



Welcome one and all to the Guy Fawkes edition of BrassPounder.

We have some exciting news this month too, a couple of new events to win PRIZES!!! But first a bit of news from David, G3SCD...

David emailed me with the following welcome message.

Hi David

Just read the latest BP I usually do but occasionally forget or miss the odd one . I never really know which of the Fists communications is intended for reader's comments ! All noted however and if you printed all or any of my mail I sent you some weeks back then this as an update as well as a comment on current matters!

First I have change my date of return to VK it is now 17th - one day to go so expect to be active again as VK3DBD in a day or so of my arrival

Will be pleased to escape the very erratic wx we have had and an excess of rain and cold by - my standard anyway.

Radio wise I have for a few weeks been active with G3SCD of course a rather .p type of set up here my KX3 and a low dipole for 40m about 12ft above ground. Spot on resonant on that band according to my Analyser and a plus was the amazing little Auto ATU in the radio it took less than a second and without apparent difficulty "matched" the 15 , 17, 20, 30 60m Bands too giving me opportunities i did not expect. Best DX was actually Italy at good strength with 579 each way to Fabio IK0IXI (Max 10 watts from my end) an old friend whom I keep weekly skeds with but contacts were logged with most of the EU countries a total if approx 175 in all EA to SM land and most geographically in between (My paper log has it all and I have not fully analysed it but a number of special "qrp down to one watt or less" on request. A very satisfying number of fists were logged including that very rare station - G0UBE who claims no one ever hears (or replies?) him- and that alone gave me much satisfaction. Thanks John. a higher than usual % of Fellow FOC were logged too and most were on 40m .

Unfortunately my Kx3 has a fault which was not initially realised by me for a while -. Deaf on CW settings switching to KLSB much more activity was to be heard. crazy and this was not just the more narrow filter at work 400 c/s as opposed to 2.8 mc/s. I can vary the bandwidth over the default limits. Communications with the speedy and serious technical help at elecraft eventually brought to the conclusion that there must be a DSP fault . Which would require them to fix it. So at great expense (min charge US \$250 plus shipping.) It is in transit.

I had brought from VK one of my Two TS-50 transceivers which had developed a fault, I thought the PA had died- but I could not definitely pin point due to the nature of the construction of that very compact 100watt radio 1990 period . (approx size like a normal Car Broadcast radio) I have always had a soft spot for them as a mobile particularly . One of the first probably with a menu. - Not much room on Front panel for Knobs and Buttons - and it is handy to have a matching mic with four programmable buttons on for convenience. I Could not find any company in VK who would be prepared to even look at it so it was sent to a small firm Kent-Rigs

in UK and duly returned in full working order after a few weeks. The low pass filter had developed a fault! Unfortunately I was prevented from using it as I did not have the Mic to enable power control my 12 volt supply from a borrowed clapped out car battery was of too few amps to drive it anywhere near the 100w it was "stuck on".

73 to all readers
David G3SCD / VK3DBD

David, many thanks for the information and I'm sure we all wish you well with everything, especially the radio repairs.

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A new event is a chance to win a fabulous **RSGB callbook!** The way to get this is simply to work as many RSGB members as you can in December. Ask the stations you work for their RSGB number, pop it in the logger and it counts. An activity to last the whole of December 2023 so you should get the book to start 2024.

The FISTS log converter will be updated by the hard-pressed G3ZOD in due course.

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2m / VHF activity from now.....

As I type this we have just concluded the damp squib that was Marconi 2m CW. Condx really were appalling and very few of us scored anything at all and many just gave up. I managed 5 QSO in all which considering it is a prestige event is pretty poor, and I was running 250w into an 11 ele beam at about 40ft. Furthest this time was France, F6DWG at 206 miles. Hardly the stuff to convince the world that wireless is here to stay!

However, I had a lot of fun - like so many of us I really love 2m - VHF is a fascinating area, the propagation modes are simply vary varied and enjoyable. One of my failed qso was almost certainly aeroplane scatter...I find that mode very 'cool'!! Trouble is there's just not enough activities to get us on 2m, and that's a shame.

So where does this get us? Well I am going to start an activity for every Tuesday...that's EVERY Tuesday. It will coincide with UKAC of course, but as per my previous 2m activity, that's the point.

I thank Clive, GW4MBS, for providing the impetus for this and he writes...

For those note familiar with UKAC (UK Activity Contests) here are the rules:

https://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/contest_rules.pl?year=2023&contest=2mukac

For those who use a paper log such as myself you can submit your results by filling in a form following:

<https://www.rsgbcc.org/vhf/>

"Entering a Contest" (top of page)

"online log generator page" (bottom of page)

"log generator system" (bottom of page)

"Choose Contest"

"144MHz UKAC"

When you have completed that, it will take you to the Cover Sheet & then to the log book page which will have the appropriate number of lines for your declared number of QSOs. It will automatically convert say gw4mbs into GW4MBS & will warn you if you type say GOMBS instead of G0MBS. If you type a report of lower than 339 it will turn red warning you that it might be unusual, I rather resent this as many of my exchanges are of the weak signal variety, which for me is the whole point of the mode.

As you type in the details per line it will show a points per km score but each new LOC (Locator square) you get a bonus. When you have completed that page & submitted it you get the option to see your contact on a map & when you hover you get their details. If you see you worked someone out in the North Sea it is a good prompt to check your handwriting & keyboard skills. I always save this map for future reference by doing Print Screen function on the PC & pasting it to a photo editor.

Having done all this it takes you to a list of Claimed Scores & you get an idea of how you did. You have a week to enter all this, then in 3 weeks or so the results are published after the logs have been cross-checked by computer. On the Cover Sheet you can opt to amalgamate your score with others to help your club score points for an overall ranking.

In most of these UKACs I come about halfway, but I am the only club member submitting a score, yet some other "clubs" comprise sometimes as many as 30 "members" that include some continental stations. To me these ghost clubs seem downright unfair especially as this is a **UK** Activity Contest. So these "clubs" ending up as leading clubs doesn't impress me in the slightest, my satisfaction is doing it on my own from a duff location, if anyone thinks my score is a bit pathetic tough luck, I am only taking part in the fun & satisfaction it gives me.

The times for the activity are 2000 – 2230 LOCAL time, CW only in our case but UKAC accepts SSB too.

The exchange is: RST, Serial Number (starting at 001 on each date) and a 6 character (e.g. IO92JL) locator. See a link below if you don't know your locator.

If FISTS were to amalgamate their scores into a club we might win!!!

I am going to advocate this activity every Tuesday night from now if folks will join me – so the FISTS 2m event is active now as a purely participatory event, **THERE ARE NO LOG SUBMISSIONS FOR FISTS.** IF you want to add scores to UKAC please do so. I would love to have soapbox comments though please to **logs@fists.co.uk**

There's some more on 2m propagation from the RSGB at <https://rsgb.org/main/technical/propagation/vhf-propagation/>

(* I was chatting to an ex ships worker and radio enthusiast - not an amateur – today and he remembers sailing round the Southend / North Foreland coast many times and listening to Port Said Radio! Spooky!!)

If you are worried about no Dx I think the record stands at an amazing 4700km!

This from www.radioenthusiast.co.uk this year.

*On August 5th, **Mark Turner EI3KD** worked D4Z on the Cape Verde Islands on 144MHz over a distance of 4163km, which stretched the record by about 30km. For those that think all DX is worked on FT8, you'll be delighted to know that this was a CW contact. On SSB, **Tim G4LOH** also worked D4Z along with **Dave G7RAU**, both in Cornwall. The conditions had been up and down for quite some time with the D4 beacon being heard from Cornwall to Northern Ireland and Scotland where **GM4ZJI** logged it at a distance of 4739km. The D4 beacon runs a modest 14W into a stacked dipole array.*

