

BRASSPOUNDER



February 2010 (Issue 47)

Welcome to the February edition.

February seems to have flown by, as you read this, Exchange your age Week; (EYAW) will have been completed, I hope that all who participated will have had a fun week, and enjoyed the activity, as someone commented, we are all a year older so the scores should be higher!..

Straight on to business, lets look at some of the reports received this month..

****Be sure to read GOAZR's comments and my reply****

2E0JCY joins the ladder for the first time this month; welcome John. He comments that he enjoyed working members this month, and is happy to send in his log after amassing 14 points. Look forward to receiving your entries during 2010 if you find time to get on air John.

From Derek, M0DRK

Hi Robert.

Attached is my Log for Feb.. 2010. A little better effort this month and things seem to be getting much better on the bands. It is very good to see a few more new stations taking part and many thanks to those who gave me the points. See you next month . Take care,

73 for now, Derek, M0DRK

Good to hear you've enjoyed the months activity Derek, you may have seen; (If you subscribe to the FISTS EU Reflector) that comments have been made on there about band conditions being favourable of late. Long may it continue.

From Peter, G4LHI with his report and round up of the months activity.

Hello Robert,

I am pleased to attach my claim & report for the "February Ladder Activity".

This month was clear of the dreaded "CQ test" & conditions were quite favourable & pleasant enough to enjoy the nice chats this Ladder encourages.

I managed 11 QSO's in the first session & 9 in the second for a total of 38 points.

Very pleased to work one new member, Darren, G0OTT during the afternoon session on the 14th, I did not hear him in the afternoon of 28th, (perhaps watching the footy hi) but was very pleased to hear him calling CQ Fists Ladder during the evening , & was pleased to have a QSO with him & give him 2 points, he seemed to be doing very well, think he must have caught the "CW Bug" like another new comer to our Club, (Phil M6PHL) well done both & please keep sending your claims to Robert, he does not mind how many he gets!!

Thanks to every one for a very enjoyable event once again & hope conditions are as good during March, talking of March, the event will be well & truly over by the time the next BP is published, but I do hope the EYA week goes well, it was a great success last year & don't forget we are all a year older now so should be some good big scores hi!! I did remind all the guys I worked during the Ladder this month so no excuse what so ever hi!!

As Robert says "Keep Pounding the Brass". Please take care, & enjoy your CW.

73/88 de Peter G4LHI & again many thanks from Jean & myself for your kind thoughts.

As ever Peter, a concise and in depth round up of the months activity; many thanks.

From Bill, G0BAK; with nice comments on the activity for February.

Hi Rob,

Please find attached my Ladder Log for Feb.. 2010. I was really pleased with the Ladder this month and the activity was good on the 14th session. When I turned on the radio on the 28th for the afternoon session, I had to check that the aerial was connected, 80 metres seemed dead. I tuned all the cw section and heard nothing. I quickly switched to 20 metres and called cq for a while, nothing. I then tried 40 metres and still no reply. At this time I thought I was wasting my time. As I can only work the afternoon sessions I decided to try 80 metres again. Thankfully I heard Peter G4LHI working another station so I knew the band was not totally dead.

I decided to plant myself on 3.557 away from Peter and slug it out. After a short cq at 14.18, I heard MOPIE Bob in Huddersfield, not exactly DX but still worth 2 points. I guess Bob brought me some good luck as I went on to work another 6 members and 1 non member for a score of 15 points. Not bad to say I thought the band was dead. In all I think that the

bands are starting to pick up. The previous night 27th Feb., I worked Canada on 30 metres followed by W2VT just outside New York again on 30 metres but both stations well after 10 pm and I was only using 30 watts and my G7FEK Limited Space Off Centre Dipole very low down. I am sorry for keep mentioning my aerial but I am so pleased with it I just want to share my success with others.

Well Rob that's it for another month, not sure where the time goes. Thanks to all stations giving me a call this month especially a couple of new ones for me, G4VHH, Fred nr Lincoln and G4NCU, Mike in Yarnscombe.

Best wishes Bill GOBAK Fists 13262

Thanks to you Bill for your concise round up of February's activity, you'll have seen mention earlier about band condx seeming to come out of the doldrums, both yourself and MODRK make the same comment, lets hope it will continue.

Another welcome goes to Darren, G0OTT, who comments;

Hello Rob

Just a quick line to say I have found some activity from member's. It always helps to look in the right place hi

I managed to work 3 of the 4 sessions in February so enclosed are my best two.

19 points thanks to Peter g4hli coming back on to let me know I could claim for both calls for Ray. (Ray, G0FHK #712 was operational with GB95STD #6400 during the ladder activity.)

Its been nice to meet all the station's so far look forward to meeting some more.

I also worked a couple of members on the earlier session on the 14th, with GW3UEP a non member, but Roger remembered me from Gqrp days.

I have recently finished an Elecraft K2 rig and must say even now in its non optimized form is very nice, very quiet noise floor.

Hope to get on the ladder next month as well.

Might even get a proper aerial up, the 40m windom has surprised me so far though on 80m.

73

Darren G0OTT

Welcome aboard Darren, good to have you on board, and an impressive score of 20 points.

From Phil, M6PHL, who comments

Hello Rob,

Please find my log for February 2010 Fists Ladder. Very good to hear quite a bit of activity on 80m again this Sunday. Many thanks for the continued encouragement from all other Fists members, especially Peter G4LHI, Derek M0DRK and the rest of the gang who contribute in our slow morse group on 2m every Monday & Tuesday evening. I look forward to working more Fists members on the next Sunday Ladder. All the best. 73 to all.

Phil M6 PHL Fists:14543.

Good to hear from you once again Phil. Pleased that you're enjoying your CW. I'm sure you will continue to work many more members as the year progresses.

I've received the first QRP ladder entry of the year from Ray. G4MSN.

Attached is my entry for the ladder for February. All were worked with 5 Watts using my TS530 and 85' long wire.

73 Ray G4MSN Nr 13248

Welcome Ray, always good to hear that the QRP stations are active. Incidentally, I assume that entrants power outputs are QRO unless informed otherwise, so if you are running low power let me know.

Graham. G3ZOD sends his report and comments.

Ladder

The 14th February was an improvement for me with four contacts on 80m in the afternoon and three on 80m in the evening. Also in the afternoon I was pleased to meet up again with Martin IK2RMZ on 20m after a gap of nearly 10 months. Sad to say though the 28th February was disappointing with only one contact during the afternoon, although I could hear a number of weak stations in and out of the noise.

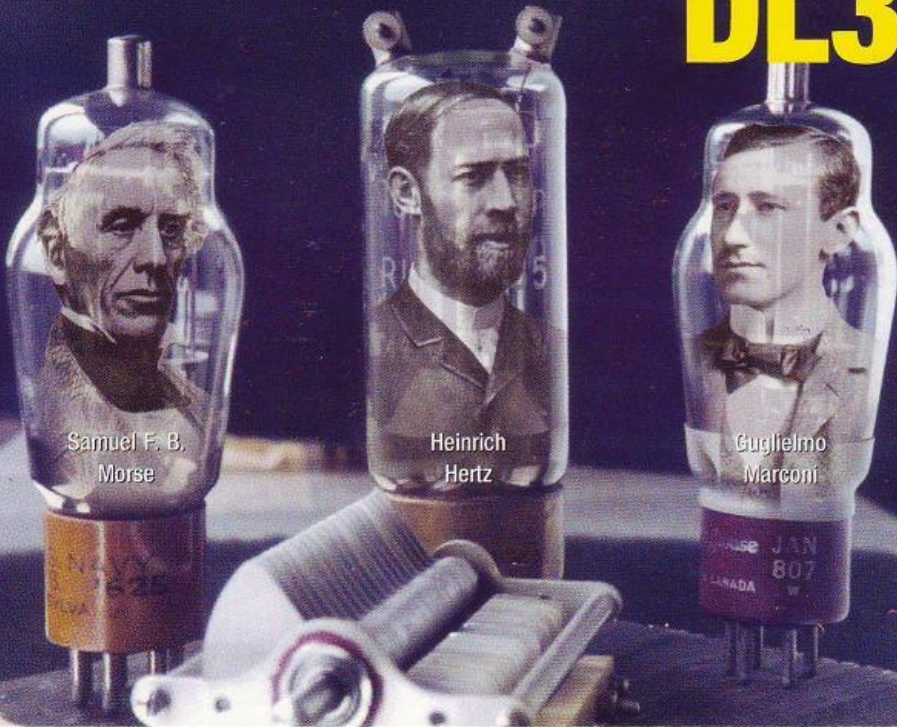
As I've been a little tied up during February, I've not much to report regarding on-air activity. I did receive a particularly nice QSL card via the GQRP bureau though from DL3RAD (for a 30m QRP CW QSO). Notice the valve on the right is the once famous 807 (widely used as a power amplifier).

