

## International Morse Preservation Society



# KEY NOTE



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### NETS

Sunday QRS 0900 (loc) 3.575 2E0AJS  
US 0100Z on 14058  
Tues: GCOIPX/P 1930 ON 3.558 (+/-)  
Wed: US Net 0100z on 14058  
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### GREETINGS

Despite clear doubts by some of our number (including myself), Spring has arrived. Greenfulness is sprouting just about everywhere, the tits are poking into anything with an appropriately sized hole in it and that black/white moggie seems to be in the family way again.

A strange curtain of fluctuating colours was seen from Darwen and I don't know if it is a record so far south but the solar flares which caused this rare phenomena must have been gynomous. Shut the HF bands down completely for a couple of days and then suddenly - wow!! Next thing you know, we will be getting e-mails from ET and 599 QSOs from the Alpha Centuri.

The winter SKW attracted quite a number although just how many logs are received by Jerry is in the lap of the Gods. As one member noted, it was a treat to hear the recent M5 stations having a go.

Vine sent the audio enhancer mentioned last month and, with the aid of a crowbar and lump hammer, it was duly installed. Seems to have made a modest difference to the audio but since I am not too concerned with responses beyond 1KHz I declined to add the recommended capacitor to the main VFO audio board. Not a lot wrong with the AF as it was so the improvement I can only describe as 'marginal'.

Horwich produced a sheetful of sign-ins though after someone walked off with our only pen, the bulk of the signatures were in CRAYON! Still it was better than a burned stick or a stone tablet with chisel and mallet.

Speaking of Horwich, a 486 computer and svga monitor was picked up for under £50 to replace the one I sold for a little girl down the road and which has never worked satisfactorily. At these sort of prices, it is tempting to suggest that they could prove cheaper and a lot more useful than a batch of written logs. When was the last time you fished out your paper log to find a QSO? From an ear-wiggling session on 30m, I gather that Don, G3HZL, lost a virtual library of these in a fire and is now committed to a digital log.

The main advantage of this system of course is that you can get virtually instant recall of previous QSOs. Stuff a callsign in and you get name, QTH, date and band before you caller has finished his 3x3. And, to clarify, the idea of picking up my QSO file with thousands of calls, name and QTH but not contact info is that it can be used as the main reference and your own contacts appended. Thus you will see that WB0XYZ is a member of RNARS and FISTS, he is in NJ and his name is Earl. Since there will be no contact info, you will know that you have not yet worked the station whereas, your own contacts will include date

and bands worked. Again, this is available for a floppy and return postage and, if you have difficulty appending your own QSO file, include this on the floppy and I will do the necessary and return.

### THE SMOKY ONES

*Dear Geo -*

*With ref to your comment on page 2 of the latest keynotes as to why London is referred to as 'The Big Smoke' or 'The Smoke'. Some do say that it comes from historical times when London burned so much dirty coal that the whole city was often obscured by the smoke so generated. Same thing caused the infamous London pea-soupers of course until the clean air act etc. My apologies if you were already aware of this version OM!!!*  
*Regards - Dave 2W0ALZ - Fists 3740.*

### CHANGE OF CALL

It doesn't happen much with the EU members but Jerry, UB5FDM is now RN1NDV.

### MEMO FROM CHARLIE

*On Thursday 30th march I attended Dennis G400 funeral at Boston crematorium. As a close friend of Dennis and his wife Mary for almost 25 years I was very pleased to see the chapel, which is quite a large one, full and over brimming with mourners, many having to stand. I would estimate that there were 60/70 radio amateur friends of Dennis. Some who had travelled from far afield. On behalf of Mary and her daughters I would like to thank all from this club who attended.*

*For your information George. Dennis taught me almost single handed for the RAE. And I passed the Morse test at Trusthorpe coast guard station in 1986 due to intense personal tuition from him.*

*My condolence to you for your loss of Tammy. Get off to the RSPCA depot mate. A dog is certainly a mans best friend. In my business I sell brass plaques with various quotes but out of the hundred or so options, the one I like best is: "THE MORE I LEARN ABOUT PEOPLE THE MORE I LOVE MY DOG".*

*Cheers mate.*

Charlie, G0EUD.

