

BRASSPOUNDER

January 2026, Issue 211



Happy New Year to one and all. I hope your christmasses and NYE parties were good and indulgent. Our was vey family oriented which was good, although I worked right up to Christmas Eve and then had church services at midnight and on Christmas day, so all in all pretty tiring. I know I am not alone in that though.

I had a nice email from Thomas, DL2TT, who offered me the following article. I thank you Thomas and hope readers find this interesting.

Dear FISTS CW Colleagues,

Not long ago Thomas, DL2TT, wondered: where are our FISTS friends currently on the air, and at what Morse speeds are they travelling across the bands?

From this idea a practical project has developed into a neat website that may be just as interesting for you: <https://fists.dl2tt.de>

Perhaps your station setup invites you to operate mainly on 40 m? Simply sort the webpage by your favourite band and take a look

All bands	All continents	All countries	Reset
All bands			
10m			
12m			
15m	13:33:07 UTC	age: 1m	K4VRT 7.123
17m			
20m	13:33:01 UTC	age: 1m	K4NYM 7.039
30m			
40m	13:31:12 UTC	age: 3m	W4KXQ 7.112
4m			
60m	13:31:09 UTC	age: 3m	IU1BOT 28.027
80m			

where the next active FISTS member is located – on which QRG and with what CW speed. Further sorting options can be found in the menu, such as bands, continents, or individual countries. The page is meant to help you discover real on-air FISTS neighbours and encourage new contacts in CW on the air.

Thomas, DL2TT, welcomes your feedback. The link for contacting him is available in the upper menu bar of the website, and suggestions for improvement are highly appreciated.

To respect privacy, past QSO activity is kept in the database for only two hours and is automatically deleted afterwards.

The website displays your own callsign in real time as soon as an RBN skimmer is able to read your transmission. To avoid excessive refreshing, the time until the same call can appear again has been throttled:

All bands	All continents	England	Reset
UTC Time			
06.01.2026 13:19:51 UTC	age: 8m	W4COL 18.123	30m 19 5592
06.01.2026 13:16:57 UTC	age: 11s	G4AJA 18.1198	30m 18 4882

- Same call and same QRG: renewed display after 10 minutes
- Same call with QRG change: after 6 minutes

May this tool help you meet many FISTS members in CW on the air. Many thanks to the team at fists.co.uk for supporting the worldwide community.

Take a look at the Activity Map, sort by your band, and call the next FISTS member you find. Switch on the rig, set your key in motion, and turn those dits and dahs into new QSOs and friendships.

See you in CW – on the air.

On behalf of the project,
Thomas / DL2TT

I have not yet tried this but hope many of you do and are able to report back on it's usefulness. Again, my thanks to Thomas!

Here are the latest tables...

But first....drum roll please.....

o Ladder Entrants located anywhere.

1. M5ABN
2. MW0BGL
3. ON4ANE

o Ladder Entrants located outside DXCC entity 223 (England).

1. MW0BGL
2. ON4ANE
3. OH7QR

I have photos from QRZ of Peter and Erkki, Alan and Norbert will have to send me selfies!! Peter below in salmon shirt and Erkki at the outdoor /p desk!





A hearty congrats to all of you, Peter, Alan, Erkki and Norbert! Hard work I know, but it has paid off. Good luck next year as well. Actually, I say hard work but the reality is, it's talking with friends and so is always good fun, nevertheless, well done.

New Members

Name	Call	No.	Name	Call	No.	Name	Call	No.
Bob	G0UPD	#23168	Mark	WI3E	#23219	Samuel	AE2YG	#23227
Ann	M9KRE	#23169	Pedro	KJ5JAR	#23220	Ken	KN2D	#23228
Paul	G4IKJ	#23170	Byron	KG5AJL	#23221	Ethan	KQ4EIC	#23229
Trevor	G4RFM	#23171	Randall	KC5RCT	#23222	Tony	WA6FQJ	#23230
Ati	YT7LI	#23172	Jaime	AJ6GI	#23223	Josh	AA6C	#23231
Simon	GSQL85	#23174	Kevin	KO6CDX	#23224	William	N4ZDL	#23232
Ant	M1FTD	#23175	Pat	W5EES	#23225	Dan	KF8ECA	#23233
Matthew	KFOVSQ	#23218	Thomas	AD6TW	#23226	Lorin	W6EO	#23234

Awards

Name	Callsign	Member	Awards
Ian	G4MLW	#130	Millionaire 21 Million Endorsement
John	G0UBE	#934	Basic Century
Dave	G0DJA	#1372	Spectrum 40m
Jack	F5IJO	#17008	Millionaire
Roland	DL5CL	#17425	Millionaire 9 Million Endorsement
Pavel	VA4ADM	#22004	Millionaire 20– 25 Million Endorsements Spectrum 30m & 17m Endorsements

