



Welcome Dear Hearts, to the July edition of your favourite newsletter. I hope the weather is suiting you, whether that be for sunbathing or bathing...

I don't have a great deal to add this month – no one has emailed me anything which must mean everyone is on holiday or preparing for same.

I have been on air quite a bit but chasing the DX that I don't have - no real reason just out of fun really. I have, according to my logbook on the laptop, 97 dx entities so a few more for DXCC I guess. I have more than that of course but have never really bothered to note them except in my old paper logs stretching back 40 years or more. This laptop logger. - I now use Maclogger – and the dx cluster makes it all a bit “point and shoot” but it's a new twist on an old game and I'm having fun.

I did bump into Alan, MW0BGL, last night on 80m and we have a forty minute chat. Very nice too. I still regard my ragchewers award as one of my 'bestest' achievement. I'm currently after the alphanumeric nightmare but that's a slow burn for sure (and again, I am NOT going through my old logs - which would help all that much as the start date is 2003!).

I had a bit of a heart stopper recently with my beloved FT757 that I keep going on about...the VFO spindle seized solid!! I was using the radio and it started to get a bit harder to turn the dial, then harder still, then much harder and in the end it wouldn't budge! I tried pliers and I could just turn it...sumfink very wrong there!!

I panicked initially and pondered the fate of the radio, whether I should spend more time and / or money on it or whether to live with the mic controlled up/down...slow!!! In the end I went onto Youtube and there was a video showing the extraction of the encoder, so I set to with tools and coffee and had a go. The radio disassembled as easily as I knew it would but the front panel also came off very easily indeed...the wires having been made long enough to facilitate this.

I popped out the encoder and stripped it right down to component level - even taking out the spindle for cleaning and lubing. Oddly, there was no apparent reason for it's stiffness but when cleaned and reassembled it was not really free even then. It was better, but not right. I reassembled it and was quite happy until my old mate Martin, M0MWS, texted me

and said “you have a spare encoder. Fit it!” Yes boss. So I re-stripped the radio and put the spare encoder in - that of course spins perfectly freely.

I have the old stiff encoder here and will try once again to understand what the issue was.

The encoder itself is simple, and a very (very) cheap device. To think that a bit of plastic is what controls the frequency of a rather expensive (in it’s day) radio is astonishing - but it works and it keeps costs down so why not?



*Left, encoder as removed from board.*



*Right: Encoder*



*Left: encoder opened up*

*showing two pieces of thin plastic. The one in my hand has many radial slots whilst the one in the case has just two small sets, for the reading head. The plastic disc with many slots spins with the shaft and causes ‘flashes’ through the fixed sets on the other sheet.*



*Left: The encoder shaft. One end goes into the encoder whilst the other sticks out of your pride and joy and carries the high quality VFO knob! Frankly, I am surprised by the engineering in this shaft and can't quite see why it is so made. More importantly, I can't see why the darned thing is so stiff...remember, when in situ this took PLIERS to rotate it!!*

### Chadburn cup

I think this has ground to a halt frankly. I am saddened that no affiliated clubs wish to partake but it looks as if that's the way it is. This leaves FISTS with a magnificent trophy to use in some way next year (Hastings will get it this year of course). Anyone got any ideas?

Right, that'll do me for this month. Have a good July and remember to send me in something to publish please. Makes life more interesting for all I think.

Pip pip

David G4YVM

## Awards

Name	Callsign	Member	Awards
Robert	AF5Z	#2035	Millionaire 5 Million Endorsement
Fritz	DL4FDM	#2225	Millionaire 4–5 Million Endorsements, Spectrum 20m Endorsement
Fabio	IK0IXI	#14539	Millionaire 17 Million Endorsement
Larry	W7ZDX	#16485	Millionaire 10 Million Endorsement
Vladislav	IU0HMB	#18894	Millionaire 11 Million Endorsement
Silverio	IU0ITX	#19676	Millionaire 3 Million Endorsement
Enzo	M0K TZ	#20979	Silver Century, Millionaire 3 Million Endorsement, Prefix 100 & 150 Endorsements
Jose	EA4HKF	#21551	Silver & Gold Century, Millionaire 5–6 Million Endorsements, Spectrum 15m, Spectrum 20m Endorsement

## New Members

Name	Call	No.	Name	Call	No.	Name	Call	No.
Joseph	KQ4IWO	#22092	Roland	DJ1RB	#22140	Toria	KO4YDX	#22207
Jeff	WJ3FF	#22093	Diarmuid	EI4LF	#22141	Graham	VA3LMI	#22208
David	K4DAR	#22094	Nick	M7WBN	#22142	Brayden	W3BGY	#22209
Bradley	KC6EOA	#22095	Derek	VK4DRK	#22143	Johnny	KC9CNH	#22210
William	KC9AFN	#22096	Ferran	EA5PL	#22144	Raymond	W4RG	#22211
Jeffrey	AE5JT	#22097	Steve	AE0SF	#22200	Charles	K0CWC	#22212
Tom	ND9Z	#22098	David	K5VFA	#22201	Michael	W7LG	#22213
Jerry	K0ILP	#22099	James	W7JLL	#22202	Ken	KD2KW	#22214
Ole	OZ1FKU	#22136	Jeff	N6EL	#22203	Roger	KY4YC	#22215
Peter	2E00OY	#22137	Dave	W1CTN	#22204	Robert	KQ4DFW	#22216
Andrew	DL7KU	#22138	John	KC3M	#22205			
Steve	G0SMP	#22139	Jeffrey	N6BF	#22206			

## Results for Chadburn Cup for Clubs June 2023

Club	Ops	Posn	Prev	Move	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
G6HH Hastings Electronics and Radio Club	G0ILN	1	1	-	65	1	23	23	18		
MX0PCN The Pelican Radio Group	G4YVM	2	2	-	11	1	10				

## Comments for Ladder June 2023

Entrant	Comments
Greg DL3GJ	Again just two QSOs this month.. 73 de Greg DL3GJ
Simon G0FOZ	Nice to meet members on the air once again. My third ever submission however I think this is now a regular fixture in my diary. Nice quiet band on the evening of the 25th ( i.e. no contesters - bliss :- ) ) 73 to all. Simon G0FOZ
Jim G0HGH	Nice to put a foot on the rung of the Ladder again
Andy G0LLX	Condx not great. Best quality QSO on 20m.
Peter G3JRH	I only managed 1 session this month. 1st om session condx reasonable on 40M/ Peter G3JRH
Tony G3ZRJ	Solar activity made things very tough indeed 73 Tony
Robin G4DNP	Vy best 73s Robin
Ray G4XUZ	Strapped for time again so a fairly small entry, but enjoyed a couple of brief ladder sessions. Thanks to all. 73, Ray G4XUZ.
John G4YTJ	Unfortunately I wasn't able to operate in the May Ladder sessions, The 24th June was hard work in the afternoon, with only a few stalwarts showing on the CW club RBN spotter by the end of the session. In contrast, I think the evening session was the best I've had so far with 11 QSOs in the session, although the last two were not Fists members. Great fun!
Enzo M0KTZ	Sorry, not much active during Sunday afternoons, due to good weather HI. 72/73 de Enzo M0KTZ
Pete M5ABN	Very little activity I'm afraid, DIY & gardening took up lots of time 73 Pete M5ABN
Les MM0UMH	CONDX not so good on the afternoon of 25/6/23, but much better in the evening. Many thanks for all QSOs
Alan MW0BGL	I've attached this month's Ladder submission. A bit more active than last month hihi.  Vy 73, de Alan Mw0bgl 16507
Norbert ON4ANE	11/06/2023 session 2 stopped after one qso due to a thunderstorm; 73 de Norbert ON4ANE
Jan PA0SIM	Not able to join the June 25 session. Returned too late from a very enjoyable visit to the Ham Radio in Friedrichshafen. 73 Jan PA0SIM
Adam SQ9S	Log for FISTS Ladder June 2023. Best 73 es tnx for QSO Adam SQ9S #20019

## Results for Ladder June 2023

Callsign	Posn	Prev	Move	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
MM0UMH	1	1	-	470	84	76	70	78	81	81
M5ABN	2	2	-	454	67	73	69	71	93	81
M0MCL	3	3	-	299	34	58	55	38	71	43
G3ZRJ	4	9	↑	266	48		54	42	42	80
ON4ANE	5	4	↓	256	36	49	50	48	43	30
MW0BGL	6	6	-	254	42	56	48	53	9	46
G4YTJ	7	7	-	243	50	51	62	33		47
G4YTK	8	8	-	212	36	36	54	35	30	21
G3XVL	9	5	↓	211	56	43	60	24	28	
M7TSM	10	11	↑	202	30	36	34	32	37	33
PA0SIM	11	10	↓	187	48	33	32	32	27	15
G6HH	12	12	-	139	7	74		58		
G4XUZ	13	14	↑	135	30	32	27		25	21
G0OEY	14	13	↓	115		21	30	45	19	
G0FOZ	15	23	↑	100				9	40	51
M0SHM	16	15	↓	99	18	27	21	18	15	
G0DFC	17	16	↓	98	34	28	24	12		
SP7OGP	18	20	↑	96	20		31	16	8	21
G0JHK	19	24	↑	91	36	12				43
G4TPJ	20	17	↓	90	39	36	15			
G0OTT	21	18	↓	86	39		25	22		
G3JRH	22	21	↓	81				39	27	15
M0PBZ	23	19	↓	76	46			30		
M7NNQ	24	22	↓	58		18	8	32		
G4DNP	25	25	-	33	7	8	6		6	6
G0LLX	26	26	-	32	23					9
SQ9S	27	32	↑	24			3	9		12
G0BON	=28	=27	↓	18					18	
G0HGH	=28	-	↑	18						18
G7BED	=28	=27	↓	18		18				
DL3GJ	=31	30	↓	16	5	5	2		2	2
M0KTZ	=31	31	-	16	5		8			3
G3ZOD	=33	34	↑	15					9	6
G7WHI	=33	29	↓	15	15					
G4YVM	35	33	↓	11			11			
IU8OJT	36	35	↓	4	4					
GR4YVM	37	36	↓	3					3	
OH7QR	38	37	↓	2				2		
MX5IPX*				12					9	3

\* Check log

## Changes to Sprints

We are making several changes to future [Fists CW Club Sprints!](#)

Sprints will now run over a **24-hour period** on the 2nd Saturday and 3rd Sunday in February, May, August, and November.

There will be **250 bonus points** added to the final score of any log with at least 25 QSO's.

Sprints will run from **0000 to 2359 UTC** on the following dates:

### *Summer:*

Saturday, August 12, 2023

Sunday, August 20, 2023

### *Fall:*

Saturday, November 11, 2023

Sunday, November 19, 2023

### *Winter:*

Saturday, February 10, 2024

Sunday, February 18, 2024

### *Spring:*

Saturday, May 11, 2024

Sunday, May 19, 2024

For more information, please visit: <https://fistsna.org/operating.php#sprints>

## Upcoming Events

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### July 2023

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sat 01 Jul	Sat 30 Sep	<a href="#">ICWC Top 9 Quarter 3 season starts</a>	0000 UTC
Sat 01 Jul	Sun 31 Dec	<a href="#">EuCW Snakes &amp; Ladders summer/autumn season starts</a>	0000 UTC
Sat 01 Jul	Mon 31 Jul	<a href="#">FISTS Chadburn Cup</a>	0000-2359 UTC
Sun 23 Jul		<a href="#">FISTS Eu Ladder</a>	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

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### August 2023

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Tue 01 Aug	Thu 31 Aug	<a href="#">FISTS Chadburn Cup</a>	0000-2359 UTC
Sat 12 Aug		<a href="#">FISTS Summer Saturday Sprint</a>	0000-2359 UTC
Sun 13 Aug		<a href="#">FISTS Eu Ladder</a>	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 20 Aug		<a href="#">FISTS Summer Sunday Sprint</a>	0000-2359 UTC
Sun 27 Aug		<a href="#">FISTS Eu Ladder</a>	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

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### September 2023

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Fri 01 Sep	Sat 30 Sep	<a href="#">FISTS Chadburn Cup</a>	0000-2359 UTC
Sun 10 Sep		<a href="#">FISTS Eu Ladder</a>	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 24 Sep		<a href="#">FISTS Eu Ladder</a>	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

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