

BRASSPOUNDER

November 2020, Issue 150



Greetings dear FISTS

I hope this issue of BP finds you hale and hearty and not too glum with the task of enduring lockdown (or as I have seen it, LD2.0). I don't think we are taking this second lockdown quite as seriously as last time, which we may well rue. Anyway, what do I know? I take it seriously, so I stay in, wash my hands, make aersials and have QSO!

I have had a lot of fun recently on the bands - I do find CW quite therapeutic - and managed to work a few FISTS. I don't log every call now but if I get a FISTS number I tend to, so from my log I have G0EVV, David F550, then G0GSY, Bryan F6403, followed by 2E0XET, John, F16255 and Jim, G4DKQ F17418. I think these were all new to me so thanks for the QSO. Of particular note was John, 2E0XET, only because 2E0 calls are pretty rare in my logbook! Maybe more on SSB I guess, which is a mode I have heard tell is catching on but it hasn't made it to my shack yet.

I didn't work Chris, GU3TUX, F1307 but I have had several email conversations with him (FT8.1??) and as ever, a pleasure to meet other FISTS in any mode really.

Talking of modes, did you see the news about the long distance QSO using FM? (Note to self: no excuses for not calling on 2m!!)

3000km plus contact made on 433 MHz from St.Helena to South Africa - 16th Oct 2020

On the **16th of October 2020**, there was a remarkable 3000+ km contact made on the **70cms band** between **South Africa** and **St.Helena** in the South Atlantic... <https://ei7gl.blogspot.com/2020/11/3000km-plus-contact-made-on-433-mhz.html>

Then in the same blog...

This 3000km+ tropo path between South Africa and St.Helena opens up on a reasonably regular basis. Back in November of 2018, there was an opening on 144 MHz as outlined in [this previous post](#).

In [June of 2020, the 2m path opened up again](#) and the most recent opening on 2-metres was on the **23rd of September 2020** when ZD7GWM was worked by no fewer than five ZS stations... ZS1TA, ZS3CVB, ZS1CF, ZS3JPY and ZS1FC.

To put these remarkable contacts on 144 MHz and 433 MHz into context, the 3136 km distance is equivalent to the path across the North Atlantic between Newfoundland and Ireland.

I must say it seems that there's always something we don't know! Impressive nonetheless.

Exchange Your Gifts week...

No, not a swapshop for unwanted gifts (Icom 7300 anyone?) but a simple way of gathering on air for something more interesting than 'wx here OM is...'.

The dates and details will be published in due course but this is an activity for Dec 28th 0001hrs to January 3rd 2359hrs and the exchange is simple...RST plus the usual name, QTH etc and then...da daaaa!.. what did Santa leave you? Let's stick with the now-normal format of 1 hour slots on the cardinals of the clock and all the usual bands. Of course, if Santa DID give you n IC7300 then presumably you'll be using it so the rest is up to you!

Xiegu G90

Has anyone got any tales of the little Xiegu radios? They are extremely popular (I haven't, since you ask!) but they do have quite a following so I'd be (wouldn't you be?) interested to hear how people get on with this Chinese product. I find it interesting how the Chinese product development has followed exactly the same pathway the Japanese did in the 70s. Rubbish to start with then total domination. I have to add that I am trying to NOT buy from China but it is almost impossible: even UK stuff is often *made* in China. I fear their grip will, like the Japanese before them, simply tighten.

It made me wonder whether there's a place for a new activity based on micro rigs alone? I suspect not - the mighty diminutive (oxymoronic!) QCX has several single-type activities but do let me know.

Ladder and wordsearch

I am delighted with the wordsearch entries: a relative huge number so thank you to all who entered and I am pleased it was so widely enjoyed. Great comments...thank you. Ivan G0BON and Richard G0ILN both completed 25 letters on 25th October. However, because Ivan had his final QSO just 5 *minutes* before Richard did, Ivan came in 4th and Richard 5th! Well done both though!!

New to the Ladder in October were Mark G0TMT,F18878, Cees PA0VLD,F18138 and Ole LB5DI, F20376.

This is Marks mast (or it is on QRZ) >>>>



This from Ole...

"I am a Norwegian Ham Radio operator located in Lier, Norway.

My equipment is:

Yaesu FT-450D and Xiegu G90

Antennas are a random wire end fed antenna with a mAT-40 antenna tuner connected to the FT-450D and a short G5RV antenna connected to the Xiegu G90.



I normally operate on SSB, but am learning CW and hope to use that more in the near future."

Well Ole, the ladder will help your CW and do let us know about that Xiegu! (talk of the Devil etc!!)

And this is Cees... Cees is a marine engineer and seems to enjoy many hours at ships radio station desks! C'mon Cees...tell us more.

