

BRASSPOUNDER

September 2023, Issue 183



Welcome one and all to September's Brass Pounder!

Firstly some slightly sad news for some, great news for (one) other...The Chadburn Cup is being curtailed and the winner is...



G6HH



No surprises of course but it's time to put you out of your misery. Well done to the Hastings Club, very well persisted and well done. Do please send us some club photos and info will you? We in FISTS will discuss how to get the cup to you!! I think next year the cup needs re-thinking as affiliated clubs clearly aren't bothered, sadly. If you have ideas as to what this nice trophy might represent, do please let me know.

Upcoming events...

I hope you all like the 30m, 60m events - I hope many of you take the time to play with these bands.

There are other events too coming along...winter warmer for November, 100 Years of Big Ben and also the mechanical key week in December. Most of these activities have been requested by YOU so I hope you know I listen!! As I type I am listening to 3.558, 7.028, 10.118 and 60m but despite my calls no FISTS are awake. Mind you, condx are flippin awful and the Cbs are staring to grow and give awful static. Maybe being off the wireless is right!

Its funny how things change. I remember just before sunspot cycle 25 started almost all the people who knew about such things were saying how awful it would be for propagation. I remember thinking, *well, if it is poor, and as it could be my last cycle, it could easily be the end of my radio enjoyment. And if 26 is no better - certainly the end.*

But. But there was one voice - whose name I forget - crying in the wilderness saying no, this cycle will be amazing. One voice. And Lo! He was proved right. I wish I could shake his hand actually because he was brave enough to pop his head up and say everyone was wrong. Why am I saying this? Because just one night after typing the sentences above saying how there is no one on the bands I turned on and tuned around and worked half a dozen nice DX stations in succession including two new DX entities for me, plus a clutch of South American stations - now so easily done when the bands are right that it's like 2m almost.

I know we all recall the 1980s with dewy eyes but I think this cycle 25 is the most interesting one I have lived through. To the lone voice...thanks for the encouragement!

Wood Pecker

Remember him? Sweeping along the bands looking over the horizon for incoming missiles (outgoing in fact from our PoV as the 'wood pecker was a Russian OTHR). Well, I was on 40 a few weeks back but the band was full of static, close spaced noise not unlike the old 'pecker. I assumed it was local QRM and popped onto 80 where I met me old mate G0IHK, (FISTS 172) Nigel, in Crawley. We got chatting and he had had the same experience and we got chatting about the wood pecker, just reminiscing really. This new noise was static, unlike the sweeping of old, but it nevertheless destroyed the band! I think we were both glad though that the other had suffered as it meant it wasn't some fiendish device newly installed by the neighbours!

CEPT

I recently took a holiday in Greece, to Paxos off Corfu in fact, and for the first time ever in my life I took a radio with me. I packed my little KX2 and its paraphernalia, plus my CEPT licence duly printed out, and off we went. Total waste of time as it happened! Although the noise levels were extremely low everywhere on Paxos, which was lovely, the band conditions were poor. If the bands had played ball it would have worked I am sure however as it was, MOMWS could be heard around 319 and my 10 watts did not make the return journey. This was on ONE day when we tried.

Other days went like this: hot. Very hot. The KX2 and myself were roasting so we stopped playing. Wet. Very wet. Paxos and Corfu had several days of torrential rain and thunder storms so KX2 and myself were soaked so we stopped playing. Thunder cells...QRN at S9. I think basically, out of seven days we had two days that would have worked but as might be expected family things came first and radio wasn't really an option.

All in all, a waste of carriage and it rather confirmed what I already thought I knew - a true family holiday and radio do not mix. When it's just my wife and I off to Wales I do get some radio in...

FISTS Log converter

There are some note below from Graham, our stalwart software engineer who tirelessly writes and rewrites the log programme we all use to enter events and activities. You might not give it much thought but EVERY activity I create requires a new bit of work from Graham, so when I suddenly hit him with four activities at once as I did last week he must ask "*why me Lord?*" There have been a few changes to the timings the software must use plus a few other bits – to be honest they are pretty esoteric and wont much bother most users, but they are being pointed out because they exist. Thankfully most entrants join in the spirit and not the letter, which is much better all round. We do also bend the rules - probably half a dozen times a year I am asked to accommodate someone's late entry or cock-up somewhere along the line and almost always I do. The only time it is not possible is if the tables have been published or the software itself cannot accommodate it...but we always try!

I think that's it for this month...stay safe and enjoy 25!

