

International Morse Preservation Society



# KEYNOTE



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**AWARDS**  
 E-mail apps/logs to Chuck M0AVW  
 <fistsawards@comcast.net>  
 Written logs to HQ. No charges and no  
 return envelope required.

**SUBS:** Email Keynote £5.00. UK mail £6.00, EEC mail £8.00 others £11.00. 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 M0AVW (address on banner)

**Please** include your **CALLSIGN, name, FISTS No** on all correspondence and on the back of any cheques .

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**QSL BUREAU**

**All outgoing QLSs 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 for GW0), **G3JRY**, 3 Rochford Crescent BOSTON, PE21 9AE.  
**G3. GM3 etc** (Except for GW3) **G0UQF**, 2 East St. Dartfield, BARNSELY, S73 9AE  
**G4. GM4 etc.** (Except for GW4) **M0ZAK**, 6 Central Ave, SHEPHERDSDEN. LE12 9HP.  
**G1,G2,G5,G6,G7,G8** (Except for Wales) and ALL Special (GB etc) calls to **M0BPT**, 38 Whearley St. WEST BROMWICH, B70 9TJ  
**All members in Wales to M0AVW** (address on banner)  
**EU/DX Members:**IRCS' UK Banknotes, US Dollars or Euros to M0AVW. The club will provide envelopes. Also, any excess over subs from non-UK members will be regarded as QSL postage unless otherwise advised

**Hello from the Editor**

Well its October and the nights are already drawing in, I hope conditions are going to improve now on 80m for us, its been pretty bad here . Its been a busy couple of months ,finally got the building work done and I have a nice new workshop fitted with a bench drill, grinder and sanding belt. I have now been taken on permanently by the council as a ICT support officer and work 3 days a week doing this role (by choice) which give me some time to help the wife out with my son and a bit of time to "play" radio. We took our little touring Caravan down to Brean Sands over the last few weeks and now have it stored down there ready to use when ever we want, nice and easy to get to for me only a couple of hours drive and we are there, now just got to think about leaving a radio down there. Maybe one of the small qrp radios that I got in for our club project may be the ideal thing and a simple fishing pole vertical for the antenna, I'll have to have a play and see. Anyway I was pleased to see that a few people have sent in articles for this months keynote and that a good number of people responded to the subscription

reminders that we sent out, FISTS is really looking much fitter now than it has for a few years and we are getting Many more new members joining us. This can only be a good thing for CW and the Radio hobby as a whole, we have also had a number of people say that the larger font size is much better for them and so we will be sticking with it from now on. Anyway onto the articles and some very important news about some big changes to Keynote.

**Major Changes under way**

Now I'm sure that this will upset a few people and also others will welcome it and say its over due. But..... (Insert Drum role here) we are going to make keynotes even better than it is now, "impossible" I hear you cry! Well since we have many larger items that just can not fit in the 4 pages we have now and in each edition we waste nearly one page with the standard header, subs details and QSL information, not to mention new members details (which are getting more and more of) we have decided to produce Keynote in an A5 booklet (in the same way that G-QRP and many other clubs do) this will give us some breathing room, we can then include Bobs Contest newsletter "brasspounder", more technical stuff , antenna advice, sections tuned more to what people want to see, to start with we will have a total of 24 pages to play with and I'm sure you will find it a much more interesting read than the current version. The draw back from this change is that we will only produce it quarterly so rather than getting keynotes every 4 or 5 weeks it will be every 3 months but it will be of a much higher quality content, it will still retain its friendly banter and old favourites like Geo's "Strawberry Basket" will be reappearing (for those that can remember it) plus new sections like Sales and Wants, The content will be CW oriented , it will not be allowed to become just another general magazine , we can give you a "No Microphone" guarantee! Hi, the new format will be available in both paper and email form and it is hoped that the first edition will be out for spring 2007, and then followed by the summer, Autumn, and Winter editions, this change will NOT increase the subscription cost to members.

That's change number 1, Now change number 2 Upto now members subs have been due at the anniversary date of joining, this has given us many problems in the past and made it harder for members to know when their next payment was due, we are going to simplify things, ALL membership fees will be due on the first of April each year, don't panic, we have a way of making sure it doesn't cost you more money if you have paid up to a date past April.

This will only effect members when they come to renew their membership, see the table below for payment details

The figures are percentage of your normal subs so for example someone that needs to renew in Sept 07 would pay 50% of their normal payment at that time and then their renewal date will be 1st April from then on.

Renewal date between Now and April 07 :-	100%
Renewal between May and July 07 :-	75%
Renewal between August and October 07:-	50%
Renewal between November and Dec 07 :-	25%

After this payment your subs will always be due 1st April and we will be sending a reminder with the winter edition of keynotes together with a standing order form to allow automatic easy payments straight from your bank or building society in future. (no more forgotten renewals) We will included a letter explaining this better with the next keynote so don't worry.

This will make our lives much easier and we will be able to budget better for the following year.

I am sure that some will not like these changes but we hope that the majority of our members can see the sense in these changes and that they will help bring FISTS into a new league.

Thanks Paul M0BMN Editor

Well that's something for you to think about isn't it, so on with the rest of the newsletter.

### Very High Frequency Morse

If you thought activity was bad on the VHF/UHF Bands then try Light Frequency! No just kidding really but Jorn as just sent me details of his free Heliograph/Aldis lamp simulator for the PC and his new UltraMorse teaching package that is also free. He would be grateful for any feed back from users, His software can be found at <http://home.no.net/fenja256/superaldis/> and <http://home.no.net/fenja256/ultramorse/> let him know what you think.

### One for the Diary

Derrick M0BDD said hello to us at the Leicester Rally and asked us to come and sign his FISTS Visitor book , so first let me say sorry since both John and myself where that busy we never got over to sign his book. Also he has informed me to another rally he will be at, the Barnsley Ham Fest on the 12th November. The Keynote visitors book will be open on the R.S.A.R.S stand so any members will get a welcome and be able to sign the book. Thanks for the effort Derrick

### August Ladder

Well the ladder was not the best one I have ever tried to take part in, wall to wall RTTY ! I was intending to run a QRS station on 40m but had no chance with the high power RTTY stations there, in the end I ran out of time and only had a quick QSO on 80m with Peter G4LHI, from the mails I have received I know I'm not the only one that had problems...

Hi Paul

Just 3 qso's on Sunday afternoon on 80m to Peter G4LHI, the other Peter M5ABN/P and Bryan G0GSY. QSB bad at times, 73 de Mark M0CMQ/7701.

Several calls here on 20 30 40 and 80 but no result at all then S9SS for compensation on 30m, not bad with my in-door LW.

Better luck next time. 73 Fred PA0FAW

### Anyone Help?

I have been working with Stan (K4UK) trying to gather together a complete archive of FISTS members since the clubs inception. However as is always the case some 63 numbers are still proving elusive to trace and I wonder if you would find a little space in KEY NOTE, or the FISTS web page to cast the net further?

DX - Blocks refer to non USA members but any number/call sign connected with the 63 is of interest as the same numbers were allocated for a period of time to both USA and European club members.

I am more than willing to field the replies to this challenge via < [g3uua@x5g.com](mailto:g3uua@x5g.com) > It maybe that on the web the replies of most interest come from the number holders themselves!

73 de "Alf Ramsey (FISTS 5519 CC#944)

#### Missing Prior to Blocks (47)

157	188	206	392	394	396	397	400	401	447
450	451	452	453	454	457	458	459	460	461
462	468	469	470	473	474	475	476	479	481
482	490	494	529	573	574	575	580	582	585
589	590	592	594	596	790	928			

#### Missing DX-Blocks (14)

1081	1082	1083	1084	1085	1086	1087	1088	1089
1090	1093	1094	1095	1607				

#### Missing US-Blocks (2)

1049	1200
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### Mablethorpe Show

I have received a email from Nev G3VDV 09815 about the Mablethorpe show that his radio club attended and the good work they did promoting CW.



Photo with Mayor:- left to right Malc G3ZUI, Town Mayor, Councillor Bernard Dobbs, Colin G3NRQ.

The Eagle Radio Group (MX0ERG) 09838 is a radio group on the Lincolnshire coast. We meet once a month at the Eagle Hotel in Mablethorpe, and we have about 40-plus members who live in the surrounding area. We have a fair number of CW operators, ex-navy and of course ex-Humber Radio among them.

We hold quite a few public events throughout the year, but our main showcase is the Mablethorpe Show which takes place in July on the Tennyson School playing field. Most of the public services are represented (Police, Fire, Ambulance, Coastguard, Lifeboat etc.), along with all the local charities and voluntary organisations.

In the past we have tried various ideas to interest the public, particularly the young. Two years ago we had a visit from the RSGB's Funbus (GB4FUN), and last year we went 'hi-tech' with computers and data modes. We decided this year to go hands-on, 'low-tech'. Small certificates were awarded to people who successfully sent their names in Morse. The response by all age groups well exceeded our expectations.



There was a lot of interest from young people of both sexes, and it was interesting to see how rapidly they achieved the correct rhythm and spacing. We had a few surprises - a nun who was very much at home on the key (Girl Guide training), and a few WW2 radio operators who had not lost it. Altogether we gave out over 120 certificates; I had to make a quick trip home to print more! There was often a queue, and people were able to practise using our collection of Morse keys while they waited.

We were very pleased with the exhibition, and have gained at least one new group member as a result of the event. Some members of the group would like to repeat the idea next year. Why not? It's the best response we have ever had. LONG LIVE MORSE  
de G3VDV Nev 09815

FISTS Rally at Donington great success!

Early in September John (M0CDL) and My Self set sail for the donington rally, we got there at about 8am on Friday morning and found our little corner table plot, we set up a "Test Your Morse" station that allowed people to send Morse via straight key and a Laptop PC was being used to decode what was sent. Many people where surprised by their "Quality" of sending with a straight key but really it was just a bit of fun, We had around 45 members visit the stand over the two days and sign our visitors book which was great, it gave us a chance to chat and hear peoples views, we ran ideas past people (like the A5 Booklet) and it gave us feedback

That made us think it was a good idea. One problem we had was people had a hard time finding us there, it's a BIG rally and despite us having two tables people only found us by accident, its become clear that we need to get a Banner made up for future shows.

We must have given out 60-100 membership forms over the 2 days so lets hope we get some of them back filled in!, we also got a number of new members signed up there and then.



On the second day we had a visit from the Huntingdon Mob. Which was really nice as it let me put faces to people that I have only worked on air , well done lads and thanks for making the day so enjoyable . I for one will be looking forward to the next rally.

#### Chuck M0AVW recalls a Telephone call with Geo .....

Here is a funny for the keynote, after we had got back from the Dominican Republic last year I phoned Geo and told him about our holiday, about the horse riding we had done through the jungle, rain forests, and rivers etc I also told him about the facilities on the hotel site one of which was a full size high trapeze which I went on after a load lot of pressure from our kids. I went on it and even swung by my legs to a big applause from the on looking crowd.

Geo's reply was "great chuck, do you know when I was younger I was a tight rope walker" well I was totally gob smacked and said if we had met years ago we could have had our own circus hi.

That sounds like Geo ! Paul

#### Congratulations! To Granddad Chuck

Chuck and Mandys first grand daughter Bethan was born on the 7th Sept, 9.25am 6lbs 12oz at home, to Amanda their daughter and partner Chris. Mother and baby doing very well.



left to right Amanda Chucks daughter and Bailey 1 year 5 months, Chuck and Bethan the day she was born 31/8/06 the latest arrival in the centre, and Mandy and Owen 3 years 4 months on the right.

I'm sure you will all join me in sending best wishes to the new arrival and the family!

**Well Done Peter !**

G4LHI who must be known to most active FISTS contestants was given a surprise at the Donnington Rally this year when he was awarded with a certificate to recognise his efforts in teaching Morse for the last 25 years and his service to Amateur Radio. Seen here is The editor of Practical Wireless making the award to Peter.



Well done Peter you deserve it!

**VK Visitors**

Chuck M0AVW and Mandy had a welcome visit from some friends from downunder, FISTS downunder!



The Vk FIST Visit, left to right is Mandy, Chuck - M0AVW, Carol and Chris VK3CGB FISTS 9087 "We had a great time, a good chat about radio, good food, and Chris even had some of the world famous home brew (beer) HI. They liked our 2 black labs, Ruby and Poppy and went up to see our horses Edward and Berry," Sounds like it was a good meeting and good time was had by all. Just wondering if that Homebrew travels well, say down to the Midlands. (Ed)

**Club Project**

The Club project of building a simple transceiver seems to have gone well with nearly everyone finishing theirs and finding that they work very well, I still have my 40m kit in the bag and have not found time to start it yet. Maybe over Christmas! (I Hope). I will run the project again next year for those that missed out this time so if you want to take advantage of the next batch of kits let me know.

**QSL Cards and Badges**

We are now just finalising a deal to get us some great QSL cards, the back will be preprinted just like the old FISTS cards but the front can be anything you want from just a simple logo to a full colour photo type card, more on this in the next edition, we also have found a supplier for enamelled metal FISTS badges just like the old ones, more on these later.

**Last Word**

If you have anything for the next Keynote (the last before Christmas and in this format) please send any articles to me at the address on the banner.

**Report On Straight Key Week by Robert M0BPT**

Quite a few FISTS members were active during the week but I've had a few comments from participants telling me how quite a few had forgotten that it was on, or didn't even know it was on!

I shall have to re-dress the issue of adequate publicity for next year.

I noticed from some logs received that Nancy WZ8C (FISTS USA) who was in Belize during the proceedings was worked using the call V31AN. Would imagine that some of the WARC entrants would have liked that one!

Also I see that Stan, K4UK, found his way in to peoples logs.

Well worthy of a mention is Erkki, OH7QR who while travelling to visit family in Sweden, still managed to get on air!

He managed to work members while at his home in Tuusniemi signing OH7QR,

While signing OH7QR/M at Alajanvi,

While signing SM/OH7QR/M at Umea

While signing SM/OH7QR/M at Kramfors.

He was active all seven days of the challenge!

Erkki was using a Yaesu FT897D with a Yaesu mobile whip coupled to a tuner. And a Lennart Pettersson key.

A report of the weeks activity by Peter, G3JFS

Conditions were lousy with very little short skip propagation in the daytime and deep qsb on the few signals that did appear. Activity by Fists members was disappointing but I worked several who either didn't know about the SKW or were using a paddle and didn't know they still gave points to straight key users. That might account for the low level of activity as several people said they do not own a straight key. I lost count of the number of cq calls that I put out on the Fists frequencies without a reply. In all I had 31 'Fists' contacts with 25 different members out of a total of 120 contacts. Evening time on 80m was the best for working members. 15 and 10m were dead when I listened and I had only one qso on 15m. Best dx was Ron, ZL1AMO, a non-member, on 40m and a few USA stations on 20m.

My key is a 'Raymart Speed Key' bought in 1947 when I first started to learn Morse code. I'm not sure exactly how much it cost but it was about 10/- (= 50p) and as a 12-yr old schoolboy I had to save a few weeks pocket money to pay for it. Like its owner it is now showing its age but still works and was a good investment. Since retiring 11 yrs ago it has been used to make over 37,000 contacts. It has also been around the world a couple of times and seen 'service' in the UK, W. Australia, Nigeria, Kenya and Germany.

Straight on to the results.

SKW	SEPT	2006	Congratulations to Peter,
CALL		POINTS	G4LHI who managed to claim
G4LHI		162	1st place by the narrowest of
G3JFS		151	margins.
IK2RMZ		98	Also congratulations to Peter,
M0DRK		56	G3JFS who came in a very
G0GSY		49	close 2nd to G4LHI.
G0RDO		49	And congratulations to Martin,
OH7QR		48	IK2RMZ for 3rd place.
M5ABN		42	Award certificates to the top
G8XGQ		24	three.
2E0TEK		24	Thanks for your support...
M0CMQ		10	Robert , M0BPT