Also on Cees' QRZ page is this beauty. I have a soft spot for lightships and this is a stunner. What an aerial mast!



Okay, that's me for now...73. David G4YVM

Upcoming Events

Comments for Ladder October 2020

Entrant	Comments
Phil 2E0DPH	73 Phil
Nils DL3HR	Heard some new Callsigns calling "CQ FISTS" this month but wasn't able to reach them - my Signal was "too weak"... TNX to all others for qso, hpe to meet agn in next Sessions - vy 73!

Ivan G0BON	Great to meet up with fellow Fists on Air, stay safe. 73 Ivan G0BON
Richard G0ILN	Great fun as usual. Last month I noticed some new call signs and this month is the same. Richard G0ILN
Mark G0TMT	Nice to see so many around for the evening session
Peter G3JRH	1st Sunday 80m in evening session was good, 2nd Sunday afternoon session saw more activity than previous afternoon sessions, the evening session was pretty good although signals were weaker this Sunday.. Peter G3JRH
Chris G3XVL	Good to hear a few more new stations on.
Tony G3ZRJ	Good turnout, sorry was QRL for part of activity
Roger G4CGU	Did two evening sessions again, conditions very good. 73 Roger #18710
Robin G4DNP	80m now looking lively in the evenings. Ladder always a fun activity. Best 73s Robin
Peter G4LHI	G4LHI Claim for October 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
Richard G4TPJ	ic761 - Doublet
Ray G4XUZ	Limited time in both evenings, when condx were a lot better than the afternoons. But good fun as always. 73, Ray G4XUZ.
Chris G5VZ	Not able to spend quite so much time in Ladder periods in October. But still pleased to be putting in a log.
Ray M0DHP	First time in the Ladder for quite a while. Really enjoyed it, especially my QSO with M7HRY. Need to get my 80m antenna up for next month.
Paul M0GSX	Hi To All, Hope everyone's well, please find attached my log for Oct 20 sessions, were 2 gud evening sessions again both on 80M with good band condx again here in the West Midlands, with the last evening session a little quieter than normal but all the favourites were on there!! Thanks to all for taking the time for the contacts, it's so nice to hear a packed band for the Ladder sessions. <i>11 October:</i> Condx were good, went straight onto 80M, mostly good strong sigs, a little QSB in the final hour but not too bad. <i>25 October:</i> Condx were gud with little QSB, but the 80M band was quieter than usual. Paul M0GSX #17642
Steve M0SHM	<i>11 October:</i> Great time. Afternoon was noisy on 80m but good sigs generally. <i>25 October:</i> Noisy condx here today.
Mark M0UZE	Thanks and keep safe
Pete M5ABN	Thanks to all who came on for the ladder & hope to see you all in November. Please all stay safe and well. Vy 73 Pete M5ABN
Will MI0WWB	Looks like the solar cycle is improving! Nice meeting some old CW friends.
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, Please find attached my Ladder log for October. Condx better now, Keep safe. Thanks and 73 de Erkki OH7QR nr 8318
Norbert ON4ANE	Condx are sometimes a little bit difficult for a QSO 73 de Norbert ON4ANE

Jan PA0SIM	Was again fun joining the ladder activity. 73 Jan PA0SIM
Joop PG4I	Nice to meet some new members. Activity on 80 meters is great! Would love to see some more activity on the high bands. 73 Jo PG4I
Adam SQ9S	Thanks for all qso. RIG: Bencher BY1, FT-2000, ant. GP7 Vertical 40-10m, pwr 100W. Best 73 Adam SQ9S #20019

