



Welcome friends to this September issue of BP and I wish to start with a couple of Grrrs...

Grrr 1

I have for sometime now been using RUMLog on my Mac, which has worked well. However, recently it fell apart and lost all my logs - everything for my GQ call and the club SE call. Oh well, not the end of the world. I eventually got my GQ logs back and all was well...till this morning when it's done it again, this time fatally. I have now deleted the programme - I have no time for these intermittent crashes these days.

So, I have reverted to my Logger32...tried to import the old ADIF log and guess what...the old logs are indeed ".ADIF" files but logger32 wants ".ADI" files. Stumped again. However, a bit of fettling and I changed the name extension from ADIF to ADI and it works...simples!

Moan over, logger32 starts again. It means my 35th Anniversary scores will again be poor...hey ho.

What loggers have you guys been using? Has anyone got a shared logger? I mean by that a log that several remote operators can use. I'm thinking particularly of the Chdburn cup event where three or four operators might be using the club callsigns independently but wishing to log a cumulative score into one log book for submission via FISTS logger. Can this be done some how?

Grrr 2

It seems no sooner has the Grrr-ing sound abated from number 1 than along comes number 2. I was all set up with Logger32 and making good headway into the 35th anniversary challenge when – bam – I managed to get Covid. That put me in bed for a few days (I fact as I type I am still lying in my infested pit. I hope this is one virus that will not Tx electronically!). I shall have points to enter of course but once again, probably not the ladder.

FOC origins

Hands up who thought the FOC (First Class Operators) was American...hmm, one or two (maybe, or maybe I was alone). Well it's not. As I was lying back with C19 I did some reading in the old Morsum Magnificat collection and came across the origins of the First Class Operators club and it is quite interesting.

It was in 1937/38 that Bob Webster, G5BW and John Hunter, G2ZQ, felt that the standard of on air amateur CW could do with improving and so established two things: 1. The First Class Operators club and 2. Themselves universally derided as 'self appointed unqualified experts' (quote from MM Nr7, Spring 1988).

The aims of the FOC were to establish a friendly group of folks who's sole aim was to improve Morse code on air encourage others to do the same. It was intended to be a friendly affair open to all. So there we are - FOC is BRITISH after all. I genuinely never knew that. And with laudable and very FISTS-like aims too!

Sadly, and I suspect Messrs BW and ZQ were behind this, the implementation did not quite align with the aims. Only those ops capable of 25wpm were eligible, and *they* had to be invited to join this elite group of gentlemen. On top of that the FOC committee limited the number of members (because of the sheer volume of paperwork) so eventually (quite quickly) it became deadman's shoes. It seems to me that all they achieved back then was an elitist private club of capable operators rather than a friendly society of aspirational ones. Intriguingly, a short history of TOPS club (I have heard it said TOPS was a direct ancestor of FISTS), shows that it too had membership quirks: a minimum of 15wpm in QSO with a satisfied TOPS member and the new member also had to be invited and proposed by a paid up TOPS member. It seems private clubs were the thing back then...wouldn't do to have the riff raff join , what, what??

Well I don't think FOC have a number limit anymore but the other restrictions still apply, and of course TOPS is long since gone, so I remain convinced that the only really good, all inclusive and friendly CW club is, cough cough, FISTS. Mind you, I have had comments from some FISTS members about the standard of on air CW, especially by British operators. I'm afraid my feelings have remained pretty constant on this aspect - we are amateurs and the word "amateur" comes from the Latin, Amor, to love. We operate CW because we love Morse code. We might or might not be good, but we are as good as we can be and we love it. It is for this reason I never knock an op on air, even if his rusty bug key is all but indecipherable: for all I know he or she might be a 110 year old military veteran, a 21 year old disabled person or just a 59 year old with a nosey Labrador poking away at his feet – what I do know is they do the best they can and they love it. Who am I to criticise that?

Autumn Party

I thought we might have a meet up on the bands this autumn. Not a ladder, not an award or other points collection, just a FISTS gathering.

Shall we say October 22nd at 1900Z to 2359z? As far as I can see from contest calendars there's very little cw going on, some ssb and ft8 nonsense but no real radio (go on, bite, bite!!) so let's wheel out the homebrew, the military gear, the old stuff and the new and lets just chat to each other. No points, any bands, just around the FISTS CoA, shall we?

News

I gather my old mucker Dave, G0AYD has a new Elecraft KX1 to play with. These are lovely radios and I'm sure when he completes Dave will have a lot of fun. Send photos and progress reports Dave will you?

Also, Dave has been out an about in the ooloo again, but again no reports so that's that. Come on Dave, we need your field reports!!

