

BRASSPOUNDER

April 2021, Issue 155



Greetings one and all and welcome to the April edition of BP! Is it just me or is it still too flipping cold? On Easter Sunday I was sat outside after my church services had finished and it was baking hot, a lovely family lunch outside in the glorious sunshine...then a few days later, snow, sleet and it's still so cold as to render aerial wire too brittle to handle!! (ok,ok, I exaggerate...).

Now, on that subject I was on facebook the other day (a loathsome place I admit and I tend to keep away now.) when someone said that when he goes portable above 3000m (10,000ft in proper terms) aerials become untunable, non-resonant and well, rubbish really. I challenged this and said that whilst I had no experience of such portable ops (living on a flat island as I do) I had mucho experience of aviation and most of that was above 10,000ft where wire and coils etc work just fine! I asked him to explain but he couldn't, just repeated that in his experience that's what happened. Resonant antennas become random, etc etc.

I still cant get what he's on about...can anyone shed light for next time?

Members Moans

Maybe ex-members really....a member (overseas) has recently resigned from FISTS because he felt he was never ever getting QSO with club members so couldn't see the point of staying in. Whilst I think this was really a moan at general frustrations and lockdown etc, rather than the club per se, it did cause much chatter on the email system about how to communicate with each other. Do you remember the good days when we could whistle up a repeater and chat to club mates? Well, that's gone and it would never work for such a widely spaced club as FISTS anyway but then we had echolink and gateway repeaters etc...remember them? Talk to one, talk to many! That would work...yet it doesn't. Then we had zello groups - there are at least 3 that fit us, FISTS unofficial, CW improver and Zello CW channel. They would work to, but they don't. Then there's good old HF...that would work...but...

My feeling is that if folks wanted a daily natter with club members they would have one, there are so many methods by which this might be accomplished. I often bump into members on air and am always delighted to chat away and once or twice I have even arranged skeds, though I am not a great sked man except on 2m (which I haven't used for ages). I think there might be a use for a specific sked page / system / site / groups.io etc etc etc but I have my doubts. I think the things we need already exists. So, if YOU srat to feel like chucking in your FISTS card for want of something you sense isn't here, do ask first...I bet it IS here!

SKW

I was recently asked whether there'd be another SKW this year for ye olde pounders of uppydowny brass. The short answer is yes. We have Mech Key Days first (sidywidy pounders!) but after that we will run a SKW.

Activities

We have a few things coming up, the Wordsearch and also a What 3 Words event. I hope you manage to get involved in those as they come up. Mech key Day is also looming so please watch the activities calendar on the FISTS site. I will also welcome ideas for next year's anniversary of the death of SFB Morse!

Members things.

Keith, GOHKC who so often complained (oh yes you did) about not getting inter-G contacts has finally broken the curse. He bought himself a very nice original mcHF transceiver and bingo...that was it. Something clicked and he has now many G stations in the log. Well done Keith. The mcHF sets are very good.

Dave, GOAYD also has an mcHF and is enjoying his time with that!

Paul, M0BMN, he of Phoenix Kits online (<https://www.phoenixkitsonline.co.uk/>) goes from strength to strength and is also continuing with club sales for FISTS. Paul has an amazing array of kits these days and I gather business is good. Well done Paul.

Martin, M0MWS has turned a new birthday (70 times round the sun!) this last week or so and has also been given a lovely McEllroy key to celebrate it. Happy birthday Martin from all at FISTS

That's all I have heard of this month but do please tell me stuff if you'd like to share it.

I think that's it for this month.

Have a good time and see you on air I hope!

David G4YVM

Ladder

New to the 2021 Ladder in March are:

Peter G3JRH, Merv G4KLE, Graziano IZ0ONL, Ole LB5DI, Peter G0TLU, and Gianluca IK1VQO

Comments for Ladder March 2021

Entrant	Comments
Phil 2E0DPH	Thanks again to all. Stay safe and well. 73 Phil
Nils DL3HR	conditions were quite moody this month, some stations were loud and clear one minute and the next moment the signal was gone. hpe cuagn sn. Vy 73
Ivan G0BON	My entry for March, much enjoyed once again.
Les G0DFC	condx better this time
Richard G0ILN	Conditions seem to be improving. Nice to see some old members appearing on the Ladder together with new ops. Richard G0ILN.
Andy G0LLX	Hello, I managed to work one session and only 2 QSO's, but they are in the attached file. 73's Andy / G0LLX
Peter G0TLU	On the 28th I had a very enjoyable QSO with non-member Peter DK2FG on 40m, as did other members I heard. Beautifully sent Morse, a real pleasure to work him.
Peter G3JRH	1st Sunday afternoon session, tried both 20nd 40M but not a lot of activity, both Sunday's evening sessions cond'x nice strong signals and not a lot of QSB Peter G3JRH
Chris G3XVL	All stations worked were on 80m afternoon sessions using a low inverted Vee doublet.
Graham G3ZOD	Very lively on 80m in the evening of 28 March. 73 de Graham G3ZOD
Robin G4DNP	A well supported activity and many thanks for QSOs 73s Robin
Peter G4LHI	G4LHI Claim for March Ladder. 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 Safe & HN Y73 Peter
John G4LRG	Hard work at times but great to be part of the activity - thanks to all for the points,
Richard G4TPJ	Always good fun - good cw practice.
Ray G4XUZ	Good fun as always, with many of the usual suspects on air in the evening sessions when condx were reasonable. 73, Ray G4XUZ.
John G4YTJ	I think this is the first month that I've operated on all four sessions. I seem to do better in the evening sessions. The afternoon of 28th was dire; signals were there but really weak, so only one QSO with relative local M0GSX- We've worked on several bands but without doubt 2m makes easiest copy.
Chris G5VZ	An enjoyable day on 28. March after being unable to get on for the first Ladder in March. Afternoon - a few contacts. Then the evening airing GX0IPX. Putting GX0IPX on the air was a great experience which I hope to do again.
Bela HA2ZB	Thank you all for the Ladder session! I could work only a few stations, but was a good fun anyway.

	I expected better propagation on 20m in the afternoon, but that band did not work for me at all. I hope that OMs had better luck with that. 73 and take care!
Paul M0GSX	<p>Hi to all at FISTS,</p> <p>Please find attached my logs for March 2021, Hope everyone is well at FISTS, Thanks to David and Doc John for hosting, and the talk on the “Y” Service during the second world war- -very informative and nice to put a “Face to many FISTS” who I’ve worked, would be nice for a regular Zoom meeting for members Please.</p> <p>Condx were a little flat for the first session of the Ladder in March, the second was a little better with marginally stronger sigs on 80M, but the third session in the afternoon was a little flat on the lower bands as expected but 20M was very short skip for me managing to work john G4YTJ - a very nice signal, Thanks agn John, about six or so miles from me very strange!!!, the night session was ok but sigs increased towards the end of the session.</p> <p>Thx agn to all who worked the Ladder sessions - great to see so many members taking part.</p> <p>Paul - M0GSX #17642</p>
Gabor M0LPZ	Thank You!
Steve M0SHM	Quiet this month, some poor condx at the moment. Antenna down at end of March.
Mark M0UZE	Thank you all. Please keep safe
Pete M5ABN	Very enjoyable activity, many thanks to the hard-working guys at Fists. Stay safe. Vy 73 Pete M5ABN
Will MI0WWB	The afternoons are harder work ;-)
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, Conditions are still poor. On 14th could work only Peter G4LHI but better luck on 28th. All the best, Happy Easter and stay safe. 73 de Erkki fists 8318
Norbert ON4ANE	73 DE NORBERT ON4ANE
Jan PA0SIM	Tks for the fine CW activity. 73 Jan PA0SIM
Adam SQ9S	Tnx for all QSOs in FISTS Ladder March 2021. Best 73 Adam SQ9S #20019

Results for Ladder March 2021

Callsign	Posn	Prev	Move	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar
G0BON	1	1	-	272	70	96	106
G0ILN	2	3	↑	261	67	88	106
G4LRG	3	2	↓	254	85	73	96
G4LHI	4	4	-	207	79	69	59
M5ABN	5	5	-	195	51	68	76
G4TPJ	6	=6	-	162	48	60	54
M0GSX	7	9	↑	142	30	57	55
2E0DPH	=8	=6	↓	138	57	51	30
G3XVL	=8	8	-	138	51	47	40
DL3HR	10	10	-	133	42	42	49
MI0WWB	11	14	↑	115	33	24	58
G5VZ	12	11	↓	93	40	38	15
MW0BGL	13	19	↑	85	19	24	42
G0JHK	14	12	↓	84	48	19	17
M0RSU	15	13	↓	83	26	33	24
G4XUZ	16	22	↑	77	18	21	38
OH7QR	17	17	-	68	24	23	21
G4YTJ	18	21	↑	64	15	25	24
ON4ANE	19	24	↑	56	12	19	25
PG4I	20	15	↓	52	33	19	
M0SHM	=21	20	↓	51	30	12	9
PA0SIM	=21	25	↑	51	21		30
G0DFC	23	32	↑	50		12	38
G7WHI	=24	16	↓	48		48	
M0DRK	=24	23	↓	48	21	12	15
G3ZRJ	26	18	↓	45	45		
HA2ZB	27	=29	↑	41		14	27
G3JRH	28	-	↑	39			39
SQ9S	29	27	↓	36	1	15	20
G4KLE	30	-	↑	35			35
IZ0ONL	31	-	↑	29			29
G4DNP	32	31	↓	25	7	6	12
M0UZE	33	28	↓	21	9	6	6
SA1CCQ	34	26	↓	17	17		
G3ZOD	35	=33	↓	15	6		9
PA0VLD	36	=29	↓	14	14		
M0LPZ	37	=36	↓	9		3	6
IW2JJS	38	35	↓	8	5		3
G0LLX	=39	-	↑	6			6
G4TGJ	=39	=33	↓	6	6		
LB5DI	41	-	↑	5			5
G0TLU	=42	-	↑	4			4

IK1VQO	=42	-	↑	4			4
OZ8AGB	44	=36	↓	3	3		
MX5IPX*				15		15	

* *Check log*

Upcoming Events

April 2021

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Thu 01 Apr	Fri 30 Apr	FISTS Eu Word Search Month 1 of 3	0000-2359 UTC
Sun 25 Apr		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Mon 26 Apr	Fri 30 Apr	EuCW QRS Week	0000-2359 UTC

May 2021

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sat 01 May	Mon 31 May	FISTS Eu Word Search Month 2 of 3	0000-2359 UTC
Sat 01 May		FISTS Eu Mechanical Key Days	0001-2359 UTC
Sun 09 May		RSGB 4m CW Contest	0900-1200 UTC
Sun 09 May		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 23 May		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

June 2021

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Tue 01 Jun	Wed 30 Jun	FISTS Eu Word Search Month 3 of 3	0000-2359 UTC
Tue 01 Jun		FISTS Eu Mechanical Key Days	0001-2359 UTC
Sun 13 Jun		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 27 Jun		RSGB 6m CW Contest	0900-1200 UTC
Sun 27 Jun		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
