

BRASSPOUNDER

October 2019, Issue 137



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

Well, I was getting very excited over the WordSearch I must say and my excitement has not been in vain...just look at the entries and comments. Superb! And you all seem to have enjoyed it too. I'm rather amazed at the early completion dates of some entrants too...don't you guys ever sleep??

Thank you all who entered...its quite a nightmare imagining that we set these activities and challenges and then no one enters – I do appreciate it. I also appreciate your comments on air when we meet in QSO. It's nice to know you like what I plan.

Walford

Some of you may have built kits from the [Tim Walford](#) stable, I hope so anyway. I have shelves full of the things but my latest one is a right old saga. A long time ago Tim and I spent many hours on email specing a new rig – a 4 band CW radio with the essentials a cw operator would like – RIT, sidetone volume, wide and narrow switchable filters, RF gain, RF power adjust...all from the front panel. Well, it took Tim a long time to design it but design it he did and then I bought the prototype and the serial number 001.

It actually took very many man hours to build this radio because of all sorts of issues and in the end it went back to Tim for , shall we say, design completion? Tim then spent the best part of a month on it and in the end I went over to collect it and Lo! It works. We have 5 watts out on 80,40,30 and 20 of fine CW. The Rx is a Direct Conversion device so receiving China at night is rather easy but the RF gain helps. It takes some driving but, and this is a big but...it's all home brew and it works. If you're interested the design is called Beer (the Rx) and Stout (Tx) and they sit together to make a fully QSK transceiver. It's fabulous.

I was really hoping to meet a FIST for the first QSO but twas not to be – I heard G0GSY, Bryan from Cleethorpes and called him but he didn't hear me. I then was called by DJ9DJ, Gordi with whom I had a 10 minute chat in poor conditions. The first FIST I worked on the rig was G3XIZ, Chris, F 14024 who returned my 599 with a like report on 11th October 2019 when we chatted for 20 minutes or so.

My next task is to print a proper front screen for it and add a proper case around it and to add a slo-mo drive which was given to me last night as a gift by Martin, M0MWS. This will greatly aid tuning as the part of the varicap which covers the amateur bands is a hairs breadth wide. It does mean I can tune the SW bands for BC stations as well, which is always fun and done far too little in my own experience.

Here it is...I've placed it on a PW for scale.





If you fancy a go at this kit then do give Tim a call or email via his website. The kit for Beer and Stout are not on his site – they were too frightening and didn't sell, hence my s/n 001!! As it stands I have a unique

radio. The kits retail for about £120 – as we both had to admit, a heck of a price for a DC Rx and simple TX in these days of Arduinos and DDS rigs costing a third of that. However...

Coach Trip

I am still pondering the activity of a coach trip but with redundancy befuddling my mind I am making slow progress. I'm starting to think that the QSO needs to be based around the trip and the route – so I tell you I am in Salisbury and that the landmark is Stonehenge, say. If you are in Biggleswade (to stick with Chris!), you might tell me that your landmark is The Shuttleworth Collection. Next, we need to figure out the route - in this case, M3, M25, A1. It is 126 miles and will take me 2 hours to drive it. I know this from Google Maps. So, my next QSO will give The Shuttleworth Collection as the starting point – the end point is a landmark provided by my next QSO operator. The person I last worked, Chris in this example, will give Stonehenge as HIS start. And so we go on, via 'coach' round the country.

WHY? Well, it makes the exchange more interesting and of course you can't guess what's being said...you have to read it. It does mean you need a map or a laptop and some folks won't want to do this – but I can't think of a way round it.

On the other hand, if we simply exchanged landmarks then there's no map needed – Chris and I exchange Stonehenge and Shuttleworth, then I next exchange Shuttleworth and whatever the new chap says.

Have a think and if anything strikes you as interesting, let me know please.

Chirp n Drift

Let's run this again shall we? It is always fun and seems to fill a gap between now and SKW!!

CHIRP 'N' DRIFT DAY 2019

DESCRIPTION A one-day event for all those radios that are a tad embarrassing or quirky for everyday use ... they drift, they chirp, they do what they feel like ... yet they are fun or iconic. Parasets, T1154s, anything you fancy!

DATES and TIMES 1800Z Friday 1st November to 0100Z Saturday 2nd November.

FREQUENCIES

Keep at least 1 kHz away from QRP centre of activity frequencies unless running QRP. (For 80m, 40m, and 20m, these are 3.560, 7.030, and 14.060 MHz.)

After you finish a QSO on 3.558 or 7.028 MHz, unless you replied to a CQ or tail-ended a QSO, you must QSY by at least 500 Hz for a minimum of 10 minutes.

EXCHANGE The minimum exchange is:
RST, Name, QTH, transmitter/receiver type, and FISTS member number (if applicable).

See the FISTS site for full details.

We also have SKW coming up and in a few months the Winter Sports, which was a devilish challenge.

I think that's all for this time. I am delighted the Word Search was enjoyed by so many and as always, the Ladder keeps you off the streets.

Many thanks all of you.

Have fun and I hope to meet you on the air.

David G4YVM F15878

Results for Word Search 2019: QRP Section

Callsign	Section	Position	Letters	Final QSO Date
G4LHI	QRP	1	26	03 Aug 2019
G0BON	QRP	2	24	26 Sep 2019
G0ILN	QRP	3	13	22 Sep 2019

Results for Word Search 2019: Open Section

Callsign	Section	Position	Letters	Final QSO Date
MI0WWB	Open	1	26	12 Jul 2019
G4LHI	Open	2	26	17 Jul 2019
I5ECW	Open	3	26	20 Aug 2019
G0ILN	Open	4	26	08 Sep 2019
MW0BGL	Open	5	24	11 Aug 2019
G0JHK	Open	6	15	22 Sep 2019
WA2JSG	Open	7	11	19 Sep 2019
G3ZOD	Open	8	7	11 Aug 2019
M0UZE	Open	9	2	11 Jul 2019

Comments for Word Search 2019

Entrant	Comments
Ivan G0BON	Really enjoyed this using QRP just couldn't find to the last two letters. The Wordsearch coincided well with the QRP down under awards and a bit of the ladder. Look forward to doing this again next year.
Richard G0ILN	Wow this took some sorting out! Because I wanted to enter the QRP section all entries had to be hand copied in! It was a bit like Scrabble trying to find the best use of the letters. I used the afternoon Fist sessions for QRP . Nothing like making life difficult! and the evening sessions QRO. I actually enjoyed working it all out. I must be mad. Richard G0ILN.
Peter G4LHI	G4LHI Claim for Word Search: QRP: enjoyed the challenge & gud fun. Open: Have double checked & all seems to be in order David (I will not tell any one hi) G4LHI # 2219
Vanni I5ECW	HI, Here is my word search log just completed! really hard find the last "T" letter! 73 Vanni i5ecw
William MI0WWB	Really enjoyed this challenge, the last point was hit and miss! Hope we run word search again.
Curt WA2JSG	New member here so this is all new to me. In any case, if it's worth anything, here is my incompletd word game.

Results for Ladder September 2019

Callsign	Posn	Prev	Move	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
G4LRG	1	1	-	723	76	79	100	67	81	64	81	91	84
G0ILN	2	2	-	669	65	59	86	60	74	71	79	85	90
I5EFO	3	4	↑	610	44	72	54	48	69	57	64	96	106
G4LHI	4	3	↓	564	78	78	64	72	55	49	59	54	55
M5ABN	5	5	-	474	36	61	47	54	41	46	66	53	70
G0BON	6	7	↑	380	42	42	6		57	58	49	72	54
M0PBZ	7	6	↓	369	36	22	42	43	57	49	45	36	39
OH7QR	8	8	-	324	26	52	40	37	15	40	49	41	24
DL3HR	9	11	↑	320	27	37	52	37	31	28	33	34	41
2E0DPH	10	9	↓	317	42	51	24	43	30	21	42	40	24
M0GSX	11	10	↓	283	22	18	39	24	48	57	48	27	
MW0BGL	12	12	-	263	42			42	48	37	48	46	
G7WHI	13	13	-	253		26	48	21	49	18		64	27
MI0WWB	14	15	↑	230	15	14	20	25		51	36	27	42
G3XVL	15	14	↓	204	30	57	41	27	18	4	9	12	6
G0JHK	=16	17	↑	175	33		42	42			27		31
G3ZRJ	=16	16	-	175	18	25		8	12		62	24	26
M0DRK	18	18	-	114	7	9	18	18	18		13	22	9
G0OEY	=19	=19	-	95		26	10	13	7		23	10	6
SP9NLI	=19	=19	-	95	12	19	12	6	3		7	30	6
M0UZE	21	22	↑	82	6	19	9	24	6	3	6	3	6
9H1PI	22	21	↓	79	29	19	17	14					
OH2BN	23	23	-	65		9		20	3	15	12	6	
IW2JJS	24	24	-	49		23			15	11			
G0XAH	25	25	-	48				21	18	9			
G0UYG	26	26	-	47	6		29				12		
G4DNP	27	29	↑	37	6	9	5					5	12
G4XUZ	28	27	↓	33						15	18		
OZ8AGB	29	28	↓	30			3	3	3	6		12	3
G3JRH	30	-	↑	25									25
G3ZOD	=31	=30	↓	15							15		
SP2SWI	=31	=30	↓	15	6					9			
SV2BBK	33	32	↓	10				4			3	3	
G0TLU	34	=33	↓	9							6		3
M0SHM	35	=33	↓	6								6	

Comments for Ladder September 2019

Entrant	Comments
Nils DL3HR	Conds have been a little bit better this month, I have had Fun as always when working FISTS. vy 73 - hpe cu in October.
Ivan G0BON	Evening sessions seem to be the busiest, had to go QRT last 1/2hr of last session which was a shame as I could have bagged a few more. Once again thanks all for the QSO's and points.
Richard G0ILN	The evening sessions seem to be hotting up! Good fun as usual. Richard G0ILN Fist 398.
Andrew G0OEY	Not much time for radio this month but managed a couple of contacts.
Peter G3JRH	Not much on 40 in the afternoon. 80 quite good in the evening.
Tony G3ZRJ	Glad to give out some points
Robin G4DNP	A very enjoyable activity - many thanks and best 73s Robin, G4DNP
Peter G4LHI	G4LHI Claim for Sept Ladder, gud fun as usual, but I'm afraid the 22nd PM clashed with the F1 Hi. G4LHI # 2219 73 k
John G4LRG	Evening sessions better that the afternoon ones. Still great to see all of the activity. Thanks to all for points.
Dave G7WHI	Great to catch up with everyone again, thanks for the qso's. 73 for another month
Phil M0PBZ	Reasonable conditions on 80m QSB on 20m Nice to see some new faces
Pete M5ABN	Good fun as always, evening sessions much more productive, see you all in October 73 Pete M5ABN #6423
William MI0WWB	Tnx to all who worked me, Night time seems to produce more QSOs!
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, Please find my Ladder log for September. Many thanks and 73 de Erkki 8318

Upcoming Events

October 2019

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sun 13 Oct		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 27 Oct		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

November 2019

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sat 02 Nov	Sun 03 Nov	RSGB 2m CW Marconi Contest	1400-1400 UTC
Sun 10 Nov		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 24 Nov		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

December 2019

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sun 01 Dec	Sat 07 Dec	FISTS Eu Straight Key Week	0001-2359 UTC
Sun 08 Dec		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 22 Dec		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC