

International Morse Preservation Society



KEY NOTE



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

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

E-Mail: fist1@btinternet.com

webmaster: webmaster@asel.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: M0CLO

86 Coldnailhurst Ave, East Perry, CM7 5PY

COMMITTEE

Chairman

Vice Chairman

QSL Manager

P.R.O.

Rally Coordinator

Secretary

Committee

G4XHZ

G4YLB

M0AVW

G4YLB

G4PPG

G3ZQS

G4MZS

NETS

Sunday US: 0100Z on 14058

Friday: GX0IPX/P 1930 ON 3.558 (+/-)
also at 2200, on highest usable band

DX 14/21/28.058 on the hour for 15mins
Pse keep watch on all Novice allocations
UK Net Controls use GX0IPX/P

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>

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, WESTBROMWICH, B70 9TJ.

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

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

GREETINGS

'The March winds do blow and we shall have snow' - so goes the nursery rhyme though it has not rung true for quite a few years (well at least as far as the fluffy white stuff is concerned) but what it did do last year was to hatch some very interesting band openings so, being an optimist; I look for some more of the same for 2002.

Talking of band conditions, the weekend of 15/17 Feb saw the usual contest activity on all bands which encouraged me to take a shufti at the WARC allocations. On 18MHz, there were some nice pickings including Tunisia and one of the islands in the Sandwich group. Can't be bad.

Awards Manager

Bob, G0FRL, continues to be plagued by applications. Would all members please note that apps for awards should be sent direct to HQ and a gentle reminder that **all** applications should be accompanied by £2.00 or the equivalent. For about the last two years this has been the case since the ultimate cost of a Century is exactly the same as any other award.

Some of our on-air contacts go back a surprisingly long way. Frequently, with the benefit of a computer and logging program, I discover that the last QSO with a given station may run

back as far as 1992 and with the old card index which went back through a host of old written logs, the last QSO with one particular station went back to my very first day on air - some 17 years if I remember. Oddly though, the subject of these elusive, memory tugging encounters are with individuals who have maintained regular operating patterns. Ships passing in the night indeed!

2M CW

Angie, G0HGA, sends details on the sign-up procedure for the 2m CW activity.

"If possible please sign up using a Yahoo ID and email. If you want to use another email please send an email to <subscribe-twometrecw@yahoo.com>. You will receive a verification email back which you need to return, if it is blank just click on reply, that should join you. Any problems please email me Angie G0HGA at morseladyuk@yahoo.co.uk and I will walk you through sign up"

She reminds me that the 2m CW Activity Night is now well established and everyone is welcome to join in. Call and listen 144050 from about 7.30 until 9.30 or 10pm on Mondays.

SKW

Dear Geo,

Ref. Key Note February 2002. Page 3. M5AGL article.

In the article you say "LMK and it will be sorted." That is the reason for this message.

To the best of my knowledge the results of the Feb. 2001 SKW have never been published in Key Note.

I sent in an entry and each month eagerly looked through Key Note for the results, without success. I contacted you by letter, and also E-mail. about this matter but I regret you did not reply. I did not press you on the matter as I fully appreciate you are a very busy person indeed and doing a wonderful job. I often wonder how you manage to cope.

Fists Activity Ladder. Jan. 2002. I took part but found it was very poorly supported by our members. I managed to amass 151 points but it was a struggle. I will not be sending in an entry.

Rules. Personally I feel that points for contacts with non-members should NOT be allowed.

Best Wishes for 2002. 73 Dick Stanbridge. G8NT. Nr. 0426

Good grief.... I hope I have not made a kokup. It does get a little hectic on occasions and under some circumstances I have been known to discard mail which should be held. Now I am desperately trying to recall the details... anyone help PLEASE!

MIS-DIRECTED QSL CARDS

We have a strange situation here. Chuck is happily forwarding traffic to Stan, K4UK, and of course traffic is flowing in the other direction. Cards which are destined for non-members are periodically bundled up and shunted out to the RSGB buro by Chuck but when Stan receives such cards for US destinations, he is unable to dispose of them this way because the ARRL buro seemingly does not accept inter-US cards. Don't know how long it is going to be before the RSGB pulls the plug but currently, non-member US cards are being shunted across the pond and re-directed to the RSGB buro.

This is a ludicrous situation and members will doubtless be thoroughly confused by it! Surely we do not need to remind folks

that the FISTS bureau, with the exception of G-QRP and the various services bureaux is **strictly** internal?
There are a number of instances when members send cards to me here at HQ rather than to Chuck (please don't do it) and a surprising number are bundled up with GX0IPX cards destined for the RSGB bureau. Be aware that I tend to hold non-FISTS cards until there is perhaps over 100 so in effect, delays in delivery are exaggerated.