Ladder December 2025: Comments

Entrant	Comments
Jean F6JOE	HNY to all ! 73 Jean F6JOE - FISTS 16177
Leslie G0DFC	Well first let me wish you all a happy healthy new year and good DX. Pleased I got one half session in the evening of the 28th. 73' les/g0dfc
Simon G0FOZ	Conditions not great this month, particularly the first session. Thanks for all the ladder QSOs this year. May you all be happy and well in 2026, see you on the air! 73 Simon G0FOZ
John G0UBE	Hard work. There must be a way to work more!!
Chris G3XVL	My December log. Happy New Year to all. 73 Chris
Andy G4KKU	Thanks for the QSOs.
Keith G4TJE	Enjoyed the 2025 fists ladder. Hope to work you all in 2026. Hope to all have a happy new year. 73 Keith G4TJE
Richard G4TPJ	FT840
John G4YTJ	I only managed to operate on 28th December but at least managed both sessions. Condx on the afternoon seemed fair but I suspect there weren't many stations on. By the evening skip had lengthened on 40m and I was getting nothing less than 600 miles on the RBN. I did work Norbert ON4ANE on 80m but my inverted vee is too short for 80m really - it's rare to get any RBN reports with it.
Steve M0SHM	Thank you all for a great year of Fists Ladder QSOs. HNY and see you again on the bands in January.
Pete M5ABN	Log for December, Very little activity this month due to family commitments and Xmas. Looking forward to 2026 activities. Very Happy New Year to the team at Fists and all members. 73 Pete #6423
Alan MW0BGL	I've attached my entry for the December ladder sessions. It's a bit thin for QSOs this month as unfortunately, I didn't take part in the one on the 28th as I was away visiting family. I hope everyone had a good Christmas and all the best for the New Year. Looking forward to the forthcoming ladder sessions and the additional activities in 2026. Vy 73, Alan Mw0bgl 16507
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, please find attached my Ladderlog. Have been sick in December, now slowly recovering. HNY to you and your family. 73 Erkki OH7QR
Norbert ON4ANE	Hello David, Session 2 on 28/12/2025 impossible to hear any G stn on 40m, hny 2026 73 de NORBERT ON4ANE
Jan PA0SIM	Sri, was a bit sloppy with sending the log. This time I didn't forget. Best wishes to everyone for 2026! HNY es 73 Jan PA0SIM

Ladder 2025: Final Results

Callsign	Posn	Prev	Move	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
M5ABN	1	1	-	806	78	63	72	78	67	86	60	58	71	75	68	30
MW0BGL	2	2	-	628	54	65	72	51	63	55	33	53	52	49	49	32
ON4ANE	3	3	-	607	52	63	54	57	54	49	49	47	53	45	42	42
G3XVL	4	4	-	525	69	83	63	52	69	65	12				61	51
G0FOZ	5	5	-	491	6	39	59	45	49	71	57	34	37	20	28	46
M0SHM	6	6	-	393	33	45	36	33	36	27	21	30	36	34	38	24
OH7QR	7	8	↑	304	23	39	18	28	24	13	31	25	28	33	36	6
M0PBZ	8	7	↓	302	49	57	60	33	51	52						
G4YTJ	9	9	-	289	33	18	46	42	18	36	21	48		6		21
G3ZRJ	10	10	-	264	35	69	64				32	64				
F6JOE	11	11	-	239	27	12	33	21	18	16		30	28	33		21
MM0UMH	12	12	-	226	38	62		29	22	22		6	15	9	14	9
M7TSM	13	13	-	204	22	21	27	33	33	21	21	26				
G4TJE	14	14	-	198	16	26	33	8	8	8		7	23	25	29	15
2E0DPH	15	15	-	173	42	63	32							24		12
G0DFC	16	16	-	129	42	30	18								24	15
G4TPJ	17	18	↑	123	33	9	24							18	15	24
G4DNP	18	17	↓	112	19	12	10	6	12			13	22	15	3	
2E0YEM	19	21	↑	111									29	42	20	20
PA0SIM	20	=19	↓	108	30	27	24		15							12
G4KKU	21	=19	↓	105	6		6	18		6	6	12	6	21	15	9
M9RTG	22	22	-	88										42	46	
G0UBE	23	24	↑	61			22					14		15		10
G4YTK	24	23	↓	54	9	21	3	6	6					9		
DL6NAN	25	25	-	37						37						
G3PCL	26	26	-	36				3	6		3	6	6	6	6	6
G0JHK	=27	=27	-	34	34											
G0TRT	=27	=27	-	34								34				
OH2BN	29	29	-	33					12	6		6	6		3	
SQ9S	30	30	-	28	28											
M0MCL	31	31	-	24	24											
DL3GJ	32	32	-	20		1			16						3	
M0KBJ	33	33	-	19		19										
G0BON	34	34	-	15								15				
F5IJO	35	35	-	12		3	3							3	3	
M0YRU	36	36	-	8		1						2		5		
M0DRK	=37	37	-	6											6	
M0HGG	=37	=38	↑	6								2		1	3	
EI2KA	=38	=38	-	3		3										
HA2ZB	=38	=38	-	3									3			
M7YRU	41	41	-	1		1										

We have some great activities coming up, which I hope you can join in. If you have anything you'd like me to organise please do email me. All things are possible!!

That's it I think...have a great month ahead and keep me posted of the fun things!!

73

David G4YVM F15868

Upcoming Events

January 2026

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Thu 01 Jan		ICWC Top 9 Quarter 1 season starts	24 hours each day UTC
Thu 01 Jan		EuCW Snakes & Ladders winter/spring season starts	24 hours each day UTC
Sun 11 Jan		FISTS Ladder	1400-1559 UTC, 1800-1959 UTC
Thu 15 Jan		FISTS Bug Key 24 Hour Sprint	0000-2359 UTC
Sun 25 Jan		FISTS Ladder	1400-1559 UTC, 1800-1959 UTC

February 2026

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sun 08 Feb		FISTS Ladder	1400-1559 UTC, 1800-1959 UTC
Sun 15 Feb		FISTS Mechanical Key 24 Hour Sprint	0000-2359 UTC
Sun 22 Feb		FISTS Ladder	1400-1559 UTC, 1800-1959 UTC

March 2026

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sun 08 Mar		FISTS Ladder	1400-1559 UTC, 1800-1959 UTC
Sun 15 Mar		FISTS Straight Key 24 Hour Sprint	0000-2359 UTC
Sun 22 Mar		FISTS Ladder	1400-1559 UTC, 1800-1959 UTC