

BRASSPOUNDER

October
2015
Issue 89

www.fists.co.uk



I'd like to welcome you to this Brasspounder.

Comments received:

Laurent F5OGJ (ladder)

I couldn't participate on the 13th of September. On 27th, surprisingly most members seemed to be on the overcrowded 40m band, while 20m was still open very late in the evening, and I found nobody on 80m.

Vy 73 Laurent #17037

Richard G0ILN (ladder)

Where have all my UK friends gone? But on the other hand it is nice to make new Fist friends in Europe!

Richard G0ILN.

Michael G0POT (ladder)

Only managed one activity session this month and thought I'd make it interesting by operating using my new Mountain Topper rig with just ~2W output. Scooped up some of the regulars and a pleasure it was to work them all. Happy hunting everybody... Michael

Peter G4LHI (ladder)

73/88 to all who are helping to keep CW alive. Grt condx on 40m this week. Nice to get UK calls in log with FB reports, fun & like old times again. 73 Peter G4LHI # 2219.

Dave M0GGK (ladder)

I can't get on in the first session so I have been using the second session. Interesting contacts only 3 points for my Century! Only took me five years, at this rate I will have a beard like Graham!

Thanks all Dave M0GGK

(Dave is safe from the ZOD beard – his Century Award has now been issued – congratulations Dave!)

Pete M5ABN (ladder)

40m was certainly better on the 27th. Let's hope it marks an improvement in conditions.

73 Pete M5ABN #6423

Erkki OH7QR (ladder)

Hello Chris, please find attached my log for Sept. Ladder. Conditions were better this month. I worked two new members, thanks F5OGJ and G3SLS.

Thanks and 73 de Erkki OH7QR 8318

Here are the Ladder 2015 results in order of Points.

In the previous Brasspounder, Geoff G0DDX was listed as 9th position. Due to a correction to his score for August, his revised position for August is now 8th. This brings us on to the new table that includes the September scores. In addition to the 'Posn' (position) column, there are two new columns: 'Prev' (previous) showing the position in the previous month's table, and 'Move' (movement), which uses a dash or arrow to show whether the position has stayed the same or gone up/down since the previous month. Along with 'Posn' and 'Total', the new columns are on the left of the table to make it easier to absorb the results.

Callsign	Posn	Prev	Move	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
M5ABN	1	1	-	339	45	48	41	39	41	32	38	23	32
G4LHI	2	2	-	315	36	44	41	35	36	34	30	23	36
2E0DPH	3	3	-	273	23	44	25	38	32	37	24	28	22
G0ILN	=4	=4	-	261	28	29	34	27	35	23	29	26	30
OH7QR	=4	=4	-	261	31	35	31	17	29	29	33	26	30
G4KLE	6	6	-	231	19	25	22	43	38	35	27		22
M0DRK	7	7	-	140			24	11	24	22	21	22	16
G0DDX	8	8	-	101	10	10	12			9	18	22	20
G0TLU	9	9	-	71	4	20	14	13		8	6	4	2
G3XVL	10	10	-	66	32				17	10		7	
G3ZOD	11	11	-	64	10	2	18	2	10	4		4	14
OH2BN	12	12	-	59		4	2	10	12	11	6	4	10
F5OGJ	13	16	↑	44							18	8	18
G0POT	14	=14	-	38				4	15	1	11		7
G0HGH	15	13	↓	35					22	13			
2E0JCY	16	=14	↓	31					31				
G3ZRJ	=17	17	-	24	24								
M0GGK	=17	=21	↑	24								6	18
G0OTT	19	18	↓	16	16								
G0MJP	20	19	↓	10	10								
G7JMZ	21	20	↓	7							2	5	
2E0EML	=22	=21	↓	6				6					
G0DJA	=22	=21	↓	6					6				
MI0AHH	=22	=21	↓	6						6			
OK2VWB	=22	=21	↓	6								6	
GM0EPO*				4	4								
MX5IPX*				64		13		15	10	18			8
GX3ZQS*				10	10								

* is a check log.

Surprisingly, the highest 12 positions are unchanged since last month, despite some adjacent entrants being only a few points apart. At the top of the table, Pete M5ABN and Peter G4LHI remain unchallenged, but Phil 2E0DPH is at risk of being displaced by Erkki OH7QR or Richard G0ILN, who are just 12 points behind.

Most movement is at the lower end of the table. The most significant change is Laurent F5OGJ, who moved up 3 places. Dave M0GGK stirred things up by pushing no less than 7 entrants down one place.

Activities for 2016

As you will have read in the September Brasspounder, Graham G3ZOD will be acting as Activities Manager for 2016. I've received the following from him:

Chris, please can you include the following in the next 'Brasspounder'?

I am now considering the FISTS Europe Activities for next year (2016) and will be interested in any feedback from participants. These are my initial thoughts.

Logs: All logs must contain RST sent.

Ladder: I anticipate this continuing as before except that the same operator may be contacted in both sessions on a single Sunday (as before though, only 2 out of the 4 sessions per month can be claimed). This is to fix an obscure anomaly with scoring, although it can't hurt to encourage more QSOs.

Straight Key Week: This will continue as before.

Fifth Sundays: I'm not sure whether to continue with this – support for it has not been great. If it does, only one QSO per day with an operator will be allowed.

Two Metre: As before except that it will be for one month in the first 6 months of the year and a second month in the last 6 months of the year. I am considering recommending that activity takes place centred on 144.052, avoiding the calling frequency of 144.050 MHz by ± 0.5 kHz. The intention is that this might catch more passersby than using 144.058. Also I may recommend that calls are "CQ" rather than "CQ FISTS" for the same reason.

RX Challenge: Each entrant must obtain a short code word and number in advance (from the website, by emailing me, or by post if all else fails) that they will send to their QSO partner. There will be a bonus for each code word received correctly in addition to the usual information (RST, etc.), so QSOs with non-members, or members who haven't got a code, will still count. This will probably be two sessions, one in a Sunday afternoon slot, maybe deliberately timed to coincide with a Ladder session, and another in a weekday afternoon slot.

Mechanical Key Days: 2 full days (48 hours) on a consecutive Friday and Saturday. Usual exchange and use of mechanical keys only (i.e. bugs, sideswipers, and straight keys only).

It's been suggested to me that we have a slow Morse activity, but I wouldn't like to feel that we are competing with the EuCW QRS Week. Another suggestion was to bring back International Days, but support for it was weak in its final year (2014).

Currently, although 'RST received' is required in logs for all activities, it is not cross-checked when preparing the results (it's not even possible because 'RST sent' is not currently a requirement for logs). I'm proposing to add a requirement for 'RST sent' to be included in the 2016 rules so that it becomes possible to cross-check RSTs. (This doesn't necessarily mean that I will check them.)

As I mentioned at the start, the above is far from final. I thought it would be interesting with the "RX Challenge" to have an activity that benefits from accuracy while at the same time still includes QSOs with non-members, keeping the friendly and easy-going nature of our activities. Regarding the Two Metre, the 6 months in 2014 and 6 months in 2015 were fun but required a lot of commitment; I feel that two, one-month periods are enough to make it interesting without becoming a chore.

I can be contacted by email – see the website's Contacts page <http://fists.co.uk/contactus.html>

73 de Graham G3ZOD.

Fifth Sundays

Finally, don't forget to take part in the final Fifth Sundays session on 29. November.

73 and keep on pounding the brass!

Chris

G5VZ

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