

# BRASSPOUNDER

April 2026, Issue 214



Welcome all once again to the fine organ that is BrassPounder!!

I have set up several great activities again to run throughout the year, these include the ever popular straight key activity and the mechanical key one too. I know many of you enjoy being 'forced' to use an old favourite key that might not get used very much - straight keys are fun but undeniably the paddles are easier!

Victorian data modes?



(Image: D Perry / Gemini)

I have been asked to deliver a talk to Norfolk ARC later in the year via zoom, which I agreed to of course especially as it is a request from Roger Cook, G3LDI, a FISTS member and stalwart of the amateur radio firmament. Roger is pictured below adjusting one of his aerials (seriously!) (Picture is Roger's from QRZ.com page).



Roger has aerials at 80ft and 110ft. Frankly, climbing a ladder to fifteen feet was more than enough for me (after 30 years flying airliners!!) so whilst his aerials are undoubtedly useful, for me they be impossible!! Nice to see though. I wonder if the neighbours know?

Anyway, my point in mentioning this is that the talk, to around 70 people and entitled

“Digital communications for the Victorian age; a look at Morse code as an advanced mode and how to start using it”.

The talk is aimed at promoting FISTS and Morse code to those amateurs that do not use Morse at the moment but who might have an interest in it. This talk is set for November 4<sup>th</sup> this year and if anyone would like to join me in delivering it I’d be delighted.

Right, onto tables...

Thanks for participating, have fun and I shall see you in four weeks!!

73

David, G4YVM

### New Members

Name	Call	No.	Name	Call	No.	Name	Call	No.
Pete	DL7SK	#23191	Howard	N4AKN	#23282	Frank	W2FAS	#23295
Paul	VK1OZ	#23192	James	VE3LMK	#23283	Lance	N1LHR	#23296
Ruben	EA1FXC	#23193	Zachary	W0ZRS	#23284	Paul	W3BBR	#23297
Dick	PE1RVW	#23194	David	K1FA	#23285	Chris	GW4HCA	#23400
Sanjay	VU2AQJ	#23195	James	AC2FU	#23286	Daniel	DL4VCW	#23401
Allen	KE8ZLT	#23274	Brett	KD0CJS	#23287	Phil	G0UFB	#23402
Joseph	AD9HW	#23275	<a href="#">USS Blueback ARC</a>	W7SUB	#23288	Murray	GSWL86	#23403
Bruce	NR4K	#23276	Richard	NI3N	#23289	Ron	LA4HIA	#23404
Rodney	KI6PXV	#23277	Tom	KA2KGP	#23290	Maurizio	IZ4AGI	#23405
David	AH6US	#23278	James	AD9EX	#23291	Mike	G0BJU	#23406
Jordan	AB2T	#23279	Bernie	WB6PIO	#23292	Trevor	G6SJM	#23407
Rick	W4IO	#23280	Terry	AG1D	#23293			
Seth	WV8IRD	#23281	James	KW5CW	#23294			

## Awards

<b>Name</b>	<b>Callsign</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Awards</b>
Fabio	IK0IXI	#14539	Worked All States
Peter	GOPNM	#16592	Millionaire 9 Million Endorsement
Alvaro	HK5NLJ	#17799	Diamond Century

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## Straight Key 24 Hour Sprint March 2026: Comments

Entrant	Comments
Simon G0FOZ	73 Simon G0FOZ
John G0UBE	Not much to show for 4 hours, the bands were just not playing for me.
Alan MW0BGL	<p>Please find attached my log sheet for today's Straight Key Sprint activity.</p> <p>I had a number of enjoyable QSOs. Although contest QRM was a bit of an issue at times on 40m even though I did work a few of them!</p> <p>Many thanks to the Fists members I worked for the nice rag chew QSOs.</p> <p>73, Alan Mw0bgl 16507</p>
Norbert ON4ANE	<p>Hello David, very difficult to have QSO with a magnetic storm ongoing.</p> <p>73 de Norbert ON4ANE</p>

## Straight Key 24 Hour Sprint March 2026: Results

Callsign	Position	Points
ON4ANE	1	20
MW0BGL	2	19
G0UBE	3	4
G0FOZ	4	3

## Mechanical Medley March 2026: Results

Callsign	Position	Points	BK	MK	SK
			Jan	Feb	Mar
MW0BGL	1	49	15	15	19
G4BFG	2	32	16	16	
ON4ANE	3	29		9	20
MOXCV	4	19		19	
G0FOZ	=5	14	11		3
G3XVL	=5	14	4	10	
G0UBE	7	4			4

