

## International Morse Preservation Society



# KEY NOTE



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

<http://www.asei.demon.co.uk/fists-hq/> <http://www.fistsdownunder.morsekeys.com>

E-Mail HQ: [fist1@btinternet.com](mailto:fist1@btinternet.com) webmaster: [webmaster@asei.demon.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@asei.demon.co.uk)

### OFFICES

#### QSL Manager: M0AVW

32 Woodford Walk, Harewood Park, TS17 0LT

#### PRO: G4YLB. J.A. Welsh

3 Minster Cresc, DARWEN, BB3 3PY

#### CONTEST MANAGER: GM4ELV

1 Micklehouse Rd, Springhill, G69 6TG.

### COMMITTEE

**Chairman**  
**Vice Chairman**  
**P.R.O.**  
**Secretary**

G4XHZ  
G4YLB  
G4YLB  
G3ZQS

Pse keep watch on all Novice allocations

Recommended calling QRGs:  
3.558, 7028, 14.058, 21.058, 28.058

### AWARDS

e-mail apps/logs to Dennis, K6DF:  
<[fistsawards@attbi.com](mailto:fistsawards@attbi.com)>  
written logs to HQ.

**SUBS:** e-mail Keynote £4.00, UK mail £5.00, EEC mail £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](mailto:spence5@ntlworld.com)>

M0AYI Glenn@[m0ayi.freemove.co.uk](mailto:m0ayi.freemove.co.uk)

**All outgoing QSLs to M0AVW** (address on banner).

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

**M or 2 Prefixes** (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, WESTBROMWICH, B70 9TJ.

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

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

### GREETINGS

How many of you I wonder noticed the summer? I missed most of it since I was in QSO at the time but the temperature here in the NW of England rose to a staggering 23c. Mind you we were reminded earlier in the season that such temperatures were no more than blips on a declining graph line because in spite of the sun, we experienced a few showers of hail. I don't know where all this stuff about global warming is coming from but clearly no-one has bothered to tell our Met Office about it!

Early this month there was the inevitable contest on the bands and I was most heartened when I heard PY, JA, ZL and VK amongst other coming through at good strengths on 20/15M. As is my wont, I migrated to 30M where I found only a few EU stations but at least I got a QSO or two. On Sunday evening after the contest, the rig was switched on with anticipation. 20M yielded absolutely NIL and all I could hear on 15M were a few wayward Europeans and watery sigs from the US East Coast. What happened??

Sorry I have not been in a position to make GX0IPX available most Wednesdays for the ladder chasers. A half hour or so on 40M rewarded me with G0LHI, G0LHI and G0LHI who wasn't exactly over burdened with traffic. 80M in the evening almost

as much noise as that produced by the Rolling Stones though, I am tempted to suggest, somewhat more melodious. Still, it was not all doom and gloom since 40M (apart from the usual home brew station drifting and chirping like a sparrow on LSD) some old and long lost friends were found and much lamp swinging was in evidence. Oh! do shut up and get on with it Geo.

### CHANGE OF CALL

Charles (G7TDL) must have been doing something right since he has changed his call to **M0TDL** and I continue to receive call changes of the vanity flavour from Nancy.

### AND CHANGE OF QTH

Golin G0IFM has recently done a QSY to the Orkneys leaving Stony Stanton in Leicestershire to struggle along without him and he will now be identified as **GM4IFM**.

### RADIO ACTIVE MAGAZINE

FISTS was listed amongst a couple of dozen 'useful addresses' printed in the above. I received a copy through the post with an invitation to input more information.

Wonder if I am unique in getting somewhat niggled by errors which would not be present with a little care and checking like a mis-spelled name. They also made the (not uncommon) error of substituting an 'a' for an 'e' so that a place of burials and graves became a CEMETARY rather than a cemetery.

Validation of my company pension arrives here with both these error and continues to do so after at least a dozen attempts to have it rectified. From an individual, I can understand but from the post room of a commercial organisation - grrrrrrrr! - take it easy Geo... remember your blood pressure!

