



Welcome to the first BP of 2023 and a very happy new year to you all.

Firstly, the important bits...I quite forgot to mention that the winner of the amazing prize of RSGB Call Book competition is **Alan, MW0BGL**. A worthy win Alan. For those interested, Alan gained most unique callsigns in the SKW recently and he did so by some margin.

MW0BGL	48
G3ZRJ	39
G3XVL	24

As you can see, Alan was clearly pounding brass whilst the rest of us slept! Well done Alan, the all book is on it's way to you.

Christmas Past

Not so much a ghost story as simply a report...the Pelican radio Group had their Christmas dinner meeting in a hostelry in Dinton, Wiltshire and this photo shows Yours Truly on the front right, Martin M0MWS front left. Behind YVM is Bob, G3ZNH and far left is Angie, G6???. The others are WAGS, only there for the glory (Viv by Martin, Sue by Bob and Rob opposite Angie. My own XYL, Anne-Marie, M3YVM couldn't make it sadly). It was a great evening and a nice way for the PRG to round off the year.



The Chadburn Cup

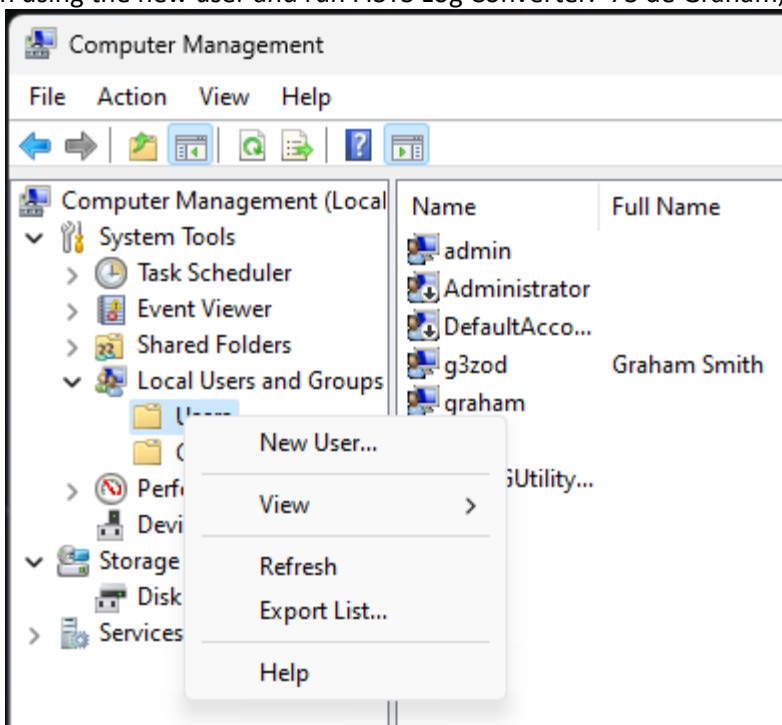
This event is now running!! Note that to enter this you must be an affiliated club, a member of said club and using the cub callsign. Your own personal callsign won't do!!

Graham, who has had the headache of creating the software to log the Chadburn cup adds this:

“The version of the FISTS Log Converter program that includes submitting logs for the [Chadburn Cup for Clubs](#) on-air activity isn't ready yet but will be in time for when the first logs are due at the start of February. When it's ready, it'll be available on the [download web page](#).

While I'm on the subject, whatever logbook software anyone uses, it's important NOT to use the same logbook file/database for both personal QSOs and QSOs made under a club callsign!! This is because on-air activities, awards and online services such as the ARRL Logbook of the World typically require personal QSOs and club QSOs to be treated separately and it's too easy to make mistakes if a single logbook is used.

