

# BRASSPOUNDER



November 2010. Issue 56

Welcome once again, as I prepare this offering, most of you will be preparing for the festivities ahead, this being a busy time of the year; radio will take a "Back seat" for the next few weeks. I'm sure that many of you will be waiting expectantly for yuletide radio related gifts; and look forward to getting on air during the holiday break with your newly acquired pieces of equipment.

Our island has been suffering unexpected wintry conditions, with even more to come along so we are told by our illustrious weather department! I hope you are all keeping warm during this cold snap! Even though we do not have such harsh conditions as some of our members have to contend with; I feel that we have become complacent over the years. Perhaps this is an awakening for us all, and a return to the hot summers and cold winters fondly remembered by me (And many others no doubt) as a child.

Let's look at some of the comments received and band reports during November.

Firstly from Gra. G3ZOD.

Hi Rob. Ladder 14 Nov: Well, who'd have thought it? 40m is definitely improving & I'm getting better reports than I do on 80m. I was very pleased to meet up with Peter G0TCF, #1340 for the first time.

Ladder 28th Nov: I managed a contact with Erkki OH7QR on 20m despite the CQWW contest - modern narrow filters and DSP are wonderful! It's easy to forget just how far Erkki is from the UK too - over 2000km from me - he puts out a remarkably good signal on 20m. 40m was a different story; there appeared to be gaps between the contest stations but no replies to my CQs - did everyone just assume there would be no chance of contacts on 40m or was the band actually choc-a-bloc with weaker contest stations I couldn't hear? 80m was okay but a fair amount of QSB. I was delighted to meet up with Roy GI4CBG #161 for the first time.

The VHF CW activities have been a bit varied; in the 2nd 50MHz Contest 2010 I managed to come bottom at 18/18 (saves anyone else the embarrassment, HI HI).

The 6m UKAC in October was better though with 57/67 for myself and "FISTS CW Club" stayed at the same position as last month: 31/45. I did have a go in the November 4m UKAC too, but this was a bit of a disaster with no QSOs at all, not even a cross-mode QSO with an SSB station. Ah well.  
73 de Graham G3ZOD FISTS #8385

Good to hear from you Gra. Pleased to hear that you managed to keep the societies flag flying. A pleasant surprise to read your comments regarding 40 being more advantageous for you than 80.

And from Greg. G0DUB

Hi Robert,  
Mixed results this month. I found conditions quite difficult on the 14th and it seemed a struggle to make the only contact claimed for that day. The 28th was better but clashed with a scheduled RAYNET HF team net, luckily it was the net where we set the microphones aside and use data or CW so I could mix the activities and make a couple of contacts for both purposes. Hoping for better luck in December.

73, Greg, G0DUB #6095.

From Erkki, OH7QR

Hello Robert,

Here is my log for the November Ladder. The first Sunday was better and I met some Fists and also NM. During the evening session I called and listened on 80M but heard nothing but QRM. And on 28/11 Contest QRM was huge. Nevertheless we managed to QSO with Peter G4LHI and Gra G3ZOD. They have good ears, HI. Many thanks to both for the QSO. I got a new Kent pump, which I bought from DL. It is rather a good key, but I prefer still my old Swedish Key.

73 Erkki.

Good to hear from you once again dear friend. The Lennart Petterson key is a huge favourite of mine, as you know. Once used and owned, it is very difficult to change to another.

From Phil. M6PHL

Hi Rob,

Here is my Log for the November Ladder. Good to see that conditions were much better on the second Sunday afternoon, but the evening was a total wipe out for me, not one Fists QSO being recorded on CW due to the "competition" taking the whole band over. Anyway hope to work you all again next month, the second Sunday falling

on Boxing Day may prove to be interesting Hi!  
Hope you are well Rob.  
73, Phil M6PHL Fists 14543.

Good to hear from you Phil. Not too bad here, thanks for your thoughts. Yes. Boxing Day activity on the ladder! I wonder just who'll be active! Hi.

From Piet PA3AFF

Dr Robert,

I was only active during the first Fists weekend in both timeslots. Didn't check the 2nd weekend because of the busy CQWW CW contest.

My ladder score: 17 points.

Greetings from Schaft.

Piet, PA3AFF, Fists #445

Good to hear from you once again Piet, many came on air and braved the CQWW event to search for members.

From Bill, G0BAK

Hi Rob

I hope I find you and your Family well. Please find attached my activity ladder log for November.

As I write this for you we are having some pretty bad weather and some snow. We seem to have missed the bulk of the snow here in Leeds, however we do have the odd bit here and there, enough to bring the City to a standstill. Still if it rains in Leeds, that also brings the City to a standstill. Can you tell I am still getting used to driving a car to work & back and not a motorbike? Hi.

I must admit though I feel something magical about being on the radio nice & warm when it is snowing outside. I think this reminds me of sitting at home when I was still at School and listening to the American Hams being snowed in. Magical times and happy memories tuning my old B40 receiver.

Anyway enough nostalgia, I thought I had best get my finger, or should I say my Fist out this month, being knocked off the 2ND spot on the Ladder. I could not have wished for a better score this month, 32 points in total.

Once again I could only manage the afternoon sessions. The 14TH gave me 9 members worked for a score of 18 points. Not quite as good on the 28th due to yet another contest. I did however work a new member for me, GODUB Greg Fists 6095. Always a pleasure to hear more activity on the Ladder sessions.

I also had a laugh with Peter G4LHI just after the 14TH Ladder finished. He obviously had noticed that I had recently gained my Century Award Certificate and could not wait to exchange cc numbers. He is a gem and no Peter I am not chasing you in collecting cc numbers, hi.

So just a couple of other items worth a mention. The xyl has bought me a new Paddle, its called a Mag Pad and is made by Tom Withers G3HGE. Tom has made an excellent piece of gear and has also put my call sign on the paddle. My Son who is only 10 years old asked me why I had my call sign on the paddle as it may make it difficult to sell at

a later date. I am sure he is going to be a Financial Advisor before he is 11, hi. Anyway I cannot wait to try it out but in true xyl style, it is not Christmas yet!  
Finally I bought a Yaesu FT707 with a fault on the tx/rx side of things. Anyway I soon had that fixed and am loving the radio, I had one years ago and regretted selling it. I seem to be having a bit of a nostalgia trip at the moment, time to go I think.  
Best wishes to all and Happy Christmas to all our members.  
Bill GOBAK Fists 13262

Hello Bill, and always a pleasure to receive your report and comments. Firstly, congratulations on your G3HGE paddle. I'm assuming that it the same Tom Withers of TW communicator fame? Secondly, nothing wrong with nostalgia! I, and many others, through the pages of Keynote and BP enjoy hearing and reading nostalgic recollections of members.

From Jeremy, G0AZR

Hi Rob

November ladder log attached. Not very active this month.....so Sunday evening was going to be a big one. Nope.....all contest QSOs.....

Isn't it strange.....in a contest everyone can hear a QRP station.

The shack was cold so did not bother to stay long.

73 Jeremy G0AZR.

Hi Jerry. Yes, weather has been interesting of late, can't blame you for wanting to get back to the warmth of the house. All well here, hope yourself and June doing ok?

And from Peter, G4LHI with his report and overview of the months happenings.

Hello Robert,

I attach my claim & report for the November Ladder.

Band condx were pretty fair on the first Sunday both afternoon & evening sessions, but the last Sunday was a different matter entirely, I was fortunate to get a fairly good score in the afternoon in spite of a contest on all bands, but when the HF bands closed they all jumped on 80/40M & it was almost impossible to hear anything else during that evening session, I do hope some members managed a few QSO's, but I did not hear anyone to give them a couple of points which I like to do, very sorry guys.

I managed 8 QSO's for 15 points on both days for a final score of 30 points, so let's hope we get a good clear run for the final month of the year & very good hunting & a good clean dash to the podium hi!

Very many thanks to all for braving the atrocious conditions we have been having & for your support during the year so far & do hope we get a good December & some healthy scores. Let's give our Rob the biggest number of claims & scores for our final dash of 2010.

That's all for now folks, see you on the Ladder in December, only that one to go, so who knows who will be in the Pole position or on the Podium, Keep bashing the brass! PS, I am just about getting ready to sort my QSL cards out, very sorry for the delay but I'm sure you will all forgive me, just watch the post in the very near future.  
73 de Peter G4LHI # 2219.

Always a pleasure to hear from you Peter; hope you're keeping well and warm. I understand that most of the Eastern parts of our island suffered with heavy snowfalls, so I'm assuming that your area, also G0AZR's were affected.

From Graham, 2E0JYK.

Hi Rob ,

I have enclosed my entry for the November activity ladder I hope you are well? I've had a great time doing the Morse ladder , thoroughly enjoyed it and looking forward to the next one.

Regards. 2E0JYK

Hi Graham, good to hear from you, and pleased that you're enjoying your CW.

Roy, GI4CBG writes, (Roy sends his monthly entry via our postal service.)  
Hello Rob.

Hope this gets to you on time. Heavy snow here, haven't been able to get the car out of the garage for the past ten days! Have walked to the post office to mail this! 25 points is my best score this year! If I keep this up I'll be in the stratosphere with Peter G4LHI. (Hi)

Hello Roy. Good to hear from you and I admire your resolve during the weather to get this to me... Good score from you this month... Peter should feel threatened... (Hi)

Some EUCW News from Paul HB9DST

Hello Rob,

Here are the results for the Swiss HTC QRP Sprint for 2010  
(Conducted in September 2010).

The top three scores were from:

HB9DST, Paul (174 points)

PA7UL, Paul (172 points)

OK2BWJ, Petr (128 points)

These three receive the official HTC Anniversary coffee mug as a prize.

In total there were 28 logs submitted from roughly a dozen countries. This is becoming a truly international CW contest.

Thanks to everyone for their participation and support. We look forward to seeing you in 2011 at the Swiss HTC QRP Sprint.

Paul HB9DST EUCW Communications Manager for the Helvetia Telegraphy Club HB9HTC.

Congratulations go to M6PHL for achieving his basic century award.

Well done Phil.

Let's look at the ladder results table

CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTALS	PWR
G4LHI	31	38	45	33	31	27	32	35	40	35	30		377	QRO
M6PHL	13	15	28	19	18	18	21	23	20	28	30		233	QRO
G0BAK	21	29	28	29	19	9	11	14	18	11	32		221	QRO
OH7QR	16	0	15	24	13	23	23	9	23	16	18		180	QRO
G3ZOD	8	16	11	16	8	13	6	10	22	17	20		147	QRO
M0DRK	11	22	20	15	7	6	16	15	17	5	0		134	QRO
G0AZR	0	29	0	0	23	6	13	10	17	17	18		133	QRP
PA3AFF	0	0	22	0	8	5	11	13	19	29	17		124	QRO
GI4CBG	6	4	10	14	8	10	6	10	11	11	25		115	QRO
G3LHJ	0	0	28	20	0	0	0	4	17	0	0		69	QRO
2E0JYK	0	0	0	0	0	7	13	12	10	10	16		68	QRO
G0OTT	0	19	21	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		61	QRO
M5ABN	0	0	0	16	20	23	0	0	0	0	0		59	QRO
2E0JCY	0	14	14	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		47	QRO
G4CMZ	0	0	0	18	0	0	0	4	16	0	0		38	QRP
M5FRA	0	0	0	14	10	0	0	0	0	9	0		33	QRO
G0DUB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	10	9		25	QRO
G4MSN	0	11	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		22	MIX
M0GGK	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		7	QRO
M0XED	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		6	QRP
PA1SOP	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		4	QRO

As we can see, G4LHI is well ahead of the field, with just one month to go his lead is unassailable; I'm watching M6PHL, G0BAK and OH7QR to see if the positions remain the same.

That's all from the stable of M0BPT for another month.

May I take the opportunity to wish you all well for the forthcoming festivities. And a prosperous healthy and peaceful new year.

Till next time, keep well; keep "Pounding Brass"

73. M0BPT