### E-MAIL KEYNOTE PROBLEM

I have already contacted a number of you who are taking traffic via [qsl.net](http://qsl.net). There was a problem here because the admin people were viewing Andys' mass mailings as spam and rejecting them. Andy has been in communication with the administrator of [qsl.net](http://qsl.net) explaining the situation as a result of which, the filters which were in place have been modified to accept traffic from him. In the interim however, I have asked a number of you to provide us with your 'real' address so that Andy can circumnavigate [qsl.net](http://qsl.net) and these are coming in slowly. Some of 'bouncers' are causing problems however since the records show either no telephone number or an incorrect one or the postal address is not up to date and I have been unable to make contact. I have to keep asking this but **PLEASE** if you change your telephone number or your e-mail address, it is just as important that you keep us up to date as it would be if you changed your postal address. E-Keynote recipients should advise both myself (for club records) and Andy for his mailing list.

### STAMPING MAD

Our Church, M0AVW, has asked me to make you aware of the following: "Our parish priest has asked me if I could ask our UK members if they could save all their used stamps for our church to be used for charity. If they could put a few in with their *qsl cards* they send to me i would on behalf of our church be very grateful.

## TINTS AND HIPS

From David, G3ZPF comes the following:

*Had a note from my mate re: those energy saving bulbs assuming your eyes are good enough to deal with sm technology.*

*You know them they are energy-saving lamps, the little fluorescents in a bayonet base, well... Keep the duff ones - they have bits in them. I bashed the first one I've ever had 'go' with a brick (was a 20W -> 100W equivalent) and inside was: two 400V 1A power fets (one p-channel and one n-channel) a little 400V bridge rectifier (sm) a 10uF 350V electrolytic two little inductors (470uH and 680uH) low current inductor 2.2mH (with a 2.5uH overwind) wire-ended 3A fuse.*

*Some R's and C's as well, but not that useful 'cos surface mount. Those of you who have not yet experienced the delights of Surface Mount Technology have both pleasant and unpleasant surprises in store. Everything is mounted (usually with solder paste and a soldering iron whose business end is on a par with a hat pin) onto one plane of a pcb. The requirements are a pair of head mounted binoculars, a steady hand and a touch like a midwife. Some of our QRP brethren are already producing useful circuitry and constructing units which border on the description of nano-technology. Try it!*

## AWARDS MANAGER

I forwarded a query to Dennis on behalf of a member who has two call signs current and wondered how he would go on re awards. I received the following advice from Dennis:

*If they have two calls and use the same membership number for both, they can use contacts made with both calls to apply for an award. They need to note this on their award application and I will issue the award to both calls as:*

*M0AVN - M3NSB.*

*Nancy and I discussed this before and decided not to issue additional numbers to other calls held by a single club member. The reason for the query was that I was reluctant to issue separate numbers for alternative call signs. It is not difficult but can lead to some pretty deep confusion later.*

## CONTAGEOUS CRASHES

Following Andys' HD crash a few weeks ago, I have been ultra cautious; backing up data to a FAT partition on the hard drive of my second computer. Although no harm was done, this 'belt and braces' approach was a source of relief when the PSU on my main computer went belly up. A new PSU was fitted the very next day and all is back to the usual semi-chaotic running order but it certainly underlines the need for some sort of safety net if the data on your PC is of any importance.

## ARIADNA ISLAND

From our sharp eyed F5NQL we get the following info:

*Mariano Viva, LU4EJ, and Daniel Vicencio, LU3DTD, will be active from ARIADNA Island, (IOTA SA 021) as AY4EJ/D and AY3DTD/D October 4 to 6th, 2002. This Island will be worked in first time by radio amateurs. The Island, valid for the IOTA Award, is located on the Atlantic Ocean, about 70 Km South East from Bahia Blanca. They will work with a Yaesu FT 817 (QRP), and power amplifier of 150 Watts, vertical antenna AV3 with 9 ground planes for 20, 15 and 10m. On 80 and 40 meters, with dipoles. The suggested SSB frequencies are: 3680, 7090, 14260, 14200, 21260, 21300, 28560, 28460 and 50.110 KHz. Also Mariano wish to operate in CW on + - 3520 and 7020 KHz from 21:00 UTC. Please listen first and no more of 12/15 ppm. We will send informations to many DX Clusters. His e-mail is: lu4ej@hotmail.com. QSL's, via LU4EJ/LU4DTD (See QRZ.com) direct or via Bureau. 72/73 es DX de Tito, LU7EE AY7EE Spanish Internet Bulletin GACW ay7ee2002@yahoo.com.ar*

