

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/ http://www.fistsdownunder.morsekeys.com
E-Mail HQ: 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: M5AGL

15a Buckden Rd., BRAMPTON, PE18 4PR

COMMITTEE

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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@comcast.net>
written logs to HQ. No charges and no return
envelope required.

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. Cheques should be made payable to just FISTS and sent to G3ZQS.

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

Lapel Badges, £1.50 incl. **Fabric patches** £1.50 incl.

QSL Cards £6.00 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 <m0avw1@ntlworld.com>

M0AYI Glenn@m0ayi.freemove.co.uk

M5AGL bobm5agl@btopenworld.com

M0ZAK jim.steel@ntlworld.com

Early in April, Dennis, K6DF, took a trip to Germany to see his new Grandchild. Whilst there, he was QRV via a courtesy station principally on 40m signing DL/K6DF in an endeavour to log EU FISTS stations. Being unused to our restricted 40m band, I found him operating on the mid-range frequencies of the 40m CW segment where he was subjected to some deliberate QRM. I coaxed him up to 7028 where he fared much better but the petty badgering he received earlier still left a nasty taste in the mouth. I have a good idea who was responsible for this illegal activity but of course there was no ID and it brings back the point that **no individual or group** has a claim on any particular frequency. This of course includes our own preference for 7028. If someone else is using it then so be it - solution, QSY LF to find clear space or wait until they have finished.

Was it my eyesight or just carelessness? Otherwise reported correctly, The certificate for GW8OGI upgraded him to GW0. He wrote:

Many Thanks for my new FISTS membership stuff which I received this morning. Unfortunately, you have promoted me! My call is GW8OGI, not GW0OGI. Quite ironic considering the rather hostile reception I have been getting an 80 metres from a lot of G4s G0 etc. as a former class B call. Not my fault they scrapped the morse test just as I finally made it past 12 wpm!! The crazy thing is of course, now I've tried cw, I love it. I've lost the mic for my new HF rig already. I now spend most of my time on 30m, but would like to spend some time on 80m rag-chewing on the key and improving my code.

Hostile reception??? Well, I must confess I have heard nothing like that myself but Ian is at the sharp end so he should know. I trust that the offending individuals are not FISTS.

THE '@' SYMBOL AGAIN

From Jack, WB2FXK, who keeps an eye on such things, a report from Mark Glassman following official recognition of the symbol from which the following is extracted:

"As far as we know, this is the first change to the code in at least 60 years" said Gary Fowlie, a spokesman for the International Telecommunication Union, the arm of the United Nations that will oversee the update, which is to become official on May 3. "There is a need for it."

Thus far, from letters and email comments, all but one has found the A+C unnecessary and of course the combination A+T results in "W" which is clearly of no use at all. Whilst we are trying to push the code for its simplicity among other things, adding complexity rather tends to defeat the object.

Incidentally, a search of my email address book (over 1,500 entries) has found three which include the underscore. I have yet to hear these folks describe their email addresses on air but it must cause confusion. Perhaps in the interest of clarity it would be better for them to modify their addresses? Hi. If there was going to be any new symbol at all, I would consider this to be a greater priority. Currently I am obliged to use the combination D+U and then explain that it is intended to represent to an underscore and **not** a hyphen. David, G3XPF, suggests that my file naming convention could remove the need for underscores. That's fine David but I am not always referring to my own files. Take a shufti at some of the stuff in Windows itself which

QSL BUREAU

All outgoing QSLs to M0AVW (address on banner).

UK 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, BARNESLEY, S73 9AE.

G4, GM4 etc (Except GW4). M0ZAK. 6 Central Ave, SHEPshed, LE12 9HP.

G1, G2, G5, G6, G7, 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

Pre-paid postal subscriptions

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 postage unless otherwise advised.

GREETINGS

Well! It has arrived (or at least I think it has). The leaves are bearing trees - or should it be the t'other way round? - early spring flowers have blossomed and died and on a recent trip to town I saw a traffic warden actually smile at one of his victims. Spring appears to have arrived. It is making little difference to the band conditions however and the propagation forecast within the latest Radcom displays precious few red figures. Still we can hope can't we?

Congratulations must be extended to the Asian Chapter (FISTS-EA) which has got off to a cracking start, recording many new members and coaxing a number of lapsed members back into the fold. This is the result of enthusiastic application from Jun in San Francisco and the rest of his team of volunteers in Taiwan and Japan.

someimtes need to be referred to on-air. Grrr!

OBS ON JA CW

I must confess I was somewhat confused when Jun, JM1JOT intimated that Keynote may be circulated in Japan in its original form (English). There then followed a communication with Joe JJ1BDX who opened my eyes somewhat.

*Until 1996 or 1997 you needed to prove 50-character/min Wabun (Japanese phonogram alphabet of Katakana) you usually do not use WPM for Wabun since Japanese has **no** word-spacing syntax proficiency also for passing the 1st Class exam, and this obviously discouraged many of the DXers to legally operate. This situation has been changed a lot since the Wabun requirement is removed. So most of the DXers do not care at all for Wabun and have some sort of resentments towards the Wabun-only people.*

“Wabun” led me on a false trail since it also refers to some sort of spiritual aspect of (typically) N. American Indians.

At this point, I was reaching for the aspirin bottle until it struck me that not only would it be difficult to ‘paint’ JA characters in Morse but it would also raise a long tall barrier to even JA/JA QSOs, a fact which had escaped me until now.

English has of course only 26 chars which form the Roman Alphabet and it is my understanding that “Wabun” in JA is a sort of phonetic alphabet which (with a number of reservations) splits the JA spoken language into blocks of Roman. From what I gather from Joe’s info, it is not as efficient as its English equivalent - he sites “Thanks” and our abbreviation of Tnks, Tnx etc, which would run out to “A RI GA TO U (in fact, GA consists of KA modified with a voiced suffix).

It’s getting complicated isn’t it? It gets worse because I asked Jun if he could ‘guesstimate’ the percentage of JA hams likely to be moderately fluent in English. Jun referred this to Joe who’s figure was a discouraging 1%. whereas (much to my surprise) he intimated that in Taiwan the figure would be greater. Chung BV2WS who was non-committal on the percentage question - was of the opinion that Keynote should remain as an English language circulation. There may be limited benefits in a JA or BV translation but the fact must be faced that unless some measure of fluency in a Roman based language exists already, we are likely to be stuck with Call/Call 5NN etc.

I must say that all this rather confused me since of the hundreds of JA CW QSOs I have made, a surprising number responded to questions on equipment, antenna, relative location etc which left me with the impression that if a JA was found on CW he was no less fluent than his EU counterpart.

The newly formed chapter FISTS E. Asia has already recruited new members and reinstated others who had run out of compliance. I also visited their re-vamped website <<http://www.fists-ea.org>> with info in English, Japanese and Chinese and their web-master has done a superb job. Hope to be seeing more new members from them soon.

I1MQ - A BRIEF HISTORY

Noted in new members last month but nil space left, Ada learned Morse in 1937 (age 13) and became 2nd op of her Fathers station and the first Italian YL to be QRV on CW. Served as RT (Marconista) at Miriafiiori air port near Turin.

She obtained the call I1ADA and in 1965, after his death, adopted her Fathers call I1MQ.

From the age of 13 she was in regular contact with Tullio, I1MM, a friendship which blossomed into greater things when in 1954 they were married. Sadly, Tullio passed away in 1991 and Ada now lives alone but with her son and daughter close by.

She can be heard using the straight key, a present from I1ER who used it for the whole of his lengthy Radio career.

/M OPERATIONS

It is understood that the chances of being involved in a road accident are enhanced by a magnitude of 6 if the driver is conducting a telephone conversation whilst mobile. Got no idea how a government department comes up with a figure like this but accepting that there could be some increase, leads Graham G3ZOD to wonder how the authorities would react to someone

who confesses to be operating a keyer whilst on the road. They must take a much more relaxed attitude in countries where /M operation is commonplace and the operator confesses that he is not static. I well remember operating /M in the US some years ago though with the comforting knowledge that Elmer, (better half of KA4IFF) was actually doing the driving. It was the ‘County Hunters’ net and extended solo mobile operation was regularly conducted from various vehicles sometimes for many unbroken hours. To my knowledge, no one was ever reported to be involved in a shunt of any sort Makes you wonder!

ACTIVITY LADDER

March Returns. Annual Total.

Call.	Points
G4LHI	125
M5ABN	117
M5BRY	55
M3GBT	50
M0RHB	43
G0VSS	39
M0DRK	33
OH7QR	27
GI4CBG	27
GX2HDF	26
M5AGL	26
M0CMQ	24
GU4HUY	18
2E0EUK	12
G8XGQ	12

Its nice to see the number of returns increasing. M5ABN Peter is giving G4LHI Peter a challenge and G0VSS Ray make up the top three for the month. My apologise for not including John M0CDL (in last months returns comments) who also operates the club call GX2HDF along with Mark M0BLT. Many thanks to all who take part. 73’s for now de Bob M5AGL.

MIXED KEY WEEK

Call.	Points.
G4LHI	3444
M5ABN	1050
M5BRY	464
M0DRK	420
M0DUB	288
G0XAH	120
M3GBT	60
PA3AFF	48
G3HBN	32
G3VQO	31
OH7QR	28
M5ENM	20
M0CMQ	9
G4XPE	5

Peter G4LHI has certainly taken the top spot. Looks like I will have to put a handicap on you Peter Hi. Well done to M5ABN and M5BRY For second and third place, your certificates will Be with you in due course de Bob M5AGL..

FISTS DOWN UNDER AWARD

The FISTS Down Under Award is earned by accumulating 50 points. For this award contacts with any FISTS Down Under (FDU) member in ZL or VK since the inauguration of FISTS Down Under on 1 June 1988 are worth one point. Contacts with FDU affiliated club stations are worth five points each. (Currently ZL6FF, VK2FDU, ZL2SWR and VK4RC/VK4IZ.) This award is available for all FISTS Club members worldwide. A station can only be claimed once. – Note, the one point for working a FDU station is the same for all members, (i.e. there is no premium for working outside one’s country.)

As the number of FDU members increases, provision will be made for higher grades of the FDU Award

Please note the special E-Mail address for applications for this award – zl2aoh@ihug.co.nz

The system of recording contacts and applying for the FDU award are the same as for all the other FISTS awards except that logs should be forwarded to the FDU Award manager, Ralph Sutton ZL2AOH

Postal Address: 12c Herbert Gardens, 186 The Terrace, Wellington 6001, New Zealand

KEMPTON PARK

As mentioned previously, M0WDX arranged a stand at Kempton Park resulting in 13 new members. Below you see the Walrus himself with other members of the crew.



They even had a W and VK stop by and pick up an archived copy of Keynote in addition to existing members who stopped by to say hello.

I note a warning on the spark transmitter: "DANGER DANGER 30,000 wonderful volts. Nix finger gerponken". Hi.

JJ1BDX/3

I neglected to mention in the earlier item concerning CW problems for JA/BV that Joe, JJ1BDX/3 chided me for an earlier item concerning the GHD company. Hard for me to recall this accurately but I think it concerned a mechanical bug and the translated instructions left me squirming in a fit of the giggles.

Joe asks me to treat such JA/English translations with a little less levity on future occasions.

There was of course no disrespect intended (especially since the item concerned was of high quality) though I rather imagine that some of my own faltering attempts at translation into other languages (particularly German) will probably have left 'em rolling on the floor in laughter - and this with the aid of what purported to be a direct document translation prorogramme.

BPL NOISE SAMPLE

<http://vhfgroup.rochesterny.org/>

I took a shufti at the site and listened to the racket in a "test" area which on occasions was truly horrendous. Samples were taken from 28MHz down to 14MHz. The signal strength varied from S9 to S5 on a day when there was a SSB contest running. The sample on the 15m band in the CW segment dropped to S5 which would have meant serious problems with weaker stations though anything from S6 upwards should have been readable. Not much of a consolation though?

NEW MEMBERS

09894 GW8OGI	Ian	09895 EA4DAT	Juan
09896 2W0TDU	Trevor	09897 G3PLE	Duke
09898 DF2OA	Dieter	09899 MM3JBT	John
10800 G4RHT	Gordon	10801 ON5EX	Johan
10802 G0TRD	Trond	10803 G0TLU	Peter
10804 G0RWB	Alan	10805 G0SZR	Brian
10806 G0VDZ	Nigel	10807 G3PHU	Sam
10808 G3KLT	Ivan	10809 G0KMC	Alan
10810 G0TOC	Marc	10811 G0TQV	???
10812 M0CQG	Mike	10812 M0DTB	Terry

10814 G0EEZ Charlie
Sorry about the jug handles but I still await a preferred on-air name for G0TQV. Please note that DF2OA also holds the call OZ1AJF which is activated periodically.

THE IN-BOX

ON5XE

Being the editor of the QRP corner in our national ham magazine, besides being a member of ARCI & G-QRP, as well as a CW "trainer", I feel entirely "at home" with FISTS.

73 de Johan, ON5EX..

Recently, I took an examination for US amateur license in Tokyo and passed the exam for General class. My callsign as US station is KG6TGB. :-).

Additional callsign

Somedays, I would like to go to KH2 or KH0 and QRV in HF band with US callsign. hi. KH2(Guam isl.) is very near from my hometown, about 3 to 4 hours with an airplane.

Sincerely yours. JR0QWW/Taro FISTS #5578,

There were also numerous comms from FISTS-EA members, most of which were too exhaustive for inclusion though as far as possible, all points were covered in an earlier item.

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@g4zpy.co.uk

<http://www.g4zpy.go-plus.net>

F5NQL

Maurice has been quite active this month and the following may be of interest:

JF1UIO, Masayoshi, will be QRV from Loyalty slands (OC-033) as follow :

from May 2 to 4 from Ouvea Island, also DIFO FK018

from May 4 to 7 from Lifou Island, also DIFO FK 012.

His call sign will be FK/JF1UIO. Look for activity from 10 to 40m and QSL via bureau to his home call (QRZ.com).

I returned from a short trip to Ushuaia - Tierra del Fuego Island - CCIA ARXP1 and IOTA SA008, where I made about 300 QSOs as LU1DZ/X using the Jorge Vrsalovich LU7XP silent key station thanks to his wife Mary.

Most of the equipment, tower and antennas will be transfer to Ushuaia Radio Club LU8XW, because it's plenty of GACW Members and Morse lovers. They will built a special room with county help for LU7XP Memorial station. I think we can get LU7XP call sign for special events and contest pourpose. We fixed the first week of October as a tentative date of innauguration. We will see.

My QSL manager is EA3EA but you can send a sae with 1 (one is enough) IRC and I will return a different card made with my computer.

Best regards Alberto LU1DZ

70th years of French Airforces:

For the 70th year since the French Air Forces were founded, the 128th French Airborne ARS, F6KAT, will aired the special callsign TM7OAA, from 6th to 20th of June. All bands from 160 to 70 cm, all modes.

QSL via F6KAT bureau or directe (ETSA). (Thanks F5SMR and F8LDX)

A team organized by BX2AE, BV2OO and BV2QB will be on Dong Yin Island (BOOD) which near by Matsu Island belongs to AS-113 will be on air May 08 to 14th.

QSL via BV BURO 73 Paul.BV4FH

For his pains, Maurice is assumed to be QSL manager for vari-

ous expeditions the latest being 5V7C. I would ask members working any of the stations noted by Maurice to ascertain correct QSL info.

Silent Key

We record with sadness the passing of George SV1NA, President of the EUCW Society "The Greek Telegraphy Club (GTC)". YIORGOS (GEORGE) GRAIKOS
11 PAPAPOPOULOU, GR-104 45, ATHENS, GREECE .

G3TUX

The QRP Component Company For Kits, Keys and QRP

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 current list of stock or email <sales@g3tux.co.uk>

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

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

G3RFH. Wondered if there was a chance of catching me at the Blackpool rally but sorry... getting too long in the tooth for that sort of thing Ken even if there was a volunteer chauffer. Hi. Currently using a 80/40/30 mag look after one leg of his doublet parted company with the rest at the feed point so for a while at least until he is in a condition to climb a ladder, he is stuck with it. Swapped his FT920 for a TS870 (very sexy Ken) and is in no way dissatisfied with it. **G3EFY.** At present he is restricted to QRP and the replica 'paraset' which being rock bound, means that his participation in the EUCW-QRS contest depends very much on the range of crystals at his disposal. **G3PNF.** Nice hand-rolled QSL from Dennis - one of those infuriating people with a tidy shack. Mine looks like an explosion in one of those fancy refuse wagons mate but I know where everything is.... just give me a week and I'll find it. **G3VUN.** Gloria has done a QSY to the leafy lanes and now troops along to the mid Cheshire club so is wondering if there's anyone in her vicinity who would be interested in attending. Plans loft-bound antennas (doesn't say if they would be permanent) and could well be QRV by now. **G4GMZ.** John disagrees with opponents of the '@' symbol (A+C) and considers that Morse should be allowed to develop naturally as with any language. That's great if it was really necessary John but is it? **G3JKY.** Jakey is back from ZL and when switching on the rig for the first time he identified Nigel, ZL2TX at the sharp end of the National Club station ZL6FF. Unable to raise him as there was something amiss with the 40m section of his vertical causing the VSWR to hunt. Additionally, he says "The whole world and his wife plus several other relatives" had smelled blood. It was always thus Jakey. Hi. **OH2CF.** Matti has been QRT for some time but in spite of this prefers to keep his membership in good standing. This has happened before with the longest period being of 10 years, but now finds himself faced with sunspot minimums. Know what you mean Matti. As I write the news letter I can hear all manner of activity from the rig but as soon as I get a moment to myself - you've guessed it - all that activity is replaced by a loud silence. Grrrrrr!

PADDLES

Dale GM4ELV, had a pair of Bencher paddles (the ones with the black base) which he had no use for and kindly posted them to me for sale, the proceeds to club funds. They arrived here in a pretty sorry state however following the TLC afforded by Parcel Post - the contact arms having been grossly deformed. I had at first thought that one of the arms was OK and used it as a template to correct the remaining one but sadly this was not the case and it took quite a bit of juggling to restore them to their original configuration.

On the advice of Chris G3TUX, I offer them at £25.00 for collection or £31.00 via Parcel Post. Pse phone/email first to ensure their availability. Fear not. If via the parcel service I will ensure they are packed in such a way that there will be little chance of damage in transit.

ACCOUNTS 2003

We ended up with a modest profit for 2003 which is detailed below:

INCOME

Badges	£ 49.00
Donations	£ 507.00
Labels	£ 65.00
New Members	£ 450.00
QSL Cards	£ 355.00
Subs	£4,336.50
Total Income	£5,762.50

EXPENSES

Bureau	£ 450.00
Domestic	£ 240.00
Postal	£ 2,392.69
Print Sundries	£ 969.65
RSGB	£ 42.50
Sundries	£ 164.24
Total Expenses	£ 4,259.08

Total Income/expenses £ 1,503.42
a/c Balance £ 8,748.00

Despite my no longer being able to print Keynote myself and the inevitable increases in such things as stationery and postal costs the difference (income v expenses) was most satisfying.

The item 'Domestic' refers to an agreed sum of £20.00 per month to augment Phone and electricity bills.

The cost of printing Keynote professionally on A3 sheet is quite reasonable at £58.00 per issue.

Looking to 2004, the insitution of FISTS-EA will relieve us of a small loss which was incurred by JA postal delivery of Keynote and the continued acceptance by other members of Keynote via email is an encouraging prospect.

In the current circumstances, I see no need for an increase in annual subscriptions.

FINALE

As I ran the master copies through the laser the rig was on a 2K bandpass and there was a fair amount of EUCW-QRS activity on the bands. It seems to be going very well indeed.

Sorry to have to cut 'n run at this point but I want to get this into the hands of the printer asap.

73/88 my friends have fun and stay sober.

Geo.