

# BRASSPOUNDER



January 2010 (Issue 46)

Welcome to the first edition of 2010.

**AS AN EARLY REMINDER, WHILE I'VE GOT YOUR ATTENTION (Hi)..DON'T FORGET EYAW!!!**  
("EXCHANGE YOUR AGE WEEK")

Active from the 7th to the 13th of March 2010 UTC. Full rules available on this site. (Go to the events calender 2010 link from the homepage) OR on the fists uk website [HERE](#) I hope to be active with one of the FISTS HQ Calls during the week, I shall post on the FISTS NG site on the day(s) when I'm able to be active. So I hope you'll check each morning. Look forward to meeting you on air.

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I see from comments on the FISTS NG that the contest(s) during January played havoc with participants of the ladder activity. I did change the ladder format to allow for this happening; i.e. The two sessions on two weekends throughout the month. (Bearing in mind that you can submit your best two sessions of possible four!) I feel that to change the ladder sessions to accommodate other contests that happen throughout the year, would destroy the regularity of the ladder, so I plan to leave the current format for this coming year at least.

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I'd like you to join me in welcoming Roy, GI4CGB, FISTS 161 to the ladder; representing (In his words) "GI Land" He comments that the contests and family commitments during January limited his operating time, but was pleased to meet members GOBAK, G3MCK, and GI4BBE. Welcome Roy, look forward to receiving your report and entry next month.

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Another welcome goes to Dave M0GGK FISTS 12510 who comments;

Hi Rob,

Enclosed is my first ever attempt if rather poor of the January ladder. The competition that was on the first time was hard for everybody, but on the third and fourth session I thought conditions were terrible. But hey that is radio. everything was done on my Junkers straight key with my K2 and hustler vertical 6btv. Still, enjoyed a great chat with Errki (OH7QR). Oh well, on the to next month.

73 De Dave M0GGK Fists #12510

Welcome, and glad to have you on board Dave. I for one, do not think your entry is poor, it's the taking part and meeting members that is important within the FISTS activities. Look forward to hearing from you next month.

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Another welcome, this time goes to Jeremy, G0AZR, FISTS 14553. Who comments that he's thoroughly enjoying his membership of FISTS. Although Sunday afternoon paths on 80m seem to be stagnant from North Norfolk, he still intends to keep plugging away. Welcome aboard Jeremy, and look forward to hearing from you next month.

I hope members will listen out for Roy, Dave, and Jeremy in the coming months.

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And From Derek, M0DRK

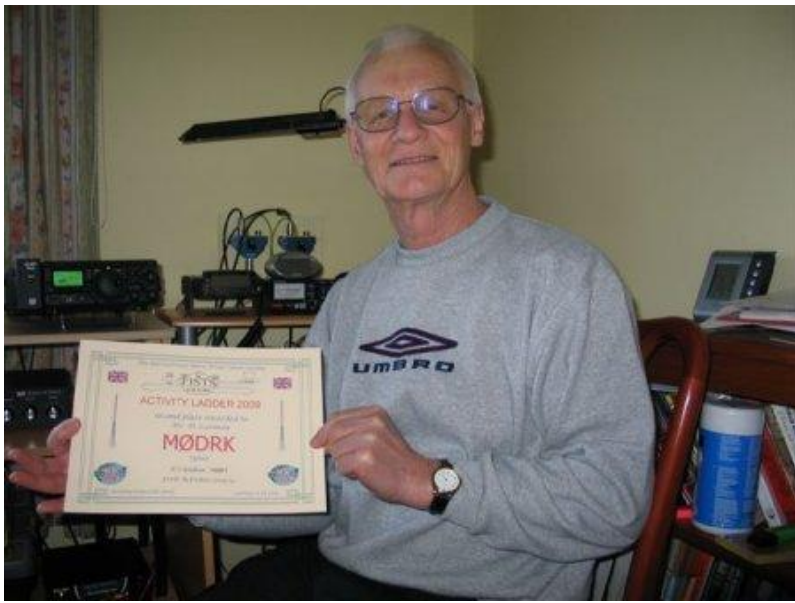
Hi Robert,

Not a brilliant start to the year but I'm sure I will do better later on. Thank heavens for 2m this month. Many thanks to those stations that I worked and nice to meet Derek GOPPI on the ladder for the first time.

Take care, see you next month, Derek, M0DRK.

Always a pleasure Derek, and I'm sure you'll be amongst the front runners once again, thanks as ever for your support.

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As many of you know, I enjoy receiving images of members to display on these pages, for you, the membership; to see the "Face behind the key" Of the person you've met on air. Here's an image of Derek. MODRK with his certificate recognizing his 2nd place in the 2009 ladder....Keep the images coming.

Derek comments:

Hi Robert, Many thanks for sending my certificate for being second in the 2009 Fists Ladder. Many thanks to all stations that helped me get on the "podium". This year I'm sure it will be more difficult to get there once again, and look forward to much more competition,Hi Hi. 73 for now Derek, MODRK

### And from Peter G4LHI

Hello Robert,

I attach my claim & report for the January Ladder Activity for your next edition of the BP. I was fortunate enough to manage 7 QSO's in the first session & 9 in the second; giving me a total of 31 points with 16 QSO's this month. I must say it was very nice to find so much activity again this month, albeit, conditions were not so good, very deep QSB/QRM, but the good old CW got there in the end, on the first session we were joined by the dreaded RSGB AFS contest, but I will not continue with that as I seem to have upset them with my comments on the Reflector Group hi. I do sincerely hope that sort of contest has not put our new members off of our much more relaxed & friendly events?

I did not work any new members this month, but again found a few old members joining us & very nice to QSO again, not forgetting the stalwart members & non members that always join in whatever the conditions, very many thanks to you all & may the Ladder prosper during 2010.

Also I must thank you all again for your many good wishes, support & kind remarks to Jean & myself in Jeans continuing long illness. Not a great change in her condition unfortunately but she keeps cheerful & gets lots of TLC, bless her, she also wishes to thank you all for your kindness. That's about all for January & the first event of 2010, so once again, many thanks for all the points & chats in the Ladder etc & look forward to good conditions & lots of QSO's during the new year. "Keep Pounding the Brass" & enjoying the chats on the key & of course the comradeship of our wonderful Fists Club.

73/88 de Peter G4LHI # 2219 & Jean.

As ever Peter, thanks for your report and support, we are all hoping that Jean will improve over the coming months. Our best wishes to her....

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From Bill. GOBAK

Hi Rob

I hope I find you and your family well for this first Ladder Log of the New Year.

I was unsure to carry on doing the Ladder this year with QRP again. It was a struggle last year so I decided to up the power this year. After the November & December Ladder results was available I was quite surprised with my final results using just 5 Watts of rf. I must however take this opportunity to say well done to Kev G4CMZ with his 2 watts of rf. I must admit I was hoping to top Kev's score but then again I was using more than twice his power, hi.

I have found that my G7FEK antenna to be the answer to my problem at this qth. I can now switch between 20, 40 and 80 on my FT950 within seconds, this has surely helped with my score this month. The first session on the 10<sup>th</sup> was a disaster. I had agreed with the XYL that I would do the earlier session so that she could watch the Dart final on the TV. Typical that the cw contest finished just as the later session was starting. On the plus side, Wolfie Adams won the Darts.

It was nice to work Erkki for the first time on the 24<sup>th</sup> on 20 meters and I look forward to many more contacts on this band. 80 Metres I found very difficult with heavy qsb and qrn, again working the earlier session only on this day.

Well Rob that's it for another month, thank you for all your hard work and all the best in 2010.

Best Wishes

Bill GOBAK Fists 13262

Good to hear that the new aerial at GOBAK is working well, I'm thinking that you're going to be amongst the frontrunners as the year progresses.

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I'd decided to recognise Bill's achievement as being the highest placed QRP entrant in the 2009 ladder. Which I shall continue to do in future ladder activities. Bill was very surprised to receive the award through his mailbox, to use his words "It made his day" At my request, he sent an image of himself. (Thanks Bill) Another "Face behind the key" to add to our "Rogues Gallery" (Hi) Bill's comments;

Please find attached a photo of me with the award as requested. I got the wife to take the Photo and she did a sterling job. She managed to get the FT817 in the pic as well as my Paddle and the new FT950. The added bonus was she got me and the award in it too, hi. Many thanks once again for the unexpected award, it is now not only in a frame as you can see, it is on the shack wall. Best Wishes Bill GØBAK 13262

It'd be very pleasing to have more images of members to include in future editions of BP. Here's a link to a page from this site which shows images received....point your browser

[HERE](#)

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From new member Phil; M6PHL

Hello Rob,

Please find attached my log for January Fists Ladder 2010.

It was good to hear more Fists members on frequency this month and that conditions were much better than on the previous afternoon 2 weeks ago.

I look forward to working many more members in the near future, but please be patient, I am very QRS but eager to improve. Hi!

73 to all.

Phil

M6PHL Fists:14543

Good to receive your log and comments Phil. All members will be eager to help you improve and enjoy your CW. be assured that members will slow to your speed requirements..

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And from Graham, G3ZOD

Ladder

Well, the first Ladder of the year on 10th January was "interesting". We had the RSGB 80m AFS CW Contest running during the afternoon session. Last time there was a clash with a

contest on 80m, I failed to make any Ladder contacts. However, on this occasion I did manage to have a contact with Peter G4LHI, so that was a definite improvement!

Perhaps for the 2011 calendar, the 2nd/4th Sunday dates could be moved a week back or forwards for the occasional days that clash with major contests?

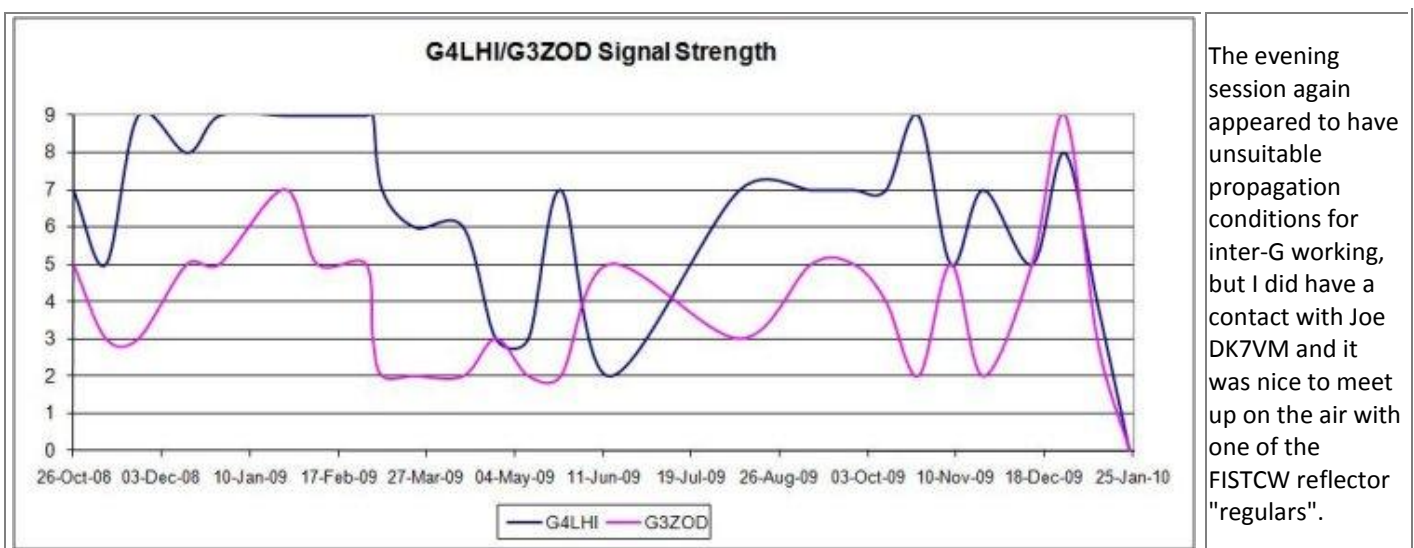
During the evening session it seems the propagation made inter-G working impractical and I'm sorry to say I didn't manage any contacts.

During the first hour of the afternoon of 24th January I didn't make any contacts on 80m. I could hear, barely above the noise, G0BAK, GM4WZL and GM3JUD, but not at workable strengths. I managed to contact Gerald G3MCK and did have an enjoyable chat for around an hour (how about some bonus points for rag-chewing? No? Oh well. HI HI).

### BONUS POINTS! Who's that twisting my arm? (Ed)

I was surprised after the event to discover that Peter G4LHI had been on the air but I hadn't heard him and although Peter could hear G3MCK, he couldn't hear me. When I joined the Ladder in 2008, Peter mostly had a strong signal with me for several months. I thought I'd dig out my copy of Excel again and see what has happened over time with the signal strength reports.

What came out strikes me as odd. Until around the end of March 2009, the reports we were exchanging were reasonably synchronized. From then until mid-December 2009, the reports become "out of phase", i.e. whenever Peter came up in strength with me, I went down in strength with him and vice-versa. This seesaw effect finally stopped in late December when we exchanged good reports once more, but like a light bulb flashing brightly as the filament burns out, we plunged down into no reception at all in the next session! Very strange.



Here's my first entry. I'm using a 25 watts to an indoor dipole on 6m and 5 watts to an indoor 5/8 whip on 2m. (I can also run 5 watts to an indoor collinear for 70cm, but have no contacts to report on that band.)

January was a bit of a surprise on 6m with a significant number of sporadic E openings into Europe. Still a relative "newbie" on 6m (I've just reached 1 year), I'm told that this is not normal for January. Although I only had 4 contacts into Europe, it was good fun.

After having a contact with Roger G3OHH on 6m CW (he's about 30km from me so relatively local), I heard him being called by a Swedish station. This was a bit of a surprise as I didn't think the band was "open" and it takes a reasonably strong opening for European stations to make it to my indoor dipole. During his contact, I heard G3OHH calling me to bring me into the contact. While I didn't reply as by then the Swedish station had gone down into my noise level and it would just have disrupted the contact, I thought this was a very gentlemanly act, pretty rare to find in these days of fairly aggressive operating styles!

A bit of light relief

I started using my wind-up torch towards the end of the afternoon Ladder sessions (I keep my main room light off due to the RF noise it radiates). It's a funny thing but it's hard to get out of the mind set of turning a torch off as much as possible to save the batteries! I did have one incident though where the other station was about to end his "over" and embarrassingly I couldn't remember his callsign. This resulted in a scramble trying to turn the torch back on so I could see my notes and consequently a bit of a delay in replying. Anyway, despite the greenness and (of course) exercise value of the wind-up torch, I have now re-arranged my mains sockets so that I can plug in a desk lamp with an incandescent bulb! HI

73 de Graham (Gra) G3ZOD FISTS #8385

Many thanks for your usual concise report on the months happenings Gra. Your comments on the gentlemanly act of G3OHH was indeed a refreshing change in today's style of aggressive operating which I do not subscribe to.

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As I've received just on entry for January from G3ZOD (Thanks for your support Gra) Here's a condensed view of G3ZOD's log.

G0HGA Activity		
10/01/2010 15:03 G6TGO	6m Timperley	145562
19/01/2010 16:40 OH3MF	6m KP20fr	NM 1
19/01/2010 17:14 ES4EQ	6m KO39cc	NM 1
21/01/2010 17:30 IK0FTA	6m JN61gv	NM 1
21/01/2010 17:37 I5TAT	6m JN53fl	NM 1
22/01/2010 15:28 G6TGO	6m Timperley	145562
26/01/2010 16:16 G3OHH	6m IO83vc	NM 1
26/01/2010 17:12 G6TGO	6m Timperley	145562
26/01/2010 20:52 G3WPF	6m Wilmslow	NM 1
26/01/2010 21:40 G4HGI	6m IO83pl	NM 1
26/01/2010 22:10 GW3MDK	6m IO83dh	NM 1
31/01/2010 15:03 G6TGO	2m Timperley	145562
31/01/2010 17:10 M0TXR	2m nr Bolton	145102

Thats about all from me for another month, till the next time.....

**DON'T FORGET EYAW!!.....(Hi)**

**73. MOBPT**



**[BACK TO HOMEPAGE](#)**