

# BRASSPOUNDER

October 2020, Issue 149



Greetings all

Welcome to October BP...where has the year gone?

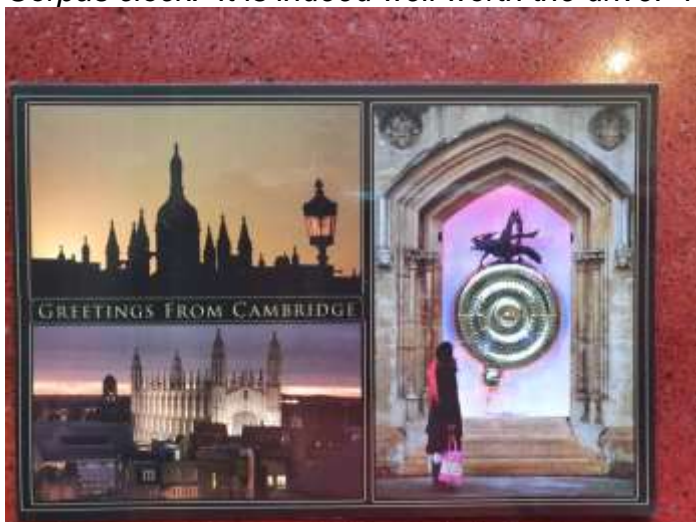
Well, first off, the Chronophage event seems to have been well received but whether it was successful only time and logs will tell! I certainly had a sort of success but not in the way I expected. As usual I have had zero success on 2m with any FISTS members - my QTH seems to go from bad to worse despite my mast, yagi, 300 watt linear and persistence. Sometimes it might work, mostly, nah. Anyway, there I was feeling fed up with VHF so I left it sitting on 050 and went about my work. A while later I heard CW calling cq so my ears pricked up and I listened. My grey cells whirred into motion as I tried to recall what band I was tuned to, then it dawned...the *only* band that was on was 2m! Now my ears were alert! I tried to recognise the fists but couldn't...odd in itself. Then the callsign...G...yes, to be expected....3....okay, now I'm excited...Z...yes.....N.....eh?...H. No way! But then again...G3ZNH! Blow me, not a FIST but rare Dx indeed and on 2m it might as well have been Kim Jong Un himself!

So, a quick recomposure and I replied to Bob – who probably fell off the stool himself! We had a quick chat then he suggested we QSY to FM for a proper chat (as he put it!) but I choked and refused...CW to phone is bad enough, CW to FM just aint gonna happen, so I said no, but I will go to 144.250 SSB...so we did.

It was fabulous to hook up with a friend in this way but it hasn't happened since!

## The Clock

Anyway, the Chronophage also caught the imagination of Alan, MW0BGL who went to Cambridge, would you believe, to actually see that clock I mentioned. He even sent me a postcard (shown) and the reverse says this, *"The 2m Chronophage inspired me to go to Cambridge to see the Corpus clock. It is indeed well worth the drive. 73. Alan, MW0BGL"*



Well, thanks Alan and I am so pleased you made the effort: the Corpus clock really is something to behold and the card was a very nice touch: thank you.

## HF

I had more success on HF this month and had two very interesting QSO. The first was with Chris, G5VZ which was a first for both him and me I think - certainly Chris' first foray into the

Ladder. Welcome Chris and thanks for the QSO. I thoroughly enjoy meeting mates on the bands.

My next interesting QSO was with Max, IU3KGO. Max is F20371 and he is a new FISTS member and made a point of telling me so, if you're reading this Max, thanks. I havwe no photo of Max but his QRZ entry has this on it:

"I'm learning CW...and I love it! 12 July 2019...my 1st CW QSO...with IZ8VKW"

Well Max, you might be learning CW but you have certainly learnt it well. It was nice copyable code... thanks.

Also sort of HF but not 100pc FISTS, Dave, G0AYD F 15892, managed to get a bargain recently: an ftdx400 receiver and not one but two ftdx 401 transmitters...gifted gratis by a non FISTS friend who is a member of FISTS *affiliated* club Andover Radio Club. Nice!!

Dave says...

*"Well finished cleaning the receiver up and looking at some rattle can spray to do the lid, sides and its bum. I will order 2 cans so I can spray the rx and the tx that's working. I then went down the garage where id left the transmitters ticking over for a couple of hours connected my dummy load and started to load one up got to 50 watts and had to shut down as my dummy loads only good for 60 watts at least one of them works the others not playing ball, I'm loathe to stick my fingers in there as I don't wish to grow wings just yet. I have also downloaded both manuals and got the receiver spot on now. It's got 2 mtrs and also 6 mtr boards installed and you use 28 MHz as the transverter. It also has separate so239s to connect aerials for this.*

*Anyway I'm chuffed with my latest toys [...] speak soon, Dave."*

I'm sure you are pleased with the toys Dave! I knew these rigs could have transverters fitted but I have never actually seen it. Absolutely brilliant!!



Daves' new receiver...



And a fine pair, missus!

That's it I think...to the ladder,

New to the 2020 Ladder in October are Chris G5VZ and Simon M0ILR. Simon's QRZ entry is interesting:

Hi! My name is Simon and I live in St Neots, UK.

I acquired my Foundation license in November 2016 (M6ICG), my Intermediate license in March 2017 (2E0SMR) and my Advanced license in January 2018.

I love using CW, and have begun calling on HF, VHF and UHF. I also take part in the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evening CW nets, run by Peter G4LHI, beginning on 144.762.500MHz FM at 19:30 local time.

I'm a FISTS member, #18560: <https://fists.co.uk/>

I can also (very occasionally) be found on the St Neots 70cm FM repeater, GB3OV (input = 434.725 MHz, output = 433.125 MHz, CTCSS = 94.8 Hz).

I'm the RSGB Examinations Secretary for Huntingdonshire Amateur Radio Society (HARS): <http://hunts-hams.weebly.com/>, so if you live within travelling distance of Huntingdon UK and you'd like to further your amateur radio qualifications, then please don't hesitate to email me. We offer both taught courses and stand-alone exams / practical assessments.

Hope to catch you on-air or at one of the HARS club evenings soon!

MNI 73 DE M0ILR AR VA dit dit

Mind you, Chris's aint bad...

**Active on HF, mostly CW. I have 2m and 4m for mobile FM, too.**

**I hope to catch you on the air!**

Past-president of EuCW and an active member of FISTS Europe. (<https://fists.co.uk>) I was elected Chairman of EuCW in August 2013 and served for three years. I came up with the idea for *Snakes and Ladders*, an activity rather than a contest, having some unexpected influences on scores. This idea was refined and, after six years, is still going strong!

I edited several books for G-QRP Club, including the G-QRP Club Antenna Handbook and QRP Club editions of Drew Diamond's *Radio Projects* books. (See <http://www.gqrp.com/sales.htm>)

Amateur radio has been a feature of my life since I was about 12 years old and I was able to enjoy Solar Cycle 20.

I am now enjoying SDR which beats the 500Hz filter in my trusty FT-817, and the Kenwood TS590 narrow band options. In the shack right now I have a Sun SDR Pro 2 and a KX3 along with an amplifier. Just now (autumn 2020) I am on the waiting list for a Gemini, due for delivery from Linear Amp UK in January 2021.

I enjoy the traditions of ham radio and I will always reply to SWL reports and will QSL 100% direct or via the RSGB Bureau. As they always used to say, a QSL is the final courtesy of a contact. I still keep a paper log, by the way!

Nice to have you both aboard.

Right, I think I am done here...do send me stuff to print please, I love to hear what's going on and I know others like to read it. Take care all and see we here so often on air now, "stay safe". We live in historic times!

That's me for now...73. David G4YVM

### Comments for Ladder September 2020

Entrant	Comments
Nils DL3HR	always nice to meet all the Fists, tnx for qso, hpe to meet agn in next Sessions - vy 73!
Ivan G0BON	Really good conditions for a change for the two sessions I worked. Great to see some new callsigns in the mix. Thanks to all, Stay safe, 73, Ivan
Richard G0ILN	Great fun as usual. Last month I noticed some new call signs and this month is the same. Richard G0ILN
Peter G3JRH	80M was very good for both evening sessions. Made a few QSO's in the first Sunday afternoon session. All in all a good month for me. Peter G3JRH
Chris G3XVL	Good fun as usual !
Graham G3ZOD	Just on for the 13th September sessions this month. 80m in the evening was very busy! 73 de Graham G3ZOD
Tony G3ZRJ	Great signals from all on 27th, on new EFHW antenna
Roger G4CGU	Did two evening sessions again on 80m and conditions were good although it gets a bit crowded around 3.558. Thanks again to all involved.
Robin G4DNP	Heard lots of activity on 80m. Best 73s Robin
Peter G4LHI	G4LHI Claim for September Ladder gud fun as usual, but I'm afraid the band condx were not at their best, lots QSB & QRM but I made it in spite of that Hi .Mni tnx to the organizers of this great event. Keep Safet73 Peter
Ken G4RHR	Conditions on 80m still rather poor but managed to have 5 enjoyable QSO's, and thanks to the stations worked
Richard G4TPJ	TS530 - 100 watts- Doublet
Ray G4XUZ	Deep SSB and much noise on 80m made the afternoon sessions a struggle for me with my present max of 10w. The evening sessions were a lot better for me. 73, Ray, G4XUZ (fists 777).
Chris G5VZ	This is my first Ladder log for well over five years. I was back on the air on 4. September - just a few weeks ago - after a lengthy break and I have enjoyed meeting up with some FISTS members I last worked in 2012! And the pleasure of meeting some new members, too. 73 Chris G5VZ
Paul M0GSX	Hi To All, Hope all's well at FISTS HQ, Please find attached my Ladder log for 2 sessions in September, tried both Evening sessions again, really gud Band Condx on 80M for both

	<p>sessions, tried 40m for the first session on the 13th, but very quiet, so switched over to 80M, much better active band with great Sigs, slightly improved towards the end of the first evening session.</p> <p>The second evening session on the 27th was very gud with a packed FISTS Frequency, nice to hear so many for the Ladder session. Condx just got better throughout the session with very strong sigs from most of the ladder guys and a couple of new members for me as well - so gud all round, with contacts over into the Continent, so my Little antenna is working well at only 15 feet up.</p> <p>Tried to evaluate my E.F.L.W antenna for a few weeks, but at only about 43 feet long, a little short for 80M, with sigs down a couple of S Points, so stuck with the ZS6BKW antenna for both sessions.</p> <p>Thanks again to all at FISTS for us and the sterling work you all do behind the scenes..</p> <p><i>13 September:</i> Tried 40M first, little activity, so switched to 80M immediately, Condx gud with marginal QSB at the start but increased into the session.</p> <p><i>27 September:</i> Went straight onto 80M, Condx very gud with little QSB, Sigs got stronger, later on into the session.</p> <p>Paul M0GSX #17642..</p>
Simon M0ILR	First Ladder entry, woo-hoo! :-)
Phil M0PBZ	Two good fairly busy sessions. Nice to hear stations further afield.
Steve M0SHM	Great fun today. Apologies to M0GSX who dropped away into the noise on 80m and I lost him to the QRM of S7.
Mark M0UZE	Thanks
Pete M5ABN	Thanks to all who came on for the ladder & hope to see you all in October. Please all stay safe and well. Vy 73 Pete M5ABN
Will MI0WWB	Fun using both paddle and SK.
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, Please find attached my Ladder log for September. Condx are still poor, Keep safe. Thanks and 73 de Erkki OH7QR nr 8318
Norbert ON4ANE	73 de Norbert ON4ANE
Jan PA0SIM	Thanks for the friendly ladder QSO's, 73 Jan PA0SIM
Joop PG4I	The last session on September 27 I was on the beach near Flushing with a full-size 80 meter dipole and an old TS-520. Never had so much fun during the LADDER! 73 Jo PG4I
Adam SQ9S	Thanks for all qsos and see you soon again. My RIG: Bencher BY1, FT-2000, ant. GP7 Vertical 40-10m and pwr 100W. Best 73 Adam SQ9S

### Results for Ladder September 2020

Callsign	Posn	Prev	Move	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
G0ILN	1	1	-	768	27	80	86	92	87	92	97	102	105
G4LHI	2	2	-	545	55	54	72	73	62	57	44	64	64
M0PBZ	3	3	-	538	36	33	58	55	65	57	80	75	79
M5ABN	4	4	-	529	36	55	66	57	62	55	46	71	81
G0BON	5	5	-	442		27	29	80	78		78	58	92
M0GSX	6	7	↑	380		37	57	35	51	46	46	51	57
G4IZZ	7	6	↓	375		52	63	56	48	51	42	36	27
MW0BGL	8	8	-	319		40	52	45	24	14	36	54	54
G3JRH	9	9	-	297	12	27	37	31	36	43	20	40	51
G4TPJ	10	10	-	290	21	15	60	30	39	32	15	33	45
PG4I	11	13	↑	253			40	6	36	48	19	64	40
DL3HR	12	11	↓	251	16	36	39	21	27	17	34	31	30
OH7QR	13	12	↓	238	28	25	31	22	18	35	40	20	19
2E0DPH	14	14	-	213	24	16	45	41	39	18	15		15
G3XVL	15	15	-	209	24	27	16	28	45	12	9	15	33
G4XUZ	16	16	-	195	9	18	30		21	15	30	33	39
G3ZRJ	17	20	↑	179	3	1	45	14	37		15		64
MI0WWB	18	18	-	169	10	36		28	24	18	30	1	22
G4LRG	19	17	↓	154	24	27	43		60				
G0JHK	20	19	↓	152			21			33	25	43	30
G4CGU	21	21	-	114					12	12	29	30	31
ON4ANE	22	24	↑	99				12	12	9	21	15	30
M0DRK	23	22	↓	78		6	15	18	6	12	12	9	
G0OEY	24	23	↓	73	20	12	9	3	22	4	3		
G3ZOD	25	26	↑	63					3	21	21	6	12
G0DFC	26	25	↓	60		21	12		24	3			
G4RHR	27	35	↑	52						10		9	33
G7WHI	28	27	↓	49	4				33	12			
G0TLU	=29	=28	↓	46			12	15	3	10	6		
IW2JJS	=29	=28	↓	46	7	4	13			14		8	
PA0SIM	31	=36	↑	45								18	27
M0UZE	32	=30	↓	42	3			6	6	6	9	6	6
G4YTJ	33	34	↑	37						4	9	9	15
G4DNP	=34	32	↓	36		4			7	15	3	1	6
OH2BN	=34	=30	↓	36	9	9		6	9	3			
G5VZ	36	-	↑	25									25
GM0EPO	=37	33	↓	24			15	9					
M0ILR	=37	-	↑	24									24
DL3HAE	39	=36	↓	18							18		
M0SHM	40	=43	↑	15							3		12
SQ9S	41	=43	↑	13						3			10
G4TGJ	42	38	↓	12			12						

G0DDX	=43	=39	↓	9			9					
OZ8AGB	=43	=39	↓	9			6					3
SV2BBK	=43	=39	↓	9	2	3	4					
M0DHP	46	42	↓	6		6						
M0TEU	47	=43	↓	3					3			
MX5IPX*				39						9	12	18

\* Check log



## Upcoming Events

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### October 2020

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Thu 01 Oct	Sat 31 Oct	<a href="#">FISTS Eu Word Search</a> Month 3 of 3	0000-2359 UTC
Mon 12 Oct		<a href="#">FISTS Eu 2m Chronophage</a>	1200, 1500, 1900 UTC for 1 hour
Fri 16 Oct		<a href="#">FISTS Eu 2m Chronophage</a>	1200, 1500, 1900 UTC for 1 hour
Sat 17 Oct		<a href="#">FISTS Eu 2m Chronophage</a>	1200, 1500, 1900 UTC for 1 hour
Sun 18 Oct		<a href="#">FISTS Eu 2m Chronophage</a>	1200, 1500, 1900 UTC for 1 hour
Mon 19 Oct		<a href="#">FISTS Eu 2m Chronophage</a>	1200, 1500, 1900 UTC for 1 hour
Fri 23 Oct		<a href="#">FISTS Eu 2m Chronophage</a>	1200, 1500, 1900 UTC for 1 hour
Sat 24 Oct		<a href="#">FISTS Eu 2m Chronophage</a>	1200, 1500, 1900 UTC for 1 hour
Sun 25 Oct		<a href="#">FISTS Eu 2m Chronophage</a>	1200, 1500, 1900 UTC for 1 hour
Sun 25 Oct		<a href="#">FISTS Eu Ladder</a>	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

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### November 2020

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sat 07 Nov	Sun 08 Nov	<a href="#">RSGB 2m CW Marconi Contest</a>	1400-1400 UTC
Sun 08 Nov		<a href="#">FISTS Eu Ladder</a>	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 22 Nov		<a href="#">FISTS Eu Ladder</a>	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

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### December 2020

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sun 13 Dec		<a href="#">FISTS Eu Ladder</a>	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 27 Dec		<a href="#">FISTS Eu Ladder</a>	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

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