

# BRASSPOUNDER

May 2019, Issue 132



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

Greetings Dear FISTS,

Welcome to this edition of BP hot on the heels of the last late one!!

## VHF

The 2m refresher is a lot of fun with some stations now running vertically polarised to give a chance for those with only stick aerials. I'm not sure I agree with this generous approach because horizontally polarised IS better and a beam is really to be encouraged – but it is a way of helping others onto the band so that's not a bad thing. I worked just one station this week – G0POT/P, Mike, F9873, but I worked him twice so that's a good tally. I think I only worked him the second time because it was raining on him and so he had delayed getting his aerial down (it being drier inside the car!). Conditions seemed very flat again but I did get email reports from the Isle of Arran, Alan GM4PWR, who gave me 529 so not too shabby...if only that station had been able to beam back!

I have now added another four feet of height to my mast which may have overdone it a bit – if it blows hard I might live to regret that! We shall see. I almost added a longer beam to my mast too but resisted because the extra torque could kill my rotator – it would be the second to die that way and I have no great desire to keep doing this.

On the subject of masts, Martin, M0MWS, F16211, has just added a 12m mast to his aerial farm along with a soopahdoopah aerial of some 7m length and almost 16db gain. Add to this his linear amplifier and his output will fry pigeons. Assuming he gets the best of both worlds and can also receive weak signals he should be a good signal. Martin has worked extremely hard on his CW and is now a very good Morse operator so do please call him if you hear him – not too fast yet, but you'll like his sending.

Another station to listen for is Keith, G0HKC, F16205, who has a rather poor antenna at the moment but does try to work VHF and HF. Keith is a CWOps instructor and really contributes much to Morse so do please keep an ear out for him. Keith is in Alveston, South Gloucestershire.

On the subject of VHF my feeling is that it is too succesful to allow it to stop once the current 'activity' is concluded. I've been thinking of ways to keep it going and I have rather concluded that the best way is simply not to stop...just keep the day hopper format rolling all year. This will give us the Monday this week, Tuesday next, Wednesday the week after etc format for ever. I think we should settle on a set time too (see the FISTS website activities calendar to see why I say this). As it stands I intend to keep VHF as a permanent day hopper with no real end to the current excellent format. My sincere thanks to Mark, M0BLT, F5501 for kick starting this. I urge folks to get a beam – even an HB9CV in the loft (then on the gutter, then the chimney, then with a rotator...). As the summer approaches of course going out /P like G0POT has been doing is a super way of getting results and enjoying some activity of a style perhaps not enjoyed for a while.

## **Top Band repeat**

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

## **Winter Sports**

I have had some very kind feedback about the wintersports, most of which said how much the person enjoyed the activity but they all expressed dismay that not more people had joined in. I really can't see why more people did not join in – nor could the chaps who emailed me – because, well, what's not to like? It was good fun, demanding but rewarding and above all it was MORSE!

I shall be running it again next year and will give plenty of warning so do spread the word and if you didn't join in, please do join us.

## **Chirp n Drift**

This is now a recent history event but on the 5<sup>th</sup> May FISTS invited the world to join in with another Chirp n Drift activity for stations running radios that, well, chirp and drift!! When I checked the bands first thing in the morning they were flat as pancakes so I wasn't very hopeful for the evening sessions but as it happened it turned out not TOO bad! All my activity was on 80m, the T1154 running 80 watts into my doublet antenna

I was on air with my T1154 / R1155 spot on 2000 local and managed to work the first of 8 stations during the period 2000 to 2155L. The only truly drift set I worked was Ian, G4GIR, F15012, who was running a WS19 set Mk 2 which was generating. Mighty 8 watts. I was running ten times that power and the RSTs were properly distinguishable!! Thanks Ian for that QSO – I am not sure I have knowingly worked a WS19 on the key before. Have now!

I managed to work Tom G3XMM, FISTS (F) 1395 Ian G4GIR (GQRP Club 15012), Mike G0WHK, F 17448, Nigel G4BIW, Phil M0PBZ, F 15583, Martin GX4ZFR from the Ipswich club station, David G3ZPF, F355, of the Radio Officers Association, and finally Paul, GW0TAU, F8315.

Two memorable QSO were the WS19 set and the Ipswich club. Martin told me that the rest of his club mates were listening in with smiles on their faces as they recalled fond times with the T1154. As I said to him, that's what running these old rigs is all about!

Notably there were no foreign stations heard all night, by me at least – not one, no Germans, no French and most amazingly no PA stations. I find that the Netherlands are usually enthusiastic in

these events so I can only assume that the very poor conditions I witnessed in the morning had continued all night. Such a shame.

I hope if you joined the fun that you enjoyed it and that if you didn't you will do so next time.

## Ladder

Two new entrants this time round... David G0XAH and Fanis SV2BBK. Welcome both and good luck to you as you enter the fray!

## Future events

Next one in the calendar is the Iconic Rigs and of course the next day of VHF. which as a day hopper will next week be on THURSDAY. **NB THE TIMES**. Full details on the [FISTS activities calendar](#) as usual.

73 everyone. Keep poundin' the brass.

David G4YVM FISTS 15868

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## Results for Ladder April 2019

Callsign	Posn	Prev	Move	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
G4LRG	1	1	-	322	76	79	100	67
G4LHI	2	2	-	292	78	78	64	72
G0ILN	3	3	-	270	65	59	86	60
I5EFO	4	4	-	218	44	72	54	48
M5ABN	5	5	-	198	36	61	47	54
2E0DPH	6	8	↑	160	42	51	24	43
G3XVL	=7	6	↓	155	30	57	41	27
OH7QR	=7	7	-	155	26	52	40	37
DL3HR	9	9	-	153	27	37	52	37
M0PBZ	10	10	-	143	36	22	42	43
G0JHK	11	13	↑	117	33		42	42
M0GSX	12	12	-	103	22	18	39	24
G7WHI	13	14	↑	95		26	48	21
G0BON	14	11	↓	90	42	42	6	
MW0BGL	15	19	↑	84	42			42
9H1PI	16	15	↓	79	29	19	17	14
MI0WWB	17	16	↓	74	15	14	20	25
M0UZE	18	=22	↑	58	6	19	9	24
M0DRK	19	=22	↑	52	7	9	18	18

G3ZRJ	20	=17	↓	51	18	25		8
G0OEY	=21	20	↓	49		26	10	13
SP9NLI	=21	=17	↓	49	12	19	12	6
G0UYG	23	21	↓	35	6		29	
OH2BN	24	26	↑	29		9		20
IW2JJS	25	24	↓	23		23		
G0XAH	26	-	↑	21				21
G4DNP	27	25	↓	20	6	9	5	
OZ8AGB	=28	28	-	6			3	3
SP2SWI	=28	27	↓	6	6			
SV2BBK	30	-	↑	4				4

## Comments for Ladder April 2019

Entrant	Comments
Ivan 9H1PI	73's Ivan 9h1pi.
Nils DL3HR	nice to meet you all again in the Ladder, hope cuagn in May - vy 73!
Richard G0ILN	I thought conditions were improving ! Ah well there is always next month. Hi. Richard G0ILN Fist 398
Andrew G0OEY	Local conditions not too good for second session but some points again.
David G0XAH	first month back on ladder for a while, got a few.
Peter G4LHI	G4LHI Claim for April Ladder, good fun mni tnx to all members worked & for the guys who organize this wonderful event de Peter G4LHI # 2219
John G4LRG	Unable to get on air for the 1st session this month but made it ok on 28th April. Hard work with lots of heavy(local) QRM. Thanks to all for the points.
Dave G7WHI	Thank you for all the QSO's. Another nice evening spent on the key.
Paul M0GSX	Hi To All, hope all is ok with the FISTS Clan, Just one session this month for me, band condx were good but I think better for other sessions so I can see myself dropping down a wrung or two Hi HI. Also Participating in the 2M Activity with a new antenna for me. Thanks for all the Sterling work your all doing. 73..  M0GSX #17642
Mark M0UZE	Thanks  Mark
Pete M5ABN	Very deep QSB during second session made for challenging conditions. See you all in May. 73 Pete M5ABN #6423
William MI0WWB	Interesting conditions to contend with!!
Jarmo OH2BN	Band conditions still in the doldrums...no sunspots, solar flux way down...so, happy with any new ladder points I can add to my score...  73 - Jarmo OH2BN FISTS #16593
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, please find attached my Ladder log. Thanks and 73 de OH7QR Erkki nr 8318

## Upcoming Events

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### May 2019

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

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### June 2019

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sun 09 Jun		<a href="#">FISTS Eu Ladder</a>	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 23 Jun		<a href="#">RSGB 6m CW Contest</a>	0900-1200 UTC
Sun 23 Jun		<a href="#">FISTS Eu Ladder</a>	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

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### July 2019

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Mon 01 Jul		<a href="#">EuCW Snakes &amp; Ladders</a> summer/autumn season starts	0000 UTC
Sun 14 Jul		<a href="#">FISTS Eu Ladder</a>	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 28 Jul		<a href="#">FISTS Eu Ladder</a>	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC