

BRASSPOUNDER

April 2019, Issue 131



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

Greetings Dear FISTS, this BP is a bit late, for which my apologies...it coincided with Easter and all through Holy Week and Easter Week I was busier than I have been for ages.

Also during the Easter period my good friend and CW fan Adrian, G4GDR, passed away. He joined FISTS in early 1998, having member number 3765 and he was a GQRP man so you might well have worked him. Adrian was a Baptist minister who lived and worked in Highworth, Swindon and was an avid CW op and home brewer. I think he had been a 'tankie' in the army because he was always interested in them and in their radios such as the WS19 set, one of which I bought from him. I had the great pleasure of surprising Adrian one year with the free and unannounced gift of a FISTS log book which he adored.

Adrian was always a friendly chap and always offered advice and help when needed as well as some good rag chewing face to face. Sadly his wife, the lovely Veronica, never really liked his radio work so he kept a rather private house. When he learnt of my theological training he inundated me with not only advice but also his book collection, which has formed the back bone of my own. I had to disagree with him on his choice of Bible – he was a total advocate of the King James version whereas I feel that there are more accesible versions available today (and certainly better translations). Such was Adrian's conviction though that he'd have none of it! KJV was, is and ever will be the only 'authorised' version!

I was saddened to hear of his passing. Sic transit omnes gentes.

RIP Adrian, G4GDR.

A month or so ago I wrote "As I sit here typing this the full blast of Storm Gregor or Gareth..." and oddly as I sit typing this I have only just recovered from another storm, Storm Hannah! I don't mind solar storms, but this is maddening. Ah well, soon be high summer and balmy days on 20m. Never mind, my doublet is back and performing well.. I have been trying an Off Centre Fed Dipole recently which a friend gave me and which normally come highly recommended. This one is quite long and works reasonably well but its much noisier than my doublet. Now, my doublet is about twenty feet away from any house at it's nearest point and much further away than that for the most part, whereas the OCFD is running very near to the house. This little experiment has really confirmed in me the idea of a QRM bubble which extends around a house about ten feet or so. Inside the bubble is noise which diminishes rapidly with distance (Inverse square law?). So, dear FISTS, whatever wire you use, get it away from the house is my advice.

VHF

The [2m refresher](#) is a great success I think. Not many QSO being had but activity is increasing and I have worked a new square!! VHF works much better the more people there are and I hope more and more of you give it a try.

I am convinced again that my beam being tilted a few degrees up (I don't know how many, but just noticeable), really gives me an advantage. I didn't intend it this time, but my top mast is bent providentially to give me some up!! Maybe give it a try?

Top Band

Someone mentioned a topband activity...I wonder how much stomach there is for this? Worth a try? Drop me an email please.

A note from Graham...

“There is sometimes a little misunderstanding about sending in activity logs using FISTS Log Converter. Logs are not needed until an activity is complete, or in the case of the Ladder, after the fourth Sunday sessions in a month.

If you do send in more than one log for an activity, only the most recent log is used in creating the results, so each log must be complete. E.g. for the Ladder the most recent log sent in must contain all sessions for the second and fourth Sundays that you participated in, and for the 2m activity, it must contain all of the 6 sessions that you participated in.”

73 de Graham G3ZOD

Winter Sports

Well, read the log and rejoice!! Not huge numbers entered but it was tremendous fun so a huge thank you to all who braved the slopes!! This is an event that will run next year for sure. I only entered one activity but it was tremendously challenging and jolly hard work. I shall do it again next year and try to win...look out Peter!

Only one entrant for the Alpine Skiing event so a special well done and thanks to SP9NLI, Andy from Poland (does his climate give an unfair advantage???). Let's get a British team up or next year!

The speed skating was probably one of the oddest challenges yet garnered good results. Well done chaps!

Ladder

The ladder this time has a new entrant, Michael OZ8AGB, and thus a big welcome Michael. I hope you enjoy the ladder and I wish you much success! The top three places are being slugged out by the usual suspects...I wish you all the best of British and good bands! I love to see these little battles.

Future events

One to watch: the brand new [Iconic Rigs](#). Do blow the dust off and have a bash.

73 everyone. Keep poundin' the brass.