*The path was also open from the western UK to the Canary Islands (EA8) with some excellent contacts being made. **Tim Hague M0AFJ** (Helston) reported working more than ten EA8 stations on 2m SSB. **Richard Brooks GW1JFV** (Haverfordwest) was delighted to work EA8 on FT8, using 50W to a vertical antenna. **Jim Edgar GM4FVM** (Alnmouth) also worked EA8 although, as he says, it nearly didn't happen. Jim's rotator was 180° out of synch and he wondered why he couldn't hear anything at all from the DX. Once that had been established, Jim says it was all straightforward. All in all, it was an incredible few hours!*

*The sea path to EA8 and D4 from the western UK is a fascinating one and would probably support the higher bands as well. As **John Worsnop G4BAO** said on Twitter, "a 23cm QSO from North Cornwall or Ireland to D4 would break the world record on the band". That would be very exciting indeed.*

The following day on August 6th, Dieter DJ6AG worked EA8TX, breaking the Region 1 144MHz meteor scatter record over a distance of 3428km. This exceeds the previous record held by EA8TJ and S50C by 51km. In reality this was very probably a combination of tropospheric and meteor scatter propagation but a truly remarkable contact in itself.

There is a very good tropo forecast page on <https://www.dxinfocentre.com/tropo.html> though it more often than not depressing!!!

If you wonder what your QRA locator is, try this site... <https://www.qrz.com/gridmapper> There are others.

I have just finished a 2m QSO with Simon, G0FOZ (massive dx of 22km) and he writes:

Thanks for the QSO David.

I had just switched the VHF rig on my way out of the office on the off-chance there was any life on 2m. The rig had been tuned to CW to see if I could hear anything at the weekend contest; and there you were :-). I hadn't read this message at that time.

I will have to wire that rig up to a proper key (I was using a portable key magnetically stuck on top of the rig which got a little uncomfortable after 20 minutes :-)) and get a horizontal beam up!

73 Simon G0FOZ

Simon was running an Icom 7000 into a vertical antenna. I was on an 11 ele beam.

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Well, that's either bored you or ignited an enthusiasm – hopefully the latter.

Right, now to tables...

And with that, 73

David G4YVM.

G3ZOD forgot to email his comments on 60m (oops!) A day late, but anyway...

Having never been on 60m before, the RSGB recommended CW segment was quite a revelation. In some ways it resembled the lower HF bands as I remember them from half a century ago where things were less frenetic and spectrum wasn't quite so occupied with contests and many kHz taken up with DXpedition chasing. This was probably enhanced by the 60m CW segment being UK-only i.e. no DX chasing possible. I listened a lot more than I transmitted, but had some very nice QSOs. It almost felt like the band was exclusive to FISTS given the number of callsigns who were members! It's a shame that only Full class licensees are allowed on 60m – I think this might be a little bit paranoid on the part of the powers-that-be.

Thanks Graham, better late than never!

Chris G3XVL sends this 60m report:

My 60m QSO's , nice to work Alan MW0BGL a couple of times and also Rog GW3UEP . Now having a go at the Winter Warmer on 160m and I'm off to a good start with having just managed to work Leif 8S0DX on Onion Island in the Baltic Sea! Not bad for a small inverted L at 17 ft high.
73 Chris G3XVL

Robin G4DNP says:

David

Here's my tally up to 23 October

Total QSOs = 12
4 x GI (same station)
4 x MW (same station)
4 x G (various)

Nearly all QSO took place between about 16:30 and 18:30 (UTC)

I was running about 3w (old QCX) to mag loop (in loft) and a 14m endfed (up about 4m) towards end of month

