

# BRASSPOUNDER

February 2011 Issue 59

Welcome. Once again another month goes by. And it's time once again for me to assault your mailbox and the internet with another offering of BP.

By now, EYAW will have been completed for another year.

I've been inundated with logs thus far for the event! Many thanks to you all for your kind words and comments already received!

I'm looking forward to scrutinizing the logs; and will bring you the results in due course.

On to the band reports and comments regarding the FSA and ladder happenings during February.

Firstly, from Graham, 2E0JYK.

Hi Rob,

Very nice to take part in the activity ladder once again; totally enjoyed it, looking forward to the next sessions in March and I might take part in the exchange your age week on March 6. Nice to take part in these activities as it is all interesting and helps me to do better and learn more each time.

73 for now.

Graham, 2E0JYK.

Good to hear from you Graham. A pleasure to hear that you're enjoying CW.



And from Phil. M6PHL.

Hello Rob,

Hope you are well, Here is my log for the February Ladder.

Also attached 'Mug shot' as requested.

At last; conditions seem to be getting better on 80m, especially on the second Sunday this month or is it the fact that I have invested in a new trapped Dipole.

Still looking to work a few fellow M3, M6 call signs, come on where are you? I look forward to hearing and working many of you again next month.  
73 Phil M6PHL Fists 14543

Hello Phil.

Not too bad here thanks. Glad to receive the "Mug-shot" for this edition of BP. Another "Face behind the key" For members to see, and for my "Rogues gallery"

Hi, I would imagine that your new addition to the aerial farm at M6PHL could have been one of the factors in your good month. Results during the coming year will confirm this.

I'm sure our newer entrants to the hobby and the society will join us during the year.

And from Derek. MODRK

Hi Robert, Here is my Ladder Log for Feb. Sorry to have missed out last month so will have to try and catch up, hi.

Things were quite good this month and my Snowdonia aerial performed quite well. If I didn't spend so long chatting with my contacts I'm sure there would have been one or two more calls in my log but always a pleasure to work on CW and not be in too much of a hurry, hi. Many thanks to all stations that I worked during Feb., hope to meet you all again in March.

73 to all, Derek, MODRK

Good to hear from you Derek. Thanks for the comments on the aerial; I've been looking at this product with interest. I look forward to hearing more comments on the validity of the aerial from you during the year.

From Peter; G4LHI

Hello Robert,  
I attach my claim & report for the February 2011 Ladder.

Band condx not too bad this month & very enjoyable event as always, there seemed to be a fair number of members about but unfortunately time did not allow for me to catch them all.

I managed 10 QSO's for 19 points on first day & 9 QSO's for 18 points on the second for the Ladder this month, for a final score of 37 points, so let's hope we get a good clear run for the 2011 Activities. I worked one new Fists member on the first week. Many thanks for points Peter, G0TLU, & welcome to the club, I'm sure you will enjoy it & make many friends on the



bands. Don't forget we also have the EYA Week during March, that's always a well attended event & good fun, we are all a year older as well, so should get some good scores hi.

Very many thanks to all members & non members once again for the very enjoyable QSO's including extra points for the new FSA again this month, this looks like being a very interesting event & I do hope that there will be a good few members & non members joining in during the year for both events, including the EYA Week in March.

That's all for now folks, hope to see all those that joined us in January/February many times again during the year & lots more new members joining us, there certainly are a lot of new call-signs & big new numbers on the Webpage every time you look at it.

Keep bashing the brass! Hope you all have a very good Healthy 2011.

73 de Peter G4LHI # 2219.

Hello Peter. Good to hear from you once again, as ever; many thanks for your comments and report(s) on February. Entrants have commented on band condx being improved during the month. Let's hope that this trend continues during the coming month.

From Piet PA3AFF

Hello Robert.

Here my short log file for this short month. I was active in all 4 ladder timeslots, but made only few QSOs. Chose Feb 13 as the date for my ladder entry.

The - 40 and 80m - QSO with G3ZOD was for both ends hard work!

Good luck to everyone.

Till the next time.

73 Piet PA3AFF.

Good to hear from you once again Piet. Always a pleasure to receive your log(s)

And from Greg, G0DUB who comments;

Hi Rob,

The notable contact this month was G3ZOD on the afternoon of the 13th, QSB kept striking just at the point of exchanging reports but we eventually completed the QSO after probably working other stations in the intervening time. Thanks to Gra for his patience!

Still not having too much joy in the evening sessions but hopefully returning daylight and sunspots will help that :-)

73,

Greg, G0DUB #6095

Good to hear from you Greg. Your dogged determination to complete with Gra reminds me of an occasion in 2002 where I chased an FISTS NA member club; (K4FFF) over three days to complete for points towards my century award!

From Bill, G0BAK

Hi Rob

Please find attached my Ladder Log for February 2011.

A lot better effort this month than last. Conditions didn't seem too bad and I didn't stumble on any contests either.



A new local member was worked on the 13<sup>th</sup>, Roger in Rawdon Fists 15500, only about 3 miles away. I felt bad about giving him a 579 report, must have been all the filters on my FT950 hi; very nice to meet you Roger. Another new one for me was Smudge nr Derby, Fists 1614, worked on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Again nice to meet you Smudge.

I am hoping to get a vertical up in time for the March Ladder, having said that I doubt I will manage it.

Wishing everyone good luck with the Ladder this year.

73

Bill GOBAK

Fists 13262

Good to hear from you Bill; I understand about your very busy time over the coming months, and hope you'll be able to get on; relax, and meet up with some friends if and when time allows.

From Erkki. OH7QR

Hello Robert,

Attached is my entry for the February Ladder; Many thanks to all for the QSO's.

I hope to meet you all again in March.

73 Erkki OH7QR

I see that you managed to get FISTS member club call GX3STD (St Dunstans) in your log Erkki. I don't think I've ever heard it on air! Well done.

A few words from Peter G4LHI regarding the FSA

Hello Robert,

I attach my claim & report for the February FSA, for the first quarter of 2011.

Well, I was so pleased to see 10 claims for the FSA in the Jan BP, one more than the Ladder this month, I do hope that those joining for this new activity enjoyed it as much as I did, & I hope that Rob continues to get as many & perhaps more as the year unfolds. It was also nice to see some new call-signs on the list apart from the old stalwarts, & welcome to you all.

I would like to thank all those members & non members for helping me to gain such a good score again, certainly much more than I had expected (112 QSO's for 350 points) & for keeping me just within the time factor again, many thanks Erkki & Dawson. It is certainly an event that keeps you on your toes hi. I managed to make QSO's on 80, 40, 30, 20, & 2m, nothing on 17m this time, but early days & think the bands are improving slightly.

I also was very pleased to work two new members during the month, Peter, GOTLU & Keith, W2ZRA in NY, hope they will join us again in the next & following months of this event & the other activities in Robs Activity Calendar.

This FSA is a very good "Non contest" activity to be able to keep QRS, when needed, to help & encourage our new friends on the bands, which they appreciate.

I do hope there will be continued activity on this nice new event & Rob does not have to cancel it through lack of interest.

That's all for now chaps, look forward to plenty of activity in this event & the Ladder & the EYA Week during March.

73 for now keep bashing the brass!!

Peter G4LHI # 2219

Thanks for your interesting comments and views Peter. Yes; I'm hoping that some of our newer (And seasoned) members will come on board during the activity.

From OH7QR

Hello Robert,

Please find attached my FSA log for February. A bit better result this time - I had 99 QSOs and got 269 points. Peter and I managed to work total 90 minutes also in February, many thanks mate. Thanks also to other members for the points. I hope to meet all of you again in March.

73 Erkki OH7QR.

Good to hear from you Erkki. Nice to hear that yourself and Peter are making use of the 90 minute rule during the activity.

From Bill GOBAK

Hi Rob

Please find attached my score for the Four Seasons; Very little activity this month as per my earlier email. A super idea this one though, I just wish I had more free time to play radio at the moment.

Best wishes

Bill GOBAK

Fists 13262

Glad to hear you've found time to get some on air time in Bill. Good luck with the project.

And from Dick, SV0XBN

Dear Long Lost Cousin Rob.

February spreadsheet attached.

Not the best of months over here, due to a storm about 10 days ago, all the antenna poles and wires were brought down.

Managed to put up a temporary wire after a week but need to purchase some new poles and rebuild . . .

So only just over 4.5 hours worked this month... Ho Hum!

Looks like we will all have to go some to catch Peter G4LHI!

73, Uncle Dick

SV0XBN/9.

Hello Uncle! Good to hear from you. Sorry to hear about the Storm causing damage to the aerials at SV0XBN. Let's hope you get the repair done as soon as time and parts availability allows. G4LHI and OH7QR are steaming ahead in the first quarter. Lots of air time from the both of them. Look forward to hearing from you next month...

For those who may seem a little confused by the greetings from myself and Dick,

We had started sharing a joke regarding the possibility of me being a long lost second cousin, twice removed; hoping to get a free place to stay whilst visiting Crete (Hi) Of course, things have carried on from there. So don't be surprised to see the "greetings" that we share on here. I hope you'll all check your family history to see if SV0XBN is a long lost relative... Sorry "Uncle" (Hi)

From Gra G3ZOD



Hi Rob. I got my Christmas Elecraft T1 auto-ATU and BL2 balun kits finished in time for the February Ladder sessions and this has made a big difference - changing band is a real breeze now. I feel I'm being a bit lazy, but it beats wasting many minutes fiddling around with the manual ATU. Another recent gadget is a cure for icy shack feet - an electric foot warmer - effectively a small electric blanket in the shape of a boot - wonderful



13th Feb Ladder: In the afternoon every single one of my 80m QSO partners gave me readability 4 - ouch! Special thanks to Greg GODUB #6095 who after a "busted" QSO kindly called me back later and we managed to complete successfully. As for the evening, with a single QSO, the less said the better!

27th Feb Ladder: On 20m it was great to meet up with Erkki OH7QR #8318 after our failed QSO in January. This was followed by my first QSO with Josef OE6JTD #14889, who is a recent member and told me later that he thoroughly enjoyed the Ladder. I met up with Piet PA3AFF #445 in the afternoon on 40m but it was a real struggle - when he called me I just got "AFF" but I knew who it was! On 80m I was pleased to have a QSO with Smudge G3IVF #1614 for the first time. During the evening conditions seemed quite reasonable and I was able to have some chats, which was a real treat, including a half hour contact with Rod G0IAL #348. The icing on the cake was a contact with the FISTS affiliated club callsign GX3STD #6400 (St. Dunstons ARC, operated by Ray).

Four Seasons: A few more points than last month. I really like this - excellent idea. An additional benefit is that if a single QSO with a FISTS member lasts 30 minutes or more, it will also count towards the FISTS Rag Chewers Award - hopefully we will see some applications for the award as a result of Four Seasons

QSOs. The Rag Chewers requires 100 QSOs of at least 30 minutes and QSOs with the same FISTS member count provided they are on different days.

73 de Graham G3ZOD FISTS #8385

Award recipients this month:

**Awards**

Congratulations to Peter M0CYR, #10897 and Graham G3ZOD, #8385 on achieving the Basic Century Award.

Congratulations to both Peter and Gra.

Here's the ladder results table

CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL	POWER
G4LHI	28	37											65	QRO
OH7QR	27	27											54	QRO
M6PHL	20	25											45	QRO
G0BAK	9	24											33	QRO
2E0TEK	17	12											29	QRO
G3ZOD	5	18											23	QRO
2E0JYK	10	12											22	QRO
M0DRK	0	22											22	QRO
PA3AFF	13	8											21	QRO
G0DUB	4	16											20	QRO

And the FSA Results

CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	TOTALS	CLASS
G4LHI	409	350		759	A
OH7QR	193	269		462	A
IK2RMZ	233	73		306	A
PA3AFF	76	23		99	A
SV0XBN/9	50	43		93	A
K4UK	48	45		93	A
G3ZOD	30	57		87	A
G0BAK	35	38		73	A
2E0TEK	35	0		35	A
DL1GBZ/DA2MORSE	0	30		30	A
GM0OAA	22	0		22	A

Thanks to Martin who signed DL1GBZ/DA2MORSE during February giving away extra points.

That's all for another month from the stable of MOBPT.

Till next time,

Keep well,

Keep pounding brass!

73. MOBPT