Are you in a radio club? How is it doing? We have quite a few affiliated clubs at the moment - it is free so why not? – and of course the Chadburn Cup is coming up and is specifically for the Affiliated Clubs. My own Club, Andover Radio Club - them that runs the excellent car boot sales each spring and autumn – is affiliated but sadly has no appetite for the Chadburn Cup. I haven't heard much from clubs though so if you ARE in a radio club as well as FISTS please ascertain whether it is affiliated, and if not, why not.

Swindon Club run an event each year, of a different type usually, wherein members do whatever is required then enter their scores as per rules into a table. Scores are appointed per club and it's all rather fun. I hope Swindon join in the Chadburn Cup!!

A Rabbit hole...

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Many of you will know Lindy, GØGZN, FISTS 37, who now resides in Poole. Well during one of my latest perusals of old Morsum Magnificat magazines I found this gem from 1987. I hope the child suffered no lasting harm (nor elongated ears) but I am tempted to ask about the cooking whilst sending! Just out of interest I recall one recent QSO with Lindy, an excellent Morsecodian if ever I heard one, wherein we spent about an hour discussing the uses of, was it Basil Lindy? Some herb anyway. Very good fun.



It's nice to find these old gems I think: I regret that I have none of my first cards left as mementos. When I was G8YJI I had RSARS ones then later I had some printed by my university (I must have been a smooth talker) and they printed some with a Trilobite on them - whether as G8YJI or G4YVM I cannot now recall.

Why a Trilobite? Because it was / is known as "The Dudley

Bug" and I lived then in Dudley, West Midlands. In fact my then home was my parents gaff and was 850ft ASL on a limestone escarpment. A simple 5 ele yagi and an FT290R and I worked many, many countries on 2m. My HF antenna was a random wire stretched from my bedroom window to the top of a tall heating chimney some distance away (dad was a school caretaker) access to which was effected by my climbing a ladder, dragging the ladder up onto the roof, climbing the ladder again and then free climbing the chimney. How I have survived this long I really don't know but certainly more by luck than judgment.

Now, this'll interest you...one of my strongest memories is standing on my front steps and looking down on the spaceshuttle Enterprise / B747 piggyback as it went into or out of Birmingham, on June 7th 1983! I was just 20 years old! Great fun the 80's, can we have 'em back please?



Enterprise atop B747 at Luton 1987.
Enterprise is now on display in New York

Whist on the subject of my old house I had a quick look on Google and I found it! The house is shown as a wreck (in fact now no longer exists at all) so this find is a lucky one.

To the left of the house as it is shown is where my VHF mast was placed (scaffold pole, Armstrong method) and the chimney can be seen in the bottom right corner. The letter S in school house is where my sisters room was and the letter E at the end of HOUSE is where my room and the shack were.



Onto the various tables. I have started to publish the tables for the USA and Downunder too as they make interesting reading and I would like to help support FISTS over and down there!

One comment from 'over here'... I forgot to mention the late entry for the Royal Platinum Jubilee Weekend Celebration 2022, from Michele IU5HES with 3 points. I'm afraid Michele you sent the log in too late to be counted but I would like to thank you for your entering and the points you did get. Well done.

Till next time peeps...

