



Welcome to this edition of BrassPounder, which covers FISTS Europe's on-air activities in February 2016.

At the time of writing (Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March), [Exchange Your Age Week](#) has started and runs until 23:59 on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March UTC. Please join in and have lots of QSOs. The exchange is the same as the Ladder except that age is included. Not all stations you contact may be willing to give their age, so please ask at most once; you'll still get points for the QSO, just not as many as you would if you had got their age. Please submit your logs for the whole week after it is over.

I released [FISTS Log Converter program for Windows version 3.2.5](#) on 18<sup>th</sup> February. Please make sure that you are using this version (or a later one).

Regarding Ladder entries, please send in all your sessions in a month together in a single log at the end of the month. The reason for this is that the software that produces the monthly result tables ignores all entries except the most recent one you've sent in, so if you were to send in your 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday QSOs on their own and then later send in your 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday QSOs, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday QSOs will be ignored. (The reason for only using the most recently sent-in entry is that it allows you to send in a revised entry if you wish.)

Before coming off my soapbox, a note on log accuracy: each month the adjudication software flags problems with a few QSOs. The usual causes are (1) one station logging the wrong band and (2) one station not logging the QSO. I don't worry about the band because at least both stations agreed that the QSO took place. In the case of a missing log entry, I assume that the QSO did take place, so the station who logged the QSO is not penalised but the station who didn't log the QSO is missing out on points. So, do please take care when logging.

## Ladder Results

Firstly, here are the comments received:

Entrant	Comments
<b>Phil 2E0DPH</b>	Here is my log for the February Ladder. Good to hear lots of activity especially on the 2nd Sunday  Many thanks Phil 2E0DPH Fists 14543
<b>Robert DM4RW</b>	Not much luck during the second weekend, but first weekend was OK.  73 from Bavaria!
<b>Laurent F5OGJ</b>	Valentine's day seems to have caused trouble to our lovely Ladder event (especially on evening timeslot!)  Vy 73, Laurent

<b>Richard G0ILN</b>	Even managed WA8IWK! Allen who was in Florida with a small whip on his balcony. Do I get extra points? Hi.  Richard.G0ILN
<b>Michael G0POT</b>	Actually had a couple of good sessions even if I didn't use the whole 2 hours for either...all QRP of course!  The afternoon session on the 28th was brought to an end by DQRM as a contest suddenly started...not very good form on the part of the other operators. Perhaps they should take part in the Ladder for a laid back challenge!  de Michael (G0POT)
<b>John G4FWA</b>	Off and running (hopefully!)
<b>Peter G4LHI</b>	I attach my log for the February Ladder. Mni tnx to all members that joined in this nice event & to Graham for organising the 2016 program of events. Fairly free from contests this month. Looking forward to the EYA Week.  73 de Peter G4LHI
<b>Peter GW0VLN</b>	Near ten years off cw, trying to get the rust off.
<b>Derek M0DRK</b>	Hi Graham, Good to hear many Fists members enjoying the Ladder during February. Sorry to have missed many stns, but some of my QSOs went on for a good chat so ran out of time. All quality QSOs with Fists Members. 73 for now, see you next month.  Derek, M0DRK, Nr. 8344
<b>Dave M0GGK</b>	February was a mixed result really. I managed to work some stateside members on 15m, but also I worked a lot of fists members on 40m from UK.  Onwards and upwards to March guys, thank you for the QSO'S, and I told my XYL I have to order a new Begali key as I need a new key!!
<b>Pete M5ABN</b>	Condx much improved this month, let's hope it continues. Mni thanks to all ops who came on to make the Ladder such fun,  73 Pete M5ABN #6423
<b>Andy SP9NLI</b>	Not too many FISTS could be heard at my QTH this month.

There is a change to the January results; Dave M0GGK was unable to submit a timely entry due to computer woes; his entry is now included in the January column.

Welcome to this month's new entrants to the 2016 Ladder: Mike G0POT, Alex PA1FOX, Merv G4KLE, Gianfranco IU1DZZ, Peter GW0VLN, and Feri HA7HF.

It's very noticeable that the scores for February are higher than for January with all but two entrants bettering their January score.

As you'd expect early in the year, there has been considerable movement in the table. At the top end. Vanni I5ECW is the new leader. While Peter G4LHI stayed in second place, Phi 2E0DPH has moved up to third place.

The results table is on the next page:

Callsign	Position	Previous	Movement	Total	January	February
I5ECW	1	=2	↑	82	36	46
G4LHI	2	=2	-	80	36	44
2E0DPH	3	5	↑	68	27	41
M5ABN	4	11	↑	56	17	39
G3XVL	5	7	↑	55	24	31
F5OGJ	=6	6	-	54	26	28
G0ILN	=6	8	↑	54	22	32
SP9NLI	8	10	↑	48	20	28
M0DRK	9	9	-	44	21	23
IK0NOJ	10	1	↓	40	40	
G4IZZ	11	13	↑	35	15	20
OH7QR	12	4	↓	34	34	
G4KLE	=13	-	↑	28		28
M0GGK	=13	=19	↑	28	4	24
G0POT	15	-	↑	24		24
DM4RW	16	14	↓	18	10	8
OH2BN	17	12	↓	16	16	
G4FWA	18	=17	↓	12	6	6
HA7HF	19	-	↑	10		10
G0DDX	=20	=15	↓	8	8	
IU1DZZ	=20	-	↑	8		8
M6MEN	=20	=15	↓	8	8	
EA4BL	23	=17	↓	6	6	
GW0VLN	=24	-	↑	4		4
OZ8AGB	=24	=19	↓	4	4	
PA1FOX	26	-	↑	2		2

'C' represents a check log.

## QRU?

That's it for this month. The next activities are:

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sun 06 Mar	Sat 12 Mar	<a href="#">FISTS Eu Exchange Your Age Week</a>	0001-2359 UTC
Sun 13 Mar		<a href="#">FISTS Eu Ladder</a>	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 27 Mar		<a href="#">FISTS Eu Ladder</a>	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 10 Apr		<a href="#">FISTS Eu Ladder</a>	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 24 Apr		<a href="#">FISTS Eu Ladder</a>	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

Have fun with CW!

73 de Graham G3ZOD  
[activities@fists.co.uk](mailto:activities@fists.co.uk)