Results for Ladder October 2020

Callsign	Posn	Prev	Move	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
G0ILN	1	1	-	866	27	80	86	92	87	92	97	102	105	98
G4LHI	2	2	-	608	55	54	72	73	62	57	44	64	64	63
M5ABN	3	4	↑	607	36	55	66	57	62	55	46	71	81	78
M0PBZ	4	3	↓	538	36	33	58	55	65	57	80	75	79	
G0BON	5	5	-	532		27	29	80	78		78	58	92	90
M0GSX	6	6	-	432		37	57	35	51	46	46	51	57	52
G4IZZ	7	7	-	430		52	63	56	48	51	42	36	27	55
MW0BGL	8	8	-	370		40	52	45	24	14	36	54	54	51
G4TPJ	9	10	↑	350	21	15	60	30	39	32	15	33	45	60
G3JRH	10	9	↓	343	12	27	37	31	36	43	20	40	51	46
DL3HR	11	12	↑	287	16	36	39	21	27	17	34	31	30	36
PG4I	12	11	↓	280			40	6	36	48	19	64	40	27
OH7QR	13	13	-	264	28	25	31	22	18	35	40	20	19	26
2E0DPH	14	14	-	241	24	16	45	41	39	18	15		15	28
G3ZRJ	15	17	↑	236	3	1	45	14	37		15		64	57
G3XVL	16	15	↓	233	24	27	16	28	45	12	9	15	33	24
G4XUZ	17	16	↓	222	9	18	30		21	15	30	33	39	27
G0JHK	18	20	↑	212			21			33	25	43	30	60
MI0WWB	19	18	↓	203	10	36		28	24	18	30	1	22	34
G4LRG	20	19	↓	154	24	27	43		60					
G4CGU	21	21	-	148					12	12	29	30	31	34
ON4ANE	22	22	-	135				12	12	9	21	15	30	36
M0DRK	23	23	-	105		6	15	18	6	12	12	9		27
PA0SIM	24	31	↑	81								18	27	36
G0OEY	25	24	↓	73	20	12	9	3	22	4	3			
G3ZOD	26	25	↓	63					3	21	21	6	12	
G4YTJ	27	33	↑	61						4	9	9	15	24
G0DFC	28	26	↓	60		21	12		24	3				
G4RHR	29	27	↓	52						10		9	33	
M0UZE	30	32	↑	51	3			6	6	6	9	6	6	9
G7WHI	31	28	↓	49	4				33	12				
G0TLU	=32	=29	↓	46			12	15	3	10	6			
IW2JJS	=32	=29	↓	46	7	4	13			14		8		
G4DNP	34	=34	-	45		4			7	15	3	1	6	9
G5VZ	35	36	↑	39									25	14
M0SHM	=36	40	↑	36							3		12	21
OH2BN	=36	=34	↓	36	9	9		6	9	3				
SQ9S	=36	41	↑	36						3			10	23
G0TMT	39	-	↑	30										30
GMOEPO	=40	=37	↓	24			15	9						
M0ILR	=40	=37	↓	24									24	
M0DHP	42	46	↑	21		6								15

DL3HAE	43	39	↓	18						18			
PA0VLD	44	-	↑	16									16
G4TGJ	45	42	↓	12			12						
G0DDX	=46	=43	↓	9			9						
OZ8AGB	=46	=43	↓	9			6				3		
SV2BBK	=46	=43	↓	9	2	3	4						
LB5DI	=49	-	↑	3									3
M0TEU	=49	47	↓	3					3				
MX5IPX*				39						9	12	18	

* *Check log*

Comments for Word Search 2020

Entrant	Comments
Ivan G0BON	Picked up all of my letters in the ladder so, didn't do too bad.
Richard G0ILN	Mainly just from my Ladder QSO's. Richard G0ILN
Chris G3XVL	My word search log !
Peter G4LHI	G4LHI Claim for Wordsearch open, 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 Was tuff going the last 4 Ss were a job to find, but what a nice treat for my birthday. Mni tnx to the organizers of this great event. Keep Safet73 Peter
John G4YTJ	Log submitted in hope of encouraging others!
Paul M0GSX	Hi David, Hope all's well with you and all at FISTS, please find attached my log for the Wordsearch. Mni Thx Kind regards and all keep safe.. 73 .. Paul M0GSX #17642..
Mark M0UZE	Thanks and keep safe
Pete M5ABN	Not as many as I would have liked but good fun. Many thanks to all at Fists for putting on these activities and keeping us all sane!! Vy 73 Pete M5ABN

Results for Word Search 2020

Callsign	Section	Position	Letters	Final QSO Date
G4LHI	Open	1	38	11/09/2020 14:27
I5ECW	Open	2	38	30/09/2020 19:15
MW0BGL	Open	3	30	25/10/2020 15:03
G0BON	Open	4	25	25/10/2020 19:31
G0ILN	Open	5	25	25/10/2020 19:36
G3XVL	Open	6	24	25/10/2020 14:46
M5ABN	Open	7	23	24/10/2020 11:58
IK2RMZ	Open	8	20	23/10/2020 18:02
M0GSX	Open	9	19	29/10/2020 20:45
G4YTJ	Open	10	12	25/10/2020 19:01
G3ZOD	Open	11	5	13/09/2020 18:58
M0UZE	Open	12	5	27/10/2020 20:29

Upcoming Events

November 2020

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Mon 16 Nov	Sun 22 Nov	FISTS Eu Mechanical Key Days	0001-2359 UTC
Sun 22 Nov		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

December 2020

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

January 2021

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Fri 01 Jan		EuCW Snakes & Ladders winter/spring season starts	0000 UTC
Sun 10 Jan		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 24 Jan		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC