

BRASSPOUNDER

June 2011 Issue 63

Welcome to the June edition of BP.

As I write this, the sun is streaming through the window; the weather delightfully warm, birds singing, peace, tranquillity around me!

“In England?” I hear you say; “Surely not!”

More about these comments later.

Let's take a look at comments/reports received this month.

Hi Rob,

I wasn't able to take part in the Ladder sessions for May so I was a little relieved to get back on for all four sessions in June - if only propagation had been a little kinder.... The afternoon sessions were a washout again for me but more than rewarded with good QSOs in the evenings.

73, Greg. G0DUB #6095

Hi Greg. Nice to hear that you found some time to get on air.

Hello Rob,

Here is my log for the June 2011 Ladder.

Good to hear more activity again during the second evening session especially on 80m. Not much more to add this month. Always great to work those taking part in the Ladder

and look forward to working more members in the coming months.

73

Phil M6PHL Fists 14543

Hello Phil. Always a pleasure to hear from you. Let's hope that condx will improve in the coming months and even more activity is heard on air.

Hi Robert,

Here is my FSA and Ladder logs for June. FSA score 107 points, with 6 points from G3AHS, Dawson, who does still enjoy CW at his age! For Ladder I was QRV in 3 time-slots. I did count both evening sessions for a score of 17 points. Till the next time. 73 PA3AFF, Piet

Hello Piet, I've had the pleasure to meet Dawson on a number of occasions during our activity weeks. A real gentleman on air!

Hello Robert,

MY report for June Activity Ladder.

Very many thanks again to all members & non members who persevered the ruff conditions to try & make the Ladder Activity again this month, but the conditions on 80m particularly, were ruff yet again on both days, my score was very poor & I do hope that others may have had better luck than I did, good luck.

All my thanks, as ever, to members & non members that are always there in spite of the ruff condition. I think I worked just about as many non members this month as members; I do like to chat with the non members & hope to persuade them to join our Club one of these days? You never know. For the month I only had 15 QSO's for 23 points, so can't complain.

Looking forward to July Ladder & perhaps conditions may improve & my new ant perform on 80m a little better? Keep bashing the brass & good hunting to you all.

73 de Peter G4LHI # 2219

My report for June the final month of the Spring Session of the FSA.

My summary for this month, I almost got an identical number of QSO, & points as I did in May, 72 QSO's for 219 points. (77 for 218 May), but considering the conditions on the band again, not a bad score, very many thanks to all those that support this event.

I was very pleased to work one new Fists member, Matt, G4ZZB, 14599 from Uxbridge, many thanks for 4 points Matt & hope to find you on the Ladder & FSA again in July.

No highlight DX members this month, most of the DX were not Fist members, but very pleased to chat, & hope these friendly chats & info about the Fists Club may encourage a few new members? It was very strange to see so many "lapsed" members with very big numbers, is it conditions that put them off? Such a pity to lose so many guys from the club?

Once again, dear Erkki, OH7QR & I managed to obtain the maximum points in the 90 minutes allowed, very many thank again my dear friend, a pleasure to QSO with you.

Very many thanks as always to all members & non members that suffered the poor conditions on the bands again to make this a very interesting & challenging event, looking forward to July & many more nice QSO's.

Take care & until we meet again, keep bashing the brass & keep the bands open & most of all enjoy CW & have fun.

73 de Peter G4LHI # 2219.

Hello once again Peter, as ever, a pleasure to receive your concise reports of the months events from your perspective.

I've noticed in entrants FSA logs; that once again the WARC bands are yielding good (to me) results. The South American continent particularly, once again this advocates my comments during the WARC activity on this much underused amateur allocation.

Hi Rob,

Nice to have the time again to take part in the ladder this month, enjoyed every moment; was also nice to work Peter on CW to give him some points for the FSA, it is all good training for me . Maybe one day I shall be able to have a QSO with you on CW?

