



Welcome to this edition of *BrassPounder*, which covers FISTS CW Club Europe's [on-air activities](#).

Greetings Dear friends,

I do hope you are enjoying your radio at this time. I keep hearing people complaining about conditions and QRM, and whilst I do understand the frustrations, I hope that you, like me, are more than satisfied as much by working your mate up the road as that rarest of DX so long as it's in Morse!!

As I type this we have just had a really good evening to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Dambusters Sqjadron's eponymous raid. Whilst not a FISTS activity *per se*, I met a few FISTS members on air. I was using my T11154 / R1155 [air and I met a few others. I also heard (but he cleared off!) Martin G4ZXN on his wonderful paraset. There was a call, which I echoed, for an activity called perhaps 'chirp 'n' drift' ...if it chirps or drifts, it's welcome!! Watch this space

Word Search 2018

This is a new activity so please do have a go but bear with it if it has snags...I'm learning! The activity is detailed here... . <https://fists.co.uk/activitiescalendar.html>

Essentially you have to work other members and collect letters to make words. This is a slow-burn activity lasting a few months, so no rush (I think...) and because it is ONLY between FISTS it should be a good way of catching up with all those call-signs you remember but haven't worked in a while!! Do please join in and feed back your comments. Graham, G3ZOD, is building the logger for it.

QCX party?

I had a few comments from QCX users following this piece, so they are out there! Maybe we can try another month.

Members worked

Odd propagation probably sums this month up (just like last month...odds on next?) and I am not alone. See the comments below especially from Emil, I5EFO. He sums it up well.

I actually worked a Heathkit SB102 the other night too, the first time I have worked such a rig. Sounded very good even though the op, G4CKH, wasn't a FISTS member. On the subject of old rigs, I have just succumbed to temptation and bought an HRO receiver and a BC348. Both work well and the HRO is a delight to listen to. I know modern rigs have advantages, but listening to the wireless in days of valve audio must have been a delight...and they didn't know it!! I wonder if valve telly was as good? I can't remember. I don't suppose I shall keep either receive long as they take up masses of space, but fun to use at the mo.

GB4RAF, GB4COM

This month the museum at Old Sarum, actually the Boscombe Down Aviation Collectuion, radio station is using the callsign GB4RAF as the centenary of the Air Force was on April 1st. On the 26th May Andover Radio Club is activating the Comet, Sagittarius, also at Old Sarum, using the callsign GB4COM. We shall be on HF only but sadly NOT solely on CW. See the museum website for details. <http://www.boscombedownaviationcollection.co.uk/>

I think that's it for now, do let me know what interesting stuff you've worked and I can put it out for all to share. Looking forward to working you...

73

David G4YVM 15868 activities@fists.co.uk

Coming soon...

Upcoming Events

May 2018

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sun 13 May		RSGB 4m CW Contest	0900-1200 UTC
Sun 13 May		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 27 May		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

June 2018

First day	Last day	Event	Times
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Fri 01 Jun	FISTS Word Search starts	Every day, 0001 hours June 1st 2018 - 2359 hours September 30th 2018. All times Zulu.
Sun 10 Jun	FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 24 Jun	RSGB 6m CW Contest	0900-1200 UTC
Sun 24 Jun	FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

July 2018

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sun 01 Jul		EuCW Snakes & Ladders summer/autumn season starts	0000 UTC
Sun 08 Jul		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 22 Jul		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

Comments for April 2018 Ladder

Entrant	Comments
Thomas DK3DUA	Only a few Q's , mni local QRM here, sorry for not hearing weak stns. Vy cold this month, minus 10 C in the morning make no much fun on bicycle, hi. vy73 Tom DK3DUA
Nils DL3HR	08 April: difficult today, conds have been not so good. In the Evening some better. 22 April: ...Conds have been bad in the evening on 80m. I heard you all but i wasn't heard over there. CU next time... :o
Richard G0ILN	Despite the poor condx I managed a few points! Richard G0ILN
Andrew G0OEY	Bands very poor here.
David G0XAH	only managed to work first sunday but got a few
Peter G4LHI	G4LHI. Log for April 2018. bit of fun 73/88
John G4LRG	Challenging conditions but plenty of activity - thanks to all for the points.
Richard G4TGJ	First time on 80m with a new aerial but still limited chance to operate.
Emil I5EFO	Very poor and bizarre propagation but great fun. Many thanks for QSOs 73 de Emil I5EFO

Pete M5ABN	Again poor conditions in April but hope for better in May. I Vy 73 Pete
Jarmo OH2BN	73 - Jarmo OH2BN FISTS #16593
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, Here comes my log for April. During the first day I was away so couldn't participate. Many thanks and 73 Erkki OH7QR nr 8318

Results for April 2018 Ladder

Callsign	Posn	Prev	Move	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
G4LRG	1	1	-	265	58	68	71	68
G0ILN	2	=2	-	206	45	46	49	66
M5ABN	3	4	↑	191	48	55	34	54
I5ECW	4	=2	↓	187	47	41	52	47
G4LHI	5	5	-	171	44	42	42	43
2E0DPH	6	6	-	133	45	45	24	19
I5EFO	7	8	↑	126	27	33	33	33
OH7QR	8	7	↓	123	40	44	26	13
DL3HR	9	9	-	104		43	33	28
G3ZRJ	10	11	↑	87	15	27	15	30
M0DRK	11	10	↓	71	26	18	15	12
DK3DUA	12	12	-	58	21	25		12
MW0BGL	13	13	-	49	18	18		13
SV2BBK	14	=14	-	41		14	15	12
GM0EPO	15	16	↑	40	9	12		19
G0XAH	16	=18	↑	33			15	18
EA7KB	17	=14	↓	29	29			
M0PBZ	18	-	↑	27				27
IZ2FME	19	17	↓	17		17		
OH2BN	=20	=21	↑	15	3		6	6
OZ8AGB	=20	=21	↑	15	3	6		6
SP7OGP	=20	=18	↓	15		15		
G4TGJ	=23	=25	↑	12		3		9
M0UZE	=23	20	↓	12	12			
DL4FDM	25	23	↓	7			7	
G0OEY	26	-	↑	6				6
OK1PSI	27	24	↓	4	4			
G4DNP	=28	=25	↓	3		3		
SA5ACN	=28	=25	↓	3	3			
SP2SWI	=28	=25	↓	3		3		