David G4YVM

Name	Call	No.
Emi	JK1MBT	#22122
Darryl	2E0FXJ	#22162
Phil	GM3ZZA	#22163
Bernie	F6BLK	#22164
Dirk	ON7AH	#22165
Eddy	M7ETH	#22166
David	G1WXC	#22167
Petr	OK3EQ	#22168
Simon	M0KBJ	#22169
Ade	M0OJR	#22171
Flor	ON3FLD	#22172
Livingston and District Amateur Radio Society	MS0LIV	#22180
Bill	N8XX	#22241
Andrew	W5AWS	#22242
Jeff	VE3WWJ	#22243
Rick	N6PE	#22244
Sriram	KE8UEX	#22245
Renata	KQ4ASH	#22246
Brian	AA4QW	#22247
Tom	KD8TO	#22248
Dave	N9SS	#22249
Mark	K4LFL	#22250
Dwayne	KB2WZW	#22251
Paul	N1HOB	#22252
Steve	KG0RN	#22253
Gerald	W8HOG	#22254
Doreen	AA0AJ	#22255
Javier	K2PZB	#22256
Daryl	KK7OAI	#22257
Kevin	N7KV	#22258
John	K4IG	#22259
Carol	KE6SRN	#22260
Eduardo	CE7EMU	#22261
Foster	W4AZA	#22262

New Members

Awards

Name	Callsign	Member	Awards
Ian	G4MLW	#130	Millionaire 12 Million Endorsement
Ian	GW0KRL	#711	Millionaire 3 Million Endorsement
Robert	AF5Z	#2035	Millionaire 6 Million Endorsement
Roy	G4PRL	#8997	Spectrum 40m
Warren	WQ1C	#12064	Basic Century, Millionaire 2 Million Endorsement
Stephen	M0SHM	#17415	Millionaire
Robin	G4DNP	#18149	Millionaire 3 Million Endorsement
Richard	AE4OK	#18769	Basic Century
Nige	M0NGN	#19270	Basic Century, Silver Century, Millionaire, Millionaire 2-4 Million Endorsements, Spectrum 20m, Prefix, Prefix 50-150 Endorsements
Andy	G0LLX	#20378	Millionaire

Comments for Ladder August 2023

Entrant	Comments
Baz 5B4AHO	Really enjoyed today. I have just rejoined FISTS after a break from CW for several years. I am really rusty so thanks all for your patience. Glad to be back in the fold.
Greg DL3GJ	At least one QSO this time. Next month for sure... 73 de Greg DL3GJ
Ivan G0BON	Cond quite good, was nice to work some new fists members.
Simon G0FOZ	So nice to work so many regulars and some new callsigns too. 73 Simon (G0FOZ)
Peter G3JRH	1st Sunday evening session difficult as the 599 tu. Peter G3JRH
Chris G3XVL	Good fun as always.
Tony G3ZRJ	Thanks for contacts
Robin G4DNP	Back to UK in early September, 73s Robin
Ray G4XUZ	Limited time again, but thanks to all - good fun as always. 73, Ray G4XUZ
John G4YTJ	Hmm. I'm not sure if the last QSO in this month's log should count towards the ladder. The QSO with David G3SCD started at 20:00 according to my shack clock which is radio controlled but the seconds would have been after 20:00:00. Fists log converter happily included it in the ladder entry - over to the adjudicators**. Great fun as always.
Kevin M0MCL	David, Please see attached my log for last month's ladder. A little light on points this month due to Holidays and other commitments. Did manage though to work some QRP portable from South of France last week and got a couple of FISTS members in the log, which was good. 73, Kevin M0MCL, #20982
Pete M5ABN	Very little activity I'm afraid, 73 Pete M5ABN
Norbert ON4ANE	No activity due to illness on 13th of August. 73 de Norbert On4ane
Jan PA0SIM	Still poor condx on 80m to the UK. 73 Jan PA0SIM

** G3ZOD, author of FISTS Log Converter, writes:

“Despite the rules in this area being unchanged for very many years, surprisingly this issue has only been raised by someone else recently too. FISTS Log Converter ignores seconds and as the rules state ‘14:00-16:00 UTC and 18:00-20:00 UTC’, the program will accept QSOs with a start time of 16:00 or 20:00.

Whether this is what the original rule-writer intended or is a commonsense interpretation is debatable; however, it is what it is and will stand during 2023 (note: all logs go through FISTS Log Converter regardless of whether they are spreadsheets etc. or entered directly using the program, so everyone is treated in the same way).