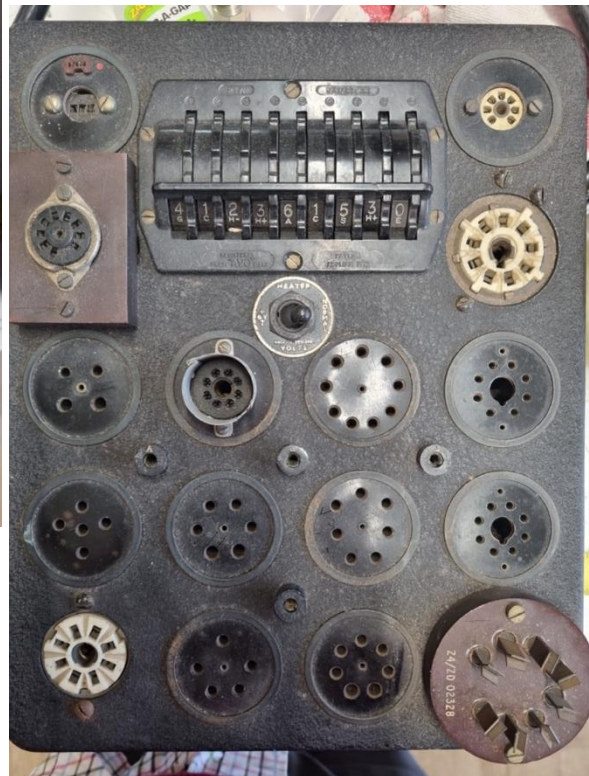
All good logbook programs allow you to keep more than one log but you'll need to look at their help information to find out how. If you are using FISTS Log Converter as your logbook (rather than just feeding it ADIF files from another logbook program), the way to do this is to create a new Windows account (user) and log into it when logging Chadburn Cup QSOs or submitting Chadburn Cup logs. To do this, use the Windows Search task bar button to search for “Computer Management”, right-click on “Computer Management” and choose “Run as Administrator”. When the app opens, on the left open up “Local Users and Groups” and right-click on “Users” and choose “New User...”. You can then type in the user name, e.g. use the club callsign as the user name. After it's set up, you can log on using the new user and run FISTS Log Converter. 73 de Graham, G3ZOD”



I use Logger32 as my e-logger (when I do...I also use a paper book!) and I know for a fact that I can very easily export logs by callsign. I'm sure they all can.

Lookee here...

I have never seen one of these before and this is a nice one! An Avo valve tester, two-panel and in working order!! This is a SK sale of the late G3LUB (look him up, he was a clever and highly regarded chap) and as well as a few valves, I have been asked to sell this tester. It's a fascinating bit of kit and though I'd like to own it I probably can't afford it and it might be a tad unethical.



If anyone has a need for this do let me know: I have seen prices range from £60 to £900 so what I eventually get is anyone's bet.

Other things

I was talking recently to a chap who says he remembers his grandfather talking about communications at the front in WW1, particularly about a system which used light beams. Now, the trouble with such comments today is that people instantly think 'laser beams' and then they think lasers didn't exist in WW1 and thus the old man was bonkers. Being somewhat sharper of course, any FISTS member will

think, upon hearing 'light beams' "well that could be anything from LED lasers to a bulb in a box!" and so rather less sceptical and more intrigued. And so I was! It seems that far from my own thoughts (bulb in a tube) there was a device called a Photophone, which was very clever indeed.

Wikipedia has this to say:

The **photophone** is a [telecommunications](#) device that allows [transmission](#) of speech on a beam of [light](#). It was invented jointly by [Alexander Graham Bell](#) and his assistant [Charles Sumner Tainter](#) on February 19, 1880, at Bell's laboratory at 1325 L Street in Washington, D.C.^{[1][2]} Both were later to become full associates in the [Volta Laboratory Association](#), created and financed by Bell.

On June 3, 1880, Bell's assistant transmitted a wireless voice telephone message from the roof of the [Franklin School](#) to the window of Bell's laboratory, some 213 meters (about 700 ft.) away.^{[3][4][5][6]}

Bell believed the photophone was his most important [invention](#). Of the 18 [patents](#) granted in Bell's name alone, and the 12 he shared with his collaborators, four were for the photophone, which Bell referred to as his "greatest achievement", telling a reporter shortly before his death that the photophone was "the greatest invention [I have] ever made, greater than the telephone".^{[7][8]}

The photophone was a precursor to the [fiber-optic communication](#) systems that achieved worldwide popular usage starting in the 1980s.^{[9][10][11]} The master patent for the photophone ([U.S. Patent 235,199 Apparatus for Signalling and Communicating, called Photophone](#)) was issued in December 1880,^[5] many decades before its principles came to have practical applications.

The photophone was similar to a contemporary telephone, except that it used [modulated light](#) as a means of wireless transmission while the telephone relied on [modulated electricity](#) carried over a conductive [wire circuit](#).

Bell's own description of the light modulator:^[12]

We have found that the simplest form of apparatus for producing the effect consists of a plane mirror of flexible material against the back of which the speaker's voice is directed. Under the action of the voice the mirror becomes alternately convex and concave and thus alternately scatters and condenses the light.

The brightness of a reflected beam of light, as observed from the location of the receiver, therefore varied in accordance with the audio-frequency variations in air pressure—the sound waves—which acted upon the mirror.

In its initial form, the photophone receiver was also non-electronic, using the [photoacoustic effect](#). Bell found that many substances could be used as direct light-to-sound transducers. [Lampblack](#) proved to be outstanding. Using a fully modulated beam of sunlight as a test signal, one experimental receiver design, employing only a deposit of lampblack, produced a tone that Bell described as "painfully loud" to an ear pressed close to the device.^[13]

In its ultimate electronic form, the photophone receiver used a simple [selenium cell photodetector](#) at the [focus](#) of a parabolic mirror.^[5] The cell's [electrical resistance](#) (between about 100 and 300 [ohms](#)) varied inversely with the light falling upon it, i.e., its resistance was higher when dimly lit, lower when brightly lit. The selenium cell took the place of a carbon microphone—also a variable-resistance device—in the circuit of what was otherwise essentially an ordinary telephone, consisting of a battery, an electromagnetic earphone, and the variable resistance, all connected in series. The selenium modulated the current flowing through the circuit, and the current was converted back into variations of air pressure—sound—by the earphone.

In his speech to the American Association for the Advancement of Science in August 1880, Bell gave credit for the first demonstration of speech transmission by light to Mr. A.C. Brown of London in the Fall of 1878.^{[5][14]}

Because the device used [radiant energy](#), the French scientist [Ernest Mercadier](#) suggested that the invention should not be named 'photophone', but 'radiophone', as its mirrors reflected the Sun's radiant energy in multiple bands including the invisible [infrared band](#).^[15] Bell used the name for a while but it should not be confused with the later invention "[radiophone](#)" which used [radio waves](#).^[16]

Although Bell Telephone researchers made several modest incremental improvements on Bell and Tainter's design, [Marconi's radio transmissions](#) started to far surpass the maximum range of the photophone as early as

1897^[8] and further development of the photophone was largely arrested until German-Austrian experiments began at the turn of the 20th century.

The German physicist [Ernst Ruhmer](#) believed that the increased sensitivity of his improved selenium cells, combined with the superior receiving capabilities of professor H. T. Simon's "speaking arc", would make the photophone practical over longer signalling distances. Ruhmer carried out a series of experimental transmissions along the [Havel river](#) and on Lake Wannsee from 1901 to 1902. He reported achieving sending distances under good conditions of 15 kilometers (9 miles),^[30] with equal success during the day and at night. He continued his experiments around Berlin through 1904, in conjunction with the German Navy, which supplied high-powered searchlights for use in the transmissions.^[31]

The German [Siemens & Halske Company](#) boosted the photophone's range by utilizing current-modulated carbon arc lamps which provided a useful range of approximately 8 kilometres (5.0 mi). They produced units commercially for the [German Navy](#), which were further adapted to increase their range to 11 kilometres (6.8 mi) using voice-modulated ship [searchlights](#).^[5]

[British Admiralty](#) research during WWI resulted in the development of a vibrating mirror modulator in 1916. More sensitive [molybdenite](#) receiver cells, which also had greater sensitivity to infra-red radiation, replaced the older selenium cells in 1917.^[5] The United States and German governments also worked on technical improvements to Bell's system.^[32]

By 1935 the German [Carl Zeiss Company](#) had started producing infra-red photophones for the [German Army's](#) tank battalions, employing tungsten lamps with infra-red filters which were modulated by vibrating mirrors or prisms. These also used receivers which employed [lead sulfide](#) detector cells and amplifiers, boosting their range to 14 kilometres (8.7 mi) under optimal conditions. The Japanese and Italian armies also attempted similar development of lightwave telecommunications before 1945.^[5]

Several military laboratories, including those in the United States, continued R&D efforts on the photophone into the 1950s, experimenting with high-pressure vapour and mercury arc lamps of between 500 and 2,000 watts power.^[5]

So there we have it: the chaps in WW1 almost certainly DID use light beams to communicate as they were asked to test and evaluate perhaps. Anyone for a Photophone CW sked?

And so to the tables!!

Awards

Name	Callsign	Member	Awards
Chris	G5VZ	#12540	Silver Century, Millionaire 3 Million Endorsement
David	N8IQV	#20132	Millionaire
Marco	IU8OJT	#21245	Basic Century, 1 X QRP, Millionaire

New Members

Name	Call	No.	Name	Call	No.	Name	Call	No.
Rudy	9M6RDY	#21736	Brian	G3VGZ	#21920	Mark	VE7ARN	#21958
Pete	VK1AAF	#21746	Dean	G4DBI	#21921	Tim	AD5VF	#21959
Gerard	ZL2GVA	#21747	Michael	G3PCL	#21922	Jim	N6VN	#21960
Mark	VK4MFX	#21748	Jon	G4NEY	#21923	Dave	AA4TE	#21961
John	M0MTW	#21914	David	AC3HT	#21952	Jonathan	W2ANZ	#21962
Colin	M0GXV	#21915	Kevin	N8MXL	#21953	Jack	N4TQX	#21963
Mark	SP7JYM	#21916	Tim	WA5YOM	#21954	John	NC3O	#21964
David	M0NXA	#21917	Steven	W9SMN	#21955	Bill	W7LC	#21965
Pete	M7NNQ	#21918	Gary	KC9EE	#21956	Alan	KO4LEM	#21966
David	G4TVH	#21919	Derek	N4DBM	#21957	Tom	KK7CKU	#21967

Comments for 35th Anniversary Challenge December 2022

Entrant	Comments
Greg DL3GJ	The final log for the Challenge. After a good start it was hard to collect enough point for some days - one can see the shift from mostly-homeoffice to almost-no-homeoffice-at-all :-) But it was what it was intended to be - a challenge. And a lot of fun! Now I am preparing myself for the 40th anniversary! ;-) Happy New Year to you all! 73 de Greg DL3GJ
Jean F6JOE	Have fun doing this activity. HNY 73 Jean F6JOE
Robin G4DNP	My Best wishes to all for a Happy and Active New Year 2023. Vy best 73/72 Robin
David G4YVM	Hard going. Bands awful most days.
Dennis K6DF	The 35th Ann Event was lots of fun. Hope everyone had a nice Holiday Season with their families, Happy New Year! 73, Dennis K6DF
Enzo M0KTZ	The last part of the month was all from my parents' in IT9. All QRP, as always. Thanks for this activity, it has been really nice! 72/73 de Enzo M0KTZ
Gabor M0LPZ	HNY & Thank You! 73 de Gabor
Pete M5ABN	Been away for the holiday so very little activity this month. Looking forward to 2023, HNY to all Vy 73 Pete M5ABN
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, please find the attached log. Happy New Year 2023! Tks and 73 Erkki OH7QR 8318
Norbert ON4ANE	73 de Norbert ON4ANE
Adam SQ9S	Log for FISTS 35th Anniversary December 2022. Best 73 es tnx for all QSOs Adam SQ9S #20019 HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023!

Final Results for 35th Anniversary Challenge 2022

35th Anniversary Plaques go to:

SQ9S (first position)
K6DF (second position)

35th Anniversary Mugs go to:

SQ9S (leading member)
SP7OGP (leading non-member)

A very well done to the winners! I know this challenge was a hard one so I am doubly pleased with the comments and that it was fun for all. I loved it, it was hard graft and I rather ran of steam over Christmas but it was good fun. Thanks to all who entered.

