.

That's about it for another edition of BP. Thanks to all who find time to send in their comments for inclusion. I can never have enough so keep them coming.

73 for now, keep "BASHING THE BRASS"

MØBPT



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