

BRASSPOUNDER



April 2010 (Issue 49)

Welcome to the April edition.

As I prepare this edition for publication EUCW QRS is under way. Hope you've all been able to get on and support the event. The QRS Party has been stagnating over the past few years.

Lets get on with comments received this month.

From Phil. M6PHL, who comments;

Hello Robert,
Please find attached my log for the April Fists Ladder.
Many thanks again to all those I had QSO's with and those that I attempted to contact but lost in the deep QSB during the afternoon session Hi!, at least the evening was a little better.
I look forward to working you all and more again in May.
73, Phil M6PHL Fists: 14543

Glad you found time to get on Phil with your busy schedule. Look forward to hearing from you in May.

From Bill. GOBAK, who comments;

Hi Rob

Please find attached my Ladder Log for the month of April.

I had to settle for the later session on the 11th due to other commitments. I do not favour the later session as I suffer with local QRN at my location. My antenna being very low does not help but is something that I have to make do with.

Having said all that I managed to work 7 members and 2 non members on this session so I was very pleased. It was also a pleasure to work 4 new Fists members for me on this session also. It was also very nice to work Kev (6440) in Derby again.

I returned to my normal afternoon session on the 25th and I was surprised to find that I did not do quite as well as the evening session on the 11th.

I managed to work 5 members and 3 non members on this session. Once again it was very nice to work 2 more new Fists members for me. It was nice to chat with Darren in Coventry (14062) as his signal was doing very well. I am sure he said he was running 300 watts, it makes my 50 watts seem like QRP, hi. I did manage to work my friend Peter G4LHI on both my sessions this month, always a great signal with me and always a pleasure to chat with him.

Well Rob that's it for another month. No changes to the gear at this end, still running the FT950 with 50 watts into the G7FEK antenna. I am still delighted with the antenna and each month on the Ladder I seem to do very well.

Best wishes and thank you for your continuing hard work.

Bill G0BAK Fists 13262

Hello Bill, and good to hear from you and receive your report. Pleasing to hear each month that new members find their way into entrants logs.

Really pleased to hear from Colin, M5FRA this month. Colin has been QRT for a few years.

Hi Rob. Please find the attached excel file in the format requested for ladder entries. This is the first time I have entered since October 2006 and its great to be back. My Morse is still a bit shaky after ~4 yrs off the air but I hope its improving. Hope to send another entry next month!
Colin - M5FRA, FISTS 7738

Good to hear from you once again Colin. Its been a long time, good to have you back on board.

And from good friend Peter, G4LHI.

Hello Robert, I attach my report & claim for the April Ladder Activity, I was fairly pleased with my score this month, but not quite as many as March hi! Very many thanks to all members & non members that once again made this another very enjoyable & interesting event, it was very nice to hear so many members working each other & enjoying the slightly better condition during the second session. I only managed 18 QSO's for my total of 33 points this month, working just the afternoon session, but did manage to earwig for one hour on the evening of the 25th &

conditions seemed to be very much better & heard quite a lot of activity, well done chaps, sorry I could not join in this time. Hope the entry list will get longer & longer during the year. Very pleased to work one new member this month, Mike, G3WWS, with a very early Fists number 604, wonder why I have missed you during my Fists activity Mike. hi hi!! Many thank for a nice first Fists QSO & points, sorry not to work you both sessions but look forward to the May event. Very nice to have you back this month Erkki, always a pleasure to work you mate, how's your "Rag Chewers" going?. Looking forward to giving a few points away during the EUCW QRS Party this coming week, sorry I will not be able to be quite so active this year, it is a very nice friendly event so hope it goes well. That's all for now folks, see you on the next one, in the mean time please take care & have fun on the key. 73/88 for now de Peter G4LHI # 2219 & Jean once again says thanks for your kind wishes.

Good to hear from you once again Peter. Thanks for your report. Again, our good wishes go to Jean and yourself.

And from Derrick G3LHJ

Hi Robert,
Here's my April Ladder Log, not so many this time , guess everybody out enjoying this FB WX Hi.
CUL 73 de Derrick G3LHJ.
Newton Abbot, Devon. UK

Hi Derrick. I think you are quite right about the fine weather we've been having of late, Gardening and jobs to keep the station managers happy are taking precedence over the hobby.. Hi..

Good to hear from Peter. M5ABN

Hi Rob,
Please find attached my log for April. It was nice to be able to get on the radio again, after what seems ages.
What with running the shop here in Brixton (open till 9pm even on Sundays) and trying to fit everything else in means that I cannot always make it.
Conditions on the 25th were quite a bit better than the previous session.
Well, looking forward to the May ladder and hope to put in a bigger log then.
Vy 73 to you all,
Pete M5ABN

Welcome once again Pete. Know what a busy man you are, glad you managed to find some time to get on air and relax for a while. Look forward to hearing from you in May.

Yet another new addition to the ladder this month. Kev. G4CMZ joins us.

Hi Rob, here's my first monthly score for the 2010 Ladder.
Not having too much time for radio at the moment. Certainly enjoyed these last couple of sessions, and it was good to talk to old friends. I must say, Bill G0BAK is a good 2 S points up with his new aerial. Still using 2 watts to low dipole.
Again many thanks for your work.
Kind regards G4CMZ 6440

Good to hear from you once again Kev, glad you've managed to find some time to get on and you've enjoyed the April sessions.

And from Jeremy. G0AZR who comments;

Dear Rob,
Hope things are ok with you.
Sunday 25th was my one and only day in April.
I found 20mtrs and 40mtrs particularly and unusually dead. None of the European stations
Nice to work Paul, G4LNA (14815) for his first FISTS QSO. I duly took a bow.
Then of course, just before 20.00; a thunderstorm appeared, so G0AZR beat a hasty retreat. Thanks again for all of your hard work.
73 Jeremy G0AZR FISTS 14553

Good to hear from you Jeremy. All well here thanks. Nice to hear that G4LNA worked you for his first FISTS QSO. Good to know that new members are active on the band(s).

Darren. G0OTT comments;

Hello Rob,
Attached is my results of the April ladder.
First off I could only make the last Sunday, conditions were far from favourable in the afternoon but I had the pleasure of meeting members.
It was very nice to meet Colin M5FRA for the 1st time, I had to ask for a repeat of his QTH, never heard of Eyam before. Nice to meet Peter G4LHI again.
Another new member for me was Gra G3ZOD
I had a very nice chat with Roy G3FYX in Bristol who had thought of joining Fists before but never got around to doing it, said he would take a serious look at joining, he enjoys a good chat.
I was a bit ashamed of running QRO 300w into a new trap dipole, a lot of stations worked were QRP, the most notable was Jake, ON4YZ in Wervic my last QSO in

the ladder this month, QSB and QRM but very nice to work you for the 1st time
Jake.

For your info, I run both QRO and QRP from either my FT990 barefoot or driving an
old heatherlite hunter or elecraft K2 1-5w, the new dipole much quieter than my old
windom.

So I achieved 21 points in not great conditions, due to better aerial, (maybe the amp
helped hi),

Regards DarrenG0OTT

Nice to hear from you this month Darren. Good to hear you met members for the first time
during the ladder sessions.

From John. 2E0JCY

Hello Robert,

Please find my April ladder log attached.

I could only make the later sessions this month(due to a clash with the footy) but still
managed a few QSO's

and nice to meet Roy G14CBG and Tom G3KEF for the first time.

regards John 2E0JCY#13253

Good to hear from you John. As I regularly comment: Always good to hear of members
meeting for the 1st time.

And from Derek. M0DRK

Hi Robert, Here attached my logs for the April ladder activity.

Not to good on the ladder as condx here not too good, many thanks to all who gave
me points for April. See you in May. 73, Derek. M0DRK.

Good to hear from you Derek. Glad you found time to pop in and get a few points on the
board.

From Gra. G3ZOD who comments;

Hi Rob.

.Ladder

I missed both sessions on 11th April due to being at the NARSA Norbreck Rally in
Blackpool.

On 25th April, 80m seemed livelier than I've heard it for a long time although with extremely deep fading. Peter G4LHI #2219 was peaking well over S9, the strongest I've received from him for well over a year. I was pleased to meet up with Colin M5FRA #7738 and Darren G0OTT #14062 for the first time.

73 de Graham (Gra) G3ZOD FISTS #8385

Good to hear from you again Gra. Yes, Norbreck was a successful visit for the society. First time I've attended. Pleasure to meet members, both present and new ones who were pleased to join at Norbreck.

And from Erkki. OH7QR who comments.

Hello Robert,
Please find attached my Ladder Log for April. As usual was 20M the best band for me, in fact the only one. In winter I managed to get QSO's with UK also on 80M during evening sessions but the condx are now not so good because of the light summer evenings.
Many thanks for your good work Robert and 73.
Erkki OH7QR #8318.