### RARE WALLPAPER

*Hello George*

*I have just been awarded the WAB 4000 Trophy after chasing WAB Squares since 1974! The difficulty of getting this top award can be judged by the fact that mine is number FOUR!!! (since WAB started in 1969).*

*I worked many on cw but how I wish more UK stations took the trouble to find out their WAB square and their actual county or local authority. In contrast the Germans, to a man, instantly respond with DOK numbers on request.*

John, G3OKA

### MARITIME HEN

*From 07-04 untill abt. 10-07, I will be /MM QRV again, this onboard of mv Geuldiep, a Dutch merchant vessel. I will be using all HF (10,15, 20, 40 & 80) in CW only, SSB only on request. "home" QRG on all bands is around . . 016 MHz. As*

well QRV on 6 meter to activate "wet" squares. If QRV on 6 a beacon is running on 50.140 MHz in CW, in between the messages I am listening for calls. During my /MM period I am reachable via E-mail. Hope to meet you on the bands, 73, Theo - PA3HEN - FISTS 6477 E-mail: pa3hen@amsat.org  
6 mtr. sponsored by: PA0LPE / F1IXQ / F8OP / PA2VST / PA2DWH  
QSL mgr : PA3BLS = E-mail: pa3bbs@amsat.org

### SILENT KEY

G0VYX, (Peter) is a lapsed member but he kindly advised me of the death of G0WAO who passed away in hospital with cancer on March 15.

### HQ IN FLOOD

Well, I don't believe it happened; I was transmogrified. I purposely left the sad news of Tammy to the FINALE so as not to colour the tone of the news letter and that - I thought - was that. E-mails and letters flooded in.. far too many to site individually, and just about every one said the same thing - get another one George. I have had poems, stories of pets long gone, even an offer of a replacement. "Don't be a grouch" said one; "give an needy dog a good home". There was magazine item which terminated with "And how lucky you have been to have known the love of a dog". I'm beginning to feel worse now than when he departed.

### TOP BAND

I know we have very few members who are regularly QRV on that band and I have been struggling for yonks trying to get a decent signal out. Putting out a dedicated wire would mean serious interference with the W3DZZ but recently I started trying to tune strapped feeders. Got more joy with the HF beam than the W3DZZ but now find that the best option is strapping the power lead of my HF mag loop which is up at about 45 feet and sits at about 2.5 feet over the HF beam. Now why didn't I think of that before?

### PORTISHEAD (GKA) QRT

Cross band event:

BT Radio Services have announced that Portishead Radio and all of the VHF stations will close at 1200z on Sunday 30 April. The MF stations will close at 1200z on Friday 30 June.

Portishead Radio first came on air 80 years ago in 1920 and was to become the largest communications centre in the world. It employed over 340 people and was the CW and RT centre for the Commonwealth.

BT Maritime Services have agreed to run a special cross band maritime/amateur event on Saturday 29th April 2000. The details are as follows: - Date: 29th April 2000. Time 0700 - 1900 UTC

Call sign	Frequency	Amateur QRG (+/- 5)
GKB2	4274	3525
GKB4	8559.5	7025
GKB5	12835.4	14050
GKB6	18075	18075
GKB7	22448.7	21050

There will be three stations operating at any one time - subject to the commercial requirements of the station.