Key: BK = Bug Key Sprint, MK=Mechanical Key Sprint, SK=Straight Key Sprint

## Ladder March 2026: Comments

Entrant	Comments
Jean F6JOE	Have fun ! 73 Jean F6JOE - FISTS 16177
Simon G0FOZ	Not my usual ladder activity this month. The first session was pretty quiet and slow going. The second session I intended to be EA8/G0FOZ/QRP but an Atlantic storm and the xyl's threats of using the LW as a garotte put an end to that session before it began ;-) 73 Simon G0FOZ
Paul G0OER	I think this is my first submitted log for a ladder.
Danny G3EEC	Life got in the way for both Feb sessions and the early March one and condx very much interfered with the late March sessions however a few points is better than no points and I am hopeful to make up some ground in April. Vy 73 de Danny G3EEC
Chris G3XVL	March log. Conditions not so good this month but managed to work a few. 73 Chris
Robin G4DNP	Vy 73 Robin
Richard G4TPJ	IC761 / Doublet
John G4YTJ	I only managed to operate on the one Sunday this month.
Kevin M0MCL	Apologies for absence in recent months but moving to a new QTH, and everything that involves, has curtailed my radio activity somewhat. On the plus side, I am now reasonably established, the radio shack is fully operational and the bigger garden suits the doublet very well!  See attached my Ladder log for March, as I'm sure others will testify to, band conditions were not the best!  73, Kevin M0MCL, #20982
Steve M0SHM	Missed the first session of the month so had to catch-up during the second. Band condx a bit noisy but still very enjoyable.
Alan MW0BGL	Please find my Ladder log attached for March.  Cndx were very difficult in the afternoon session on the 22nd, especially on 40 metres. Things were improved however for the evening session, which I spent mostly on 80 metres.  73, Alan Mw0bgl 16507
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, please find attached my ladder log. 73 Erkki OH7QR
Norbert ON4ANE	Hello David, another magnetic storm on the 22th resulting in a few qso's 73 de Norbert ON4ANE

## Ladder March 2026: Results

Callsign	Posn	Prev	Move	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar
G3XVL	1	1	-	170	61	68	41
MW0BGL	2	=2	-	159	40	64	55
ON4ANE	3	5	↑	133	43	43	47
G0FOZ	4	=2	↓	120	49	55	16
M5ABN	5	4	↓	99	39	60	
M0SHM	6	6	-	85	36	31	18
2E0YEM	7	7	-	71	38	16	17
G4YTJ	8	11	↑	63		36	27
G3EEC	9	8	↓	61	47		14
G4TJE	10	14	↑	57	31		26
OH7QR	11	12	↑	53	14	21	18
MM0UMH	12	9	↓	46	9	32	5
M0MCL	13	-	↑	43			43
F6JOE	=14	17	↑	39	15	6	18
G3JRH	=14	10	↓	39	12	27	
G4KKU	16	=15	↓	33	18	6	9
G0DJA	17	13	↓	32	19	13	
G4TPJ	18	=15	↓	27	24		3
M9PHL	19	18	↓	18		18	
G0OER	20	-	↑	15			15
G3PCL	21	19	↓	12	9	3	
G4DNP	22	20	↓	11		10	1
G0UBE	23	21	↓	9	9		

## Upcoming Events

Note: To use FISTS Log Converter for the recent additions to the on-air activities, please install the [new version 4.9.4](#)

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### April 2026

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Wed 01 Apr		<a href="#">ICWC Top 9 Quarter 2 season starts</a>	24 hours each day UTC
Wed 15 Apr		<a href="#">FISTS Bug Key 24 Hour Sprint</a>	0000-2359 UTC
Sun 26 Apr		<a href="#">FISTS Ladder</a>	1400-1559 UTC, 1800-1959 UTC

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### May 2026

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sun 10 May		<a href="#">FISTS Ladder</a>	1400-1559 UTC, 1800-1959 UTC
Mon 11 May	Mon 18 May	<a href="#">FISTS Mechanical Key Week 2026</a>	24 hours each day UTC
Fri 15 May		<a href="#">FISTS Mechanical Key 24 Hour Sprint</a>	0000-2359 UTC
Sun 24 May		<a href="#">FISTS Ladder</a>	1400-1559 UTC, 1800-1959 UTC

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### June 2026

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Mon 08 Jun	Mon 15 Jun	<a href="#">FISTS Straight Eight 2026</a>	24 hours each day UTC
Sun 14 Jun		<a href="#">FISTS Ladder</a>	1400-1559 UTC, 1800-1959 UTC
Mon 15 Jun		<a href="#">FISTS Straight Key 24 Hour Sprint</a>	0000-2359 UTC
Sun 28 Jun		<a href="#">FISTS Ladder</a>	1400-1559 UTC, 1800-1959 UTC

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