

BRASSPOUNDER



August 2009

Greetings once again and its time for the August edition of BP.

As I prepare this for publication, no doubt, and hopefully many will be preparing for SKW. By the time it will be online, SKW will have come and gone for another year. I've been made aware for an amendment of the rules to be considered, which will allow members who are finding it difficult; for whatever reason to pound brass with a straight key for any length of time. Suggestions have made as to a manual sideswiper. After consideration, I have decided that a valid point has been made, and I will amend the rules to allow this, I feel that this will stay within the rules of SKW; and allow members who are finding it difficult to use a straight key for any length of time to participate. As long as no electronic means of keying are used. I shall implement this change of rule for the 2010 SKW.

As no doubt some of you will know; (who worked me) I was active with FISTS HQ Station GX0IPX (001) for 1 day during the week. Also GX3ZQS (002) for a short while. Pleasure to meet members and non members who were on 80-40-20m during the day. Condx...not too good, but fun to persevere and exchange the necessary information required; thanks to those who took time to answer my "CQ".

On to the reports from ladder participants, firstly from G4LHI... I hope you will all join me in wishing Peter's XYL Jean a speedy return to good health.

Hello Robert,

Pleased to say I was able to take part in the Ladder Activity for August, Jean is now home from hospital & being well looked after, I can keep an eye out for her if she needs me so she has given me a leave pass for the two Ladder sessions this month & my Monday & Tuesday practice sessions on 2M, its very nice to be back on the key again.

I must again thank all the guys that helped me to obtain my 26 points this month, mostly the same guys on each session, but unfortunately did not manage to work Gra G3ZOD on

the second session, sorry Graham if you did call me; conditions were as usual on 80M, pretty poor.

I must report that a very unusual thing happened on Sunday 23rd & was most enjoyable, usually it's a one to one QSO on the ladder, but I was in QSO with Derek, M0DRK, when Daryl, G0ANV/M joined in, then Peter, G3JFS, from Plymouth joined the "group" so a four way QSO & each station passed the required info for the logs together with the usual chat, was really great & do hope it may encourage others to join during a QSO instead of waiting for the finish hi! Many thanks guys & look forward to the Sept ladder.

Hope the SK Week goes well in Sept; I will try my best to pop in & give a few points away during the week, but will not be able to be as active as I usually am on this event.

73/88 to you all & as Robert says "Keep Pounding the Brass"

Peter G4LHI # 2219.

Thanks for your report Peter. Give Jean our very best wishes, from us all who take part in the activities and read BP....Nice to hear a group QSO in action again, haven't heard one for some time. I've often put in a "QSK" with a few members in the past but not had the invitation to join in.

And from Gra; G3ZOD

Hi Rob.

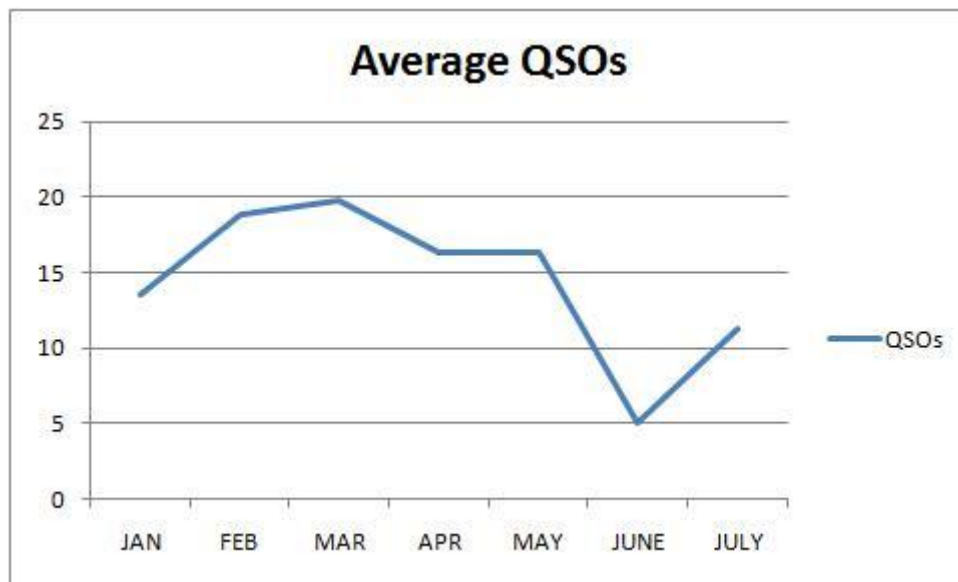
Here is my Ladder entry for August.

9th August: During the afternoon session, I was pleased to see that Peter G4LHI's 80m signal was stronger than I have heard it for many months. Could it be that 80m propagation is improving at last?

In the evening session, I managed to catch up with David VK3DBD. Okay, well ... I wish ... he is over in the UK operating as G3SCD, but a pleasure anyway!

23rd August: Well, what do they say about tempting providence? Peter G4LHI this time was at a record low in signal strength on 80m with me.

I was curious whether the numbers in the Ladder would reflect changes in 80m propagation conditions over time and created some graphs. However, the penny eventually dropped that other bands are in use so the results are not meaningful. I did create a graph that shows the average number of QSOs per entrant this year. The average number of QSOs dropped dramatically in June, but hopefully the increase in July will continue during the remainder of 2009 as the Summer holidays come to an end.



In between the ladder sessions, I've spent most of my on-air time on 6m enjoying the sporadic E. However, as this has all but come to an end for this year and the weather is not quite so hot, I expect I will be spending a bit more time with my soldering iron and other bands.

73 de Graham (Gra) G3ZOD FISTS #8385

Thanks Gra for your overview and report...makes very interesting viewing.....

And from Bill, GOBAK

Hi Robert

Please find attached my Ladder Log for August. Once again another disappointing month. I found the conditions very poor especially for my 5 watts. I even had a go on 40 metres on the 9th as I could only manage the afternoon session on that day.

I was going to use my Homebrew LCK that I have now finished, however the bands being as noisy as they are, I needed the narrow cw filter in the FT817.

I have managed to work roger, Fists 9820 a couple of times using the Homebrew but that is usually later on in the day when conditions are more favourable for qrp working.

Anyway thanks again to the Fists members who heard my low power signals, and thanks to all at Fists for the Ladder Challenge.

Best Wishes, Bill Schofield Fists 13262

Hello Bill, good to hear that the homebrew LCK is now finished... Thanks for your kind words, and support of the event....

And from Derek, M0DRK who comments on the Group QSO earlier mentioned by G4LHI

Hi Robert, Pleased to be able to send in a log for the August Ladder. Condx. not been too good as you may well know. It was quite busy on 80m for me when working Peter, G4LHI, we were called by Daryl G0ANV and then by Peter, G3JFS so it was then a group qso. great fun.

73.M0DRK.

Thanks for your log Derek, pleased to hear that you too enjoyed the group QSO, be good to hear a few more....

Finally from Kevin. G4CMZ who writes;

Hi Rob, Update for August. It would be interesting to see what power and antennas other stations are using. Maybe this could be incorporated in additional columns within the results table. I know some of the guys have low power and very basic aerial systems. Kind Regards Kev G4CMZ 6440.

Nice idea Kev. lets put this over to the participants. With their next log.....perhaps you'll give us an update of your power and aerial system that you've been using over the years operations so far; and I'll include it in the table for the next BP.

All thats left for me to do is publish the updated ladder scores for the month.

LADDERTOTALS2009												
CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DECTOTALS
G4LHI	29	40	44	30	27	7	0	26				203
M5ABN	27	40	27	21	0	0	15	0				130
G4CMZ	0	21	26	22	5	4	13	8				99
IK2RMZ	7	12	20	0	43	10	0	0				92
M0DRK	10	22	15	15	8	3	0	16				89
G0BAK	6	8	16	14	12	4	10	9				79
G3ZOD	8	12	11	7	7	4	7	6				62
OH7QR	15	4	5	5	12	3	0	14				58
2E0TEK	18	20	14	0	0	0	0	0				52
G8XGQ	2	10	0	0	0	0	0	0				12

Thats all from me for another month.

Till next time; keep well, keep pounding brass.

73. M0BPT



[back to homepage](#)