BT has appointed the Radio Officers Association to handle the amateur side of this operation and the liaison officer is David Barlow G3PLE. All QSOs will receive a QSL via the RSGB. Amateurs are asked to note that there will be NO access to BT sites and following closure and there will be no surplus equipment for sale. Any enquiries from radio amateurs should be routed through G3PLE. Contact details: - David Barlow G3PLE PO Box 50, Helston, TR12 7YQ e-mail (for this event) dbarlow@u.genie.co.uk

Event Website: <http://you.genie.co.uk/d.barlow> PLEASE CIRCULATE THIS AS WIDELY AS POSSIBLE INSIDE THE AMATEUR RADIO WORLD. Special efforts will be made to beam towards Commonwealth countries at appropriate times. Please e-mail details of which frequency band and time suits your part of the world.

This information came from a number of sources including G3PLE who is mentioned in the article.

### ATHIN AIR

In the context of the previous item, I am sorry that a communication from SV1MA arrived last month but there was insufficient time to format it for the news letter. This also involved cross communications between SV1AAW (a well known greek shore station) and amateurs. There is little doubt that all smaller and possibly (like Portishead) major shore stations are set to close down due to a change in ship/shore comms media.

The worrying part about this is that a number of third world countries have maritime services which still relies on CW and for normal traffic handling purposes, they will probably have to make arrangements for telegrams, SLTs and PCS messages to be routed via other vessels which have more up to date facilities. Certainly response to distress signals will be reliant upon other vessels maintaining a listening watch.

### LAST SUNDAY LADDER

Hi Geo. Once again here is the results of the March 2000 LSCWC. I am on Weekend pass from hospital, I am an inpatient at Crosshouse Hospital, some 70 miles from QTH. I am in the Kidney Haematology Dept. as my kidney filters have suffered irreparable damage. I return on Tuesday mng to hospital; for about a 10/12 day stay to see if they can assist with medication to give me back some quality to life again.

But still here and will keep going as long as possible Hi Hi. I will attend to the SKW results but may be a little late in producing results as depending on hospital stay etc. 73 fer now Gerry

Callsign	Members	Non Mem	Previous	Total
G4LHI	34	2	72	108
G0MRH	26	3	57	86
PA3AFF	24	6	36	66
G0ANV	22	0	40	62
M5AGL	22	0	26	48
M5ABN	10		35	47
G0PEN	6	4	28	38
GM0VIT	2	7	26	35
G4RBE	12	1	15	28
GW0SSG	0	0	26	26
G0IYZ	24	1		25
F5NTP	12	2	8	22
G0VBH	4	0	10	14
M0BHE	0	0	6	6

I am sure we all wish Jerry well and trust the medicos will come up with a satisfactory answer to his problems.

### Morsum Magnificat



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### MORE DIAMOND HOLDERS

AC6TO, VA3JJ, KA4IFF, N4ZMP, W8BL, N8UD, AF9H, A19L, WB2FXK, SV1DLS, N3RSD, W8III, G4LHI, WA1GAG, W4BX, VE5RD, N4GM, K4UK, WA9PWP, WB2HEK, 9A5I, WD8OCV, W6DDB, N4VEF, PP6CW, ZL1BSG, WA9PWP, WB2HEK, W3BM, 9A5I (full update list)



The above arrived in my e-mail box as a GIF file and I had to spend a lot of time playing round to get something like a half decent image out of it. However, it's not so bad at that and although at first sight you may suspect it came from Disney World's burglar of the decade gallery, it is in fact WD8OCV. Sri, cannot identify the guy with the beard!

#### WANTED

Jim, GONTR, is keen on QRP and is seeking the Oak Hills Research "QRP SPIRIT" for 80, 40 and 30M. Must be in good nick. May-hap he could also use a decent tape recorder since his own is deteriorating as are the GM4HYF tapes which he continues to listen to. He is QTHR and also available on his mobile: 07713-926255.

