



Welcome to this edition of *BrassPounder*, which covers FISTS CW Club Europe's [on-air activities](#).

Greetings dear friends,

I am pleased that the ladder is still proving to be fun despite the band conditions still being variable. I have managed to work a few new members (I mean, members I have not previously worked!) and had some really good QSO, but I have also had my share of total blanks.

Are you managing to work any new comers in the LFL activity? The Listen For Learners activity is currently running and whilst I am trying to work it, I have to confess that I'm not hearing many other LFL stations so have my doubts as to its success. This surprises me because it was in direct response to some learners / newcomers that I created this activity...just goes to show the extent of fake news!!

Alfred Vail Activity etc

Later this year (when I can get time to create the rules) we will be launching the Alfred Vail activity. This activity will be a challenge (in several senses I hope) with a winner and placers. The basic format will be to use the letters of the stations you work to create a few words: clearly from the title the words will include ALFRED VAIL. I am still working through the maths with Graham on this, because I want it to be challenging and fun but not impossible (or impossibly complex!).

I hope to run this one from May to December. We still have SKW and Day Hopper to look forward to but if there's anything takes your fancy earlier in the summer do let me know.

QCX party?

I know several members have created the little QCX transceivers for various bands – and one chap has dual banded it! I'd like to suggest a QCX QSO party on the weekend 24th / 25th March. This coincides with the change from BST to GMT (UTC for those who live the wrong side of the channel!). This is short notice but as most QCXs were built for 40m we need to catch the season I think. So 0001hrs 24th March to 2359hrs 25th March All times GMT/UTC/Z . Obviously any band you've built the rig for. Call CQ QCX.

Members worked

February was a lean month for me and I only worked one member, Steph, F5NZY. Next month is already looking better...but that's next month. I worked a very interesting non member, G4HWK, Fred, who is 95 years old but

managed to tell me quite a lot about his use of the venerable T1154/R1155 in RAF ASR boats. They had a hard time tuning them into the whip aerials apparently, they were simply too short. And there was me thinking everything the government did was good...

I think that's it for now. Looking forward to working you...

73

David G4YVM 15868 activities@fists.co.uk

Coming soon...

March 2018

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Thu 01 Mar	Sat 31 Mar	FISTS Eu Listen for Learners	0001-2359 UTC
Sun 11 Mar		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 25 Mar		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

April 2018

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sun 08 Apr		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 22 Apr		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Mon 23 Apr	Fri 27 Apr	EuCW QRS Week	0000-2359 UTC

Alfred Vail Challenge May – December 2018

Comments for February 2018 Ladder

Entrant	Comments
Phil 2E0DPH	Good to work the evening session for a change on the first Sunday, 80m was going well. See you all again next month. 73 Phil 2E0DPH Fists 14543
Thomas DK3DUA	Only a few Q's , mni local QRM here, sorry for not hearing weak stns. Vy cold this month, minus 10 C in the morning make no much fun on bicycle, hi. vy73 Tom DK3DUA
Nils DL3HR	I have had fun! Hope to meet you again!
Richard G0ILN	Good fun as usual. Richard G0ILN
Robin G4DNP	This is my first entry for the Ladder. Many thanks to all for the QSOs during the last year which has been a great enouragement for my learning CW after many years of no activity. Best 73s Robin, G4DNP I
Peter G4LHI	G4LHI. Log for Feb 2018.Enjoyed as always. .Mni tnx to all I had nice QSOS with during 2017 mni tnx Graham,David & Ian
John G4LRG	Some interesting conditions this month and I managed to get on both afternoon and evening sessions. Thanks to all for the points.
Richard G4TGJ	My first go at the FISTS Ladders. Unfortunately Sunday afternoon is often when we do things together as a family and the evening is tea time. Plus at the moment my aerial struggles on the lower bands so inter G is pretty much impossible. I'll keep trying though!
Emil I5EFO	Many thanks for QSOs HPE CUAGN. 73 de Emil I5EFO
Mik IZ2FME	VY BAD PROPAGATION ALL BANDS CLOSED FOR ME - 73's de II2FIST MiK #18180 (IZ2FME - MM0FME - FISTS NR. 18103)
Pete M5ABN	Good to meet old friends again, look forward to March Vy 73 Pete
Erkki OH7QR	Here comes my log for Ladder in Feb. 2018.. 73 Erkki OH7QR nr 8318
Michael OZ8AGB	Not the best condx but had a few nice QSOs.
Mariusz SP2SWI	Only one QSO this time (VY TNX Nils, DL3HR). I have not heard the rest - too much local QRM (S9). Good luck for everyone in the next Ladder! 73 Mariusz, SP2SWI.
Fanis SV2BBK	Hello everybody, Managed to participate on my first ladder session this year. Nice to work some members. I hope for more :-) 73 Fanis SV2BBK

Results for February 2018 Ladder

Callsign	Posn	Prev	Move	Total	Jan	Feb
G4LRG	1	1	-	126	58	68
M5ABN	2	2	-	103	48	55
G0ILN	3	=4	↑	91	45	46
2E0DPH	4	=4	-	90	45	45
I5ECW	5	3	↓	88	47	41
G4LHI	6	6	-	86	44	42
OH7QR	7	7	-	84	40	44
I5EFO	8	9	↑	60	27	33
DK3DUA	9	11	↑	46	21	25
M0DRK	10	10	-	44	26	18
DL3HR	11	-	↑	43		43
G3ZRJ	12	13	↑	42	15	27
MW0BGL	13	12	↓	36	18	18
EA7KB	14	8	↓	29	29	
GM0EPO	15	15	-	21	9	12
IZ2FME	16	-	↑	17		17
SP7OGP	17	-	↑	15		15
SV2BBK	18	-	↑	14		14
M0UZE	19	14	↓	12	12	
OZ8AGB	20	=17	↓	9	3	6
OK1PSI	21	16	↓	4	4	
G4DNP	=22	-	↑	3		3
G4TGJ	=22	-	↑	3		3
OH2BN	=22	=17	↓	3	3	
SA5ACN	=22	=17	↓	3	3	
SP2SWI	=22	-	↑	3		3