

International Morse Preservation Society



KEY NOTE



Sec: E. (Geo) Longden, G3ZQS. 119 Cemetery Rd., DARWEN, BB3 2LZ, England. 01254-703948

E-Mail: fist1@btinternet.com

<http://www.asel.demon.co.uk/fists-hq/> or <http://www.smartgroups.com/vault/fists/>

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NETS

Sunday QRS 0900 (loc) 3.575 2E0AIS

US 0100Z on 14058

Tues: GX0IPX/P 1930 ON 3.558 (+/-)

Net Control G3HZL

DX 14/21/28.058 on the hour for 15mins

Pse keep watch on all Novice allocations

UK Net Controls use GX0IPX/P

SUBS: UK £5.00, EEC £7.00. Others £10.00. Your renewal date appears on the mailing label and your anticipation would be much appreciated.

Up-dated listings may be obtained from HQ. Please include 3 2nd class stamps to cover return and running costs

Lapel Badges £1.50 incl.

Fabric patches £2.50 incl.

QSL Cards £7.00 per 100 or £10.00 per 200 (UK and EU pse add £1.00 for p/p. DX members - on advice.

Personalised stickers £1.00 per sheet of 65. Max order 5 sheets. Please include your **CALLSIGN** on all correspondence.

Useful contacts:

M0AVW 01642-869619 <spence5@ntlworld.com>

M0AYI 01207-283192 <m0ayi@netscapeonline.co.uk>

All outgoing QSLs to M0AVW (address on banner).

All UK members send stamps and labels (no envelopes necessary) to the appropriate sub-manager as below:

M or 2 calls (Except for Wales) M0AYI. 7 Tynedale Terrace, Annfield Plain, STANLEY, DH9 7TZ.

G0, GM0 etc (Except GW0). G3JRY. 3 Rochford Cresc, BOSTON, PE21 9AE

G3, GM3 etc (except GW3). G0UQF. 2 East St, Darfield, BARNSELY, S73 9AE.

G4, GM4 etc (Except GW4). M5AAQ. 6 Central Ave, SHEPshed, LE12 9HP.

G2, G5, G6, G8 (Except for Wales) and **ALL** special (GB etc) calls to M0BPT. 38 Wheatley St, WEST BROMWICH, B70 9TJ.

All members in Wales. GW0SGG. 14 Heather Cresc, Sketty, SWANSEA, SA2 8HE

EU/DX Members: IRCs or UK Banknotes to M0AVW. US dollars to HQ. Club will provide envelopes. Any excess over subs from non-UK members will be regarded as QSL postage unless otherwise advised.

GREETINGS

Quite an eventful month thus far - activity from the museum ships, all sorts of odd-ball prefixes turning up on the most unexpected bands and at the most unexpected times. The band conditions however remained somewhat dismal which kept yours truly off the air for much of the day. Sometimes wonder if all the QRN on the bands was due to the countrywide activity of thousands of lawnmowers as the combination of sunshine, showers and fertilizer sent grass into a growth frenzy. Hi.

Hope I can say the same for other sufferers but t'would seem that either the pollen count has decreased or my immune system has given up the battle. Either way, life has returned to something akin to normality.

In between the lightning blasts some very nice contacts have been found with the gang on 40m and it was a particularly pleasant surprise to find G3SCD over here in blighty for a few weeks though t'would have been nicer to have found him from his home QTH as VK3DBD. At the time, I was running GX5IPX and it certainly caught the lad out. No more than a few others I should point out although I would have thought that the prefix

M5X together with the suffix IPX would have offered a clue or three.

Ralph, ZL2AOH, found the pressure just a little too much and was glad to hand over the reins of QSL manager to ZL2TK. There are quite a few new members now in the antipodes and although growth rate has been slower than expected, it is beginning to take off.

HERE WE GO AGAIN

The message seems to have got through to the majority of members although a few still neglect to identify themselves in correspondence - particularly with subs. Everything here revolves around **callsigns** and when I sit down to process a couple of dozen letters it is frustrating to have to stop part way through to search the database for a name, post-code or partial address to ascertain the originator of a cheque or letter.