Callsign	Posn	Total	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Member
SQ9S	1	6993	1050	1048	980	865	749	841	772	688	Yes
K6DF	2	5810			458	1085	1050	1085	1047	1085	Yes
EA4HKF	3	5422	599	714	737	422	641	924	749	636	Yes
DL3GJ	4	5244	636	632	547	703	649	792	630	655	Yes
M5ABN	5	4650	726	687	643	682	467	522	707	216	Yes
F6JOE	6	4159	735	114	563	289	525	460	808	665	Yes
M0KTZ	7	3686	396	527	410	438	375	338	570	632	Yes
G4YVM	8	1417	209	590	49	230	125	183		31	Yes
SP7OGP	9	1403							784	619	No
G0ILN	10	1287	317	177	230	251	133	179			Yes
G4DNP	11	994	78	59	85	58	254	255	127	78	Yes
OH7QR	12	901	115	101	56	60	87	169	148	165	Yes
DK2LO	13	827	106		147	118	19	247	73	117	Yes
ON4ANE	14	592				70	74	71	269	108	Yes
IU8OJT	15	564	254							310	Yes
G4YTK	16	556	66	93	51	119	62	82	83		Yes
G4IVV	17	448						448			Yes
G0BON	18	346		45	70	70	71	90			Yes
M0SHM	19	344		74	29	35	35	81	74	16	Yes
2E0DPH	20	210							210		Yes
G3ZOD	21	196	36	57	5	28	35	35			Yes
M0LPZ	22	185	14	55	33	55			18	10	Yes
G0XAH	23	182		55	83	44					Yes
IU5HES	24	171				171					No
DL1DHM	25	140	140								Yes
G3XVL	26	110				110					Yes
F4IUJ	27	75		75							Yes
G4XUZ	28	39		39							Yes
MX5IPX*		44		44							Yes

* Check log

Comments for Ladder December 2022

Entrant	Comments
Phil 2E0DPH	Thanks to all for the QSO's in 2022. A HNY and look forward to working you all in 2023.
Greg DL3GJ	One point only - but still! Hope for next year to get more... Happy New Year to you all! 73 de Greg DL3GJ
Les G0DFC	All the best for the 2023, hope all your radio wishes come true. Dar dit Dar
Richard G0ILN	I thought my November score was bad but my December score was nearly non existent! Interference was horrific! That's all from G0ILN.Next year I will be a laid back G6HH Hastings Electronics and Radio Club "More points" Hi. Best wishes for the New Year. Richard G0ILN F398.
Andy G0LLX	Just a couple in Dec .. HNY 73
Chris G3XVL	Look forward to working more members in 2023, Happy New Year to all!
Tony G3ZRJ	Here's to great Ladders in 2023 73 Tony
Robin G4DNP	Best wishes to all and looking forward to 2023. 73 Robin
John G4YTJ	A poor show from me this month. I was only able to operate in the afternoon session of 11th. I did manage a couple of QRP QSOs on 7030 with the TS-590 wound down to 5W - I normally run 10W out which seems to work reasonably well unless condx are poor.
Kevin M0MCL	David, HNY to you and all at FISTS! See attached my log for last month's Ladder. Regards, Kevin M0MCL, 20982
Pete M5ABN	Looking forward to 2023, HNY to all Vy 73 Pete M5ABN
Les MM0UMH	Not a good score this month. I found I had covid on the 11th Dec and by the end of the session I was shaking a bit so my CW was even worse than normal. :-)) If I had tried going on the air on the 25th I would have had to live in the shack permanently. HI HI Merry Xmas to all. :-))
Alan MW0BGL	This is my ladder entry for December. I was only able to partake in the Christmas Day ladder due to being away on the 11th. Best 73, Alan Mw0bgl 16507
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, please find the attached log. Happy New Year 2023! Tks and 73 Erkki OH7QR 8318
Norbert ON4ANE	25/12/22: Noise almost impossible to have a contact! 73 de Norbert ON4ANE
Jan PA0SIM	Couldn't join the ladder on xmas day. Family needs attention also HI. So only 4 qso's this time. 73 Jan PA0SIM

Jo PG4I	<p>Hi,</p> <p>I participated in the afternoon session with 5 Watts output and made 2 QSO's See attached log.</p> <p>73 de Jo PG4I FISTS #19288</p>
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Final Results for Ladder 2022

Entrants located anywhere:

- 1 **G0ILN**
- 2 **M5ABN**
- 3 **G0BON**

Entrants located outside DXCC entity 223 (England):

- 1 **MM0UMH**
- 2 **ON4ANE**
- 3 **PA0SIM**

Well done to all our ladder placers too! I haven't had the pleasure of working most of you, but God willing I have RF in me coils yet, so I shall listen for you. It is interesting to note that the top three in the ladder are in the same relative positions as last year - the absence of dear Peter, G4LHI SK and John, G4LRG have simply meant that ABN and BON move up together. John, G4LRG missed a few months - we hope that all is well John.

Right, that's the lot. Do keep in touch and let me know stuff I can rebro to the world at large.

Have a good January and see you all on air I hope.

