



Welcome , welcome dear friends and welcome again to this June edition of BP.

Since we last met I have returned from my sojourn by the sea and Salisbury is as ever. Bands too, sadly! Up and down for most people I think and the comments from the MKD and Ladder seem to support this, some had good days, others bad...we all had some fun.

I'm always intrigued by how others aerials perform and if, like me, you pay attention to the details of the other chaps aerials you'll start over the years to note the prevalence of both vertical ground plane ants. and dipole / doublets. There's no escaping the fact that these are good aerials...so how come when the bands are "dead" I get a message from me old mate just over the hill (literally) saying things are great?

There was I pondering my navel fluff when Martin, M0MWS, F16211, who uses a hex beam, calls up and tells me he has just worked Rarotonga Cook Islands. Not a bad hail! He said he had been chasing this entity for two years and now just nabbed him. Not bad, thinks I to myself, what could top that?



Well, the next day...E51JD, South Cook Islands!

<<<<<< **E51JD**  **South Cook Islands**

JIM DITCHBURN
RAROTONGA,
South Cook Islands

Martin says his Hexbeam wasn't even up at full height! Cheeky thing.

Now the funny thing is that the total length of wire in that hex beam isn't a patch on my doublet (or yours probably) but of course what there is does rather focus the beam a tad! The quoted gain is about 3.8db on 20m with a front to back of 22db. A part of me says that f/b is more important than the total forward gain because 3.8db in a perfect world is only going to take 100w to about 300w I guess, and if Martin turns the wick up to 200 then, say 600 watts erp? None of these is stunning radiation and many readers will best them with linears I am sure...yet the Hexbeam certainly does the job.

For me the Hex is of limited value because (a) I can't house such a beast despite having an apparent vastness of space and (b) I rarely work 20m and never above. If I had a useable beam on 40m.... However

Members worked

I was working the bands recently and for a change I fired up the old linear amp to squeeze out 200w. (Yes, erp Ofcom nonsense completed and all members of the general public excluded from an area of 5 square miles by the use of armed hedgehogs and some very nasty squirrels) and after a few QSO I heard the faint whispers of G4XUV/P. It took a lot of effort to get him in the net but once I had it was not too bad. Lots of “repeats” etc but turns out that David is a FIST, F15851 and was holidaying in Ludlow. I did ask him for a photo but that hasn’t materialised as yet...when it does I will share it. David’s signal as weak but he was on a QRP K2...we managed a nice chat though which was good and it always leaves me with a humble feeling when he is running 10 watts to my 200! It’s the reverse of the warm feeling of smugness one gets when working QRP oneself! It’s the payoff I guess. Anyway, nice to work you David.

A person I didn’t work and who isn’t a member is Andrew, G3PCR. He emailed me and offered me a loan of his G90 as he had read of my woes with mine! What a gent!! I assumed he was a FIST but he isn’t because he fears (and I quote) that his cw isn’t good enough for us! I assured him that we don’t really care about quality of cw as long as it’s sent with love!! I know we do have some members who rate excellent cw above all, but personally I don’t and I don’t believe FISTS does either. In fact, given the number of very old members whose fist is know less than good (less good than it was say in 1936 when they learnt it) I KNOW I am right. Long story short, Andy is to become a member and I am sure he will be both a good and useful member and one who derives much from membership. Welcome Andy.

Auto atu

A little piece of kit I acquired from Dave, G0AYD, F15892, is a little auto atu kit. This is the N7DDC version with a standard LCD display not the teeny weeny oled one. Anyway, I carefully drilled and cut the expensive aluminium case and ...it didn’t fit. I had used a screen that was “just the same” as a pattern. Guess what?

So I recut and fettled then drilled and fitted the board to the base...it didn’t fit either. I had the board too close to the rear appendages of the screen...



So I redrilled the base and fitted it. Time to test it!!! Yes!! Perfect...well, except the screen was upside down. So I recut and fitted the screen...now all was well. I stoiod back and admired my handiwork. Sadly, the same old rubbish as ever...too many holes, too many cuts and utter disgrace to any self respecting engineer. Fortunately there are NO self respecting engineers here just hobbyist having fun, so it crap, but it’s MY crap.

As I tell my kids, I am fully self taught and my teacher was a fool...but I enjoy it. As a tuner, it’s top notch and I recommend it. Its small, quiet and handles 100w apparently. One push of the button and it rattles away for a few seconds before settling to a good SWR and spilling the beans on what it has done. They are cheap too. Have a look on ebay.

I think that's it for now. I haven't much else to report and have no emails from members. Its nice to see MKD being more popular this month than last - I think last month was a contest clash, so maybe that's the cause. Do have a look at Chris, F16207 G3XVL's entry. Bands weren't so bad for *him!* I wonder what aerial you used Chris? I'd love to see some photos of these stations...
 Next year is our 35th anniversary so we will be running events for that as well as Morse anniversary I hope. Should be some fun going on.

Have fun.

David G4YVM F15868

Comments for Ladder May 2021

Entrant	Comments
Phil 2E0DPH	Thanks all for the QSO's in May Continue to stay safe and well. 73 Phil
Nils DL3HR	It is not easy to decode all these tiny signals during the days with poor conds. I heard several stations responding to my CQs, but I was not able to read them, vy vy sri! Once 529, next minute lost in QSB. But I had a great time as usual. 73 to all FISTS, hpe cuagn in June.
Ivan G0BON	Last evening was tough with lots of noise. Very pleasurable once again.
Richard G0ILN	Mixed bag of conditions but good fun as usual. It was good to work Chris GX0IPX 8 points WOW! Richard G0ILN
Andy G0LLX	Lots of QRM on 40 meters .. despite calling CQ on 40 and 20 meters, generally no one about.
Peter G3JRH	1st Sunday only operated in evening session on 80M condx reasonable. 2nd Sunday afternoon session on 40M not a lot of activity but wkcd 5 stn's ON,DL and 3G's quite short skip. Evening session on 80M condx fair lot of QSB. Peter G3JRH
Chris G3XVL	I found 20m in good shape for QSO's.
Tony G3ZRJ	A great turn out in not ideal conditions on 80M Keep safe 73 Tony
Peter G4LHI	G4LHI Claim for May 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 73 Peter
John G4LRG	Bands up and down on both legs but still plenty of activity - thanks to all for the points.
Ken G4RHR	Band conditions on 80m not so good with some deep QSB, but had some nice contacts and very enjoyable.
Richard G4TPJ	Always good fun - good cw practice.

Ray G4XUZ	Afternoon condx a struggle here but evenings much better. Good fun as always. 73, Ray G4XUZ, Fists 777.
John G4YTJ	Great fun as always. The afternoon of 23rd was pretty poor and watching the club RBN website it looked as if quite a few of the regulars gave up part way through the session. Fortunately the evening was much better and was improving as it went on. Peter G3JRH was really weak with me at 19.44z and it took many attempts to get his call sign but by the end of the session he was armchair copy.
Chris G5VZ	I enjoyed operating GX0IPX for both sessions on the first Ladder Sunday. Then I had a chance to air my own call on Sunday, 23. May. Conditions on 80m were mighty odd as I think we all noticed. Good to hear so many on the air and I hope that between us we persuaded Andrew, G3PCR to join FISTS!
Chris G5VZ as GX0IPX	Check log.
Bela HA2ZB	Could contact only one station in both rounds on 23rd May. RBN shows good SNR in Europe / UK too, but no response to my CQ FISTS. Disappointing.
Paul M0GSX	Hi To All at FISTS, Hope everyone is well and keeping safe at FISTS, please find attached my May Ladder log for 2021, Bands not so good as previous months especially the lower bands which is to be expected for this time of the year but managed 3 sessions again (and a couple of European contacts again), and propagation not so good as well, the afternoon on the 9th was good but better condx in the evening sessions as you would expect due to time on the bands and lower bands suffering more due to daylight periods when operating. Been using the Sideswiper a little more now and think that the code is getting a little better and hope the other Ops are reading it ok, but you never know with no feedback !!! Please all stay safe and thanks again to all operating the Ladder sessions, nice to work John (G4YTJ), a local on 20M again - thx John. Paul M0GSX #17642..
Gabor M0LPZ	Only one QSO this month but I really enjoyed it. Mni tnx! 73
Steve M0SHM	Enjoyed it and some contacts on 20m. 40m here has S9 level of noise.
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
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, here comes my log for Ladder. Condx are still poor. Thanks and keep safe. 73 de Erkki fists 8318
Norbert ON4ANE	9/5/2021 Heavy thunderstorm = no QSO's; 23/05/2021 Very few strong signals mni QSB 73 DE Norbert ON4ANE
Jan PA0SIM	Condx still don't help much. 73 Jan PA0SIM
Adam SQ9S	Tnx for all QSOs in FISTS Ladder May 2021. Best 73 Adam SQ9S #20019

Results for Ladder May 2021

Callsign	Posn	Prev	Move	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
G0ILN	1	1	-	478	67	88	106	113	104
G0BON	2	2	-	442	70	96	106	92	78
G4LRG	3	3	-	395	85	73	96	90	51
G4LHI	4	4	-	347	79	69	59	73	67
M5ABN	5	5	-	342	51	68	76	77	70
G4TPJ	6	6	-	260	48	60	54	59	39
M0GSX	7	7	-	259	30	57	55	62	55
2E0DPH	8	8	-	238	57	51	30	64	36
DL3HR	9	10	↑	198	42	42	49	37	28
G3XVL	10	9	↓	195	51	47	40	36	21
G0JHK	11	12	↑	178	48	19	17	45	49
G4XUZ	12	14	↑	145	18	21	38	29	39
MI0WWB	13	11	↓	136	33	24	58	21	
G3JRH	14	17	↑	133			39	51	43
G5VZ	15	16	↑	128	40	38	15	3	32
MW0BGL	16	13	↓	123	19	24	42	38	
G4YTJ	17	18	↑	115	15	25	24	24	27
G3ZRJ	18	23	↑	113	45			36	32
OH7QR	19	=20	↑	110	24	23	21	17	25
ON4ANE	20	19	↓	102	12	19	25	30	16
G7WHI	21	15	↓	100		48		52	
M0DRK	22	24	↑	96	21	12	15	27	21
G0DFC	23	=20	↓	85		12	38	35	
PA0SIM	24	26	↑	84	21		30	12	21
M0RSU	25	22	↓	83	26	33	24		
M0SHM	26	25	↓	81	30	12	9	18	12
SQ9S	27	29	↑	60	1	15	20	15	9
G4KLE	28	27	↓	59			35	24	
PG4I	29	28	↓	52	33	19			
G4RHR	30	=34	↑	48				27	21
HA2ZB	31	30	↓	44		14	27		3
M0UZE	32	=34	↑	33	9	6	6	6	6
DL3GJ	33	31	↓	32				32	
IZ0ONL	34	32	↓	29			29		
G4DNP	35	33	↓	28	7	6	12	3	
G3ZOD	36	36	-	27	6		9	9	3
M0LPZ	37	37	-	21		3	6	9	3
SA1CCQ	38	38	-	17	17				
G0LLX	39	=42	↑	15			6		9
PA0VLD	40	39	↓	14	14				
IW2JJS	41	40	↓	8	5		3		
G0TLU	42	41	↓	7			4	3	

G4TGJ	43	=42	↓	6	6				
LB5DI	44	44	-	5			5		
IK1VQO	45	45	-	4			4		
OZ8AGB	46	46	-	3	3				
GX0IPX*				18					18
MX5IPX*				15		15			

* *Check log*

Comments for Mechanical Key Days June 2021

Entrant	Comments
Greg DL3GJ	Just few QSOs. Mostly SOTA and WWFF chasing - but every QSO counts, doesn't it? ;-) 73 de Greg DL3GJ
Ivan G0BON	For what it's worth, my single entry. Hopefully I can support it better next time. Using Lennart Patterson Swedish straight key
Chris G3XVL	The highlight for me was working Tetsu JH8SGR on 20m around 2pm.
Peter G4LHI	G4LHI Claim for MKDay but I'm afraid the band condx were not at their best, lots QSB & QRM but I made it in spite of that. H.i .Mni tnx to the organizers of this great event. Keep Safe 73 Peter
Ray G4XUZ	Enjoyed the straight key practice. 73, Ray G4XUZ, Fists 777.
Paul M0GSX	Hi To All At FISTS, Hope everyone is well and keeping safe at FISTS, please find attached my June Log for MKD. Conditions were very poor during the daytime on the lower bands, but managed to go on just as darkness was falling here on 80M, Signals were very good and very strong the later I was operating with all members sigs very strong with little QSB, such a pleasure to operate under these conditions and meeting members for the MKD, My cootie is getting a little better now as with more practice now, the code is sounding a little better now to me anyway and I think members were copying with my code ok. Paul M0GSX #17642..
Mark M0UZE	Thank you all. Please keep safe
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, only one QSO. I forgot to send my log in May. Thanks 73 de Erkki fists 8318

Results for Mechanical Key Days June 2021

Callsign	Position	Points
G4LHI	1	31
G4XUZ	=2	12
M0GSX	=2	12
DL3GJ	4	11
G3XVL	5	7
G0DFC	6	6
M0UZE	7	4
G0BON	=8	3
OH7QR	=8	3
OZ8AGB	10	1

Upcoming Events

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
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

July 2021

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Thu 01 Jul		EuCW Snakes & Ladders summer/autumn season starts	0000 UTC
Thu 01 Jul		FISTS Eu Mechanical Key Days	0001-2359 UTC
Fri 02 Jul	Sun 04 Jul	FISTS Eu What 3 Words	0001-2359 UTC
Sun 11 Jul		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 25 Jul		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

August 2021

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sun 01 Aug		FISTS Eu Mechanical Key Days	0001-2359 UTC
Fri 06 Aug	Sun 08 Aug	FISTS Eu What 3 Words	0001-2359 UTC
Sun 08 Aug		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 22 Aug		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