## BRITISH WIRELESS FOR THE BLIND

A reminder from the above organisation that the annual competition (Transmission 2002) is scheduled 14/15 Sept 2002. In the past, a number of our members have taken part and indeed last year produced a prize winner in the individual category. The aim is to make as many contacts as possible over as great a distance as possible and prizes are awarded for the following categories:

\* the most contacts by an individual

- \* the most contacts by a club
- \* the furthers contact
- \* the most sponsorship raised by an individual
- \* the most sponsorship raised by a club

Prizes so far donated from by Roberts Radio; Tennamast (Scotland) Ltd; W.H. Westlake Electronics; Those Engineers; ICOM (UK) Ltd and the organisation is looking for additional support and more prizes.

They supply free QSL cards and sponsorship forms may be obtained from: The British Wireless for the Blind Fund, Gabriel House, 34 New Rd, Chatham, ME4 4QR.

There is a web-site at [www.blind.org.uk](http://www.blind.org.uk) or you may e-mail <[fiona@blind.org.uk](mailto:fiona@blind.org.uk)> or phone 01634-832501

## GW4SGG & QRS NET

I am privy to a communication from Bill to Brian:

*Brian - I heard you after Bert and I had gone qrt last Thursday evng. Hope you -both- will be able to assist next Thurs 18/7/02 -1930 local.*

*By the way wot do u know about "optical paddle" ??? I overheard G0EML & G4GUA this afternoon on 7.023 -- Ray was using one-- from USA- I think ??*

Now I have only heard one station thus far claiming to be using the "optical" paddles and to be truthful I know less about them than I do of embalming. A little info would not come amiss!

## AND A LITTLE MORE DX

*By the way, do you have my present call sign for your records? I am presently in Western Sahara and with the political situation, I have 2 call signs here, CN2PM and S07PM. I am using CN2PM extensively and S07PM when I get the chance to get out to the western half of the country, 73, Peter, G3WQU (ex-E4/G3WQU)*

## G4UHM/G0AOL

This combination slipped the net along with a few others following Andys' HD crash but all has now been resolved. Steve also adds in an email message:

*Finally an observation. Last month we were all allowed to use "Q" in our calls. We both used it the whole month. Sadly it seems most stations did not make the effort, all but 2 of the G & M stations we worked were using their plain calls. Personally we wish we could have used it longer, the rest of the year would have been good.*

*Having sent envelopes (and a stamped postcard for acknowledgement) to the GQ QSL sub-manager over 2 weeks ago we are now left wondering if we will ever see our incoming (esp. GB50) QSLs. The postcard has yet to come back to us. Why RSGB had to commission a separate sub-manager is beyond us - just makes life more complicated.*

Yes Steve; we Brits seem to far less inclined to take advantage of call sign dressing than some of our EU counterparts. No disrespect to Her Majesty I am sure but I must confess that GQ3ZQS or GQ0IPX did not appear - just didn't seem worth the effort!

## CROATIAN CLUB AWARD

9A - QRP CLUB

*Franjevačka 5, 42220 Novi Marof, Croatia*

*E-mail : 9a3fo@hi.hinet.hr*

### Rules for membership in 9A - QRP CLUB :

*Membership is offered to all operators all over the world who have the licence and whose output power from transmitter does not exceed 5 (five) W RF in CW or 10 W PEP in SSB. There are no test QSO's needed for the membership in 9A-QRP CLUB.*

*Membership fee is paid with the application for the membership in the Club and it is for life 5 (five) USD.*

*Every new member gets a membership certificate and a membership number.*

*9A - QRP CLUB was formed on 10. April, 1994.*

### 9A - QRP CLUB AWARDS PROGRAMME :

*General rules :*

*a) These awards can be obtained by licenced radio amateurs whose output power from transmitter does not exceed 5 W CW or 10 W PEP SSB.*