David G4YVM FISTS 15868

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Results for Ladder March 2019

Callsign	Posn	Prev	Move	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar
G4LRG	1	2	↑	255	76	79	100
G4LHI	2	1	↓	220	78	78	64
G0ILN	3	3	-	210	65	59	86
I5EFO	4	4	-	170	44	72	54
M5ABN	5	5	-	144	36	61	47
G3XVL	6	7	↑	128	30	57	41
OH7QR	7	9	↑	118	26	52	40
2E0DPH	8	6	↓	117	42	51	24
DL3HR	9	10	↑	116	27	37	52
M0PBZ	10	11	↑	100	36	22	42
G0BON	11	8	↓	90	42	42	6
M0GSX	12	15	↑	79	22	18	39
G0JHK	13	16	↑	75	33		42
G7WHI	14	=19	↑	74		26	48
9H1PI	15	12	↓	65	29	19	17
MI0WWB	16	18	↑	49	15	14	20
G3ZRJ	=17	13	↓	43	18	25	
SP9NLI	=17	17	-	43	12	19	12
MW0BGL	19	14	↓	42	42		
G0OEY	20	=19	↓	36		26	10
G0UYG	21	=26	↑	35	6		29
M0DRK	=22	23	↑	34	7	9	18
M0UZE	=22	21	↓	34	6	19	9
IW2JJS	24	22	↓	23		23	
G4DNP	25	24	↓	20	6	9	5
OH2BN	26	25	↓	9		9	
SP2SWI	27	=26	↓	6	6		
OZ8AGB	28	-	↑	3			3

Comments for Ladder March 2019

Entrant	Comments
Ivan 9H1PI	73's Ivan 9h1pi.
Nils DL3HR	In March it was sometimes a bit difficult to work but always a great pleasure to do so. vy 73!
Ivan G0BON	Not much operating this month as decorating got in the way and family commitments.
Richard G0ILN	Quite a good month maybe conditions are starting to improve. Richard G0ILN Fist 398
Andrew G0OEY	Local conditions not too good but some points again.
Andy G0UYG	lots of fun, thanks
Robin G4DNP	Includes contacts on 10/03 while visiting Italy 73s Robin
Peter G4LHI	G4LHI Claim for March Ladder for 2019.been good fun & looking fwd to April & new times hi.vy mni tnx to all members & the officers of the club that make this possible. 73 Peter G4LHI # 2219
John G4LRG	Changing conditions make this a real challenge - great to see all of the activity and many thanks for all of the points.
Dave G7WHI	Thank you for all the QSO's. Another nice evening spent on the key.
Paul M0GSX	Hello to David and the Crew, A really good couple of sessions for the second session in March, 80M was very good for both the afternoon and evening sessions on the 24th with very much improved sigs and reports and a couple of new members contacts. Please keep up the great work you all do at FISTS for us, kind regards till next month. Paul M0GSX #17642.
Mark M0UZE	Thanks Mark
Pete M5ABN	See you all again in April 73 Pete M5ABN #6423
William MI0WWB	Starting to get back into the swing again, did better in the EU Ladder!!
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, please find attached my Ladder log. Thanks and 73 de OH7QR Erkki nr 8318

Results for Winter Sports 2019

Alpine Skiing

Callsign	Position	Points
SP9NLI	1	2

Cross Country Skiing

Callsign	Position	Points
G4LHI	=1	6
G4YVM	=1	6
G0BON	2	3
M0UZE	3	2

Speed Skating

Callsign	Position	Points
M0UZE	1	1176470
G0BON	2	476190
G4LHI	3	389610

Comments for Winter Sports 2019

Entrant	Comments
Ivan G0BON	Had good fun in the winter sports. Made me use other bands that I generally don't operate on.
Peter G4LHI	G4LHI Claim for winter sports 2019 hard work but been good fun 73 Peter G4LHI # 2219
Mark M0UZE	Thanks Mark

Upcoming Events

May 2019

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Wed 08 May		FISTS Eu 2m Refresher	1900-2100 UTC
Sun 12 May		RSGB 4m CW Contest	0900-1200 UTC
Sun 12 May		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Thu 16 May		FISTS Eu 2m Refresher	1900-2100 UTC
Sat 25 May		FISTS Eu 2m Refresher	1400-1600 UTC
Sun 26 May		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Mon 27 May		FISTS Eu 2m Refresher	1000-1200 UTC
Mon 27 May		FISTS Eu Iconic Rig Event	1800-2359 UTC

June 2019

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sun 09 Jun		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 23 Jun		RSGB 6m CW Contest	0900-1200 UTC
Sun 23 Jun		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC