

# BRASSPOUNDER



*For those within FISTS who enjoy a challenge*

September 2006

Hi all.

People who entered the ladder found it tough going with the bands being swamped by RTTY signals.

You may have seen the posts on the reflector illustrating the fact. Sadly, the band plans are being ignored and it is getting painfully obvious that we are being squeezed out of what little part we have.

Yes, we all know that its a "Gentlemans agreement" But, as posts pointed out during the week, Gentlemen they are not!!

It's getting to the stage now where the station with the loudest voice gets heard the most. QRP stations are not happy about it, our own members with 100w transceivers are struggling to make themselves heard!! I'm beginning to wonder just how many amateurs (Worldwide) these days are complying with their licence conditions regarding power output?

Food for thought!

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I've received something from Dr. Martin Zurn, IK2RMZ who, intrigued by the data Stan, K4UK contributed last month, decided to compile his own overview on QSO's from a European point of view. Whereas Stans was from a USA point of view. The stats and accompanying comments make interesting reading. It illustrates I think just how far we are into the Solar cycle minimum.

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Hi,

Inspired by the interesting data in the latest newsletter I feel tempted to present more numbers from a European view point. I am located in alpine Italy, this means a MUF advantage over UK stations (longer openings on short bands) and a grey line disadvantage (shorter dusk/dawn on lower bands). Not too much of a difference probably.

Date: September 18, 2006

Band use and station:

Strictly 75 Watts from JN45ht. (Exceptions only for stations calling CQ-QRP which I serve with QRP-QRP QSOs according to the rules defined by GQRP)

30m 51% (Full size dipole, inv vee, top at abt 8m)  
17m 40% (Beam with 4dB gain over dipole up abt 10m)  
12m 9% (Beam with 4dB gain over dipole up abt 10m)  
Total number of contacts: 892 QSOs

54 multies, most of them (31) earned on 17m....

Squares vs. number of QSOs with FISTS members

IO92: 16 (guess to whom is the credit)

JO10: 4

QF33: 2

KP42: 2

KN12: 2

JO21: 2

JO01: 2

IO93: 2

IO90: 2

IO83: 2

Most of the squares were worked only once or at least just from a single station. IO92 seems to be a very prominent exception

Total FISTS squares:

CM98 CN94 DN31 DN45 EL49 EL50 EL89 EM12 EM13 EM96 EN60 EN72 EN73 EN80 EN81  
EN91 FM08 FM15 FM17 FM18 FM19 FM29 FN12 FN20 FN31 FN32 FN42 IN53 IO52 IO64  
IO70 IO71 IO74 IO80 IO81 IO82 IO83 IO85 IO86 IO88 IO90 IO91 IO92 IO93 JN39  
JO01 JO02 JO10 JO21 KM37 KN12 KP42 PM74 QF33  
(out of 396 worked squares)

Squares vs. number of QSOs (correct me if my geography knowledge sucks)

IO92: 31 (Britain's most precious square)

JN89: 16 (Czech stns)

JO62: 15 (Berlin)

IO83: 15 (North England, Manchester)

KO85: 14 (Moscow)

GG87: 12 (State of Rio de Janeiro)

KN98: 10 (East Ukraine)

IO93: 10 (North Central England, Yorkshire)

FN42: 10 (New England)  
JO21: 9 (PA/ON)

FISTS UK analysis: Got almost complete coverage of G and GW. The western half of GM and the IOx4 line are missing entirely.

Giant squares vs. number of QSOs

JO: 167

IO: 119

KN: 96

JN: 95

KO: 75

PM: 38

FN: 35

LO: 26

FM: 22

KM: 20

Total Giant squares: 64 (i.e. 2-digit locators)

Stations contacted most frequently: U know these guys, don't u

9 QSOs: G4LHI

6 QSOs: PY1CL

5 QSOs: RK3AQV SP9DXX US5XD

4 QSOs: DQ2006S EW4DW LY2PZ OK2BEI RA3TP UA1AJ UA6LKW W1MK

I find 12m very interesting because it shows that it's almost all short skip (sporadic E) or ground wave propagation. The skips are shorter than I expected with most stations below 500 km. Obviously we are in the sunspot minimum.

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Thanks for your input Martin, and a perspective on EU condx.

Looking at this months Postbag the general topic was the RTTY stations having no regard for the CW section of the bands

From Peter, G4LHI.

Had a few probs this month with a couple of Cw Contests & a RTTY contest that swamped all bands & "All " frequencies, a pain & no respect for any band plan, what ever is it going to be like after this new Licence arrangement ??

Managed to work Paul, MOBMN, which was a very nice surprise. John, MOCDL, was on, but not with the Club callsign, he was waiting for Mark to turn up & said perhaps use the Club calls on Sunday?

I only managed Saturday this month as I was helping Peterborough Radio Club with their Special Event Station, GB4WFB, Wireless for the Blind Week-end (as their CW operator of

course hi) Did quite well & enjoyed the day. Used their ICOM IC-756, it was a joy to operate & flip from band to band with the Auto ATU, makes life so much easier.

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Mark, M0CMQ makes the point about frequencies being made unusable by swamping, he heard FISTS stations calling but unable to work them because of the mayhem going on, M0CDL, M0RHB, And M0DRK to name but three.

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Derek, M0DRK tells me it was good to work John, M0CDL on the key again. I dont think the lads put the club calls on the air (MX5HDF and GX2HDF) ladder weekend.

John was probably concentrating on airing his own call for the weekend, this why such a "Rare" call was heard (Hi)

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Peter, M5ABN comments on how quickly the months roll by (How true!) and most of his ladder work was done on 80m this month, but the band was in very bad shape. Despite the problems still managed to work some members and amass a few points, and is already looking forward tp the October session!

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Peter, G4LHI sends me his report with his WARC return.Read on;

Paths to VK & Stateside not so good this month, but did manage to work David, VK3DBD, four times. Managed to find one new VK square, Deane, VK3DRD, & two new Stateside "grids" Frank, N3ZPO & Jozef WB2MIC, many thanks chaps.

Martin,IK2RMZ, was also there for a couple of QSO's again, but missed Stan K4UK this month, sorry Stan if you called me. Very many thanks to all stations that gave me points & nice QSO's during Sept, look forward to many more in October.

Very sorry I cannot give you such a detailed summary of my claims like those from Stan & Martin, very interesting reports chaps. All I can say is most of my QSO's have been on 30 Metres, very little activity on 12 or 17 here, but very pleased that I can work VK in one direction & Stateside the other with just my Home Brew

30 Metre wire dipole going from East to West & about 50ft centre with a slight slope in either direction to about 25ft.

Have worked 57 grid squares with Fists Members & 187 non members, certainly never worked so many on the WARC bands before, many thanks for this Challenge Robert, really enjoyable.

Thanks for your report Peter, and your kind words. From the outset, the challenge was to promote activity on the very much underestimated WARC QRG's. I think many have been surprised at the potential of the 30m band. 17m has not been a surprise to many, it's reputation preceded it as good "DX" band. And 12m has just been its usual self I'm afraid.

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Peter was active with the "Wireless For The Blind" special event weekend with the Peterborough Club as their CW operator.

He sent a photo of him in action



I had 5 hours in that seat & had about 20 QSO's (plenty of coffee on hand by a nice young lady called Tracy MOATR ( a former morse pupil of mine)  
73 Peter

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Had a mail from Stan, K4UK with something that may help. Over to you Stan.

On my drive home from the golf course today I couldn't get any answers to my CQ's on 30 Meters.

So I tuned across the band and up on 10.132 MHz I found VE3TO / B sending:

"VE3TO / B FN25 ANT VERT" - followed by a long dash.

Thought some of your folks over there would be interested as they might be able to hear that beacon and know whether 30 Meters was open across the pond.

Right now at 2100 UTC he is a solid 559 signal, but some QSB.

73, Stan - K4UK

Stan goes on to say.

I got a big kick out of working JH1GNU on 10.110 MHz at 1158 UTC on the 30th. We  
chatted  
for almost 10 minutes - 559 signals - I was running my K2 at 14 watts - QRO - Hi !

Also worked Peter, VK6RZ again on 10.104 MHz at 2247 UTC.

Did get my 8th new grid square in September while running mobile on my way to  
WM3T house  
where we put W4FCR on the air in the C2C ( FISTS Coast to Coast ) event. Getting  
new grid  
squares is getting tougher each month.

Other ham radio activites on non-WARC bands cut into my operating time on the  
WARC's.

73, Stan - K4UK

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**Just received a mail from Martin, IK2RMZ.**

**The information is going to help your ladder scores for October, and should  
make it very interesting.**

**Visit**

**<http://www.alg.demon.co.uk/xcw/2006rules.htm>**

**for the full details**

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**Thats about all from me this month, hope you've enjoyed this months  
offering.**

**On to the results tables.**

**By far the WARC bands have been the "Place to be" During September. Some good scores being returned for the month.**

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**Ladder results**

CALL	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
G4LHI	42	39	42	47	46	36	43	38	42				375
G6GUN	35	41	37	45	35	42	39	23	24				321
M5ABN	43	31	35	32	0	26	31	32	44				274
IK2RMZ	0	0	0	39	9	28	30	31	25				162
M0DRK	15	0	14	22	17	8	12	12	12				112
M0BHA	12	19	12	22	0	0	14	0	0				79
2E0TEK	20	0	21	0	32	0	0	0	0				73
OH7QR	5	13	25	8	0	7	2	12	2				74
MX5HDF	6	9	9	7	13	0	11	7	0				62
G8XGQ	8	6	12	4	0	6	10	0	6				52
G0XAH	0	0	11	17	0	0	0	0	0				28
M0CMQ	0	0	0	0	4	6	5	6	6				27
PA3AFF	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0				10

**WARC Results**

CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTALS	MULTIES	MASTERCALL	PWR
K4UK	57	93	112	173	130	134	132	135	93					148	156732	K4UK QRO
IK2RMZ	0	0	9	237	215	173	113	107	215					60	64140	IK2RMZ QRO
G4LHI	77	78	88	125	130	94	112	93	73					57	49590	G4LHI QRO
G3ASG	0	26	133	196	0	0	155	313	166					33	32637	G3ASG QRO
DQ35AGCW	0	0	0	0	0	0	275	83	0					11	3905	DQ35AGCW QRO OPERATOR DL1GBZ
DL1GBZ	0	0	0	96	15	70	35	26	0					12	2904	DL1GBZ QRO
OH7QR	18	25	31	30	14	11	5	11	5					9	1350	OH7QR MIXED
G0UQF	20	5	50	0	0	0	0	0	0					10	750	G0UQF QRO
M5ABN	23	20	18	20	0	0	8	0	0					7	623	M5ABN QRO
KI4DEF	0	0	0	27	29	0	0	0	0					14	433	KI4DEF QRP
2E0TEK	23	0	10	10	23	0	0	0	12					3	234	2E0TEK QRO
G6GUN	22	8	0	0	0	8	18	0	0					4	224	G6GUN QRO
G0XAH	0	0	26	23	0	0	0	0	0					4	196	G0XAH QRO
GX2HDF	0	6	4	5	0	0	0	0	0					2	30	GX2HDF QRP
DQ2006A	0	0	0	0	0	19	0	0	0					1	19	DQ2006A QRO OPERATOR DL1GBZ
G8XGQ	6	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0					1	12	G8XGQ QRO

**73, Keep bashing the Brass**



[back to homepage](#)