David G4YVM

Callsign	Posn	Prev	Move	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
G0ILN	1	1	-	942	91	83	105	98	67	88	87	90	86	90	45	12
M5ABN	2	2	-	827	61	69	62	82	76	80	55	58	65	69	75	75
G0BON	3	3	-	727	69	42	76	76	84	56	66	68	85	105		
MM0UMH	4	4	-	680	8	38	39	45	66	66	86	72	71	85	73	31
G3XVL	5	6	↑	516	27	66	63	52	49	18	22	21	42	64	39	53
ON4ANE	6	5	↓	505	41	40	35	50	46	34	46	44	50	49	42	28
G0JHK	7	7	-	421	40	55	48	47	35	17	49		43	36	30	21
G4YTJ	8	8	-	404	30	45	30	43	43	40	42	21		48	43	19
M0MCL	9	9	-	389	27	37	18	27	30	45	18	21	43	59	36	28
PA0SIM	10	10	-	354	30	24	27	21	24	36	57	36	33	48	6	12
G3ZRJ	11	12	↑	322	40	36	27	6	30	33	55		12	36	24	23
MW0BGL	12	13	↑	319			48	57	18	3	6	24	46	45	42	30
G4LRG	13	11	↓	317	70	97		68	82							
G0DFC	14	14	-	285	24	21	37	43	21	24	21		34	21	21	18
G4XUZ	15	15	-	261	24	27	18	30	30	36	24	27		21	24	
G4TPJ	16	16	-	228	24	36	30	45	24	12		18	15		9	15

M0SHM	17	17	-	192	27	12	24	27		24	6	9	21	24	12	6
2E0DPH	18	18	-	177	39	24		15	30				24		29	16
SQ9S	19	19	-	155	21	6	10	12	12	3	41		25	25		
OH7QR	20	20	-	148	21	21	30	21	11	13	3	6	10		9	3
G3JRH	21	21	-	127		18	49	42	18							
M0KTZ	22	22	-	123		18	14	9	15	9	6		26	26		
G4YTK	23	23	-	105						15	6	15	12	24	33	
G3ZOD	24	24	-	93			15	6	18	18	3	3	15	15		
G0LLX	=25	26	↑	87						21	36	3		21		6
M0DRK	=25	25	-	87	6	27	6	15	15	3				15		
G7WHI	27	27	-	66				66								
M0PBZ	28	28	-	59				59								
G4DNP	29	29	-	57		13	10		6		3	2	8	6	6	3
M0JVU	30	30	-	45				9	36							
DL3GJ	31	31	-	35	5				2			1	2	2	22	1
G4IVV	=32	=32	-	27										21	6	
G4YBU	=32	=32	-	27										27		
M0LPZ	34	34	-	25				3	9	3		8				2
G0XAH	=35	=35	-	18						18						
M0ILR	=35	=35	-	18				18								
MI0WWB	=37	=37	-	15		15										
PA3GJA	=37	=37	-	15									15			
LB5DI	39	39	-	13							13					
G0TLU	=40	=40	-	12		9	3									
G4IZZ	=40	=40	-	12										12		
M0RSU	42	42	-	9									9			
G4YVM	43	43	-	7						7						
G4CLB	=44	44	-	6										6		
PG4I	=44	-	↑	6												6
DL1DHM	=46	=45	↓	3				1	1	1						
YL2FD	=46	=45	↓	3												3
IU5HES	=48	=47	↓	2								2				
IU8OJT	=48	=47	↓	2					2							
MX5IPX*				21			9			12						

* Check log

Upcoming Events

January 2023

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sun 01 Jan		EuCW Snakes & Ladders winter/spring season starts	0000 UTC
Sun 01 Jan	Tue 31 Jan	FISTS Chadburn Cup 2023	0000-2359 UTC
Sun 22 Jan		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

February 2023

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Wed 01 Feb	Tue 28 Feb	FISTS Chadburn Cup	0000-2359 UTC
Sat 11 Feb		FISTS Winter Saturday Sprint	1600-1800 UTC
Sun 12 Feb		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 19 Feb		FISTS Winter Sunday Sprint	2100-2300 UTC
Sun 26 Feb		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

March 2023

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Wed 01 Mar	Fri 31 Mar	FISTS Chadburn Cup	0000-2359 UTC
Sun 12 Mar		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 26 Mar		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