- b) All QSO's must be confirmed.  
 c) You must send the GCR list accompanied by a statement from any two licenced amateurs that the QSL cards of the contacts listed are in your possession and that the items from the cards are correctly listed. If QSL cards are submitted, sufficient funds for return postage will be also required.  
 d) A fee for each award is 5 (FIVE) USD.  
 e) Applications should be submitted on any usual application form, but the official 9A - QRP CLUB application form is recommended and can be obtained from the Award anager (Please SAE and 1 IRC).  
 f) The application must contain your call sign, name and address, name of the award applied for and a list of contacts in alphabetical order. The list of contacts must include : date, time (UT), call sign, RS/T /sent and received/, band and mode. Mark CW on the application form if all QSO's are in telegraphy.  
 g) All QSO's must have been made after 10. April, 1994. 9A-QRP CLUB was formed on this day.

#### W QRP DXCC AWARD

This award is issued to any amateur radio station who has worked and confirmed 20 different DXCC countries.  
 Next awards will be given for every next 20 new countries, i.e. W QRP 40 DXCC AWARD, W QRP 60 DXCC AWARD ... etc.

#### W 2 - WAY QRP DXCC AWARD

The same as W QRP DXCC AWARD, but both stations have to be QRP.

#### W 9A - QRP MEMBERS AWARD

This award is issued to any amateur radio station who has contacted and confirmed 10 (ten) different club members.  
 Next awards will be given for every next 10 members i. e. W 20 9A QRP MEMBERS, W 30 9A QRP MEMBERS etc.

#### W QRP 6 CONTINENTS AWARD

This award is issued for having confirmations from all 6 continents.

#### W QRP ZONES AWARD

This award is issued to any licenced radio amateur who has contacted and confirmed amateur radio stations from 10, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 CQ Zones.

Next awards can be obtained only by 9A - QRP CLUB Members

#### W CW QRP STN AWARD

This award is issued to any licenced amateur radio station who has contacted and confirmed 250 different radio stations in telegraphy.

Next awards will be given for next 250 stations, i.e.

W 250 CW QRP STN AWARD,

W 500 CW QRP STN AWARD ... etc.

#### W QRP CW WPX AWARD

This award is issued to any licenced amateur radio station who has contacted and confirmed 50 different prefixes in telegraphy.

Next awards will be given for next 50 different prefixes, i. e. : W QRP 50 CW WPX AWARD, W QRP 100 CW WPX AWARD etc.

#### W 2 - WAY QRP CW WPX AWARD

The same as W QRP CW WPX AWARD, but both stations have to be QRP.

Applications for any awards have to be send to :

Awards Manager, Denis VINCEK - 9A3Z, K. Tuskana 8, 49218 PREGRADA, CROATIA.

I hold a list of the Croatian Club members here at HQ also if they should be required.

#### STROKES V CW

Our Tex, G3TTH, mentions in a letter that "I am sure I am not the first CW op to be grounded following a medical condition which has detrimentally affected the prime (Right or Left) fist". A stroke is the usual villain here though there are other conditions which result in the same problem and for Tex, it was at first all QSD as he struggled with weeks of dry runs of the rubber stamp variety until he achieved and estimated 95% accuracy at

20 wpm. Things are beginning to improve to the degree that although he can now use his Right fist again on the pump, he prefers his educated left one on the paddles.

As so many have proved over the years, despite the initial struggle, acuity is not beyond the grasp of those afflicted and Tex is anxious to assure them that it is not the end of their CW life.

#### BANKS AND THE BIG RIP OFF

Gerald, G3MCK, wrote to assure me that joining the Euro will **not** help our overseas members. Those in the Euro zone will still have to pay inter-bank transfer charges whilst those outside will carry on as they are. He makes a suggestion that such members may have a friend who is visiting the UK and he could ask them to obtain a Postal Order (£7.00 or £4.00) which they could then assign to FISTS and send when subs were due. This is of course by far the cheapest option since the poundage on a Postal Order is in no way as severe as the bank charges for transfers or overseas cheques.

Talking about subs and particularly cash, some members simply do not believe the problems outlined. I have here 2,000 JA Yen and \$40 Australian together with other obscure bank notes which have to wait until other similar currency is obtained to justify the cost of conversion. In the interim period, the equivalent in subs must come out of my own bank account. \$(US) do not present the same difficulty since I get so many of these that they can be changed a couple of times a year.

## G3TUX

### The QRP Component Company

Stockists of Keys (Bencher, DK1WE, Jones, Kent Schurr and the Swedish pump) also agent for the Samson series of electronic keyers.

Used keys of all types bought and sold

SAE/IRC for prices/data  
 PO Box 88, HASLEMERE, GU27 2RF  
 Phone 01428-661501 FAX 01428-66795

#### JUNE LADDER

Here is the results for the June ladder and congratulations once again to Tom, G0SCP, for being successful and making the all year race very interesting. As from now all ladder and other contest logs should be sent to Dale, GM4ELV, who is on e-mail but not sure if he is prepared to receive logs this way or not. Many thanks to all those who have taken part in the Ladder and good to see it's more successful than the last Sunday ladder where we only got 2 entrants. Good luck to all entrants and also good luck to Dale and I hope you will support him as well as you have supported me.

73 Keith M0CLO.

June result	Yearly total	
G0SCP	267G4LHI	1164
G4LHI	158G0SCP	1154
M5ABN	74M5ABN	476
M5AGL	48GW0SGG	180
M0DRK	30G3VQO	145
OH7QR	11M5AGL	55
	M0DRK	52
	G0MRH	49
	OH7QR	44

#### N0HFF PUBLICATION

Got a heavyweight deliver from Nancy this month; a copy of The Art and Skill of Radio-telegraphy by Bill, N0HFF. It totals 241 pages and for anyone 'bringing in' a new pupil it is not only a good read but a worthwhile source of interesting reference.

Bill deals with Learning the code - the right and wrong way of doing things - Skill building, reading, copying, sending, alternative keying devices, the role of Memory, the 'ear', timing and a host of other very important topics discussed in an easy manner.

Costs \$10.48 (US) and postage I note was \$5.10 and believe me, for \$15.58 total you will go a long way to find better value.

Orders to Irene, WO8E but I am not sure of her current address (don't keep those details here - not necessary) so those of you on the web email <IKott@compuserve.com> to confirm postal charges or LMK and I will email on your behalf.

## G4ZPY

### KEYS AND PADDLES

All items hand-crafted with the skill of a trained engineer. Also miniature versions which are much acclaimed throughout the world.

SAE/IRC TO:

41 Mill Dam Lane, Burscough, ORMSKIRK, L40 7TG

Tel: 01704-884299

e-mail: [g4zpy@lineone.net](mailto:g4zpy@lineone.net)

<http://website.lineone.net/~g4zpy/index.htm>

### NEW MEMBERS

8933	GB2RL	CLUB	8934	JG0SXC	Man
8935	M0LOG	Logan	8936	M0CDF	Maurice
8937	M0KVN	Kevin	8938	EI7GW	Joe

GB2RL is a club station (Bishop Auckland RC) already listed as G4TTF Nr 6471 but this is a one-off normally restricted to operations from the Roker Lighthouse. Custodian M0AYI.

### A BLAST FROM THE PAST

Dunno how many of you are acquainted with Tom, GM3HBT (#0053) but he mothballed his Key many years ago to concentrate on the business of staying alive. Happily he has recently asked to rejoin us and of course, I am delighted.

Somewhat restricted at the moment with a modest 90 feet of wire round his loft via a SGC230 Smartuner but he has been busy assisting G3DXZ to develop the Bugambic semi-automatic/iambic keyer. As with so many of us old wrinklies, he has been fighting the dreaded arthritis which accounts for his interest in the keyer. Hi.

### THE DX STUFF

01/08 Aug, Honduras, HR, QSL W4CK  
05/11 Aug, Brunei, V8, QSL IZ8CCW  
05/15 Aug, Monaco, 3A, QSL IZ1DSH  
09/11 Aug, West Malaysia, 9M2, QSL N3SL  
10/14 Aug, Fr. Polynesia, FO, QSL IK2QPR  
11/18 Aug, Malta, 9H3KW, QSL EA5KW  
11/19 Aug, St. Pierre Miquelon, FP, QSL K9OT

There are other listed for August but I report only those who specify the use of CW.

### LINERS' RADIO ROOM

Latest input from Nancy is FISTS 9350. The number is out of sequence but she likes to keep club stations to 00 or 50. This is W6RO and is the radio room of the RMS Queen Mary. Good huntin'.

### FOR SALE

G3LUZ has been sorting out his shack and finds that he has a Tentec Century 22 plus PSU and handbook taking up valuable space. Offers in the region of £200 to <[g3luz@aol.com](mailto:g3luz@aol.com)> or QHTR.

### G3HZL

Further to his last tome, Don has been busy dumping all members into a log to help him keep check on his scores. Says he never really came to grips with the PC but at least his data is less liable to be 'lost' than when he was trying the same thing with a Sinclair. Bet that takes a few of you back somewhat? Still got one sulking around the shack somewhere but even if I dug it out, I would be hard pressed to use it - forgotten all those secret keypress sequences. Hi.

By this time it will be all over with but anticipated activating GB4FUN - school summer fair - and was looking forward to fostering some interest in the 5/11 year old group.

I have kept a list of drop-outs for the last few years Don mainly to facilitate a one-key resurrection but it doesn't go back too far since I was a bit slow realising how handy it would be when it

came to re-instating lapsed members. If it's any use to you, I can break it down to Call, Number, Name and QTH for you.

Nurses continue to attend him and are most impressed by decor (all manner of awards). Guess his wallspace must be comprehensively covered by now though he is gazing thoughtfully at the Kitchen and loo!

### THEY ARE STILL DOING IT!

Sorry to have to keep harping on about this people but an absence of your Callsign or SWL ID on letters and subs causes a real bottle neck. Today (23rd) out of 13 letters with subs, two had no callsigns and I had to stop the process in order to locate the originator from data available. In addition to this, three had appended their callsigns using what appeared to be hyroglyphics. Again detective work was called for and what should have been at the most five minutes work ran into twenty or more. PLEASE remember that records are indexed on Callsign or the allocated SWL number. In the time taken to log just one mystery subscription I could have registered a dozen more. Gerroff your soapbox Geo...

### MORSUM MAGNIFICAT

For news of what's happening in the world of Morse, read "MM"!

This unique bi-monthly magazine carries a wide range of articles on all aspects of Morse; past, present and future. If you like Morse, you'll like MM

By postal subscription only. Send for a sample copy £2.50 (US \$5.00 bill) or ask for further details from



Samuel F. B. Morse  
1791-1872

### Morsum Magnificat

The Poplars

Winstanswick

MARKET DRAYTON

TF9 2BA, England

01630-638306 or fax 01630-638051

e-mail: [zyg@morsum.demon.co.uk](mailto:zyg@morsum.demon.co.uk)

Home page: <http://www.morsum.demon.co.uk>

### THREAT TO BANDS

Perusing some of the traffic in a chat room reminded me that over in the US, it appears to be frequent practice for presenters of chat shows on commercial radio stations to scan the amateur bands recording cases of deliberate mis-use (music being played, deliberate jamming or offensive language). These are subsequently re-transmitted in an effort to discredit radio amateurs with the argument that the space would be better used commercially. I should imagine that the bulk of this exposure concerns VHF/UHF allocations but if such attempts succeed in their goal then the rest of our allocations must surely be in jeopardy.

It would be difficult to report on such schenanagins in the CW portions of the HF bands although interlopers using SSB have occasionally been noted behaving in such a sick manner. Quite recently however I have witnessed legitimate QSOs being subject to blatant interference on a hitherto friendly 40M and it does rather punch a hole in ones faith.

With the rig on speaker as I worked, I heard weather obs being passed on this band which is somewhat distressing since it is likely that the recipient was a shore station and both parties must have been aware that they were handling traffic on an exclusive amateur band. It brought forth a number of stations who were stricken with a sudden desire to tune up or test their keyers with strings of Vs and resulted in the rapid departure of the interlopers. Could these amateur stations be accused of deliberate jamming I ask?

### FINALE

If by some strange quirk of fate you happen to tune 20 or 15M during daylight hours and find it usable then you have won yourself a coconut. It truly has been discouraging but the appearance of a DX station again proves that there are hundreds monitoring as a 'dead' band bursts suddenly into life. Perhaps a brief CQ sequence every five minutes or so would help! Keep on the top side of it people - conditions will improve I am sure.

73/88 es stay sober de Geo