#### EUCW

Hi Geo,

*Just a thought - a few EUCW clubs offer one of their annual events as an "official" EUCW event open to members of other EU clubs, as described in my news report, EU-NEWS-2.DOC, sent separately. The original idea was that all the major members should do something like this but, as you yourself have noted, EUCW has been rather quiet over the last few years.*

*In an effort to get things going again, do you think that one of the annual FISTS events could become an EUCW event? It would mean greater participation and more work for the event manager (and need his agreement), but it would also make FISTS more prominent on the air at that time. What do you think?*

*If anything could be agreed I could handle all the correspondence with EUCW and the appropriate publicity.*

73, Tony

#### What can we do?

When Tony first mentioned this to me I did think of dedicating a SKW to the cause. However, we have just finished our Winter SKW and I am reluctant to commit the spring event. We do however have the opportunity here to institute an annual event with EUCW participation and I would like to think of something along the lines of the RSGB's QRS contest or the Post Office's Postcode event. What we need is something unique to each individual participant (yes I know your call is already within this category) but perhaps the WAB could be the basis. Appropriate certificates would be no problem but are we to offer a more substantial prize to the winner? Please let me know if you have any ideas.

#### NEW MEMBERS

7146	M1EDF	Geoff	7147	G4XSO	Peter
7148	G0IRA	Peter	7149	G0NQZ	Peter
7150	G4LKP	Ken	7151	G0BQI	Mo
7152	M0CUT	Steve	7153	GW4OCN	Em

7154	GM3IQL	Andy	7155	M0ANM	John
7156	G0RVK	Mike	7157	GW0VMR	Pat
7158	G4FTY	Bob	7159	M0CTO	Norman
7160	G3CWI	Ric	7161	G8PX	Jeff
7162	G0VQT	Fred			

#### RE. AGM

As normal there was little to discuss at the AGM but a few points were raised which will be of concern to the members.

First, the suggestion that a full listing be posted to each member at least once a year. This I am afraid is a no-no. It is VERY time consuming and VERY expensive. Bob estimates that the cost would be somewhere in the region of £450 for postage alone and I do not need to estimate the time necessary to print it as being a full 8 hours - after all there are currently 15 pages. On the basis of 1,000 members, this means no less than 30 reams of paper and 1,000 envelopes. All this would be additional because there would probably be insufficient space left to include the Keynote which would have to be sent separately. Currently, each new member receives in addition to the usual welcome pack, a full listing which can be up-dated for the cost of a few 2nd class stamps. Members with access to the web will also be able to download the listing from our website.

The next problem showed itself when Bob pointed out that we are losing money hand over fist with the awards. Currently, EU and UK members are requested to include £1.00 to cover the cost of awards above the Century (which remains free) but many kindly send £2.00 just to be sure. I fear we need to increase the cost of these awards to £2.00 as standard because of the expenses involved. Bob makes no charge for doing the job of course but I know from experience that applying the hot-foil can involve 30 minutes sometimes and it is not always perfect first time so a lot of wastage is involved. The hot-foil itself is not cheap by any means and the award blanks do not exactly grow on trees. When you add the cost of an A4 envelope, stiffener and postage you will begin to understand the size of the problem. US and DX members are asked to send \$5.00 or its equivalent but the message does not seem to be getting across as a prominent number of applications have been accompanied by one green stamp or even, in one case, 1 IRC (this for no less than 3 awards). Personal overseas cheques are returned since they would cost more to negotiate than the written value but an estimated 8 out of every 10 such cases fails to result in even an acknowledgement let alone any form of recompense. Hitherto, we have issued the awards irrespective, leaving the applicant on trust, but clearly if this situation continues, we will be obliged to refuse the award. Bear in mind that returning a personal cheque to a (say) US station costs us excess postage.

With an increasing number of members accepting keynote via e-mail, the overheads will be somewhat reduced and in view of the fact that I still managed to show an over-all financial gain on the year, my recommendation to the committee that subs remain unchanged yet again was accepted.

Your committee comprises G4PSE (Chairman), G4XHZ (vice Chairman), G0FRL (Treasurer), G4YLB (PRO), G3ZQS (Secretary), G4MZS and G4PPG. The latter kindly offered to act as rally coordinator for the UK.

