

BRASSPOUNDER

February 2020, Issue 141



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

I hope you have all had a good month since the last BP...the log reports suggest that you have!! I must admit to having worked VERY few FISTS members this month and no British ones at all. The few times I have called CQ on 40m FISTS freq I was called back by a chap from the DR Congo! After him I was called by a Saudi station who was running 10 watts!

Changes to my station. Well, since I last wrote the news letter I have borrowed a linear (FL2100Z) from a generous friend and have been running 400 watts into my doublet.

I'm a life long advocate of QRP, or certainly low power (QRPC 2568) but have always fancied a bash at a linear – I think we should all try new things sometimes. So here we are...my Tentec Orion 2 feeding a 2100Z...and what a game changer.

I can now call CQ and people call me. In fact if you look half way down the photograph of Dxcluster, you'll see me!! That's a first for me. BIG smiley face. Ha ha. Small things and all that. BUT...the linear does change things, 400 watts makes a huge difference to my DX score for example and I have worked more countries in the last few weeks than in the last few years – probably since my halcyon days of 1980s sunspots in fact. That's the benefit of 400 watts.

What I can't explain is why I have missed so many FISTS members though...just one of those things maybe.

I was talking to Dave, G0AYD recently and he has acquired a new radio (new to him) an old Icom which he has been having a lot of FISTS fun with. I haven't worked this yet but I hope to soon.

Another FISTS, Martin, M0MWS, also popped round the other day and said he was really getting into straight keys. He has a Czech key – which are lovely – but not much else so I lent him my 1988 GW Morse Keys big brass pounder which usually runs my 1154. We had a few minutes chat about the best (best?!?) way of using a SK then we just chewed the fat for a while about radios. He has bought an old Tentec too. I warned him that it's a dangerous slope...one never owns just *one* Tentec! Anyway, he is looking forward to running his Argosy and enjoying that delightful Tentec audio and QSK.

I wonder whether there's enough FISTS Tentec kit out there to have a Tentec activity?

A screenshot of a Dxcluster log from dxcluster.co.uk. The log shows a list of stations with columns for call sign, frequency, and other details. The stations listed include PY4EP, KF8G, EA6Y, SQ7FPH, EA1TX, EA4FET, W3LPL, LZ5PW, EA7FH, OE3FVU, EA7JXZ, IZ5WTV, RA6LO, EA8BMG, IK2TCV, R7RDE, W3LPL, EA1DHB, SP5GEO, W3LPL, EA1DHB, N4WMB, EA7JXZ, WF3H, and EA1YV. The log also shows some activity like 'tnx dr OM GLDX 73', 'K4526', 'CQing', 'nice sig up', 'CW TU up1', 'K9IG', 'Heard in NH and M', 'tnx qso up1', 'HERMANDADES Rk', 'JN78->K003 FT8', 'Tnx', 'Tnx, listen 1.50 UP', 'Tenerife Carnival A', '73 tnx', 'Heard in NC', '90 Years of PZK Av', 'Heard in NH', 'KFF-0453 TNX QSC', 'muy bajito!', and 'IN520C->O143 FT8'.

Dunkirk.

In May this year the Dunkirk Little Ships association <http://www.adls.org.uk/t1/> will be running a special activity at sea for the 80th Anniversary of the evacuation <http://www.adls.org.uk/t1/content/80th-anniversary-return-dunkirk-may-2020> and this looks like a long event - certainly 18th May to 25th may, maybe longer but the website is a little obscure.

Anyway, it seemed to me that we should run an activity over this period - so we will. I think it would be a superb time to get the WW2 radios on air but also just for fun to support the event. I haven't emailed them yet but will do so. I thought myself of getting two SES calls, GB4DYN and GB4AMO – operation DYNAMO. If we can tie it with the event *per se* then maybe many of us could have a SES call.

Anyway, how's the feeling for some event over the period of the Dunkirk thing? I wonder if we could do it like this:

Exchange – RST + miles (km) from Dover or Dunkirk. Points awarded for all stations worked plus three points per station within 50 miles of either (that being an approximate distance between the two).

I haven't run this past Graham but I will if people think this activity has legs.

Ladder

Some interesting comments on condx for the ladder this time round: I think they sum up what we all find. One day it's Mexico wall to wall and the next it's a dead band. Chin up...it'll only last for fifty years I am told. Thanks for the entries anyway. I really hope to meet some FISTS on air soon.

Have fun!

Best 73

David G4YVM F15868

Comments for Ladder January 2020

Entrant	Comments
Nils DL3HR	hard work in January. Maybe we get better CONDS in February, hpe cuagn 73!
Richard G0ILN	Evening session of 26 Jan must be my worst score ever! Condx were terrible.. It will be interesting to see how other ops faired? Happy New Year to everyone, Richard G0ILN
Andrew G0OEY	Not a bad month for me. Band conditions not so good on second session here and contest didn't help.
Peter G3JRH	1st session horrible condx. Better on the 2nd session.
Chris G3XVL	Nice to get 2 US stations (non members) in the log this month.
Tony G3ZRJ	Sorry vy QRL non radio etc
Peter G4LHI	G4LHI Claim for Jan Ladder gud fun as usual, but I'm afraid the band condx were not at their best, lots QSB & QRM but I got a few QSOs in spite of that Hi. Happy New year & a Healthy QRM/QSB free 2020 G4LHI # 2219 73 k
John G4LRG	Really tough conditions and other commitments this time but pleased to give/receive a few points. Thanks to all.
Richard G4TPJ	Ten Tec Argosy - 50watts - Doublet
Ray G4XUZ	My January ladder attached (Calc file). I could only get on air for one-half of one session, so a mini-entry. But still fun. Best wishes, Ray G4XUZ, Fists 777
Dave G7WHI	Very Poor conditions on the evening of 26th. Hope to work many more of you in the Feb session. 73 Dave
Giorgio IW2JJS	73 TKS
Phil M0PBZ	Conditions improved during the afternoon session on 26/1.
Mark M0UZE	Thanks
Pete M5ABN	Very limited activity this month due to poor band conditions. Better luck in February Hi Vy 73 Pete M5ABN #6423
William MI0WWB	Sorry I missed the 26th!
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, please find attached my first log in 2020. Conditions are still poor. Many thanks and 73 de Erkki OH7QR nr 8318

Results for Ladder January 2020

Callsign	Posn	Total	Jan
G4LHI	1	55	55
M0PBZ	=2	36	36
M5ABN	=2	36	36
OH7QR	4	28	28
G0ILN	5	27	27
2E0DPH	=6	24	24
G3XVL	=6	24	24
G4LRG	=6	24	24
G4TPJ	9	21	21
G0OEY	10	20	20
DL3HR	11	16	16
G3JRH	12	12	12
MI0WWB	13	10	10
G4XUZ	=14	9	9
OH2BN	=14	9	9
IW2JJS	16	7	7
G7WHI	17	4	4
G3ZRJ	=18	3	3
M0UZE	=18	3	3
SV2BBK	20	2	2

Upcoming Events

February 2020

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sun 23 Feb		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Wed 26 Feb		FISTS Eu Day Hopper	0800, 1300, 1800 UTC for 1 hour

March 2020

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Thu 05 Mar		FISTS Eu Day Hopper	0800, 1300, 1800 UTC for 1 hour
Sun 08 Mar		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Fri 13 Mar		FISTS Eu Day Hopper	0800, 1300, 1800 UTC for 1 hour
Sat 21 Mar		FISTS Eu Day Hopper	0800, 1300, 1800 UTC for 1 hour
Sun 22 Mar		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 29 Mar		FISTS Eu Day Hopper	0800, 1300, 1800 UTC for 1 hour

April 2020

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sun 12 Apr		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 26 Apr		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Mon 27 Apr	Fri 01 May	EuCW QRS Week	0000-2359 UTC