The band is definitely showing signs of life

Vy best 73/72

Robin
G4DNP

New Members

Name	Call	No.	Name	Call	No.	Name	Call	No.
Erik	LB1KJ	#22189	Michael	KJ5CVN	#22279	Jose	XE2I	#22290
Mark	M6YDZ	#22190	Philip	KL7VO	#22280	Henry	KA2AFS	#22291
Ingy	2E0MHJ	#22191	James	KA4BAS	#22281	Tom	N7WI	#22292
Dennis	G6YBC	#22192	James	WB0RLJ	#22282	Richard	NE0J	#22293
Matt	VK2TFE	#22193	Erik	K6IT	#22283	Ernest	WA4ELW	#22294
Franz	IV3RQO	#22194	Kenton	KZ4AP	#22284	James	WD3DX	#22295
Graeme	VK2UV	#22195	Edward	K4EAK	#22285	Thomas	W5TES	#22296
Dav	M0WDV	#22196	Danny	NA4DL	#22286	Dan	AC9GT	#22297
Roger	G4ZZL	#22197	Eliseo	LU4DIS	#22287	David	KD8MXE	#22298
Jean	ON4OPA	#22198	Jonathan	VA7NMD	#22288	Southdown Amateur Radio Society	G3WQK	#22400
Bill	M7CLG	#22199	Jason	KK7CAW	#22289			

Awards

Name	Callsign	Member	Awards
Ian	G4MLW	#130	Millionaire 15 Million Endorsement
Dennis	K6DF	#3076	Millionaire 16–17 Million Endorsements
Rien	PA7RA	#9819	Millionaire 9 Million Endorsement
Vanni	I5ECW	#16505	Millionaire 9 Million Endorsement
Robin	G4DNP	#18149	Silver Century
Enildo	CO6DE	#21336	Basic Century, Silver Century, Millionaire, Millionaire 2 Million Endorsement, Spectrum 40m

Comments for Ladder October 2023

Entrant	Comments
Greg DL3GJ	Another month and small progress again. 73 de Greg DL3GJ
Simon G0FOZ	40M was impressive on the 22nd; another session where I was so busy working non-FISTS members from Russia to Serbia I almost forgot it was ladder time :-). Interrupted by family dinner so a shorter session. Fun as always - 73 to all. Simon G0FOZ
Darren G0OTT	Nice to meet up with members again. Was a bit busy with contest stations. 73 Darren
Michael G3PCL	Trying out Ladder hope it works
Chris G3XVL	Ground conductivity good, rain water and clay soil help. See you all in the next sessions weather permitting!
Robin G4DNP	Much better conditions during daylight hours and an enjoyable activity. 73/72 Robin G4DNP
Ray G4XUZ	Limited time again for the ladder sessions, but good fun - thanks to all. Ray, G4XUZ.
John G4YTJ	I was only able to operate in the evening ladder sessions this month and only the last hour on the 22nd. Condx on 40m were poor on 22nd for inter G working with nothing under about 600 miles on the RBN, so my 3 QSOs were on 80m, where my doublet is really too short - but a poor aerial is better than none at all.
Pete M5ABN	Log for October. 73 Pete M5ABN
Peter M7NNQ	I've managed another two this evening. 40m was impossible despite calling for some time. 80m was quite poor but i did work Norbert ON4ANE on 3/5W! Thanks Peter
Les MM0UMH	Conditions not so good this month. Apologies to anyone who couldn't make me hear them and grateful thanks to those who did manage to QSO with me. Hebridean storms did for my doublet, but I did manage to get it up again in time for 22nd Oct. :-)
Alan MW0BGL	An interesting entry is the third one for Sunday, October 8th. I am in the habit of leaving my old 2 metre transceiver - a Trio TS711E - on in the shack, tuned to 144.050 Mhz. Invariably it is silent but on this day I heard F0DUB/p near Cherbourg call CQ. Not a Fists station but an unexpected catch & a pleasant QSO ensued. I was surprised to learn he was QRP and using a vertical antenna. Clearly there was a bit of a lift on VHF that day! Until then, vy 73 de Alan Mw0bgl 16507
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, Please find attached my log. 73 Erkki OH7QR 8318
Norbert ON4ANE	Hi David, the log for this month. 73 de NORBERT ON4ANE
Jan PA0SIM	Had again a vy nice long ragchew qso in the ladder with Matthew M0MZB. 73 Jan PA0SIM

Results for Ladder October 2023

Callsign	Posn	Prev	Move	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
MM0UMH	1	1	-	797	84	76	70	78	81	81	75	92	89	71
M5ABN	2	2	-	732	67	73	69	71	93	81	79	62	66	71
M0MCL	3	3	-	499	34	58	55	38	71	43	48	27	69	56
MW0BGL	4	4	-	464	42	56	48	53	9	46	56	52	58	44
ON4ANE	5	6	↑	457	36	49	50	48	43	30	54	47	52	48
G4YTJ	6	5	↓	450	50	51	62	33		47	52	68	56	31
G3XVL	7	=8	↑	367	56	43	60	24	28		16	45	49	46
G0FOZ	=8	11	↑	366				9	40	51	53	85	70	58
M7TSM	=8	=8	-	366	30	36	34	32	37	33	37	37	45	45
G4YTK	10	10	-	365	36	36	54	35	30	21	45	39	24	45
G3ZRJ	11	7	↓	357	48		54	42	42	80	45	46		
PA0SIM	12	12	-	289	48	33	32	32	27	15	36	30	12	24
M0SHM	13	14	↑	212	18	27	21	18	15		24	30	38	21
G0BON	14	13	↓	203					18		46	51	88	
G4XUZ	15	15	-	198	30	32	27		25	21	24	21		18
G3JRH	16	16	-	171				39	27	15	43	29	18	
M0PBZ	17	17	-	165	46			30		34	55			
G4TPJ	18	19	↑	150	39	36	15				33			27
G6HH	19	18	↓	139	7	74		58						
G0OTT	20	25	↑	131	39		25	22						45
M7NNQ	21	23	↑	118		18	8	32			15	21		24
G0DFC	22	20	↓	117	34	28	24	12			19			
G0OEY	23	21	↓	115		21	30	45	19					
SP7OGP	24	22	↓	96	20		31	16	8	21				
G0JHK	25	24	↓	91	36	12				43				
G3ZOD	26	26	-	78					9	6	15	9	18	21
G4DNP	27	28	↑	68	7	8	6		6	6	4	3	4	24
G0LLX	28	27	↓	50	23					9	18			
OH7QR	29	=30	↑	49				2			3		25	19
SQ9S	30	29	↓	36			3	9		12			12	
DL3GJ	31	32	↑	35	5	5	2		2	2	6	1	6	6
G0HGH	32	=30	↓	30						18		12		
5B4AHO	33	33	-	24								12	12	
M0KTZ	34	34	-	19	5		8			3			3	
G7BED	=35	35	-	18		18								
PE1EEC	=35	=39	↑	18							3			15
G7WHI	=37	36	↓	15	15									
M0SDB	=37	-	↑	15										15
G4YVM	39	37	↓	11			11							
IU8OJT	40	38	↓	4	4									
G0XAH	=41	=39	↓	3								3		
G3PCL	=41	-	↑	3										3
GR4YVM	=41	=39	↓	3					3					
F5NFB	44	42	↓	1							1			
MX5IPX*				34					9	3		3	19	

* *Check log*

Upcoming Events

November 2023

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Wed 01 Nov	Thu 30 Nov	FISTS Winter Warmer	0001-2359 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

December 2023

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Fri 01 Dec	Sun 31 Dec	FISTS Win RSGB Yearbook	24x7 UTC
Sun 10 Dec		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Mon 11 Dec	Sun 17 Dec	FISTS Mechanical Key Week	0001-2359 UTC
Sun 24 Dec		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 31 Dec	Sun 31 Dec	FISTS 100 Years of Big Ben on the Wireless	0001-2359 UTC

January 2024

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Mon 01 Jan		ICWC Top 9 Quarter 1 season starts	0000 UTC
Mon 01 Jan		EuCW Snakes & Ladders winter/spring season starts	0000 UTC
Sun 14 Jan		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 28 Jan		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