After discussion with David, the 2024 rules will be clarified such that the last QSO start times (ignoring seconds) will be 15:59 & 19:59 and FISTS Log Converter itself will be changed accordingly.”

Results for Ladder August 2023

Callsign	Posn	Prev	Move	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
MM0UMH	1	1	-	637	84	76	70	78	81	81	75	92
M5ABN	2	2	-	595	67	73	69	71	93	81	79	62
M0MCL	3	3	-	374	34	58	55	38	71	43	48	27
G4YTJ	4	7	↑	363	50	51	62	33		47	52	68
MW0BGL	5	=5	-	362	42	56	48	53	9	46	56	52
G3ZRJ	=6	4	↓	357	48		54	42	42	80	45	46
ON4ANE	=6	=5	↓	357	36	49	50	48	43	30	54	47
G4YTK	8	8	-	296	36	36	54	35	30	21	45	39
M7TSM	9	9	-	276	30	36	34	32	37	33	37	37
G3XVL	10	10	-	272	56	43	60	24	28		16	45
PA0SIM	11	11	-	253	48	33	32	32	27	15	36	30
G0FOZ	12	14	↑	238				9	40	51	53	85
G4XUZ	13	13	-	180	30	32	27		25	21	24	21
M0PBZ	14	12	↓	165	46			30		34	55	
G3JRH	15	16	↑	153				39	27	15	43	29
G6HH	16	15	↓	139	7	74		58				
G4TPJ	=17	=17	-	123	39	36	15				33	
M0SHM	=17	=17	-	123	18	27	21	18	15		24	
G0DFC	19	19	-	117	34	28	24	12			19	
G0BON	=20	25	↑	115					18		46	51
G0OEY	=20	20	-	115		21	30	45	19			
SP7OGP	22	21	↓	96	20		31	16	8	21		
M7NNQ	23	24	↑	94		18	8	32			15	21
G0JHK	24	22	↓	91	36	12				43		
G0OTT	25	23	↓	86	39		25	22				
G0LLX	26	26	-	50	23					9	18	
G4DNP	27	27	-	40	7	8	6		6	6	4	3
G3ZOD	28	28	-	39					9	6	15	9
G0HGH	29	=31	↑	30						18		12
SQ9S	30	29	↓	24			3	9		12		
DL3GJ	31	30	↓	23	5	5	2		2	2	6	1
G7BED	32	=31	↓	18		18						
M0KTZ	33	33	-	16	5		8			3		
G7WHI	34	34	-	15	15							
5B4AHO	35	-	↑	12								12
G4YVM	36	35	↓	11			11					
OH7QR	37	36	↓	5				2			3	
IU8OJT	38	37	↓	4	4							
G0XAH	=39	-	↑	3								3
GR4YVM	=39	=38	↓	3					3			
PE1EEC	=39	=38	↓	3							3	
F5NFB	42	40	↓	1							1	
MX5IPX*				15					9	3		3

* Check log

Results for Chadburn Cup for Clubs August 2023

Club	Ops	Posn	Prev	Move	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May-Aug
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	-	-	-

FISTS Log Converter 4.4.2

The recent new version of [FISTS Log Converter, 4.4.2](#) for Windows, adds support for upcoming [FISTS and EuCW on-air activities](#) in 2023 and 2024. It can be used to process ADIF files exported from logbook programs such as Logger32. For those new to logging QSOs on computers, it also has an optional, straightforward logbook feature of its own.

Upcoming Events

September 2023

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Mon 04 Sep	Mon 25 Sep	FISTS 30m Activation	24x7 UTC
Sun 10 Sep		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 24 Sep		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

October 2023

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sun 01 Oct	Sun 31 Dec	ICWC Top 9 Quarter 4 season starts	24x7 UTC
Mon 02 Oct	Mon 23 Oct	FISTS 60m Activation	24x7 UTC
Sun 08 Oct		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 22 Oct		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

November 2023

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Wed 01 Nov	Wed 22 Nov	FISTS Winter Warmer	0001-2359 UTC
Sat 04 Nov	Sun 05 Nov	RSGB 2m CW Marconi Contest	1400-1400 UTC
Sat 11 Nov		FISTS Fall Sprint	0000-2359 UTC
Sun 12 Nov		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 19 Nov		FISTS Fall Sprint	0000-2359 UTC
Sun 26 Nov		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
