

# BRASSPOUNDER

September 2010 (Issue 54)

*Welcome to the September edition.*

*Yet again another month comes and goes.*

*Every month it is always a pleasure to receive comments and news from your goodselves, this month is no exception. But first of all, I must start with sad news received from Peter. G4LHI*

Hello Robert,

I attach my claim & report for the September Ladder. I found condx were a little kinder to us this month & I had three fairly good scores of 18, 19 & 21, so picked the last two for my September claim, I did not work any new members in spite of all the publicity on the Reflector Group & the many new members joining the Fists Club, but perhaps they were just listening this month & hope they get their feet wet & join us next month? It's great fun guys please don't be afraid, the Fists Club is infectious & we are all Carriers!! I did have 10 QSO's for 19 points on the 12th evening session & in the afternoon session on the 26th 11 QSO's for 21 points, giving me a little better total for September of 40 points, but as always a very enjoyable event & nice to meet old friends again. Very nice to see the list of entries is getting bigger each month & especially nice to see new callsigns appearing on the list, must be encouraging for our Activity Manager. Very many thanks to all for the QSO's the signals were up & down on all stations, but if it was easy we would not enjoy it so much hi. That's all for now folks, see you on the Ladder in October.

Finally on a rather sad note, I am very sorry to say that dear Jean sadly slipped away very peacefully on Tuesday 21st September, after a very long & painful illness, she is now at rest bless her, she was so brave. Very many thanks to you all that sent kind messages to Jean for her recovery, she was a lovely lady. Also my sincere thanks to our Activities Manager for travelling all the way to Cambridge to join us in our Humanist Service to celebrate Jeans Life, we did appreciate that Rob, bless you.73 de Peter G4LHI # 2219.

*Hello Peter*

*I was saddened to hear of your loss, and was honoured to be present and represent the society, on a personal basis; I would like to offer my sincere condolences to you and the family, on behalf of all members who know you via the society. I hope that you find our thoughts of comfort to you at this sad time. Suffice to say that the FISTS family are thinking of you.*

*The amateur presence at Jeans send off consisted of: M0FDA (Alan), G0SXM (Danny), G4MSQ (Frank), 2E0JYK (Graham), G0IWB (Joe), G0XAH (David), M0DLM (Derek), M0BPT (Rob), M6PHL (Phil),*

*Thank you for your report of the months happening; as ever Peter, a concise round up.*

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very pleased to receive an new entry from Greg, G0DUB; who comments.

Hi Robert,

Please find attached my first ladder entry for September - not too many contacts but it was all a learning experience for next time (Hi) I was using an IC-718 with 100W to a horizontal loop about 4m AGL making this a QRO entry.

73, Greg, G0DUB FISTS #6095

*Welcome Greg; pleased to hear from you, there are never too little contacts in anyones log, it shows support of the society, and its activities. Look forward to hearing from you.*

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And from Erkki; OH7QR

Hello Robert,

I send attached my ladder log. This month I managed to have two QSOs also on 80M besides the usual 20M. Many thanks to all for the QSOs and I hope to meet you in October.

73

Erkki OH7QR

*Good to hear from you once again Erkki, I know that 80 is a problem for you to contact UK members, so pleased that the band is showing some favour for you.*

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And from Graham; 2E0JYK

hi Rob

Here is my activity ladder entry for September; it is not as good as I would have liked, but I somehow managed to break the tip off my key so i was unable to send for a while; but all is well now.

Regards graham 2E0JYK.

*Hello Graham, good to hear from you and sorry to hear of your mishap with the key, pleased to hear that all is operational once again. Pleased to have met you for the first time.*

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From good friend Jeremy G0AZR

Hi Rob,

Hope you are ok? Attached is the Sept Ladder claim.

Yesterday was not too bad at all I found.

20 mtrs was pretty good; 40mtrs was enjoyable and nice to work two members on there.

Evening time on 80 was variable I found. Lots of sideband QRM from Spanish or Portugese fishing vessels, but on the whole not bad. The Fen Tiger, M6PHL was up and running I noted. It does seem that now I have kept both ends of the inverted V at the same level from the ground it has improved. Found it strange that there was an E8 contest on but they only wanted to work each other.

Good of you to take the time to organise and sort all of these contests

[\(Activities...Ed\)](#)....about time you got an award.

Jeremy G0AZR

PS. do I get an award for being the first one to sign up on your website?

*Hi Jerry, errrr....yes, you get the "I was the first one to sign up to my website award" (Hi) Good to hear from you, and not too bad here thanks, glad to hear that the aerial has improved. That is a strange but true phenomenon you mention about others just wanting to work one-another! Isn't it true that they always show an interest when things go quiet their end??*

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And from Phil; M6PHL.

Hello Rob,

The 'Fen Tiger' strikes again with his September log for the Ladder Hi!, thank you Jerry.

Good to hear a few more members, especially on the second Sunday of the month. It was also very good to finally meet you Rob for the first time, despite it not being the best of circumstances.

I also look forward helping the society as the QSL Sub manager for 'M' & '2E' series call signs.

Hope to work you all again next month.

Phil

M6PHL

Fists 14543

*Hi Phil, Good to hear from you once again. A real pleasure to meet you and the other people present, in, as you quite rightly say "Not the best of circumstances" Lets hope we can meet again in the not too distant future.*

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Derek; M0DRK writes.

Hi Robert, Here is the log for the Sept. Ladder. Many thanks to those stations that gave me points again. Very nice to work Gra, G3ZOD on both sessions. I have to say that the 80m QSO was the most difficult to copy and thank you Graham for sticking with me until I had all the info required. The QSO on 40m was far easier to complete. Good to work Piet, PA3AFF on the second session, also on 40m.

Take care Robert, thanks for taking care of the running, do you realise, only three more months to go on the Ladder. Where did the year go, hi. See you next month,  
Derek, M0DRK

*Hi Derek. Yes, just three months to go on the ladder, time is passing so quickly! You'll be looking at the 2011 activity calendar before you know it! (Hi)*

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And from Piet, PA3AFF

Hi Rob,

Here is my entry for the Ladder of Sept. I chose the last Sunday of the month for my QSOs.

Started the afternoon session on 40m and switched at the end to 80m because of QRM EA-contest.

The EA-stns became louder and louder.

On 80m heard most of the 40m calls worked before. I decided to work only new calls on 80m.

My info: Piet/Schaft/445. Stn: TS130V, pwr 15W, ant. 80m: endfed Zepp, 40m: dipole  
73 PA3AFF

*Always a pleasure to hear from you Piet. Glad you found time to get on air once again.*

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From Kev. G4CMZ

Hi Rob,

Thanks for another great brasspounder issue. Managed to get on to 40 metres and meet Piet PA3AFF and Derrick G3LHJ. Experienced a great deal of deep QSB on 80metres this month. Starting to work towards some Awards now.

Take care and 73 de G4CMZ 6440

*Hi Kev. Good to hear from you, and thanks once again for your kind words. Nice to hear you've met up with Piet and Derrick; other have mentioned that 80 was difficult.*

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And from Bill; GOBAK

Hi Rob

Please find attached my September Ladder Score.

On the session on the 12th, I found things difficult and only managed to score 8 points for the 2 hour afternoon session.

It was my Daughters 2nd Birthday on the 28th September and so we held a Party for her on the afternoon of the 26th. I did not expect to manage a ladder Session on this day, however my Daughter decided to have her afternoon nap around the time of the Ladder session. As I was upstairs keeping my eye on her while Debbie my wife prepared for the party, I decided to fire up the radio. I am pleased to say I managed just over an hour of operating and managed to work 5 members for a score of 10 points. I had a shock when I asked Peter (G4LHI) how his Jean was getting on. When he told me she had become a SK I was very shocked. My thoughts and wishes are with you Peter.

I must also take this opportunity to apologise to the other members that I worked on this day as I was rushing somewhat before my Daughter woke up from her nap.

In all a smashing day was had and I also managed 10 points on the Ladder. I will say however that I did find 80 metres a tad difficult on this day with no one above an S7 signal. I did however work Derrick G3LHJ on 40 metres at the end of my 1 hour session. Derrick was a fantastic signal on 40 metres and I would imagine he did very well on the Ladder.

Well that's it for another month Rob, take care and all the best to you and your family. Best wishes also to all fists members.

Bill GOBAK Fists 13262

*Hello Bill. Good to hear from you, and a belated "Happy Birthday" to your daughter! You were lucky for her to have her nap whilst you were on "Watch duty" but pleased to hear that you managed to get some air time in!*

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From Graham. G3ZOD

Hi Rob.

### **Ladder**

September turned out to be one of the best Ladder months for me for a very long time. The evening session on the 12th was particularly good and I was pleased to meet Greg G0DUB #6095 and Roy G4PRL #8997 for the first time. I was sure I had contacted Roy before, but it turned out to be a case of having seen / heard his callsign a lot.

Normally during the afternoon sessions I start out on 20m then go onto 80m. On the 26th though, after starting on 20m I went to 40m and tried harder. This resulted in 3 contacts, which is more than I can usually manage on 20m+80m alone in an afternoon, so was well worth the effort

### **VHF**

The CW-only efforts in the August 6m and 4m UKACs have again given results that I'm happy with: 50/61 on 6m and 29/40 on 4m. The club entry results for "FISTS CW Club" are 30/42 on 6m and equal 21 out of 22 on 4m. The 6m "FISTS CW Club" result was given a boost by Dave G0DJA #1372 submitting an entry - thanks Dave! The 4m club result is a bit disappointing but isn't helped by having no entry in the first two sessions (there are a total of four in 2010, with one remaining in November).

73 de Graham G3ZOD FISTS #8385

*Good to hear from you once again Gra. And good to hear that you picked up a couple of new additions this month.*

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### **September FISTS Awards**

Congratulations to:

Dave, G4ZPI #12516, on achieving the Silver Century Award.

Bert, F6HKA #14577, on achieving the Gold Century Award and Platinum Award.

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*It's a great pleasure for me to offer another "Spotlight On" Article for readers. This time the spotlight falls on Jeremy GOAZR. My personal thanks go to Jeremy for allowing me to share some of his life history with you.*

## "Spotlight on"

Jeremy Norman. GOAZR. #14553



Born Nuneaton, Warwickshire, 1950. Left Nuneaton to move to Norfolk in 1961; parents sold their newspaper business and bought another business in Norfolk. Attended The Paston School, North Walsham from 1961 until 1967. This school is famous in as much that Nelson attended...just a little before me but obviously he had been around as he had carved his name in every desk I ever sat at.

My one and only ambition up until this time had been to join the Royal Navy, so Sea Cadets was the first step and this is where I was introduced to Morse Code, using a hand lamp.

Disappointment struck in 1966 whilst taking a Royal Naval medical, I was found to be partly colour blind.....so no chance whatsoever of joining 'the

Andrew'. Therefore the chosen career was Cost Accountancy, starting work for Jewson's in Norwich on the princely sum of £3 7s 6d per week (£3.37 ½ pence to the unconverted). Continued to work at this for longer than I care to remember.

In 1974, I saw an advert in the local paper recruiting for the Royal Naval Reserve. Give it a go' I thought.....and was duly invited to see what it was all about, followed swiftly by a medical. 'Here we go again,' I thought. I duly informed the doctor of my colour blindness, 'Don't worry son, we will sort something out' were his words.....and proceeded to pass me fit until we came to the 'dot test'. 'Now, what can you see in the dot pictures?' My heart sank. The first picture was the figure 5, no



problem. The second...all I saw was a jumble of coloured dots. My heart sank again.

The doc tipped it one way, then the other....still no go. 'Never mind' said he' you managed 50% and we are short of Radio Ops.....so I will pass you fit as long as you promise never to put your fingers in the back of a radio'. Jeremy does the happy dance all the way home. Spent three years in the RNR, doing periods of training at HMS Drake in Devonport, HMS Mercury, and sea time on various mineweepers. Norwich



Communication Centre was closed in the government cuts in 1977.

Life continued without any radio involvement until a radio amateur friend questioned why I had not kept up with my radio work after the Reserve and encouraged me to become a SWL and then maybe think about my ticket. Many happy hours indeed SWLlistening with a couple of Eddystone receivers (why oh why

did I ever sell them??) and then embarked on evening classes for my City and Guilds. Lots of effort into those as my electrical knowledge was Spartan to say the least. Once passed and application for the Morse Test, which held no fears for me....my call arrived, G0AZR.

I had purchased a Yaesu FT200 from my cousin and was soon spluttering into a microphone on 80mtrs. Hated it. Could not think of anything to talk about to save my life. All of my SSB working had been on Naval Nets where orders and instructions were issued.....chat was not one of my fortes. Within a few weeks, the morse key came out and I was back on the air. Again, I found it difficult to actually have a full QSO....being used to sending a message consisting of nothing but five letter groups...but it was supremely better than having to speak!! Didn't look back from then on.

1982 saw me applying to join the Naval Auxiliary Service as a communicator. Based in Gt Yarmouth, the work was not so intensive as the RNR, but at least there was the chance for radio work and sea time. That didn't last long.....

In early 1983 I contracted TB of the spine and meningitis. I was hospitalised for seven months and discharged from the RNXS as medically unfit.(Sure they said medically and not mentally). It was here that CW became an absolute treasure. The meningitis had

left me with the symptoms of a heavy stroke, my speech came back slowly but my coordination was poor. A very kind friend (G4RKK....thanks Iris) was happy to have lengthy qso's with me most days and through her diligence and patience my coordination returned by reading and sending. The doctors were pleased and quite amazed with the recovery over three months... After several years working as an estimator come technical rep in security fencing, I decided to make an enormous change in 2001 and returned to University to study for a Diploma in Mental Health Nursing. (at 51 years of age). I qualified in 2004 and after three years working advanced Dementia Wards, I now ply my trade as a Community Mental Health Nurse.

Married to June now for six years. A son from my first marriage and a step daughter from my second. I gave up radio in the late 80s due to domestic problems. In 2009 a visit to the Radio Hut at The Muckleburgh Collection (<http://www.muckleburgh.co.uk/>) put me in contact with members of the North Norfolk



Radio Club; visiting there, looking at all the vintage gear, listening to the constant chatter of morse on the Titanic exhibition, started it all off again. Once I had been reassured that I could apply for my old licence without having to retake exams....I was off like a rat up a drainpipe.

November 2009 saw the ticket arrive; a purchase of a TS830s second hand ; finding ATUs and morse keys packed away....a bit of wire and I was up and running. Finding FISTS on the internet has been very enjoyable. By the start of 2010, I was hankering to start back in QRP...something I had enjoyed the first time round....and with the advent of affordable QRP rigs (don't forget, I am technically challenged) I bought a second hand Yaesu FT817 off a well known auction site. Love it. Just love it. Never use more than 5watts now. I use a microphone once a week for the club 2metre net and probably don't say more than 20 words....still get tongue tied.

I still enjoy playing around with bits of wire to make aerials. At present I am using a dipole cut for a half wave on 80mtrs, set as an inverted V at around 25 feet. It seems to work well (especially since I remembered to have both legs approximately the same height off the ground). I really am quite envious of those skilled enough to make their own gear. I will always work a chirpy signal calling CQ, because in the main it means

someone who has had the skill to make something and get it on the air. I am endeavouring to make things, a Walford ATU is almost complete; I have managed a QRP homebrew dummy load/power meter. and the most technical of all, an RF Sniffer (four turns of wire around a T50 with a LED soldered on !!

Likes. Gardening. Caravanning. RADIO !!. Domestic bliss (rarely achieved) Studying and researching The Home Guard and Auxiliary Units. Locating and photographing WW11 airfields and defence systems. Would love to be able to afford to collect Kriegsmarine Radio items.

Dislikes. Stigma attached to mental health. Inane TV reality shows. (Domestic carnage...mostly achieved)

Favourite:

Music. Neil Young; Roy Orbison. The Jam

TV. Rebus; Inspector Morse; Wallander (In Swedish as well as English). Dads Army, Hello Hello , Foyles' War. Benny Hill. The original Satr Trek

Pin Ups. Sophia Loren; Lauren Bacall. Diana Rigg. Jamie Lee Curtis. Lt.Uhura

Films: Das Boot; The Graduate. The Bridges of Madison County.

*Heartfelt thanks to Jeremy for composing, and sharing his story with us. Since joining the society, he has been supportive and very active in the societies activities. I've enjoyed meeting him on air, and conversing via email. He is a great character!*

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*As some may be aware, I'm always looking for articles from the membership for BP. So I'll take this opportunity to invite members to put forward a submission for the "Spotlight On" series of articles... I look forward to hearing from you....*

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*Lets look at the results table....*

CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTALS	PWR
G4LHI	31	38	45	33	31	27	32	35	40				312	QRO
G0BAK	21	29	28	29	19	9	11	14	18				178	QRO
M6PHL	13	15	28	19	18	18	21	23	20				175	QRO
OH7QR	16	0	15	24	13	23	23	9	23				146	QRO
M0DRK	11	22	20	15	7	6	16	15	17				129	QRO
G3ZOD	8	16	11	16	8	13	6	10	22				110	QRO
G0AZR	0	29	0	0	23	6	13	10	17				98	QRP
PA3AFF	0	0	22	0	8	5	11	13	19				78	QRO
G3LHJ	0	0	28	20	0	0	0	4	17				69	QRO
GI4CBG	6	4	10	14	8	0	6	10	11				69	QRO
G0OTT	0	19	21	21	0	0	0	0	0				61	QRO
M5ABN	0	0	0	16	20	23	0	0	0				59	QRO
2E0JCY	0	14	14	19	0	0	0	0	0				47	QRO
2E0JYK	0	0	0	0	0	7	13	12	10				42	QRO
G4CMZ	0	0	0	18	0	0	0	4	16				38	QRP
M5FRA	0	0	0	14	10	0	0	0	0				24	QRO
G4MSN	0	11	11	0	0	0	0	0	0				22	MIX
M0GGK	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				7	QRO
M0XED	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0				6	QRP
G0DUB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6				6	QRO
PA1SOP	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0				4	QRO

*The 2011 Activity calendar has been added to this site. You'll see that a new activity has been added, this is by no means a competition in any way! Just something for members to work towards when time allows. I hope you'll take part. Thats all from me for another month. Look forward to hearing from you all soon.*

*Till next time;*

*Keep well;*

*"Keep pounding brass"*

*73.*

*MOBPT*