Additionally, we agreed (OK we should have done this before) that members organising stands at rallies should claim legitimate expenses. G4PPG will now sit at the hub of UK-wide rallies and ease the job of ensuring that appropriate material is available for stands which members may care to attend on behalf of the club.

The financial report is included as a separate slip since its inclusion in Keynote hitherto has debarred us from distributing that particular month's issue at rallies. I normally print a hundred or so additional copies but if we do get sufficient support from you in terms of a FISTS presence at rallies, it will be little trouble to increase this excess.

It was 2110 by the time I was able to shunt the assembled members out of the back room together with a plate of Sandwiches and Glen and I were able to occupy the dartboard. G4MZS along with his silver-handled walking stick had also brought a set of *feathered* darts which must have dated back to the Crimea. I'll accept your excuse that you have not flung them in anger for 5 years or more Tom but what a pity you could not have stayed a little while longer. Hi.

All in all, a very convivial evening and my thanks to all.

# G4ZPY

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## SRI... NO QSL CARDS

Bob (G0FRL) apart from being my 'posty' also has some 3.5K QSL cards to hand destined for no less than 410 members. I am sorry folks but this month we will have to forgoe them because Bob leaves for his annual tan in a few days and will not have the time to complete the insertions. All outstanding cards will be included in next month's Keynote though and in the meantime, it would be helpful if you could delay any correspondence to Bob until he returns (I believe 16th of May).

## ELMER AWARD

Yes, it is quite a long time since I had the pleasure of issuing one of these and in this case it comes at the request of M0BHE and is directed to Rob, M0AGT. Malcolm nervously approached his 5wpm for the 2E0 call but Rob was not prepared to let him get away with that and spent many weeks of evening tuition on 6M. It was 6 months before Malcolm had the confidence to try for his 12wpm. Once on HF, he found himself fascinated by 'talking' to others all over the world with the interesting accents but later joined us and also RSARS to discover that there are places you simply cannot reach on SSB together with a plethora of CW oriented awards. Currently at around 20wpm, he joins other members and is having a ball. Rob... congratulations.

## THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

**GW0VMR.** Pat, as you will note is one of our newer members and it is my pleasure to welcome him aboard. He was surprised to find Brian (GW0EDC) mentioned in a sample news letter which is sent to most applicants and whom he describes as the 'head poobar' for Morse tests in his area, Pat being one of his 'lowly' examiners. He runs a novice class and is thus hoping to encourage a few more to take up the noble art. **G4LQO.** "Avoid the jams on contest weekends" says Bill, inviting all and sundry to join him on 24.15-24.25, 18.100-18109 and of course, 10.120-10.125. He spends just about every contest weekend on the above spots but is disappointed to find few FISTS. Propagation is the key I guess Bill but you should find GX0IPX on at least one of the WARC bands. **G14RCQ** points out that the S/K noted last month should be G13SUM. Had words with Tony, G4FAI to see if he could help locate F8BCU in Valence for a direct QSL but with no success. Any-one help? **GW3PRL** wrote to G3KUL expressing his support and is grateful for the publication of the letter. The old onion Martin. AR and VA - Generally, AR means 'end of message' whilst VA (or SK) means 'my wife has just brewed up so I am knocking off for tea'. Remember though we are not bound by any strict procedures. Commonly it is <over>call de call AR although AR VA usually marks the cessation of a QSO rather than a close down which should strictly speaking be

