



Greetings everyone and I hope this latest Brass Pounder finds you well.

I've been thinking and talking a lot recently about propagation and how it might affect one station and not another: my big peeve is when someone says "oh the QSB is bad, bands are fat, conditions are poor" then some clever dick says, "well with my acme 12 ele monobander on 20m and my Kensu 45KW linear I've worked every Pacific island, so conditions are great really you just need to get on more!"

It is of course, nonsense but worse than that it starts to make the other chap feel bad about himself or his shack and that's a bad thing. Anyway, it's rubbish because the ionosphere is like a swiss cheese as we know - if you've seen the Northern Lights (or southern lights for David down under!) you know what I mean - which means that whilst YOUR condx might be good, that does not alter the fact that MY condx are bad. Anyway, I was jolly pleased to have this idea further substantiated by Larry Bennet, G4HLN, F18089, in his excellent book 'Portishead' where, on page 76, he repeats information from 1946 which states that "It was often found that in conditions of fading or interference parts of a message missed at one station would be received clearly at the other, and the ship was not required to repeat the message". I mentioned this to a friend who used to work in comms at Aden, back when we were "in" Aden, and he said that sometimes two receiving stations would feed their audio into the same line so that true diversity was achieved for the same reason as at Portishead.

So, next time some one says how their station or their operating hours are, by implication, better than yours just tell 'em to move it all lock stock and paddle key to your shack and see what happens.

## Ladder and RSGB VHF

Well conditions are certainly up and down generally I find, and the comments from the ladder suggest others find it so too. I also tried the RSGB VHF NFD at the weekend just gone but that was a bit flat too. Why did the RSGB ban /P working I wonder then not rescind the ban? Win Green, a local high spot hereabout us the usual haunt of a VHF DX / Contest group but they didn't go of course. I DID go, for unrelated reasons, and found it to be packed.... Surely a single op could have gone safely? Anyway, I called and called on 144050 and 144058 but heard nothing. I worked a couple of SSB stations but that's all. Others I have spoken to had similar disappointing results.

Given the fact that I am most unlikely now to be re-employed as a jet jockey I decided to start my own little business called...Bantenna and if, in due course, you look up my website you'll find me. I must say I was rather empowered and inspired by Paul, M0BMN, who has been running a small business for some time ([Phoenix kits](#) online) and thought, well, why not? It's not live yet as I am still building stock and developing some products but watch out for me please. One of my antennas, I call it a sleeve antenna, is really exciting (well, it excites me!). All band HF and of very novel design it has taken me a couple of years to get it this far but now development is really coming to a head. As soon as I can go public I will.



I'm finding the R and D extremely interesting as well as, shall we say, not cheap! When you build for yourself it's fine to go and buy one of something, but when you suddenly have to buy things in tens and twenties it's a different level of spending. Scary. And then there's the time...pretty full on for weeks and weeks with nothing coming in...you soon begin to see why stuff costs! These little unun's are all attempts to optimise the result whilst reducing both cost and effort and they are just a sample - a bit like Edison and his bulbs, I now know an awful lot of ways NOT to make an UNUN. I am also becoming something of a "BS Sniffer!"

### Phoenix Kits

Having mentioned [Phoenix Kits](#) I should just say that Paul recently sent a small MW receiver kit to my 8 year old niece which she built with her dad. She learnt to solder and wire the thing up, then she pulled voices from the ether and was most impressed!! Engineer of the future I say!!

### SKW 2020

I had a bash at SKW 2020 this time round but conditions were truly awful. I even activated MX0IPX for a few hours and even with 400 Watts I only managed a brace of FISTS: DL5CL F17425 and HB9DAX F7137. When my huge doublet and 400 watts pulls in TWO you know things are bad!

I hope you enjoyed SKW.

### What 3 Words

Have you heard of the mapping app "What 3 words"? It is an app of genius and I am mightily impressed. The developers realised that some folks have no address - how do you send

something to a homeless man or a family living in a field, or a refugee? You can't....well, now you can. The developers of W3W cut the entire globe into 3m squares (bigger at sea) and every single square has a locator made up of just 3 words. If you download the free app you'll see. So right now I am sitting in the square known as Project Destroyer Handbook. If you phone the bombsquad, or the ambulance service, and say emergency at "project destroyer handbook" they will get here...not to my house, not to my drive but HERE to my desk! Brilliant isn't it?

Anyway, I am telling you this because...yes, you've guessed it...I'm working on a FISTS activity which require an exchange of the W3W locator! Download the app now and have a play. See what you think.

Well, I think that's it for now. On to the ladder scores on the doors... New to the 2020 Ladder in June are: Ken G4RHR, F2248, John G4YTJ, F19024, and Adam SQ9S, F20019...welcome chaps.

This is Adam in Poland!



(Photo: Adam Sq9S)

Now, if you're like me you probably aren't a collector. I certainly don't collect keys...then I counted them!!! Ken, G4RHR, is also not a collector of keys as this photo of his non-collection shows... Welcome Ken, and welcome to your keys.



(Photo Ken G4RHR).

That reminds me...I really do need another paddle.

So long folks. Do email me news and please, keep pounding the brass!

73

David G4YVM F15868

## Comments for Ladder June 2020

Entrant	Comments
Phil 2E0DPH	73
Nils DL3HR	Again deep QSB in all 4 sessions, vy tiny Signals out of the UK, I have heard M0CYR and G3JRH but lost them in QSB, i am very sorry. Hpe cuagn in July, stay healthy, vy 73!
Richard G0ILN	Good fun as always. Stay safe. Richard G0ILN Fist 398
Andrew G0OEY	Not many this month.
Peter G3JRH	2nd Sunday wkd 20M in afternoon session, for once it wasn't full of contest stns. 80M in evening session was excellent, strong signals not much QSB.
Graham G3ZOD	Nice to have improved condx in the afternoon session on the 28th June. 73 de Graham G3ZOD
Roger G4CGU	Good conditions in the evening. In future I shall be calling cq fists to hopefully attract more members. Thanks to all those involved with this activity.
Robin G4DNP	A great activity and thanks for QSOs. Looking forward to July. 73s Robin
Peter G4LHI	G4LHI Claim for June Ladder gud fun as usual, but I'm afraid the band condx were not at their best, lots QSB & QRM but I got a few QSOs in spite of that Hi..Mni tnx to the organizers of this great event73 Peter
Ken G4RHR	My first entry in the Ladder for some time, but very enjoyable, although conditions not so good..
Richard G4TPJ	TS530 - 100 watts- straight key Ten Tec - Argosy - 50 watts
John G4YTJ	Only 5W from FT-817
Dave G7WHI	Nice to work Wolf on 20m for the first time, very variable QSB in the afternoon session on 28th. Stay safe 73 Dave G7WHI
Paul M0GSX	Hi To All at FISTS,  Hope everyone's well, please find attached my log for the Ladder sessions in June. Managed the two evening sessions again, First session the 14th, tried 40M at first, calling with no contacts, so switched to 80M, much better than 40, Condx were good with little QSB and sigs well up over S9 at times. The second session was much better, tried 40M first - with gud sigs again between S7 and S9 for the first hour, managed to work a PA3, sadly not a FISTS member, then swapped to 80M, sigs were peaking better here in the West Midlands for the last hour of the evening session.  So a Gud couple of sessions for me during June. Thanks for all the work you're doing for us behind the scenes see you all next month hopefully..  14 June: Tried 40M first, no luck so switched to 80M, condx were not as good as previous, heavy QSB at times but manageable.  28 June: Started the session on 40M, gud sigs - little QSB for the first hour, then 80M, better sigs little less qsb but it was there.  Paul M0GSX #17642

Phil M0PBZ	Conditions on 80m on 28/6 not great. Short skip on 40m.
Mark M0UZE	Thanks
Pete M5ABN	Thanks to all who came on for the ladder & hope to see you all in July. Please all stay safe and well during this difficult time. Vy 73 Pete M5ABN
Will MI0WWB	Thanks, enjoyed the contacts.
Graham MX5IPX	First airing of MX5IPX for a long time! Pity I got confused and sent a wrong digit in the FISTS member number, sigh... HI 73 de Graham G3ZOD / MX5IPX
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, please find attached my log for June. tnx es 73 de Erkki OH7QR nr 8318
Norbert ON4ANE	73 de Norbert
Joop PG4I	Very nice to see some short skip during the afternoon session on June 28th. Some good activity on 80 meter in the evening also. Thanks for the QSO's!
Adam SQ9S	Tnx Gio IW2JJS for short qso. Best 73 Adam SQ9S

### Results for Ladder June 2020

Callsign	Posn	Prev	Move	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
G0ILN	1	1	-	464	27	80	86	92	87	92
G4LHI	2	2	-	373	55	54	72	73	62	57
M5ABN	3	3	-	331	36	55	66	57	62	55
M0PBZ	4	4	-	304	36	33	58	55	65	57
G4IZZ	5	5	-	270		52	63	56	48	51
M0GSX	6	7	↑	226		37	57	35	51	46
G0BON	7	6	↓	214		27	29	80	78	
G4TPJ	8	=8	-	197	21	15	60	30	39	32
G3JRH	9	12	↑	186	12	27	37	31	36	43
2E0DPH	10	=8	↓	183	24	16	45	41	39	18
MW0BGL	11	10	↓	161		40	52	45	24	
OH7QR	12	15	↑	159	28	25	31	22	18	35
DL3HR	13	14	↑	156	16	36	39	21	27	17
G4LRG	14	11	↓	154	24	27	43		60	
G3XVL	15	13	↓	152	24	27	16	28	45	12
PG4I	16	18	↑	130			40	6	36	48
MI0WWB	17	17	-	116	10	36		28	24	18
G3ZRJ	18	16	↓	100	3	1	45	14	37	
G4XUZ	19	19	-	93	9	18	30		21	15
G0OEY	20	20	-	70	20	12	9	3	22	4
G0DFC	21	21	-	60		21	12		24	3
M0DRK	22	22	-	57		6	15	18	6	12
G0JHK	23	29	↑	54			21			33
G7WHI	24	23	↓	49	4				33	12
G0TLU	25	25	-	40			12	15	3	10
IW2JJS	26	=26	-	38	7	4	13			14
OH2BN	27	24	↓	36	9	9		6	9	3
ON4ANE	28	=26	↓	33				12	12	9
G4DNP	29	33	↑	26		4			7	15
G3ZOD	=30	=38	↑	24					3	21
G4CGU	=30	=31	↑	24					12	12
GM0EPO	=30	=26	↓	24			15	9		
M0UZE	33	30	↓	21	3			6	6	6
G4TGJ	34	=31	↓	12			12			
G4RHR	35	-	↑	10						10
G0DDX	=36	=34	↓	9			9			
SV2BBK	=36	=34	↓	9	2	3	4			
M0DHP	=38	=36	↓	6		6				
OZ8AGB	=38	=36	↓	6			6			
G4YTJ	40	-	↑	4						4
M0TEU	=41	=38	↓	3					3	
SQ9S	=41	-	↑	3						3

MX5IPX*				9					9
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\* *Check log*

### Comments for Dunkirk Memorial 2020

Entrant	Comments
Peter G4LHI	G4LHI Claim for Dunkirk event gud fun as usual, but I'm afraid the band condx were not at their best, lots QSB & QRM but I got a few QSOs in spite of that Hi..Mni tnx to the organizers of this great event73 Peter
Mark M0UZE	Thanks

### Results for Dunkirk Memorial 2020

Callsign	Posn	Points
G4LHI	1	97
G3JRH	2	23
M0UZE	3	5
G3ZOD	4	2

## Upcoming Events

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### July 2020

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sun 12 Jul		<a href="#">FISTS Eu Ladder</a>	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 26 Jul		<a href="#">FISTS Eu Ladder</a>	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

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### August 2020

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sat 01 Aug	Mon 31 Aug	<a href="#">FISTS Eu Word Search</a>	Month 1 of 3 0000-2359 UTC
Sun 09 Aug		<a href="#">FISTS Eu Ladder</a>	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 23 Aug		<a href="#">FISTS Eu Ladder</a>	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

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### September 2020

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Tue 01 Sep	Wed 30 Sep	<a href="#">FISTS Eu Word Search</a>	Month 2 of 3 0000-2359 UTC
Sun 13 Sep		<a href="#">FISTS Eu Ladder</a>	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 27 Sep		<a href="#">FISTS Eu Ladder</a>	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

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