Your callsign is unique and it for this reason that all reference here at HQ is centred upon it. I find it surprising that so many of you fail to spot the advantages of this when it comes to internet addresses but the trend these days seems to be towards using this one-off identity .

APP FORMS

Since the problem over Eurocheques and Money Orders rose (the bank screws us for between £6 and £7 for each one) the bulk of overseas members have taken heed. The problem is that there are a number of you holding the original application forms and if these are sent to overseas stations, they will not be aware of the changes we have been obliged to make since the forms will still quote Eurocheques as a preferred method of payment. As far as UK stations are concerned, there is no problem since payment is made either by cheques made against a UK bank, postal-order or even fivers but if you plan to introduce stations from outside the UK, it would be appreciated if you would ask for a more recent app-form or modify the ones you hold..

THOSE BARRED SIGS

Seem to have opened a can of worms here because e-mails and letters have flooded in from members harking back to their service years. Another interesting point raised is why different countries (or perhaps continents) indicate procedure signals such as VA in a different way. The US seems to prefer SK as a description whilst the ubiquitous BT has sometimes been referred to in print as DU. At the end of the day it still sounds exactly the same so perhaps it would be better that these preferences be ignored.

Regarding Alan, M0AXJ, query and the changes from INT to IMI as request - if my memory is still functioning I remember in 1950 the RAF changed from using INT as query to IMI (previously used for REPEAT) to come in line with NATO protocols - and I think these signals were used by the USA forces at the time. There was also a change in the phonetic alphabet too as well as changing the format of calls from callsign 'v' callsign to callsign 'de' callsign - S9S v QQ5Q became S9S de QQ5Q. As for unofficial 'Q' codes I can remember using Q4P (or perhaps QFP) indicating that the operator was in dire straits and needed an urgent 'toilet break' so hang on! and QFI meaning the NAAFI wagon has just arrived on site so hang on until I can

get my char and wad. We were operating as a mobile signals unit with single operator manning so we often could not get anyone to stand in to take up the watch at such times.

Dave 2W0ALZ.

Now then Dave... I am sure I remember still using INT and V etc, with the RN in 1952 - are you sure about the year?

And from Tony, G3CWW:

The barred IMI goes back into the mists of time and is the correct interrogatory signal. The barred INT was introduced with the combined Armed Services Procedure in 1943 together with some of the US phonetics. There were no odd-ball two-letter procedure signals in the Army - the Q-code was used properly and on certain top-level links, particularly high-speed (100 wpm up) via punched tape there was also a sprinkling of the commercial 'Z' code.

Tony despairs that all too often these days one hears the disembodied jug handle (IMI) usually preceded by an extended tune up period and followed a couple of nano seconds later by a CQ sequence. He would be happy if the use of QSD be better understood and used. Although we tend to use it in a barred form, Tony points out that KN is not thus prescribed and, in fact, the use of K N N N N is used to emphasise that NO interjection by those not involved in the QSO would be welcome.

G0LYY remembers clearly that the INT was introduced in mid 1944. Up to that time, if you wanted a QDM (homing bearing) it was QDM IMI K which was changed to INT QDM K from that time. He also points out that the phonetic alphabet at the start of the war was largely identical to that in WW1 with 'Ack, Beer, Charlie, Done Eddie' etc this being the source of the generally accepted slang of 'Pip Emma' and 'Ack Emma' for p.m. and a.m. All this was before the alleged unambiguous 24 hour clock and John justifies the word 'alleged' since while on honeymoon leave, he received a telegram telling him to arrive at Wymbold by 0800 hours when they really meant 8:00 p.m. And how well I remember Able, Baker, Charlie, Dog, Easy, Fox and so on. Look out for anomalies in war films advises John. The term 'Roger' is taken to mean 'message received' whilst in fact, acknowledgement was a full 'Your message received and understood'. In the heat of battle, this was abbreviated to 'understood' whilst 'Roger' came in much later.

Well at least the subject has resulted in a few lamps being swung if nothing else. Hi.

FROM DOWN UNDER

To assist with the problem caused by NZ Post increasing overseas postage rates, John Blake, a new (as yet uncensored) member has offered to take over the VK distribution of the newsletters. Once he is able to handle things satisfactorily I'll let you know.

I've had a couple of new members from VK recently and they seem very keen to spread the word with the result that I have received several inquiries from over there. Let's hope they gel. This from Ralph, ZL2AOH following the advice that ZL2TX will be assuming the duties of QSL mgr for the antipodes.

AND FROM RUSSIA

Hello Geo,

Glad that I am #7 in GX5IPX log.

Attach a files with photo.

This plaque was made by UA6JW Harry (FISTS#0820) and he present to me as gift for birthday in last April.

Let me know that you rx it OK FISTS logos was donate by Eric G3LPS.Thanks!

Best regards Vlad UA6JD FISTS#1385



G3JPZ

We have just spent a holiday in Cornwall, took 2 mtrs along, seemed to be more activity down there than at the home QTH,

Lot's of interesting items to view during our stay, that had radio connxn, the attached piccy was taken at the Eastern Telegraph museum, and I encouraged the guy to fire up the spark transmitter, you may make out the important little bit around picture centre. (Shame about the 13 amp sockets, not really in keeping with the period HI).

CONSTRUCTION GANG

I have a memo from G3VD who is one of a group of volunteers who spend a day each week in the workshops of HMS Collingwood maintaining and frequently renovating communications and radar equipment.

The training of Naval electrical/radio officers is now being executed by Southampton University and the intake for this year has decided to initiate a project to celebrate the centenary of the Marconi cw (spark) transmission from Poldhu Cove, Cornwall to Newfoundland. All the finance is cleared and all the parties concerned are now preparing to get things going forward.

Needless to say, they need a spark transmitter to make it authentic and happily, Collingwood has one in the museum which it has agreed to loan it for the exercise.

We understand that the actual site at Poldhu is owned or administered by the National Trust and since the Poldhu ARS shack is also sited there, they will doubtless be involved.

Bernard has given details of FISTS to Lt Rooney (Thunderer Sqdn) c/o Southampton University who, it is hoped, will be bringing Lt. Cdr Legg (curator) at HMS Collingwood up to speed with the aims of the club.

The museum appear to be an absolute Aladins Cave of kit ranging from the aforementioned spark generator to receivers used in the first U-Boats of WWii and this group of dedicated tinkers has been responsible for tracking down the technical information on this latter piece of kit and restoring it to its prime condition. Other equipment dates from the 30's and even one item from the 20's donated to the museum by a sympathetic elderly lady on her deathbed.

Please note that for members visiting the area, access to the museum is strictly by appointment via Lt Cdr Legg, RN (RTD), Museum Curator, HMS Collingwood, Fareham, PO14 1AS. Mark your diaries! The actual day for the transmission from Poldhu is Dec 12, 2001 and if Bernard would kindly refresh my lamentable memory prior to that date, I will include it in an appropriate Keynote.

M0AVW AND THE KAPS

Our Chuck seems to be doing something of a roaring trade with the caps mentioned last month. Some cheques made out to FISTS have been forwarded to HQ for inclusion into the funds whilst other monies (in a more negotiable form) are used to supplement the running costs of the bureau.

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IS IT THE WAY OF THE WORLD?

Whilst almost everyone I speak to about this matter is in sympathy, they all agree that it is wrong. What am I muttering about? Well let me say first off that if I personally wanted some information from a non-commercial organisation or an individual, I would not expect them to pay for the privilege of providing that information.

You would not believe the number of enquiries I get for information about FISTS with **no** return postage. Yes even British stations who really should know better do it. Such expenses are not detailed in the accounts - simply appearing as 'Postal Costs' but it is costing the club. One app-form to S. America for instance, even if it is returned, would cost us £1.00. Three replies to Europe would set us back again £1.00 and if these were to East EU countries would net absolutely nothing when the applicant found out that he had to pay subs. Within the UK we fair not so badly - we get 5 for our £1.00 but that is still £1.00 which

we would otherwise be spared if the person asking for the information did us the courtesy of including return postage.

No. I am not a skinflint or penny-pincher; it is just that I hate to see people doing to us what I would surely never consider doing to them. I am sure I have mentioned before that unless we keep a DX member for at least 3 years, we lose out on the deal so you can see that I am just a wee bit miffed when I pull stamps out of the box to reply to an enquiry especially if the reply is doomed to be fruitless from the beginning. OK Geo..... get off your soapbox!

AWARDS MANAGER

We have not yet finalised the arrangements but as of now, all applications for awards should be sent here to HQ. From here, they will be processed by whatever means presents itself. Bob, G0FRL, has decided not to continue as Awards Manager. I shall not delve into the reasons for this but suffice it to say that all awards will be handled from within the States. Since their claims are greater than ours by a magnitude of at least four, shifting the load will be an advantage. . Dennis, K6DF has agreed to process the awards and initially, I was concerned that the extra costs of shipping awards from the US would be prohibitive but the US contingent have assured me that this will not be a problem. Hitherto, Bob has been using depleted foil to add something to the awards and this is not only a time intensive process but it is one which can result in a degree of frustrating repeats since it rarely turns out perfectly on the first attempt. Because of this, consideration was given to the awards being printed in colour but Dennis is aware of the process and is keen to make use of it. As long as everything ticks along correctly, there will be little apparent delay in processing your awards, the only observable difference being that they will arrive with a US stamp on the envelope.

Failing this arrangement, things would have got complicated.

We are already shipping numbers across the pond for US Century awards and any EU member taking over from Bob would have found himself in the same situation. Since the bulk of applications emanate from the US, it makes more sense for Dennis to handle everything from his end.

I am assured that we will profit rather than lose through this arrangement.

NEW MEMBERS

8304	G4YHN	Ake	8305	G4JBL	Cedric
8306	G3WQU	Peter	8307	G4KGD	Roy
8308	JH4GRV	Shin	8309	G4GXL	Steve
8310	MOJCT	Jack	8311	M0AYF	Des
8312	M0FLY	Tony	8313	9A4MF	Miro
8314	G0TCI	Bruce	8315	GW0TAU	Paul
8316	PA5BM	Bert			

Pse note that Peter, G3WQU, will be operating out of Morocco but there is no indication if this is temporary or permanent.

MX5IPX

Validation for the above call has been received from the RA and some 80 members have been entered into the newly created log thus far with perhaps a few more before we get to the business. Because of its rarity value, members are invited to port the call out (/P) from within the UK.

Pse remember though that it is a banner for the club and you should be confident in the standard of your code before taking it on.

LMK preferred dates (I suggest a week of operating when you are suitably free) and provided there are no clashes, you are on. Send a copy of your logs to HQ and sufficient QSL cards will be printed indicating the operator at the time and and posted back to you for onward despatch.

If a group of you wish to get together you may use it multi-operator style or share it out week to week. MX5 is as rare as rocking-horse droppings at the moment so very active sessions are almost guaranteed. The number will accompany the call sign whoever is using it and of course, for the award addicts, it is worth three points.

RSGB MYSTERY

A letter arrived at HQ on RSGB stationery advising me that 'there is now a person called the RSGB Affiliated Club Contact (RACC)' indicating that Society records show that this person

is yours truly. Bombshells like happy surprises seem to come in lumps and I certainly knew nothing at all about this. I replied indicating that not only was I completely befuddled by this information but also that I had quite enough on my hands. Hi.

G3TUX

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RADIO OMC

From Martin, OM1YF, a brief run-down of the Bratislava shore station. The call (as above) is OMC and is privately owned by Slovak Danube Navigation for communications with ships on the Danube and Slovak sea-going merchant vessels in the Mediterranean, Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans. For Danube traffic they are using SSB simplex on 2645/2583KHz 0400 to 0600 hrs local time and 6224/8294KHz 0900-0930, 1200-1400 and 1430-1500 daily whilst 6292/6440KHz, 12429/13057 and 16637/16917KHz is used in two time slots with A1A duplex step/step. The company boasts some 260 ships on the Danube and 3 se-going vessels moving mainly in the Indian ocean, Karibik and Australia.

The staff includes:

Martin OM1YF (Chief Opr)

Milan OM3TB

Jaro OM1MW

Karol OM1CF and

Jozef OM1MW

Milan, Jaro, Karol and Jozef are classified as ships Rado Officers and he includes a detailed breakdown of traffic covering two pages detailing times and frequencies



Samuel F.B. Morse
1791-1872

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ODDS N' ENDS

Not all that much mail this month people but we do have an interesting note from Otto, LA1IE, who says he is not as active as he used to be before he became a widower though he does check 058, 052 and 025 (FISTS, RNARS and FOC) daily and is quite active in the various RN nets besides his other interest of chasing Scottish islands.

Seems that when he attended the RNARS AGM in October, he was picked by Norman, G4SFO and stayed with him for a couple of days in Rugby. He responded to an invitation from Andre, GM3VLB, to visit Kelso and stayed there a few days to sort out his radio stuff. After the AGM, he hitched a ride to Middlesbrough with G3MXZ and G3KXV who put him on a train at Darlington back to Berwick-on-Tweed. This ticket set him back £15.00 and represented his entire travelling costs and mean-

while, he criss-crossed the UK and was treated like the King of Norway 'even though I am only a second cousin' he adds. Sounds like you had a barrel of fun Otto.

I understand that a ballot box with 5,00 plus ballot papers was unearthed in Florida recently, each one in support of Ronald MacDonald.

For those of you with the FT1000MP, I have a note in FOCUS regarding the output waveform. This information has seemingly been found on the reflector by K8JP and a suggested modification comprises the addition of a capacitor and resistor. It is mainly concerned with rise/fall times and duty cycle with a keyer set to 40wpm and seemingly reduces output band-width which effectively results in some 1.5db more power. I am left cold with the technical details presented but perhaps Joe would be kind enough to elaborate?

Talking of kit, I heard a station on 40m running the 1950's 'Mini-Mitter'. There was absolutely nothing 'mini' about this thing at all. It contained a gynomous metal clad choke, transformer, a pair of 807s and also a pair of mercury vapour rectifiers to provide the HT. Apart from the chassis, I feel they utilised the cladding from a WWii tank to construct the front panel and it could cause a hernia if you so much as looked at the brute. This was my first transmitter and the residue still occupies a space in the cellar... one of these days it could be resurrected but, I ask myself, is it worth it?

G4ZPY

KEYS AND PADDLES

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<http://website.lineone.net/~gzpy/index.htm>



and here is one of Zippy's gold jobs. Vy impressive.

FINALE

Every time I try and catch up on the Keynote despatch something happens. This month, panic stations when Bob, G0FRL, resigned as Awards Mgr and on the very day I was supposed to be printing Keynote, I had to disinfect the computer because I had been blessed with a MTX type virus. Spent the best part of three days trying to evict the unwelcome guest because it had blocked access to MacAfee on whom I depend for immunisation. It had successfully infected over 450 files (most of 'em .DLLs and a smattering of .EXEs) so you will see that my policy of not opening any attachments unless it is clear from whence they came was justified if fruitless. If anyone gets an attachment from me without an associated text e-mail, destroy it! Look for a .SCR file titled MATRIX SCREENSAVER.

The warm weather robbed me of sleep which was something of a blessing because in the early hours, a string of US members were chasing the MX5IPX call. Hi.

73/88 for now people. Have fun es stay sober

Geo