

BRASSPOUNDER

January 2022, Issue 164



Greetings Dear FISTS and welcome to this first issue of 2022. Firstly a great hearty Happy New Year to you all: I hope the coming year treats you well and is a fruitful one.

As I type this I have had a few very nice QSO recently, I worked in one night both Dave, G0AYD and Martin, M0MWS! Let me tell you, no DXCC hunter who managed to get Bouvet island AND Crozet Island all in one day ever had more luck or joy at their radio! Ha ha... if only Keith, G0HKC had been on air I'd felt like I got North Korea too! Can't have everything tho.

After these two I managed M0MDL, Mick F21259, Glen G4DUC and G0HFL and Bill G4EHT...all FISTS. Many thanks chaps. Now, HFL and EHT were most interesting because they are geographically not so far apart and both ran 5 watts, but Bill was on an indoor 17m doublet (i.e. resonant on 17m) whereas Nick, G0HFL was on a mighty external aerial. Bill was barely readable at about 2/3 2 9 but Nick managed 599! Just goes to show...

It has been good to work some decent inter G on 80m recently especially as I had started to despair: most stations seemed to be inaudible and on the higher bands so some nice 80m sigs, tasty tasty!

Morse readers.

I know some stations do use Morse readers and they have their place sometimes – if you're trying to work a lunatic who is rattling at well above your own speed and wont slow down, they can help add to the fun of course, or when you're just earwiggling. They also let you know what your own sending is like and that's never a bad thing. Well, I recently found one called Morse Expert for my phone (android) and it is probably one of the best I have used. If I rest it against my rig it picks up the audio and converts to text everything it hears, albeit a few characters behind - so it prevents you cheating but does tell you if you're right! It also shows the audio spectrum as a sort of horizontal waterfall so you get a visual representation as well. Not truly the right way of course, but a lot of fun. Morse Expert is free too! Give it a go...might be amusing for a while.

Rig woes

As you know I am a great fan of Tentec and have a few, my main station radio being a TT Orion 2. This is an odd radio in my view – it is not *that* unusual to come to it and find it has reset itself with no rhyme nor reason. Well, I went away recently for a week only to return to...a reset! This was different because the fault said the battery was flat. The battery in question is a square orange jobby called M4T28-BR12SH1 TIMEKEEPER SNAPHATSNAPHAT and are quite freely available. Now, I changed this thing two years ago so I'm rather surprised it has failed already but on trying to buy a new one I found that whereas they cost about eight or nine pounds from say CPC but only two or three quid from Ebay. I got my last one from Ebay of

course, but now I wonder whether there are fakes out there! Anyway, I bought my latest one for the higher price from CPC. I only mention this for general info. I still love the Tentec!!

Two new activities

I am working on two new activities:

1. A celebration of the 35th anniversary of FISTS. This will be released in the summer for a start in September I think. Watch this space!
2. An activity where the entrant has to score the LOWEST score! This is designed to make our longest serving members with the lowest numbers most desirable. It is also very difficult to arrange! However, I shall continue to develop this so again, watch this space.

Bantenna

A personal moment of satisfaction when I read Peter, G0TLU's comment that he has had success courtesy my Loftenna. I'm pleased it works so well - I do put a lot of effort into the design and construction of these things but it is still most gratifying when I find they actually work in 'the field'! Thanks for that peter and I hope it continues to be a good aerial for you.

I think that's all I have time for this time...keep the dots dashing fellow FISTS.

73

David G4YVM

Comments for Ladder December 2021

Entrant	Comments
Phil 2E0DPH	Many thanks. HNY to all. Stay safe and well. 73 Phil
Ivan G0BON	Now up and running at new QTH with W3EDP Both weekends were quite tough going. Happy New year to everyone and look forward to next year with FISTS
Richard G0ILN	What a terrible month for conditions! 73 Richard G0ILN
Peter G0TLU	Very pleased to get my first QSO with the US since moving to our flat, all thanks to my Bantenna 'Loftenna' by G4YVM.
Tony G3ZRJ	Thanks for all the QSOs in 2021 let's hope 2022 is a kinder year 73 / 88 Tony G3ZRJ

John G4LRG	Thanks to everyone for the points - great to see all of the activity - best wishes for the coming year,
Ray G4XUZ	Limited time and poor reception on bands here this month, so my ladder score well down, but enjoyable as always. 73, Ray G4XUZ
John G4YTJ	Another poor month for me! The second session on 26th was out for me - we had guests and one granddaughter was sleeping in the study which doubles as a shack. I didn't manage any contacts in the evening session on 12th - what skip there was seemed really long. Normally I don't get many RBN reports on 80m and they are usually all G or GW, but although I was getting reports from across Europe that night the S/N ratio was poor and no contacts ensued.
Chris G5VZ	Glad the higher bands were playing nicely over the Christmas weekend - a pleasure to get on 20m and 40m in the afternoon and to work Erkki, and meet Adam and Eddi for the first time. Happy and healthy 22!
Steve M0SHM	Better conditions in the afternoon session this month.
Pete M5ABN	All set for 2022 activities, hope see you all soon. Vy 73 Pete M5ABN
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, Happy New Year and all the best in 2022. No QSOs on 12th Dec because of contest QRM. Many thanks for your work with our logs, stay safe. 73 Erkki OH7QR 8318
Norbert ON4ANE	26/12/2021 some strange condx on 80m, heard G0ILN (RST 229) almost unreadable, no way to make a qso in these condx! And probably he hadn't heard me coming back to his cq! 73 DE NORBERT ON4ANE
Jan PA0SIM	Sri, only 4 QSOs this month. 73 Jan PA0SIM
Adam SQ9S	Tnx for all QSOs in FISTS Ladder December 2021. MX es HNY 2022. Best 73 Adam SQ9S #20019