All the best, Graham 2E0JYK #14822

Hello Graham, always a pleasure to hear that you're enjoying, and progressing with your CW. I look forward to the time we may meet on air.

Dear Cousin . . .

A disastrous month! Still, at least the WX has been nice!

73

Uncle Dick. SVØXBN/9.

Hello Uncle, The weather is nice! More later..

Hi Robert,

this time the FSA report is straightforward, nothing but one call used. The upcoming heat plus substantial hardware loss plus some other things kept me away from the radio. So I feel privileged to have 100+ points.

73. Martin IK2RMZ.

Hi Martin, good to hear from you once again; a very respectable score.

Hi Robert, Here is my log for the June Ladder. Many thanks to Erkki OH7QR for giving me my only QSO on which was not on 2m. Thanks also to Peter G4LHI, Phil M6PHL and Graham 2E0JYK for the points on 2m. See you next month, 73 Derek MODRK.

Hi Derek, nice to hear that VHF CW is alive and well in your area.

Hello Robert,

Again is one month past and gone and we are bombarding you with our logs. I hope you are keeping well. I send both Ladder and FSA logs at the same time.

Firstly my comments on the Ladder: On 12th of June I couldn't participate in the first session and on the evening session I got only four QSOs. On 26th there were a lively SOTA activity on 14.058 kHz at 14:00 UTC but Peter could fortunately copy me and we moved a bit down and had our usual QSO. The SOTA activity was lasting and 14.058 kHz was out of question and I met only two non-members during the first hour. The evening session was more successful and I met five members during the first hour between 18 and 19 UTC.

In FSA I got 96 QSOs of which 25 were with 18 individual Fists members. With Peter G4LHI I had five QSOs and we reached again the full 90 minutes during the month (many thanks mate). Others with more than one QSO were G0DUB and OH5HNI, both I met twice. The best band was 20M - 76 QSOs, other bands as follows: 17M three QSOs, 30M ten QSOs and 80M seven QSOs.

During the month there were some other events like The Activity Week of AGCW and The Straight Key Day of SCAG. These helped me in FSA, too.

Have a nice midsummer, hopefully not too hot. Take care.
73/88 de Erkki OH7QR

Hello Erkki, good to hear from you once again, thanks for your report on the FSA and ladder during June.

Hi Rob.

Ladder: I didn't manage any contacts in the afternoon sessions, but the evenings were more successful. On the 12th I had a very long and enjoyable chat with Rich G4FAD - always a great pleasure with his impeccable sending. On the 26th I met up with Mike G0AXE on 80m. Whenever I have a QSO with Mike, there is continuous, slow and deep fading on his signal. What makes this very peculiar is that Mike is only about 5 miles away. As my antenna is indoors it doesn't move at all and the fading seems too slow to be an antenna swinging in the wind. I wonder if there are reflections off a moving or rotating object somewhere between us, but I can't imagine what. We're both very close to Manchester airport, but I've never heard of aircraft reflections on 80m. Another especially notable QSO was with Piet PA3AFF on 40m, who was putting in a signal strong enough to overcome my S9+10dB noise level - takes quite some doing!

Four Seasons: Included this month are four QSOs on 30m with my 1 watt transceiver - I find it very pleasing and quite surprising to be able to hold up a QSO for 10+ minutes at that power and an indoor antenna. I did switch back to the K3 and 20 watts though for a QSO with Fred PA0FAW operating as PC11AMBER - I didn't want to miss him as Fred and PA are quite hard for me to contact on 30m, with PA being a bit too close for normal 30m propagation. Also included is a QSO on 6m with Paul M0PNN. Paul always stops by when I'm on during the monthly RSGB 6m UKAC sessions - this is very

much appreciated and it's very nice to have a chat, despite a bit of a difficult path between us (the primary propagation mode is aircraft reflections).

73 de Graham G3ZOD FISTS #8385.

Hello Gra. Thanks for your round up and overview of the months happenings, as earlier commented, nice to hear once again that folk are making use of the WARC allocation.

Awards:

Congratulations to the following members.

Ray WB6SZZ, #5703 – USA Worked All States Award, Gold Century Award and Millionaire Award along with the 2 and 3 Million Endorsement Stickers.

Jimmy K4YFH, #7807 – Basic Century Award

Well done to both.

Time to look at the results tables for both the ladder and FSA.

Firstly the ladder, then the FSA.

CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL	POWER
G4LHI	28	37	34	20	34	23							176	QRO
OH7QR	27	27	19	22	26	19							140	QRO
M6PHL	20	25	28	15	29	23							140	QRO
MODRK	0	22	19	10	16	14							81	QRO
PA3AFF	13	8	10	17	16	17							81	QRO
2E0JYK	10	12	12	0	19	14							67	QRO
G0DUB	4	16	17	11	0	17							65	QRO
G3ZOD	5	18	18	4	6	12							63	QRO
G0BAK	9	24	6	0	0	0							39	QRO
2E0TEK	17	12	0	0	0	0							29	QRO

CALL	APR	MAY	JUNE	TOTALS	CLASS	FISTS
G4LHI	376	218	219	813	A	EU
OH7QR	239	172	254	665	A	EU
IK2RMZ	256	88	106	450	A	EU
PA3AFF	138	97	107	342	A	EU
JO3HPM	81	143	111	335	A	EA
K4UK	83	0	161	244	A	NA
G3ZOD	6	46	40	92	A	EU
DL1GBZ/DR40AGCW	83	5	0	88	A	EU
SV0XBN/9	41	30	10	81	A	EU
DL1GBZ/DA2MORSE	42	0	0	42	A	EU
DL1GBZ	0	26	0	26	A	EU
HB9DEO	13	10	5	28	A	

The FSA of course ends another season with this months results. Again G4LHI tops the table in the EU entries with an impressive score. Congratulations go to OH7QR and IK2RMZ for second and third slots respectively. And a mention and thanks for support of the activity go FISTS NA member K4UK and FISTS EA member JO3HPM. A mention too, to “Uncle” Dick SV0XBN/9 for juggling his very busy schedule with long lost relatives visiting and interfering with radio (Hi). IK2RMZ for airing his impressive collection of special calls in addition to his own during the season.

I thank all of you for taking time to support all of the activities on the calendar.

Onwards and upwards, time to get on air with the summer season of the FSA. As ever; this time of year will cause disruption with holidays and other chores around the home, but I do hope you’ll find time to get on air and support the activities, as I never tire of mentioning, activities are an

agreeable place to meet members and gain points towards whatever award you are working towards within the society.

To continue with the opening comments of this offering;

I'm lucky to have prepared this edition of BP whilst enjoying a brief vacation in "5B" (Cyprus) "Just up the road" from "Uncle" Dick, SV0XBN/9.

I know that a significant amount of UK members did their national service in Cyprus, so I/we'd like to hear any memories you have of your time here on the island, both in the signals or other duties. I am armed with a camera, so I'll see what images I can capture, but of course owing to the "sensitive" nature of the island, I'll see what I can get.

A few words on the tragedy that happened a few hours after I arrived;

As you may have seen in the media, the massive munitions explosion has caused significant disruption on the island. My thoughts are with the families of the young military personnel (National Service Conscripts) and emergency service personnel who lost members when the incident happened. And of course, since the tragedy, the inhabitants who have lost their lives in the aftermath, I understand that the death toll is still rising.

On a more pleasant note:

I do hope to visit the island again and perhaps you'll hear me as "5B/MOBPT/p" If I'm able to get some "Airtime" in.

Watch this space.



Here's an image taken in the village of Laatsi; looking towards the Akamas Peninsula. I wonder if this brings back memories to anyone?

Till next time.

Keep well.

Keep pounding brass.

73.

MOBPT