# G3TUX

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**QRT VA. G4RWP.** Eddie travelled to Pickets Lock where his FISTS badge got him into conversation with one or two hams en-route. They said that they would like to join but declined to do so until we quit the .058 calling frequency. Now we have had this one before. If we adopted .057 it would still be the same. Some guys seem to be demanding a 5KHz buffer between the rest of the available band space and themselves which is simply not practical. If FISTS were not on .058 (or indeed 7028) it would most likely be occupied by others who would not be averse to QSying HF rather than LF for QRM. I know that a CW transmission is not without bandwidth but it is not 2KHz. Sadly, his log for the EUCW frat party was returned because he had not entered QSO time. Sorry about that Eddie - but please don't let it stop you from joining in the fun. Sorry, you know the rules re the Century - FISTS members only - they ain't all that hard to find you know. Hi. QRV from CYPRUS as 5B4BBC as of 17/5 for two weeks. Keep an ear open for him. **GW0SSG.** Bill has just finished building and setting up a radio station/shack for the local ATC (215 Sqdn) in Swansea. No qualified radio personnel and other than a TS870 kit is just a few hand-helds and a couple of brown job back packs. ATC, TA and RN training corps are wide-spread throughout the country with ages from 13 to 70 (though 13 to 20 is the norm) and a goodly number of them would love to qualify for radio amateur 'A' licence which offers a golden opportunity for members to help by offering some of their spare time to the local corps. Possible shared QRGs include 3.550-3.750, 7.060-7.100 and 14.100-14.300. The prefix is M2000Y (215 sqdn is M2000Y/MRW98). **PA3HBX.** Bert claims that my 'translation' has improved his English. He contests that 'Keyer' often infers a paddle keyer as opposed to a straight key and considers that it should describe the person operating the key (left hand, right hand, both feet or whatever). Sri Bert.. you are describing an operator or telegraphist. A Key is taken to be a straight key whilst a keyer is assumed to be an electronic or mechanical device for forming Morse characters. Any-body want to start a Euro-war over this? **SM7KJH.** I sent Chris a listing to acknowledge the over-kill (a picture of the Queen and Charles Dickens) for his subs and delighted to find that his daughter (in Gothenburg) entertained Chris and his good lady for a weekend where they visited the opera and Bizet's Carmen. Why opera? His grandson sings as a tenor. **G0JDK.** Alan confesses to having 'thrown away the key' on passing his test so I am delighted to find that he is now 98% CW and growing. Main reason is FISTS and always being made welcome by us. Strapped (sorry - means 'got none') for LF antennas but Quad for HF. **G8VDD.** Ray clears up the mystery. He holds KB7SGV (US tech) and M5AJJ which he regards as temporary until he passes his CW when the call G2CD (id of his late father) has been okayed. Hasten the 12 test Ray. **G3VD.** Ringing bells (or should it be swinging lamps) for Bernard on the subject of the T1155 tx. Stirred up memories of his service with the RAF (1939) one year after obtaining his AA ticket. Air Ministry t/c and 'K' messages from Leighton Buzzard copied on a R1084. Worked on (and serviced) T1154.R1155, T1082, T1083 and TR9. n.b. For the curious, AA means Artificial Aerial and experiments in this field were the prime when pleading for a licence in those bad old days. Hi. **ON4CBI.** Ooooh! Sri Christi. Mind was on far greater things (like where have I put my spectacles) and I skipped a line on the listing to find 'Bert'. Hi. **PA9RZ.** Can't think how many times I have asked the gang to sign FISTS/QRP if that is the case. Failure to make it clear that you are QRP in the QRP segment leads to much ill feeling so, in company with Robert, may I be forgiven for the reiteration.

## DUNKIRK ANNIVERSARY

Look out for **GB6SS** May 20/21 and **GX0000/MM** (aboard ex-HMS Watchful) May 24 or 31 on 40M en-route Scarborough to Whitby and back again. Special QSLs as usual from the Scarborough activity group direct, via RSGB or FISTS.

## ALSO

Wolf, DL1CC is QRV **SO3AB/1** MAY 5. plus **4Z4LX** or **4X85EUK** for the esperanto world congress.

## FINALE

Sure cutting it fine this month people. 73/88 - have a smashing month and stay sober.

Geo.