

BRASSPOUNDER



MAY 2006

The Newsletter for FISTS contesters.

Hello All.

Time seems to fly these days, I 'm thinking "We're half way through the year already"

The months seem to go by at an alarming rate!

Wonder if its anything to do with my age?

(Don't answer that)

We'll get straight on to the business in hand.

Starting with the EUCW QRS Party results.

EUCW QRS PARTY RESULTS 2006.

Before I go on to give the results of the party, I must say a few words regarding the sad news that we received during the party week.

That is of course the passing of the founder of FISTS, George Longden, G3ZQS.

George had been unwell for some time and became SK during the night of the

25 th of April 2006

I would like to add a comment from the family of George.

" Dear All

I would like to thank all the members of FISTS for their comments, it means a lot to us to know that he was respected & loved by others as he was by ourselves

Reading all the tributes brings tears of sadness at our loss, but a feeling of happiness to know that he had touched so many people

Many thanks

Geo's Family "

If any of you are not aware of the web site

www.fists.co.uk

Please visit and read the messages of condolence and tributes there and if you feel able to, add your own tribute



“Mr CW”

George Longden, G3ZQS.

RIP.

We have received some encouraging feedback from the party entrants this year.

From Adriaan, PA0ATG who comments on bad condx but “nice activity and see you next year”

From Tony, G4FAI who thought that the event was better than in previous years, so maybe the new rules helped, and also, several foreign stations commented on how much they enjoyed it!

Some nice comments from Hellar, ES7FU.

"It was great pleasure for me to take part first time in this QRS activity"

"Sure do it next year again"

"Two things were a little surprising for me:

- there was so much QRP activity on the bands, if you are looking on certain frequencies.

I reduced my power also many times to 5 W and QSO with RST 559 to 579 and was still OK.

- it is still possible to have a "normal" QSO, not only as RST, name, QTH and 73 as most of Ham's are doing today"

From Dick, G3URA in Cheshunt, England who comments,

"Not many contacts again this year as work and family duties took up most of my time, but was pleased to be able to give away GTC (Greek telegraph club) as my Club again.

This always prompts comments!

From Erkki, Oh7QR, who comments that he didn't have much time to spend on radio during QRS week owing to his garden needing attention (Hi) but pleased to submit a log for what time he did have available.

I couldn't finish with out adding comments from our great stalwart and supporter of FISTS contests, Peter, G4LHI, who says

"Not such an exciting EUCW QRS Party as previous years I feel there were not as many taking part as previous years, but I may not have been in the right place at the right time, but enjoyed it as I always do.

Clubs worked by entrants include,
G-QRP, AGCW, FISTS, BENELUX-QRP, INORC, RNARS, SCAG,
GTC, HTC, AND CTC.

On to the results

Starting with class A

Class A Results			
CALL	QSO's	CLUB	CLASS
ES7FU	116	CTC	A
IK2RMZ	106	AGCW-DL	A
G4LHI	66	FISTS	A

Sincere congratulations to Hellar Luik, ES7FU, for winning the class A Award certificate with his first entry in the EUCW QRS Party.

Hellar tells me he's been licensed since 1959, his first call was UR2FU then ES7FU.

Congratulations go to Martin, IK2RMZ, for achieving the runners up certificate, and of course Peter, G4LHI, for achieving the second runners up certificate.

Onto the class B results.

Class B Results			
CALL	QSO's	CLUB	CLASS
RW3AI	70	G-QRP	B
PA0ATG	27	BEN-QRP	B
G4FAI	25	FISTS	B

Congratulations to Valery, RW3AI for winning the class B award certificate.

And to Adriaan, PA0ATG for achieving the runners up certificate, and to Tony, G4FAI, for achieving the second runners up certificate.

There were no entrants in Class C, the SWL category.

Now on to the awards for "Most readable Morse"

The winner of the "Most readable Morse heard" certificate goes to Peter, G4LHI.

And a "Shared Award" goes to Tony, G4FAI, and Valery, RW3AI.

Congratulations to all concerned.

ENTRANTS WHO ARE TO RECEIVE THE AWARD CERTIFICATES WILL BE NOTIFIED BY EMAIL WHEN THEY HAVE BEEN SENT VIA LAND MAIL.

I'D APPRECIATE AN EMAIL TO LET ME KNOW THAT THEY HAVE ARRIVED SAFELY AT THEIR DESTINATIONS

Thanks to you all for supporting the event this year.

On to the ladder results.

CALL	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
G4LHI	42	39	42	47	46								216
G6GUN	35	41	37	45	35								193
M5ABN	43	31	35	32	0								141
2E0TEK	20	0	21	0	32								73
M0DRK	15	0	14	22	17								68
M0BHA	12	19	12	22	0								65
OH7QR	5	13	25	8	0								51
IK2RMZ	0	0	0	39	9								48
MX5HDF	6	9	9	7	13								44
G8XGQ	8	6	12	4	0								30
G0XAH	0	0	11	17	0								28
PA3AFF	0	0	10	0	0								10
M0CMBQ	0	0	0	0	4								4

G4LHI is still maintaining his lead but G6GUN is closing the gap with M5ABN poised for an assault on both of them.

A mention must go to 2E0TEK for a great effort during May to put him on fourth place.

I've been made aware of a post on the reflector from a member regarding the difficulty of finding ladder contacts during the big contest weekends which (As we all know) brings heavy QRM on all non WARC bands.

He suggests that we extend the ladder weekend to include Fridays to avoid the QRM which we suffer during weekends.

I will look at ways to help the situation, but we must remember that we have to maintain a level playing field i.e. Those amateurs who, due to work commitments etc. can only find time for radio at weekends. It would put them at an unfair disadvantage.

On to the WARC Challenge results.

On or two comments from entrants this month worthy of mention and some information that will hopefully bring you some more contacts and new grids from FISTS members!!

BUT FIRST SOME NEWS I'D LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU REGARDING OUR COLLEAGUE AND GREAT SUPPORTER OF THE FISTS CONTEST SCENE, PETER, G4LHI

On the 1 st of June Peter informed me that he is able to claim the

“FISTS MILLIONAIRE AWARD”

For further details of the award visit

<http://www.fists.org/million.html>

I'm sure you'll agree that this is an outstanding feat by Peter and join me in congratulating him on this marvellous achievement.

I would assume that, since the award has only been available from the first of January 2006, that Peter is the 1 st and only UK recipient of the award.

That is of course.....Unless you know different.

From Kevin, KI4DEF

Who, you may remember last month told us of his operating of some of the USA FISTS Club stations.

Read on.....

“My day operating KN0WCW was a lot of fun, as it always it. I have been doing this every few months since the beginning of last year (10 days so far). Each member is allowed up to seven days per year operating KN0WCW. When I began as a ham in Feb 2004 (my first QSO), I joined FISTS and learned of KN0WCW. I was determined to improve my CW to the point that I was comfortable enough to operate for the club. It took a year; involvement in the local FISTS club, W4FFF, FISTS Club of North Carolina, helped tremendously (I had--still have--some good elmers there). I started operating W4FFF, mostly as an operator during FISTS Sprints in mid-2004. and by Jan 2005 was ready to tackle KN0WCW. This year, as the W4FFF OMs are mostly in the central and western parts of NC and we rarely meet (actually, I have only met one other OM, one time, other than on the bands or via email), I started an eastern North Carolina FISTS club (N4ENC, the Eastern NC CW Club). Both these local clubs are very small: W4FFF has 12 members, maybe half of us are active; N4ENC has only four members, and I am really the only active member.

Unfortunately, I have never met up with any UK FISTS whilst operating KN0WCW. I do not get all that much DX (partly because it is not a high priority with me--a practicality for someone beginning HF CW in the sunspot low and operating all QRP). I have taken what comes my way, in the main, although I have learned some tricks about choice of bands and operating times to improve the likelihood of getting contacts.

But my DX contacts remain few: of 1,618 total QSOs in my logs, only 118 (7.3%) are outside the US, largely Canada, and only 29 (1.8%) are EU, with a meagre 3 (0.2%) ever UK. Of those total QSOs, 293 were made with club calls (KN0WCW, W4FFF and now N4ENC), which have slightly lower DX percentages: 13 (4.4%) non-US, 1 (0.3%) EU, and no UK. For KN0WCW alone, only 2 (1.7%) of my 119 QSOs in the log are non-US (Canada and Cuba).

So, regrettably, no, none of the UK guys managed to bag KN0WCW while I was operating (at least not this time). I will post to FISTSCW my operating plans for next time, likely in July, and entertain requests for skeds and modifications to bands/operating times to accommodate possible UK contacts (and will anticipate possible "scrums," as you say in the WARC Challenge Q&A). And maybe the propagation gods will shine upon us!”

There you go people, Kevin is prepared to arrange a sked with you with one of the club calls during his next operating stint.

I'm sure he'll let me know in good when he's available or he can be contacted via email at

kmiller122@cox.net

Lets hope our UK "Big guns" can capture Kevin when he's active with the calls.

Another comment from Kevin regarding the WARC challenge

Actually, soon after Martin IK2RMZ had finished stringing his dipoles, on Apr 1, we happened upon one another on 30m. Our QSO didn't last very long (seven minutes, by my log). My signal was weak (339); I was testing a field setup at the time and so was generating only 2W from batteries and using a temporary antenna (a 44ft "field-friendly" doublet--you may have seen my FISTSCW post the other day in response to Paul MOBMN's request for suggestions on simple holiday antennas--in it I give a link to an article that describes several simple field antenna including the "field-friendly" doublet). Martin and I subsequently exchanged several emails and learned, among other things, that we were born in the same part of Germany (Schwabia--he in Karlsruhe, me in Stuttgart), and only a few years apart. I too, enjoy sleuthing out the other OM's grid square when they do not know it--their QTH city and Google Earth and the ARRL Grid Locator (<http://www.arrl.org/locate/>) usually do the trick--so I now have a Google Earth layer covered with markers representing hams I have QSO'd.

A comment from Stan, K4UK, regarding the millionaire award.

"Last night I had an enjoyable QSO with Edgar, AD5VK on 10.108 MHz.

I have been keeping a record of my Millionaire contacts in different categories.

That contact gave me 1,011,380 points for contacts on the WARC bands"

This is an interesting comment from Stan again.

Read on.....

Robert:

Thought I'd let you know about the County Hunter Net that operates on 10.114 MHz. It is for mobiles who go into the various counties and make contacts. There is a Worked All Counties Award offered by CQ Magazine. Some of the guys who run mobile are FISTS members which can give you 2 point QSO's and also by finding the county they are operating from, you can get their grid square multiplier if you've not worked it before. I've worked the following seven FISTS members who were running mobile on the County Hunter's net:

KD5JSS - # 8016

3/31/06 - EM26

4/26/06 - EM23

5/5/06 - EM26

4/26/06 - EM24

5/31/06 - EM02

W8YRB - # 7436 (Now KORU)

3/24/06 - EM28

4/12/06 - EM29

4/13/06 - EM19

4/14/06 - EM17

4/18/06 - EM37

6/5/06 - EM17

6/5/06 - EM07

K5WAF - # 8843

2/9/06 - EL29

KR5C - # 1730

6/3/06 - EM22

K8CW - # 5242

2/28/06 - EM70

AA9KH - # 2377

5/22/06 - EN71

NF0Z - # 1497

Often DX stations work the mobiles, especially DL5AWI and PA3ARM. So, you might suggest to folks who are doing the WARC Challenge to listen on 10.114 MHz for the "CHN"

(County Hunter Net)

73, Stan - K4UK

Food for thought guys!

On to the results

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTALS	MULTIES	MASTER	CALL	PWR
57	93	111	173	130									91	51324	K4UK	QRO
77	78	88	125	130									35	17430	G4LHI	QRO
0	0	9	237	215									28	12908	IK2RMZ	QRO
0	26	133	196	0									17	6035	G3ASG	QRO
18	25	31	30	14									8	944	OH7QR	MIXED
20	5	50	0	0									10	750	G0UQF	QRO
0	0	0	27	29									14	433	KWDEF	QRP
23	20	18	20	0									7	420	M5ABN	QRO
0	0	0	62	10									3	216	DL1GBZ	QRO
0	0	26	23	0									4	196	G0XAH	QRO
22	8	0	0	0									4	120	G6GUN	QRO
23	0	10	10	23									1	66	2E0TEK	QRO
0	6	4	5	0									2	30	GX2HDF	QRP
6	0	0	0	0									1	6	G8XGQ	QRO

Finally

It's time for me to "Get on the soapbox" And say a few words.

As I'm sure you've read the last KEYNOTE, You will have noticed that after chatting with Paul. M0BMN that it's been decided that I will keep publishing the Newsletter for the indefinite future.

As you are all aware, it only started as an interim measure to get some form of communication going between members, albeit those interested in the contesting side of FISTS.

I feel that in the short time its been active, the newsletter is evolving month by month, hence this month I've given it its own identity by giving it the name "Brasspounder"

Another part of its evolution.

I think that now the time has come to ask you, the recipients of the publication,

"Do you consider Brasspounder to be an enhancement to KEYNOTE?"

"Or would you prefer the content to be consolidated into KEYNOTE only?"

I for one feel that the future of FISTS UK is looking rosy after all the uncertainty lately.

Its all down to the support of you, the membership, and the hard work done by Paul, Mark, John and Chuck and Co. over the past month to ensure that FISTS UK is kept alive.

The custodians of FISTS can only steer it in the right direction with feedback from yourselves.

We need to spread the word that FISTS is alive and well to lapsed members, present members and future members!

OK, That's enough from me at the moment. Some food for thought I hope.

Hope you enjoy the read.

Finally, Finally.

On a light-hearted note.

I for one am fed up with emails offering to

"Enhance my Manhood"

(Cant improve on perfection)

“Offering to introduce me to horny housewives”

(Its nourishment I want, not punishment)

“Cheap Rolex replica’s”

(Already got one, it turned my wrist green)

The list goes on and on and on....

I’m asking you If, from now on, you’d mind putting in the subject field of any mail to me

“From (call) (Fists Number) and the subject”

(To save me wading through the garbage)

And from now, If you don’t receive a mail with

“**LOG RECEIVED**”

Confirming receipt of you return within 48 hours

Contact me for confirmation.

That’s all, have good month, enjoy the warm weather we’re having.

“KEEP BASHING THE BRASS”



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