Hello Erkki, good to hear from you once again. As a matter of interest to members who may be unaware; Erkki can be found "camped out" on 14.058+/- during ladder and other FISTS activities. He'll be pleased to hear your call to him, and is always ready for a chat.

From Roy. GI4CGB, who comments;

Hello Rob. A better return this time, as I managed to spend two sessions on air during the month. Many thanks for running the ladder.

Hello Roy, glad you managed to get on for a little longer this month. Thanks for your kind words. It's a team effort.

Another new addition to the ladder this month is Andy. PA1SOP #8988 who comments;

Hi Rob.
Please find attached log for my first attempt for a long time in the ladder.
73 Andy PA1SOP 8988
Met Vriendelijke Groeten / Kind Regards,
Andy Clements
Hoofddorp, NL.

Good to hear from you and welcome Andy, a pleasure to receive your entry.

News from G3ZOD regarding award recipients for this month.

Awards

Congratulations to the following members:

Geoff G4AQZ #7768 has achieved the [Diamond Century Award](#)

Milan OK1KW #4827 has achieved the [Platinum 250 Century Award](#) and the [Millionaire Award](#) 4 Million Endorsement Sticker



I've received news of the passing of an acquaintance and FISTS member Fred. G3VVP. I understand that he became silent key on the 24th of April. Again I understand he had been unwell for a few weeks and had a few health problems of late. Fred had the most marvelous sense of humour, we shared many emails inflicting our own particular brand of humour on one-another. Fred is pictured here with his "MRM" (Most readable Morse) Certificate gained in the 2008 EUCW QRS Party. Our thoughts are with his family at this sad time. Rest in peace Fred... Thanks to G3RYZ for the information.

UPDATE

I've received this communication from Peter. G3JFS.

Hello Robert,

Fred's funeral took place this morning, the 5th of May at the Weston Mill Crematorium, Plymouth, in the presence of family and close friends. It was well attended by members from three local radio clubs - Plymouth Radio Club, West Devon Radio Club and the Saltash and District Radio Club. The FISTS Club was represented by myself; G3JFS Fists #8985, Roy G4PRL #8997 and Mick G3RYZ #6081.

During the tribute Fred's amateur radio activities and especially his great interest in Morse code and the FISTS Club received a special mention. The vicar seemed to understand what

this was about; no wonder, after the service we learned that he was the son-in-law of Mike G3ULN, another keen local CW operator.

As requested I passed your condolences to the family.

Many members will know Fred either from working him on the air or reading his words of wisdom that appeared from time to time in Brasspounder. They will be pleased to know that there was a good amateur radio presence at his send off. You will be pleased to know that Fred enjoyed reading the Brasspounder each month.

73 Peter, G3JFS

Thanks for the update Peter. I know many will miss Fred on air, his words of wisdom, and not least his ability to poke fun at himself, and share it with us. Yet another "Character" leaves us... I'll invite readers to go [here](#) and view Fred's "Franken-key" As he described it, used in EUCW 2008....

Lets take a look at the results for April

CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL	SPWR
G4LHI	31	38	45	33										147QRO
G0BAK	21	29	28	29										107QRO
G0AZR	8	29	21	22										80QRO
M6PHL	13	15	28	19										75QRO
M0DRK	11	22	20	15										68QRO
G0OTT	0	19	21	21										61QRO
OH7QR	16	0	15	24										55QRO
G3ZOD	8	16	11	16										51QRO
G3LHJ	0	0	28	20										48QRO
2E0JCY	0	14	14	19										47QRO
GI4CGB	6	4	10	14										34QRO
G4MSN	0	11	11	0										22MIX
PA3AFF	0	0	22	0										22QRO
G4CMZ	0	0	0	18										18QRP
M5ABN	0	0	0	16										16QRO
M5FRA	0	0	0	14										14QRO
M0GGK	7	0	0	0										7QRO
M0XED	0	0	6	0										6QRP
PA1SOP	0	0	0	4										4QRO

Very pleased to see such a large ladder table this year. Lets hope the "dire conditions" improve throughout the year.

That's all from the stable of MOBPT for another month, I'm receiving logs for the FISTS sponsored EUCW QRS Party 2010 as BP goes online. If you do have an entry to submit; please get it to me at your earliest convenience, bearing in mind the last date for receiving logs is the 31st of May 2010.

Until next time;

"Keep well, keep pounding Brass"

73.

MOBPT.

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