Final Results for Ladder 2021

Callsign	Posn	Prev	Move	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
G0ILN	1	1	-	1016	67	88	106	113	104	91	84	99	89	72	59	44
G4LRG	2	2	-	903	85	73	96	90	51	65	67	75	83	91	44	83
G4LHI	3	3	-	766	79	69	59	73	67	63	76	74	82	75	49	
M5ABN	4	4	-	748	51	68	76	77	70	65	67	61	51	69	54	39
G0BON	5	5	-	704	70	96	106	92	78	87	66	83				26
M0GSX	6	6	-	442	30	57	55	62	55	53	33	69	28			
G3XVL	7	7	-	425	51	47	40	36	21	9	18	48	50	53	27	25
2E0DPH	8	8	-	405	57	51	30	64	36	12		12	38	45	39	21
G4TPJ	9	9	-	374	48	60	54	59	39			57	9		48	
MW0BGL	10	11	↑	330	19	24	42	38		3	30	36	39	45	24	30
G3ZRJ	11	13	↑	322	45			36	32	32	52	77	18			30
G5VZ	=12	14	↑	319	40	38	15	3	32	36	18	28	13	27	35	34
ON4ANE	=12	10	↓	319	12	19	25	30	16	24	36	39	33	42	30	13
G0JHK	14	12	↓	308	48	19	17	45	49		15	15	21	56	12	11
OH7QR	15	16	↑	282	24	23	21	17	25	19	29	25	48	24	19	8
G4XUZ	16	17	↑	280	18	21	38	29	39	12	24	33		24	30	12
G3JRH	17	15	↓	275			39	51	43	24	24	16	15	42	21	
DL3HR	18	18	-	256	42	42	49	37	28	42	16					
PA0SIM	19	19	-	243	21		30	12	21	24	27	33	18	36	9	12
G4YTJ	20	20	-	215	15	25	24	24	27	15	12	30		30	4	9
M0SHM	21	22	↑	186	30	12	9	18	12	12	9	21	15	6	18	24
G0DFC	22	21	↓	180		12	38	35		24			24	22	25	
M10WWB	23	23	-	136	33	24	58	21								
M0DRK	24	24	-	129	21	12	15	27	21	12				15	6	
SQ9S	25	25	-	124	1	15	20	15	9	4	10	21	12	8		9
M0RSU	26	26	-	111	26	33	24							28		
G7WHI	27	27	-	109		48		52		9						
HA2ZB	28	28	-	105		14	27		3	11	9	10		14	5	12
G3ZOD	29	29	-	69	6		9	9	3		6	12	6	15		3
G4RHR	30	30	-	60				27	21					12		
G4KLE	31	31	-	59			35	24								
DL3GJ	=32	=32	-	52				32		3		5	3	4	5	
PG4I	=32	=32	-	52	33	19										
G0TLU	=34	36	↑	51			4	3	6		12	6	3	6	7	4
M0MCL	=34	34	-	51									21	15	15	
G0LLX	36	35	↓	48			6		9	23		10				
G4DNP	37	37	-	46	7	6	12	3		3	3		3	9		
M0LPZ	38	38	-	44		3	6	9	3	3	3		4	13		
M0UZE	39	39	-	39	9	6	6	6	6	6						
IZ0ONL	40	40	-	29			29									
LB5DI	41	42	↑	23			5							15		3
M0ILR	42	41	↓	21											21	
SA1CCQ	43	43	-	17	17											

PA0VLD	44	44	-	14	14											
IW2JJS	45	45	-	12	5		3					4				
G4TGJ	46	46	-	6	6											
2E0HTZ	=47	=47	-	4						4						
IK1VQO	=47	=47	-	4			4									
OZ8AGB	49	49	-	3	3											
GX0IPX*				45					18	27						
MX5IPX*				15		15										

* Check log

Final tables by region.

Well done to the winners. It's always good to see the ladder garner such support.

Category: **Entrants located anywhere:**

Callsign	Position
G0ILN	1
G4LRG	2
G4LHI	3

Category: **Entrants located outside DXCC entity 223 (England):**

Callsign	Position
MW0BGL	1
ON4ANE	2
OH7QR	3

Upcoming Events

January 2022

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sun 23 Jan		FISTS Europe Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

February 2022

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sun 13 Feb		FISTS Europe Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 27 Feb		FISTS Europe 2m Chronophage	0000-2359 UTC
Sun 27 Feb		FISTS Europe Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

March 2022

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Tue 01 Mar		FISTS Europe 2m Chronophage	0000-2359 UTC
Thu 03 Mar		FISTS Europe 2m Chronophage	0000-2359 UTC
Sat 05 Mar		FISTS Europe 2m Chronophage	0000-2359 UTC
Sun 06 Mar		FISTS Europe 2m Chronophage	0000-2359 UTC
Sun 13 Mar		FISTS Europe Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 27 Mar		FISTS Europe Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC