



Hello again and welcome to October's edition.

I must confess that there has been so much going on in my world since the last BP that my best efforts and plans to write most of it before time have failed.

I cant remember what I told you lot since October so please bear with me.

Simple fings bring greater pleasures

Do you recall the words quoted so often by Rev'd George Dobbs, of QRP fame, that tiz vanity to with more what could be done with less? Well I was sat at my workstation one evening recently operating my beloved FTdx5000 when my eyes glanced up at the TenTec Orion 2 which had been unused for months. I thought I might pop it on and have a play, which I did. I was astonished (again) at how much better than the new 5k the old O2 was. I mean the Orion 2 was just better than the the Yaesu, it was MUCH better. Only by using the Yaesu exclusively had I really come to appreciate the 'betterness'. I sold the Yaesu immediately.

I then hooked up my even older Ten Tec Corsair 2 – regarded by some a the finest radio ever (I believe it ties with the O2), my old mate Martin MOMWS had recently gifted me and fitted a xtal filter so that I have all three now and with these filters the C2 is impeccable. It's eccentric to be sure but impeccable. I used the C2 for a few days till my eyes spotted the even older Tentec Argonaut 515 QRP rig. Now, book figure says these wirelesses send forth 2 watts but mine - and a few others I have emailed – spout 7 to 8 watts. Whether its been modded I cant recall. No matter. Anyway the old Argo is a super bit of kit - not a Corsair 2 or Orion 2 but bloomin good. I made many, many qso on that in a few days.

For those that don't know, below to pics of the rigs I mention.





I have had such fun in the last few weeks using these old simple radios. I honestly have not missed the Yaesu one jot - I hope the new buyer, who had a bargain, is enjoying his spoils. I feel sad that he might never know the pleasures of a Tentec.

One thing the QRP Argonaut did produce is my rejoining of the GQRP club. I spent many fruitless moments calling cq on the FISTS frequencies but almost every call on the QRP frequencies produced results. Why? Where are all the FISTS when the QRP boys are out enjoyin' the bands? I could only think that whereas FISTS members come on air to use CW the QRP guys have come on to enjoy the challenge of QRP *per se*. This added drive seems to get them on air when we aren't. Can you think of another reason?

Talking of Martin, M0MWS, he called me recently to say he had bought an FT817. These are nice QRP radios as you know but I have long regarded them as 'ergonomic dinosaurs'. I have a very early model, imported by me from Greece just after they were available in 2001, and it does now show its age but still, it is a truly remarkable package and it is odd that it has no competitors. Anyway, Martin enthused me to get mine out and fire it up but I was almost immediately underwhelmed as it's just SO old fashioned and hard to use. The Argonaut is better to use and of similar power – just don't expect to put it in a suitcase ha ha. Still, it was good to be reacquainted with the old Yaesu.

Out of curiosity I mention this because it has happened before...I had just put away the Yaesu ft817 when my very next qso was with a chap on a Yaesu ft817! I couldn't believe my luck. I enjoy working same rig qso's but so often the law of Old Sod works one over on me. Oh well.

Old pal Dave, G0AYD has had a selection of radios this month – he ends the period with a thing called a Venus SW3b qrp rig. It looks a lot like the old Hb1b sets we loved or hated. I loved mine.

Chadburn cupper

Remember folks that in the new year we have the Chadburn cup starting. This is a continuously running challenge much like the 35th anniversary challenge has been but open only to affiliated clubs. Anyone can operate and enter but ops must use a club callsign. So long as the club is affiliated that is...so if you belong to an unaffiliated club OR GROUP, either get your club affiliated or start a group with a club callsign. Full details on the FISTS website.

Tables

We come to the tables for this issue and I think a hearty congrats to Tony (and Sally who puts up with him) for his sudden amassing of awards! Just look at that list. Truly deserved Tony and a very big WELL DONE.

Some fine new members this time round - welcome one and all. I hope to work you very soon. Well, all except GSWL76, Alistair in Brighton. Honestly, I thought the SWL numbers had faded into history yet here is one! Is 76 a very old number? I can't find any information on this Alistair so do please email me with some...I'd love to know.

35th Anniversary...Ha ha, this says it all... "I must confess it is really a challenge... Because of this I spend most of the time on 40m postponing other activities for the next year. But no complaints - it is simply fun!" I can add no more. Im afraid my own 35th entry is slipping and the next one will be even lower. I'm so busy at home and at work and in November I turn 60 and we are also taking a break for ten days so no radio for me at all. December sees the end of it which is a shame but it has been incredible fun. If you've never tried a long slog like this do consider the affiliated clubs event and have a bash. If you really get stuck remember there are some purely on-line clubs and if you join you can get them affiliated.! Just saying.

The Ladder continues to get good support though my own entry is slipping as I simply get no operating during ladder periods. It is frustrating but not overly so.

FISTS Autumn party was a reasonable success with a few stations getting involved. Once again the old chap Sod had me in his teeth and I missed it completely.

VHF? I managed to work a few in the recent RSGB 2m CW event. Conditions for that were diabolical, truly bad! I still worked a few French stations and Clee Hill in the West Midlands. This report from Clee....

"I was the guy on on Clee Hill, Titterston Clee in fact, but I couldn't think how to spell it during our quick QSO David [G4YVM] and Paul [M0GSX].

The weather up there was so awful I decided to operate for as long as I could without moving the aerial. The top of the hill was in the clouds, wind speed felt like about 40mph with constant light rain.

Only using 10 watts to a moxon, David and Paul you were both a good signal with me. I managed to get a couple of French stations in the log too, which makes a nice change.

73 Dave G7WHI / operating as M9N/P”

Well done Dave I say! And thanks for the QSO. I really enjoy 2m operating, SSB and CW, but simply live in a pit for one thing and seemingly fail to encourage more CW for another. It's a lost cause friends, a lost cause.

Straight Key Week

Finally don't forget that SKW is active NOW. Polish off that brass and get pounding.

Best 73 friends and CUL

David G4YVM

Awards

Name	Callsign	Member	Awards
Ian	GW0KRL	#711	Prefix
Tony	G3ZRJ	#7727	Diamond Century, Millionaire 2 to 14 Endorsements, Rag Chewers 80m Endorsement, Rag Chewers, Spectrum 80m Endorsement, Spectrum 40m, Spectrum 20m Endorsement, Prefix
Rien	PA7RA	#9819	Millionaire 8 Million Endorsement, Spectrum 40m
Fabio	IK0IXI	#14539	Millionaire 14 Million Endorsement
Vanni	I5ECW	#16505	Millionaire 8 Million Endorsement
Alan	MW0BGL	#16507	Millionaire 2 and 3 Million Endorsements, Spectrum 40m Endorsement
Bernard	ON7ZH	#18446	Gold Century
Jon	G4IVV	#21574	Millionaire
Mark	W0BG	#21780	Basic Century

New Members

Name	Call	No.	Name	Call	No.	Name	Call	No.
Paul	G4HEC	#21729	Rus	NQ6F	#21847	Jerry	N8DXZ	#21858
Alistair	GSWL76	#21730	Leonard	KA3ZIP	#21848	Barry	VE3MNN	#21859
Peter	DL1BGE	#21731	Kirk	W5DLH	#21849	Niclas	VA3WGX	#21860

Andy	G0LLU	#21732	Dave	KS5SK	#21850	Phil	KD0AEI	#21861
Peter	AA8PH	#21840	Jody	N7NIT	#21851	John	K9INX	#21862
Joni	AA4WA	#21841	Logan	KE0OSO	#21852	John	NU7F	#21863
John	KI5NYZ	#21842	Wayne	KA0N	#21853	Bob	WA4HQR	#21864
Oliver	W6OLI	#21843	Gary	KC5ZX	#21854	Jack	AA5VZ	#21865
Bryan	AC5QX	#21844	Tim	W8TGB	#21855	Randy	NM0G	#21866
Jason	KE5JLN	#21845	Larry	K3KA	#21856	James	KO4CTM	#21867
Vernon	KB0DAN	#21846	William	WB4QKZ	#21857			

Comments for 35th Anniversary Challenge October 2022

Entrant	Comments
Greg DL3GJ	I must confess it is really a challenge... Because of this I spend most of the time on 40m postponing other activities for the next year. But no complaints - it is simply fun! 73 de Greg DL3GJ
Ivan G0BON	Mostly from the ladder although got 1 DX FISTS QSO when I was POTA CW operating.
Richard G0ILN	Mostly from my ladder entry. Must try harder. Richard G0ILN
Robin G4DNP	Conditions continue to be quite good for QRP and thanks for QSOs Best 73s Robin
David G4YVM	Hard going. Bands awful most days.
Dennis K6DF	Nice to meet many new hams on the bands, 73, Dennis K6DF
Enzo M0KTZ	Not many points but always good QRP fun. 72/73 de Enzo M0KTZ
Pete M5ABN	Good to meet up with old friends again, Some good DX on 10M this month, 5R8AL Madagascar, ZS6JBJ S.Africa, 9J2BO Zambia & A61Q U.A.E. on 40M. Let's hope signs of things to come Hi Vy 73 Pete M5ABN
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, please find the attached log. Tks and 73 Erkki OH7QR 8318
Norbert ON4ANE	73 de Norbert ON4ANE
Adam SQ9S	Log for FISTS 35th Anniversary October 2022. Best 73 es tnx for all QSOs Adam SQ9S #20019

Results for 35th Anniversary Challenge October 2022

Callsign	Posn	Prev	Move	Total	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
SQ9S	1	1	-	5533	1050	1048	980	865	749	841
DL3GJ	2	3	↑	3959	636	632	547	703	649	792
M5ABN	3	2	↓	3727	726	687	643	682	467	522
K6DF	4	4	-	3678			458	1085	1050	1085
EA4HKF	5	5	-	3396	599	714	737	422		924
F6JOE	6	6	-	2686	735	114	563	289	525	460
M0KTZ	7	7	-	2484	396	527	410	438	375	338
G4YVM	8	8	-	1386	209	590	49	230	125	183
G0ILN	9	9	-	1287	317	177	230	251	133	179
G4DNP	10	10	-	789	78	59	85	58	254	255
DK2LO	11	13	↑	637	106		147	118	19	247
OH7QR	12	11	↓	588	115	101	56	60	87	169
G4YTK	13	12	↓	473	66	93	51	119	62	82
G4IVV	14	-	↑	448						448
G0BON	15	14	↓	346		45	70	70	71	90
IU8OJT	=16	15	↓	254	254					
M0SHM	=16	17	↑	254		74	29	35	35	81
ON4ANE	18	21	↑	215				70	74	71
G3ZOD	19	19	-	196	36	57	5	28	35	35
G0XAH	20	16	↓	182		55	83	44		
IU5HES	21	18	↓	171				171		
M0LPZ	22	20	↓	157	14	55	33	55		
DL1DHM	23	22	↓	140	140					
G3XVL	24	23	↓	110				110		
F4IUJ	25	24	↓	75		75				
G4XUZ	26	25	↓	39		39				
MX5IPX*				44		44				

* Check log

Comments for Ladder October 2022

Entrant	Comments
Greg DL3GJ	Here is my report for October. Just two QSOs... 73 de Greg DL3GJ
Ivan G0BON	Condx were really good for a change for both the sessions. Really nice to work some new stations this month. Made it more interesting and lively.
Richard G0ILN	More non fist members are joining in and always new Fist members as well. All good. Richard G0ILN
Mike G0JHK	Couldn't manage the latter half of October...73s Mike
Andy G0LLX	Thanks for the QSO's .. 73
Chris G3XVL	40m fun again!
Tony G3ZRJ	Thanks for QSOs 73 Tony
Chris G4CLB	My first attempt at entering the Ladder. Only a couple of QSOs to see if cracked the Submit Log hurdles!
Robin G4DNP	Conditions continue to improve, vy best 73s, Robin
Jonathan G4IVV	Just getting back on the air after a long break, enjoying the ladder for QSO practise. Tnx for contacts!
Mike G4IZZ	First for a while - better late than never.
Ray G4XUZ	Very little time for radio this month, but my thanks to the Ladder contacts I did manage. 73, Ray G4XUZ.
Tim G4YBU	1st time entry - hope the logging upload is okay. Enjoyable and relaxed event. TU
John G4YTJ	Various family activities meant no ladder entry for September and similarly with the session on 23rd October. Fortunately the 9th October was excellent and probably my best effort yet.
Derek M0DRK	Nice to get back on the Fists Ladder for October. Its been a while. Derek M0DRK Nr 8344
Enzo M0KTZ	Less activity in the second session, but always great fun. QRP, as usual. 72/73 de Enzo M0KTZ
Kevin M0MCL	Good afternoon David, Please see attached my log for last month's Ladder. I've set myself the challenge to transition away from paddles in favour of mechanical keys (i.e. bugs and straight keys). This is something I'm enjoying very much but still on the "learning curve" so hope this isn't too painful for those on the decoding end :-) Looking forward to seeing everyone on this month's Ladder. 73s Kevin, M0MCL, 20982
Steve M0SHM	Better conditions recently.
Pete M5ABN	Good to meet up with old friends again, cu all in November Vy 73 Pete M5ABN
Norbert ON4AN E	23/10/22 Difficult condx on 40m 73 de Norbert ON4ANE