GERMAN AMATEUR RADIO STATION

DL3RAD

Heinz Riedl
Ganghoferstr. 12
93133 Burglengenfeld
Germany

DOK: U13
Locator: JN69AE
WAZ-Zone: 14
ITU-Zone: 28



To me, the shape of the 807 makes them look very quaint. The Heathkit DX-100U transmitter I had a long time ago instead used a pair of 6146 valves (pictured) with a more modern appearance.



The ones in my experience that looked the most elegant though were the QQV06-40A and its shorter brother, the QQV03-20A (pictured).

I used a QQV06-40A in a 2m amplifier and a QQV03-20A, which was capable of less power but higher frequencies, as a "tripler" to get me a 70cm signal from a 2m input signal.

73 de Graham (Gra) G3ZOD FISTS #8385

Thanks Gra, for your report, and sharing with us your QSL card and memories of your days of valve output transmitters, and of course the reknown Heathkit range.

And From Jeremy. GOAZR #14553 (QTH Norfolk) who comments:

Hello Rob.

I enclosed my ladder entry for February. Conditions have been changeable as usual, to work Dave. GW4WMC was unusual; as normally I can copy him but not vice-versa. Apologies to Dave for cutting the QSO short. I did, as a matter of interest, work a YL op; Christa DL6DC. Do I get extra points for contacting a YL op? (Tongue in cheek)....

73. Take care, Jeremy. GOAZR.

Jeremy also comments that, being just four miles from the coast, he has the benefit of contacting stations from mainland europe with more ease...

Now, Jeremy, your tongue in cheek request for extra points for contacting YL op's had me thinking for a while about the validity of such an idea... In today's politically correct world where so many things are taboo. (Sexism being one of them) had me wondering if such a proposal would offend any YL members (and OM members for that matter) So I'm going to throw this over to you, the membership for your thoughts and comments on the matter!

Jeremy's tongue in cheek request does merit thought! After all, our activities within the society are meant to be fun and friendly affairs first and foremost. With the slightest hint of competitiveness being second...it doesn't do to take ourselves too seriously. So lets have a forum on this, I look forward to receiving your comments.. tongue in cheek or serious will be published (Unless you request otherwise) A final thought; should this idea come to fruition, I wonder what dear AGCW YL op Rosel. DL2FCA (A great supporter of the FISTS/EUCW QRS Party) would think about her sudden popularity on air?...I'm sure she'd be pleasantly surprised and more than happy to be the focus of attention..(Hi)..... I look forward to hearing from you. I can be contacted through the usual channels..

The VHF/UHF/SHF Activity is not proving as popular as I would have envisaged; with just one entrant, but it is early days, so many thanks to G3ZOD for supporting the venture. Graham has amassed 20 points thus far in 2010. Well done Gra!

The latest awards news from G3ZOD:

Awards

Congratulations to Bert F6HKA #14577 on achieving the Basic Century Award and the Silver Century Award - well done!

Lets take a look at the ladder results, early days yet, but significant movement of placing's already in the first two months of operation.

CALL	JAN	FEB	TOTALS	POWER
G4LHI	31	38	69	QRO
G0BAK	21	29	50	QRO
G0AZR	8	29	37	QRO
M0DRK	11	22	33	QRO
M6PHL	13	15	28	QRO
G3ZOD	8	16	24	QRO
G0OTT	0	19	19	QRO
OH7QR	16	0	16	QRO
2E0JCY	0	14	14	QRO
G4MSN	0	11	11	QRP
GI4CGB	6	4	10	QRO
M0GGK	7	0	7	QRO

As a final thought...Dont forget the FISTS sponsored EUCW/QRS Party week in April,

Monday 26th April 2010, 0001 UTC, to Friday 30th April 2010, 2359 UTC.

This is normally a popular event where members of CW clubs meet on air. Full rules can be found by visiting the "events calendar 2010" link from this site, or of course the FISTS UK/EU site. [here](#) and going to the activities linkI'm hoping to be active with one of the HQ calls during the week.

That's it for another month from me. As ever, many thanks to you all for your submissions, band reports, points of view, etc. There'd be no BP without you...See you all next month..

73. Keep pounding brass...M0BPT



[back to homepage](#)