David

Awards

Name	Callsign	Member	Awards
Richard	G0ILN	#398	Prefix 100 Endorsement

New Members

Name	Call	No.	Name	Call	No.	Name	Call	No.
Akky	JJ1VNV	#21287	Jim	N4JAW	#21765	Jason	N4IJB	#21791
Ken	JM4AOA	#21288	Dean	K6DDJ	#21766	Anton	KD3CD	#21792
Baloo	HA4IU	#21702	Scott	KW4NJA	#21767	Ralph	N8IF	#21793
Keith	G0VVQ	#21703	Scott	AC3D	#21768	Vincent	KN4VT	#21794
Chris	2E0HHW	#21704	David	VY2DP	#21769	Rick	WB3GBL	#21795
Steve	G4OCP	#21705	David	KV4VE	#21770	David	KI8DR	#21796
Phil	G0PSD	#21706	Tom	NJ2DX	#21771	Scott	N2OG	#21797
Mike	M0AGP	#21707	Wyatt	WB5LNI	#21772	Jeff	K4TNE	#21798
Paul	G3WYW	#21708	Dana	KM4TIX	#21773	Joshua	K5SFO	#21799
Alan	G4DJX	#21709	John	N6VCW	#21774	Ed	W4EMB	#21800
The Pelican Radio Group	M0PCN	#21710	Dan	K7NXL	#21775	George	NC2M	#21801
Carl	G0KPE	#21711	William	N8BZS	#21776	Mario	VA3EON	#21802
John	M0JYJ	#21712	Dave	W4QDV	#21777	Greg	W1GF	#21803
Tom	DM4EA	#21713	Bobby	N4BQ	#21778	Dale	WD4DIY	#21804
Freddie	GI4ZAH	#21714	Bobby	WD5BPX	#21779	Jordan	KC3JIN	#21805
Jean	FR4PU	#21715	Mark	W0BG	#21780	Daniel	KF4AV	#21806
Rick	M7GLR	#21716	Lionel	N5LB	#21781	Dave	N3DME	#21807
Lawrie	VK5LJ	#21740	Mark	WB7BNE	#21782	Olen	W7ORD	#21808
Andy	VK5LA	#21741	Bob	NZ2Z	#21783	Richard	W1KRP	#21809
John	W4QK	#21758	Kelly	AE5II	#21784	Karen	N1WU	#21810
Vince	W2KU	#21759	Richard	KO5PR	#21785	John	WB4FEN	#21811
Andy	K5XT	#21760	Dale	N1OFH	#21786	Tom	K6TLH	#21812
Timothy	N5TML	#21761	Yves	W1UX	#21787	John	AF5CC	#21813
Vincent	N2QCP	#21762	William	KD2ZXC	#21788	Mark	KK7CU	#21814
Greg	K9CTS	#21763	Rick	VE3JGX	#21789	Norm	W5UJ	#21815
Dave	KC3AM	#21764	Paul	VA6TPM	#21790	Ben	N0WER	#21816

Comments for Summer Saturday Sprint 2022

Entrant	Comments
Cecil K5YQF #8077	Great to have the sprints going again. Thank you Ashley for picking up the responsibility. Pretty good activity considering - 11 of my 14 QSOs were members. Hope that bodes well for the future. Let's take back ... 058 - hi hi..
Dennis K6DF #3076	Great fun, bands were up and down a lot. Nice to work some FISTS members once again. Tnx to all stations for participating. 73 to all, Dennis K6DF
Dean K6DDJ #21766	Only a few solid contacts. Was called by some but were too weak to complete the contacts. Maybe they were QRP. Would like to suggest QRO not be limited to 100w. Might improve numbers.
Brian KE4QZB #1934	Had a blast during the Summer FISTS Sprint! Took some persistence, but was worth it! Enjoyed a couple rag-chews in the process! Was running an old Hallicrafters SX140 receiver paired with a Hallicrafters HT40 transmitter, crystal controlled (7.058)! Surprising what old novice gear is capable of! If you have a love of old Novice vintage gear, check out the "Novice Rig Nights" every Monday, where you can hear the whoops, yoops, and chirps of yesteryear! (Please see Novice Rig Roundup group for more info!) Good luck all and 73!

Results for Summer Saturday Sprint 2022

QRO Category

Call	Name	State	Fists #	Mem	Non-Mem	Points	Mults	Score
K5YQF	Cecil	TX	8077	11	3	61	9	549
KA8HFN	Larry	OH	11631	5	2	29	7	203
K6DF	Dennis	CA	3076	4	3	26	6	156
K6DDJ	Dean	CA	21766	6	0	30	3	90
KE4QZB	Brian	NC	1934	3	1	17	4	68
W4CMG	Cathy	TN	19192	2	0	10	2	20

QRP Category

Call	Name	State	Fists #	Mem	Non-Mem	Points	Mults	Score
NN9K	Peter	IL	2047	4	1	22	5	110

Comments for Summer Sunday Sprint 2022

Entrant	Comments
K5YQF	Great time here today. And I was able to talk to three guys about FISTS during the process. One of them, WB7BNE, Mark, ran me down after the Sprint and told me he had joined. So never miss a marketing opportunity!
K6DF	Great fun, bands were very poor. 73 to all, Dennis K6DF
W4QDV	This was my first FISTS Sprint and the bands weren't the best but I made 3-QSOs. Great to meet Cecil, Tom and Rick. See you next time and thanks for the contacts! Dave
VA3KRJ	First FISTS Sprint
KB3CVO	I am glad the sprints are back.
KC5JEV	Difficult band conditions, but was good to try. Could not complete contact due to fading. Thank you for restarting sprints.

Results for Summer Sunday Sprint 2022

QRO Category

Call	Name	State	Fists #	Mem	Non-Mem	Points	Mults	Score
K5YQF	Cecil	TX	8077	14	4	78	11	858
KA8HFN	Larry	OH	11631	8	2	44	6	264
WB9HFK	Mark	IL	7606	3	1	17	4	68
K6DF	Dennis	CA	3076	4	0	20	3	60
W4DQV	Dave	GA	21777	3	0	10	3	45
W4CMG	Cathy	TN	19192	2	0	10	2	20
VA3KRJ	Robert	ON	21634	1	0	5	1	5
KC5JEV	Eric	UT	1441	1	0	5	1	5

QRP Category

Call	Name	State	Fists #	Mem	Non-Mem	Points	Mults	Score
KB3CVO	Tom	PA	8110	2	0	10	2	20

Comments for 35th Anniversary Challenge July 2022

Entrant	Comments
Greg DL3GJ	Hard job collecting the points every day. 73 de Greg DL3GJ
Ivan G0BON	Points from the ladder sessions.
Richard G0ILN	Good fun.. Richard G0ILN
Robin G4DNP	Now back in UK Best 73s Robin
David G4YVM	Hard going, lots of down time with Covid and holidays but fun
Dennis K6DF	Bands have been very poor most of the month, although still having fun! 73, Dennis K6DF
Enzo M0KTZ	Operated as I/M0KTZ from a holiday QTH. Good fun although the antenna was a real compromise. 72!
Gabor M0LPZ	I was operating from Hungary and from Poland in August. Using my QCX Mini for the first time. Managed to make some contacts, but no any miracle. Anyway I am very happy with all my QSOs! Thank You! 73 de Gabor
Pete M5ABN	Bands up and down again, one day dead and next worked VK, very strange Hi. Looking forward to better condx in September. Vy 73 Pete M5ABN
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, Please find attached my 35th Anniversary Challenge log in August. Tks and 73 Erkki OH7QR 8318
Norbert ON4ANE	Only ladder qso 73 de Norbert ON4ANE
Adam SQ9S	Log for FISTS Ladder August 2022.

Results for 35th Anniversary Challenge July 2022

Callsign	Posn	Prev	Move	Total	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
SQ9S	1	1	-	3943	1050	1048	980	865
M5ABN	2	2	-	2738	726	687	643	682
DL3GJ	3	4	↑	2518	636	632	547	703
EA4HKF	4	3	↓	2472	599	714	737	422
M0KTZ	5	5	-	1771	396	527	410	438
K6DF	6	8	↑	1543			458	1085
G4YVM	7	6	↓	1078	209	590	49	230
G0ILN	8	7	↓	975	317	177	230	251
DK2LO	9	11	↑	371	106		147	118
OH7QR	10	9	↓	332	115	101	56	60
G4YTK	11	13	↑	329	66	93	51	119
G4DNP	12	12	-	280	78	59	85	58
IU8OJT	13	10	↓	254	254			
G0BON	14	16	↑	185		45	70	70
G0XAH	15	15	-	182		55	83	44
IU5HES	16	-	↑	171				171
M0LPZ	17	18	↑	157	14	55	33	55
DL1DHM	18	14	↓	140	140			
M0SHM	19	17	↓	138		74	29	35
G3ZOD	20	19	↓	126	36	57	5	28
G3XVL	21	-	↑	110				110
F4IUJ	22	20	↓	75		75		
ON4ANE	23	-	↑	70				70
G4XUZ	24	21	↓	39		39		
MX5IPX*				44		44		

* Check log

Comments for Ladder August 2022

Entrant	Comments
Greg DL3GJ	At least one QSO to report this month! Hoping for more activity as autumn approaching... 73 de Greg DL3GJ
Ivan G0BON	First week condx were difficult. Great fun once again and some new stns logged.
Richard G0ILN	Bit of a struggle at times. Richard G0ILN
Andy G0LLX	Very little time on 14/08, but did manage a good QSO on a good signal from G0ILN
Robin G4DNP	Now back in UK Best 73s Robin
Ray G4XUZ	40m condx quite good here, but I had limited time. Thanks to all contacts. 73, Ray G4XUZ.
John G4YTJ	Family visitors prevented any activity on 28th August and the afternoon session on 14th was a struggle with only two QSOs, so a poor entry from me this month.
Steve G4YTK	Only managed to get an hour on the evenings.
Gabor M0LPZ	I was operating from Hungary and from Poland in August. Using my QCX Mini for the first time. Managed to make some contacts, but not any miracle. Anyway I am very happy with all my QSOs! Thank You! 73 de Gabor
Pete M5ABN	Conditions not very good this month, hope for better in September. Vy 73 Pete M5ABN
Les MM0UMH	Really enjoying my first year on the ladder. :-)
Alan MW0BGL	I wasn't able to partake in the session last Sunday as we were away visiting our daughter in Woking, so I've only got entries for the 14th of August. Conditions as I recall, weren't the best, with all QSOs on 40 as you can see. Although I did work Les on Islay and Steven up in Orkney. Vy 73, de Alan mw0bgl 16507
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, Please find attached my Ladder log in August. Tks and 73 Erkki OH7QR 8318
Norbert ON4ANE	Condx strange, heard mni stns, worked only a few 73 de Norbert ON4ANE
Jan PA0SIM	40m agn the best band. No QSO's on 80m. Had a nice bug/bug QSO with Sal IK7UKF. 73 Jan PA0SIM

Results for Ladder August 2022

Callsign	Posn	Prev	Move	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
G0ILN	1	1	-	709	91	83	105	98	67	88	87	90
M5ABN	2	2	-	543	61	69	62	82	76	80	55	58
G0BON	3	3	-	537	69	42	76	76	84	56	66	68
MM0UMH	4	4	-	420	8	38	39	45	66	66	86	72
ON4ANE	5	7	↑	336	41	40	35	50	46	34	46	44
G3XVL	6	6	-	318	27	66	63	52	49	18	22	21
G4LRG	7	5	↓	317	70	97		68	82			
G4YTJ	8	9	↑	294	30	45	30	43	43	40	42	21
G0JHK	9	8	↓	291	40	55	48	47	35	17	49	
PA0SIM	10	11	↑	255	30	24	27	21	24	36	57	36
G3ZRJ	11	10	↓	227	40	36	27	6	30	33	55	
M0MCL	12	12	-	223	27	37	18	27	30	45	18	21
G4XUZ	13	14	↑	216	24	27	18	30	30	36	24	27
G0DFC	14	13	↓	191	24	21	37	43	21	24	21	
G4TPJ	15	15	-	189	24	36	30	45	24	12		18
MW0BGL	16	16	-	156			48	57	18	3	6	24
M0SHM	17	=18	↑	129	27	12	24	27		24	6	9
G3JRH	18	17	↓	127		18	49	42	18			
OH7QR	19	=18	↓	126	21	21	30	21	11	13	3	6
2E0DPH	20	20	-	108	39	24		15	30			
SQ9S	21	21	-	105	21	6	10	12	12	3	41	
M0DRK	22	22	-	72	6	27	6	15	15	3		
M0KTZ	23	23	-	71		18	14	9	15	9	6	
G7WHI	24	24	-	66				66				
G3ZOD	25	25	-	63			15	6	18	18	3	3
G0LLX	26	27	↑	60						21	36	3
M0PBZ	27	26	↓	59				59				
M0JVU	28	28	-	45				9	36			
G4YTK	29	30	↑	36						15	6	15
G4DNP	30	29	↓	34		13	10		6		3	2
M0LPZ	31	=33	↑	23				3	9	3		8
G0XAH	=32	=31	↓	18						18		
M0ILR	=32	=31	↓	18				18				
MI0WWB	34	=33	↓	15		15						
LB5DI	35	35	-	13							13	
G0TLU	36	36	-	12		9	3					
DL3GJ	37	=37	-	8	5				2			1
G4YVM	38	=37	↓	7						7		
DL1DHM	39	39	-	3				1	1	1		
IU5HES	=40	-	↑	2								2
IU8OJT	=40	40	-	2					2			
MX5IPX*				21			9			12		

* Check log

Upcoming Events

AUTUMN PARTY	
DESCRIPTION	<p>We are having a meet-up on the bands this autumn. Not a ladder, not an award or other points collection, just a FISTS gathering.</p> <p>As far as can be seen from contest calendars, there's very little CW going on, so let's wheel out the homebrew, the military gear, the old stuff and the new and let's just chat to each other. No points, any bands, just around the FISTS Centre of Activity frequencies, shall we?</p>
DATE & TIME	Saturday October 22nd at 1900Z to 2359z.

September 2022

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Thu 01 Sep	Fri 30 Sep	FISTS 35th Anniversary Challenge	0000-2359 UTC
Sun 11 Sep		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 25 Sep		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

October 2022

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sat 01 Oct	Mon 31 Oct	FISTS 35th Anniversary Challenge	0000-2359 UTC
Sun 09 Oct		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sat 22 Oct		FISTS Autumn Party	1900-2359 UTC
Sun 23 Oct		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

November 2022

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Tue 01 Nov	Wed 30 Nov	FISTS 35th Anniversary Challenge	0000-2359 UTC
Sat 05 Nov	Sun 06 Nov	RSGB 2m CW Marconi Contest	1400-1400 UTC
Sat 12 Nov		FISTS Fall Sprint	1600-1800 UTC
Sun 13 Nov		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 20 Nov		FISTS Fall Sprint	2100-2300 UTC
Sun 27 Nov		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