Jan PA0SIM	Gud UK sigs on 40m October 23, but also gud QRN HI. 73 Jan PA0SIM
Adam SQ9S	Log for FISTS Ladder October 2022. Best 73 es tnx for all QSOs Adam SQ9S #20019

Results for Ladder October 2022

Callsign	Posn	Prev	Move	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
G0ILN	1	1	-	885	91	83	105	98	67	88	87	90	86	90
G0BON	2	2	-	727	69	42	76	76	84	56	66	68	85	105
M5ABN	3	3	-	677	61	69	62	82	76	80	55	58	65	69
MM0UMH	4	4	-	576	8	38	39	45	66	66	86	72	71	85
ON4ANE	5	5	-	435	41	40	35	50	46	34	46	44	50	49
G3XVL	6	6	-	424	27	66	63	52	49	18	22	21	42	64
G0JHK	7	7	-	370	40	55	48	47	35	17	49		43	36
G4YTJ	8	9	↑	342	30	45	30	43	43	40	42	21		48
PA0SIM	9	10	↑	336	30	24	27	21	24	36	57	36	33	48
M0MCL	10	11	↑	325	27	37	18	27	30	45	18	21	43	59
G4LRG	11	8	↓	317	70	97		68	82					
G3ZRJ	12	12	-	275	40	36	27	6	30	33	55		12	36
MW0BGL	13	16	↑	247			48	57	18	3	6	24	46	45
G0DFC	14	13	↓	246	24	21	37	43	21	24	21		34	21
G4XUZ	15	14	↓	237	24	27	18	30	30	36	24	27		21
G4TPJ	16	15	↓	204	24	36	30	45	24	12		18	15	
M0SHM	17	17	-	174	27	12	24	27		24	6	9	21	24
SQ9S	18	20	↑	155	21	6	10	12	12	3	41		25	25
OH7QR	19	18	↓	136	21	21	30	21	11	13	3	6	10	
2E0DPH	20	19	↓	132	39	24		15	30				24	
G3JRH	21	21	-	127		18	49	42	18					
M0KTZ	22	22	-	123		18	14	9	15	9	6		26	26
G3ZOD	23	23	-	93			15	6	18	18	3	3	15	15
M0DRK	24	24	-	87	6	27	6	15	15	3				15
G0LLX	25	26	↑	81						21	36	3		21
G4YTK	26	28	↑	72						15	6	15	12	24
G7WHI	27	25	↓	66				66						
M0PBZ	28	27	↓	59				59						
G4DNP	29	30	↑	48		13	10		6		3	2	8	6
M0JVU	30	29	↓	45				9	36					
G4YBU	31	-	↑	27										27
M0LPZ	32	31	↓	23				3	9	3		8		
G4IVV	33	-	↑	21										21
G0XAH	=34	=32	↓	18						18				
M0ILR	=34	=32	↓	18				18						
MI0WWB	=36	=34	↓	15		15								
PA3GJA	=36	=34	↓	15									15	
LB5DI	38	36	↓	13						13				
DL3GJ	=39	38	↓	12	5				2			1	2	2
G0TLU	=39	37	↓	12		9	3							
G4IZZ	=39	-	↑	12										12
M0RSU	42	39	↓	9									9	

G4YVM	43	40	↓	7						7			
G4CLB	44	-	↑	6									6
DL1DHM	45	41	↓	3			1	1	1				
IU5HES	=46	=42	↓	2							2		
IU8OJT	=46	=42	↓	2				2					
MX5IPX*				21			9			12			

* Check log

Upcoming Events

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 Saturday Sprint	1600-1800 UTC
Sun 13 Nov		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Mon 14 Nov	Sun 20 Nov	FISTS Straight Key Week	0001-2359 UTC
Sun 20 Nov		FISTS Fall Sunday Sprint	2100-2300 UTC
Sun 27 Nov		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

December 2022

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Thu 01 Dec	Sat 31 Dec	FISTS 35th Anniversary Challenge	0000-2359 UTC
Sun 11 Dec		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 25 Dec		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

January 2023

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sun 01 Jan		EuCW Snakes & Ladders winter/spring season starts	0000 UTC
Sun 08 Jan		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 22 Jan		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