G3BRR

The following e-mail was received though its origin is unclear: *With reference to Mr Leader, it is my sad duty to inform you that 'Jim' has passed away. He died in November 2001. I have certain items of radio equipment which are now available. A STRUMECH VERSATOWER SYSTEM and a directional Yagi both in full working order with motor etc, If any of your members are interested please have them contact me at my E-Mail address or on 01489899036. Thank You Bob STONEAGE. <Bobstoneage@aol.com>*

ANTI-BIOTICS - NO CURE

We are still under sustained attack from viruses. Members should be aware of the potential for destructive damage these things can inflict, not to mention embarrassment. Emails from addressees whose name begins with an underscore thus: _joe.bloggs@serviceprovider.com are most suspect. In addition, there is likely to be an attachment which can appear to be anything (at random) from the infected machine's hard disk, but with a particular attribute, thus: filename.extension.extension. The sort of things I have been getting are: wallybanger.mp3.com

Now an MP3 file is usually music, and a com file is an executable. GOLDEN RULE, Do NOT save the attachment. DO NOT TRY TO OPEN THE ATTACHMENT. As soon as you do you will become infected. When you have become infected, your machine becomes the source of the next round of infection, as the virus promptly propagates itself to all entries in your address book! A good quality CURRENT virus checker such as VET from Computer Associates or MacAfee will help to reduce this problem. The virus data signature file MUST be regularly updated (weekly is great) if you are going to catch the most recent editions of these things. Something that is 3-6 months old and installed on a 'one off' basis is not a lot of help to be honest. Useful websites: www.vet.com.au or www.macafee.com Andy Digby G0 J LX FISTS 358 Webmaster. email: webmaster@ASEL.demon.co.uk

Another point which should be made is that if you do contract a virus, as soon as you have cured it, **warn everyone in your address book**. If possible, name the bug and detail what you did to evict it.

NZ WEBSITE

Hate to keep harping on about the internet etc. because it must bore the y-fronts of those of you without computers or who have no interest. However, for those of you on the web, here is a communication from Ralph, ZL2AOH:

Mike ZL1AXG has been busy setting up a new web site for ZL6QH. Pay it a visit. I am sure that you will agree that Mike has done a great job.

There is provision for comments on various items, so we will be interested to hear what you think. The QSO log records every QSO with ZL6QH and every QSL received and answered is flagged.

The address is <http://zl6qh.cjb.net>

ZL6QH of course is for the NZ site at Quartz Hill just crawling with rhombics aimed in various directions, long wires and an electric kettle for tea.

EUCW/FISTS QRS PARTY

To encourage newcomers to Morse operating, and as a contribution to the activities of the European CW Association, FISTS CW Club invites all licensed radio amateurs, especially members of EUCW clubs, to take part in the annual EUCW/FISTS QRS Party.

This event provides an opportunity for EUCW club members, and non-members, to meet and exchange greetings with each other at a leisurely pace. At the same time it is an opportunity to make contacts qualifying for the prestigious

Worked EUCW award.

Although not a contest in the normal sense of the word, there is a contest element for those who thrive on challenge, with awards for those who score the most points, and a merit award for the "Most Readable Morse Heard" voted for by other contestants.

In this event, taking part is more important than winning, providing fun for all in a non-stressful introduction to a contest-like event for beginners, and an opportunity for more experienced operators to put something back into the hobby by helping and encouraging those less experienced in CW operating.

Feedback can only be obtained from contestants' reports so, whatever your level of experience, and even if you only have time to make a few contacts, please make an effort to send in a log.

DATES/TIMES:

From 00.01 UTC on the fourth Sunday in April, for one week, to 23.59 UTC on the following Saturday. For 2002, the dates will be Sunday 28th April to Saturday 4th May.

MODE: CW only.

FREQUENCIES: All bands, except WARC bands. Non-QRP stations are requested to avoid calling CQ on the popular QRP frequencies.

KEYS/SPEEDS: Any type of key or keyer may be used, but no keyboard sending or pre-programmed messages from computers or keyers allowed. Maximum speed 14 words per minute (70 cpm). The speed of a QSO should be at the speed of the slower station

CALL: CQ QRS/EUCW. Stations may be worked or logged once each day in each band used

EUCW CLUBS:

Listen out for members of the following clubs, taking part in the EUCW/FISTS QRS Party:

AGCW-DL (Germany); Benelux-QRPC; BTC (Belgium); CFT (Belgium); CT-CWC (Portugal); EA-QRPC (Spain); EHSC (Extremely High Speed Club); FISTS; FOC (First Class Operators); G-QRP; GTC (Greece); HACWG (Hungary); HCC (Spain); HSC (High Speed Club); HTC (Switzerland); INORC (Italy); I-QRPC (Italy); ITC (Italy); MCWG (Macedonia); OE-CWG (Austria); OHTC (Finland); OK-QRPC (Czech Republic); RTC (former GDR); SCAG (Scandinavia); SHSC (Super High Speed Club); SP-CWC (Poland); UCWC (Russia); UFT (France); U-QRQC (Ukraine); VHSC (Very High Speed Club); YL-CW-GP (Germany); 3A-CW-G (Monaco); 9ACWG (Croatia).

CLUB MEMBERSHIP: Entrants who are members of more than one EUCW club should take part in the QRS party as a member of only one of those clubs.

CLASSES:

A - Members of EUCW clubs using more than 10w input or 5w output power

B - Members of EUCW clubs using QRP (10w input or 5w output, or less)

C - Non-members of EUCW clubs using any power

D - Shortwave listeners

EXCHANGES:

Class A & B, RST/QTH/Name/Club/membership number

Class C, RST/QTH/Name/NM (ie, not a member)

Class D, Log information for both stations

SCORING:

Class A/B/C - 1 point per QSO with own country, 3 points per QSO with other European countries.

Class D - 3 points for every complete logged QSO.

Multiplier, all classes: 1 multiplier point for each EUCW-club worked/logged per day and band.

LOGS: To include date, UTC, band, call worked, info sent, info received, and score claimed for each QSO

SUMMARY: To include entrant's full name, call, address, EUCW club, Class entered, multiplier claimed, total points claimed, station details, including type of key/keyer used, power used, comments (if any) on the event, up to three votes for "Most Readable Morse Heard" (only one vote per station), and signature of entrant.

E-mailed logs and summaries are acceptable, provided they follow the same format as detailed above.

ENTRIES: Send log and summary to:

FISTS/EUCW Contest Manager,
Keith Farthing, M0CLO,
86, Coldnailhurst Avenue,
Braintree, Essex, CM7 5PY,
England.

or e-mail to: keithm0clo@hotmail.com

All logs to be received not later than 31st May.

AWARDS:

a) A certificate will be awarded to the three top scorers in each class.

b) A certificate of merit will be awarded to the operator receiving most votes for the "Most Readable Morse Heard", provided the operator nominated has also submitted a log. If the recipient of the most votes has not submitted a log the certificate of merit will be awarded to the qualifying entrant with the next highest number of votes. In the event of a tie multiple certificates will be awarded, endorsed "Shared Award".

No correspondence can be entered into. The Contest Manager's decision shall be final in making all awards.

ATTENTION ALL WELSH STNS

GW0SGG would like all members in Wales to send him their E-mail addresses to facilitate FISTS QSL operation

E-mail to :— william.holt@ntlworld.com

PROPOSED PARIS MEETING

As our representative to the EUCW, Tony (G4FAI) has been undertaking a considerable amount of correspondence with Jean Marc (F5SGI) of UFT. Especially in view of the position adopted by Russia in regard to the proposed relaxation of the CW requirement for access to the HF bands, many people have been suggesting that CW oriented groups - particularly the EUCW - should assemble to format a strategy for countering the proposed changes. A date (not yet finalised) but suggested as Saturday, 31 August in Paris has been put forward by Jean Marc with hotel accommodation arranged from 29 August at a hotel in Paris. Projected cost would be some £45 per night.

If this is to proceed, there would be a requirement for representation from various interested clubs including the EUCW of something in the order of 10 to 15 attendances.

Topics to be discussed: situation in each country, compilation of a common document, implementation of stronger links between our national associations, mutual help, methods for attracting new hams, etc. Detailed programme to be discussed later. Language: English (or, alternatively, CW !..). Of course, radioamateurs magazines will be invited. We believe that media coverage of such meeting is of crucial importance. It is important to show our community that CW enthusiasts are still present, active and speak with one voice. NCI should not be the only lobbying organization to be audible. The silent majority should also be heard. Of course, any proposal will be considered. The above-mentioned informations are subject to changes if a majority of you wishes so. Before getting farther, I need to know how many of you are interested and would agree to attend this meeting.

Tony has pointed out that he will be unable to attend such a meeting and has asked me to throw this open to all club members in the hope that a representative may be forthcoming.

Tony replied to Jean Marc:

FISTS CW Club feels that at this late stage there is no action that it can take to persuade, the RA, the RSGB, or the IARU to reverse the present situation which is leading inevitably towards the abolition of the amateur Morse test, possibly at WRC 2003. FISTS originally made representations to the RSGB and the RA when discussions took place on the future of the Morse test, and protested to the RSGB when it undemocratically ignored the results of a vote by members which supported retention of the test by a large majority. FISTS is fully aware of effect that the abolition of the Morse test will have on amateur radio, and the inevitable decline in the number of amateur CW operators that will follow, and recognises that it is very unlikely that encouragement for future amateurs to take up CW will come from national amateur radio organisations. Specialised CW organisations, such as EUCW member-clubs, will have to take on this responsibility by promoting CW, providing tuition and activities for beginners, and taking every opportunity to publicise and popularise Morse.

Tony is probably correct in his opinion that little can be done at

this late stage but it is surely worth the effort. If you are in a position to attend then please let me know and I can then forward details to Tony.

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

G4UWJ. "Many thanks for the Feb. Keynote which plopped through the letter box this morning with it's usual regularity. One inaccuracy in the opening paragraph. Last year Santa put all his delivery info on a database as he now has a computer. He doesn't use the chimney any more, he uses Windows". Oouch - that one reall hurt Barrie!!! **KK7UL.** A photocopy of a Fred Basset cartoon (Associated Newspapers) which I hesitate to reproduce since these people tend to sue for copywrite at any and all opportunities. Fred is barking "----" to a scotty. The picture reverts to full width showing a smaller dog attached by its teeth to Fred's tail. "It's not a game Scotty - it's an SOS". And I was sublimely confident that all journalists (including cartoonists) researched their subject before publication!!! **I2VRF.** My thanks to Gian for a L100 coin bearing the bust of Marconi with the obverse side displaying what appears to be a multi-turn loop antenna which most of you will associate with a directional receiving arial. Was tempted to see how many pints of beer it was worth but after my experiences with a Bank of Ulster fiver when I was treated as a pariah by every trader on the market, decided to save the shoe leather. Hi. **HB9CHE.** Must sympathise with Erich whose QSO turnover has been noticeably curtailed following his appointment as IARUMS Coordinator for Switzerland. My own on-air time has dwindled to a few hours a month of late Erich! **GM0TCF.** Found VK3DBD with 50w to a mobile whip t'other day. Says ant is 'stuck in the garden and used as a bird feeder' so hope there's not too many blue tits flying around with blistered tootsies! **G4GZP.** QSL card from Geoff with an anecdote "Just after WW2, Billy Wilders wife informed him from Paris that her accommodation did not have a bidet and would he send her one. He cabled reply: Unable obtain bidet. Suggest handstand in shower" Now that's telling 'em. Look out for GX0RCS and/or the combined Army/Navy cadet corps with MX0CCF during Science week. **G8VG.** Peter's xyl in dock but unlike myself with about 4 miles to travel, he makes regular visits with a 40 mile round trip. Now that would put me on edge. Home brewed QSL card with piccy but be honest Pete... that photograph must be at least 20 years old?? Slim, almost as good looking as myself and a full thatch! **M0CDP.** Paul - as befits his clerical status - generously argues with my obs re QRPers and real radio hams. "real amateurs are those who get on the air and have a good time and are willing to work anyone who responds to theirs CQs". Confesses though that his FT817 is a mystery to him and the only work thus far has been the fitting of a 300Hz Inrad filter. 'I drive a car' he says 'but I don't have to know what is under the bonnet'. **G3WP.** Noting the 'fine adjustment' rim on his Swedish key, Jack wonders if the factory-set coarse adjustment was important. Any-one know??

GOOD HOME WANTED

GM0NTR has a small box of spares for the key WT 8 AMP Mk III (Plastic type). Free to a good home. Reply: 17b High St, Oban, PA34 4BC.

HobbyTrade's Services

HobbyTech

Interactive advice or information on radio related subjects.

HobbyAds

Free private and commercial ads until further notice.

HobbyViews

See our dealer price comparison chart for new rigs.

HobbyWatch

Actively promotes your advert to other interested users.

HobbyLink

Links to software downloads and other useful radio related sites.

Please visit www.hobbytrade.co.uk
to see these and many other services.

SCIENCE WEEK 2002

From the RSGB, a reminder that (as last year) they are supporting the British Association for the Advancement of Science, 8/

17 March, and urging all who can to organise an event locally. Clearly, they draw no distinction between a Local and National - or indeed multi-national - club but this item is included so that those of you whose local club has not so far organised an event, could perhaps indulge in a little chivvying. A kit is available from the RSGB/Mark Allgar or visit www.rsgb.org/scienceweek.

QRP DX-PEDITION

Between 9 and 17 of December, 2001 the UR-QRP Club expedition to the Crimean mountains was held. It was dedicated to the Pioneers of Radio and the centenary of the first Marconi's radiocontact across the Atlantic ocean. Special call – EN100GM.

Members of the expedition: Igor – RK3ZK, Victor – US1RCH, Peter – US1REO, Dmitriy – UU4JCQ.

On plateau Ai-Petri we set up the following antennas: LW, Dipole, Delta. We worked on HF and 2-meter bands. We had over 1000 ORP OSO



72/73! Peter, US1REO

On December 12th (the day of jubilee) members of the expedition worked CW-mode after setting up antenna Dipole and QRP TRX in the open air. It was difficult to work with the Key as it was freezing hard and our fingers became stiff.

During our expedition to Crimea there were heavy snowfalls and very strong winds. Despite these unfavourable conditions our antennas and a shack survived.

We had a wonderful time, working on bands and payed respect to the Pioneers of Radio. We found new friends and enjoyed beautiful nature of the Crimean mountains.



No ID of individuals with this group photograph taken at the airport departure terminal but you can see from the picture on the left that operating conditions must have been hairy to say the least - the white stuff you can see is genuine Crimean snow. **Brrrrr!**

living room walls - space in the shack in all likelihood being completely occupied - for the top place in the January ladder. Now, who is gonna make it for February?

MORSE TEST WEEKEND

Again the test service boys will be out in force 11/12 May for the 16th Anniversary. Contact at least 10 of the special GB stations and send contact info with £2.50 (\$5.00 US) or 16 IRCs to: G4HNF, 116 Reading Rd, WOODLEY, RG5 3AD. Cheques etc. payable to RSGB. The award is also available to Listeners.

IT'S CONFUSING!

Nancy found three of her new members were in fact ex-members. Get the same here sometimes also. If you know of any ex-members who plan to re-join then pse tell them **NOT** to use an app form. Just send me some beer money with a note and their old number will be re-activated.

NEW MEMBERS

| | | | | | |
|------|--------|-------|------|--------|---------|
| 8364 | HB9DCL | Frank | 8365 | G0ROS | Richard |
| 8366 | MW0SSL | Steve | 8367 | G3HAL | Pol |
| 8368 | G0SFQ | John | 8369 | M0PTR | Peter |
| 8370 | M0DBO | Nigel | 8371 | GM0BCA | David |
| 8372 | M0GMF | Mel | 8373 | M0ETS | Colin |
| 8374 | G2FRY | Alex | 8375 | G3RVM | Jan |
| 8376 | GW3LNR | At | 8377 | G0GSJ | Dave |
| 8378 | M0BQD | Iesa | | | |

M0MGF was hitherto signing ZS5MF and is likely to be in Blighty for only a couple of years. Pse LMK when you reactivate the ZS call Mel.

Got another big bunch from Nancy and a few re-instated members which is included in the latest update from our asel website from 2 March.

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 keysers.

Used keys of all types bought and sold

PO Box 88, HASLEMERE, GU27 2RF
Phone 01428-661501 FAX 01428-66795

THE LISTENERS

Following last month's item concerning GSWL2 and the Century award, I really must get something done about these spectacles - the name should be Pete. Sri. Coincidentally, he is now trying to find space on the shack wall for a recently issued Diamond award

Further to awards, I suspect that G4LHI will have invaded the

FISTS CW CLUB NEWS LETTER

SILENT KEY

G00BU. Keith. Passed away in Hospital 19 Feb after many years of struggling with Lukemia. My thanks to Eric, G3LPS for the information.

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

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

FINALE

Bit of a tight squeeze again this month people and with Ivy in dock again available time is hard to find but I do get the pleasure of meeting up with many of you on the bands periodically. Even this meeting is interrupted with 'Grrrrrow' when it is time for walkies. Hi. Sorry I cannot offer too much support with the ladder - GX0IPX is QRV only if free time is to hand. Don't forget that MX5IPX/P is available... last was G4AQZ who had a ball. 73/88 friends and stay sober

Geo