

# BRASSPOUNDER

November 2011

Issue 68

Welcome to the November edition.

As I prepare this for publication. The UK is getting over the severe winds that have caused disruption to our island; particularly our friends in Scotland and Ireland. I do hope that all concerned did not lose expensive aerial installations during the bad weather. I do believe that our island is getting windier by the year.

On to business, ladder entrants reported heavy going due to contest activity, but managed to contact others nevertheless.

Reports, comments received this month.

From Greg. G0DUB.

Hi Rob,

November's meagre score is attached. Finding contacts on 80m proved hard work on the 27th and I didn't fancy my chances much of getting any qualifying contacts on the higher bands in the midst of the CQWW CW contest.

I'm hoping to have more success in December but getting permission to operate in the ladder session for

Christmas Day looks optimistic...  
73, Greg, G0DUB Fists Nr. 6095

Hi Greg.  
Good to hear from you, I'm sure Mrs G0DUB will allow  
you to get on air. ☺

From Erkki. OH7QR.

Hello Robert,  
Please find attached my logs for November.  
Firstly the Ladder - On 13th I had 11 QSO's, of which  
6 with members and 5 with non-member (two of  
them were no more members). On 27th was the  
CQWW Contest causing QRM. I also missed the  
afternoon session because of Xmas party (quite early  
considering that it was four weeks before the Xmas).  
I participated in the evening session and had QSO  
with Pol G3HAL on 80M. We had QSO also on 13th,  
many thanks for 4 points Pol.  
And the FSA:  
I had 87 QSO's, 30 with 19 individual members and  
57 with non-members; some of them were former  
Fists. Peter G4LHI and I made it again: we had our 90  
minutes also in November, many thanks mate.  
So, now looking forward to last month of FSA and of  
course the Ladder.  
73 de Erkki OH7QR fists 8318

Hello Erkki.

Once again good to hear from you, Glad to know that you're looking forward to the last month of activity with the ladder and FSA.

From Derek. M0DRK.

Hi Robert,

Here is my Ladder Log for November. Had to cut it a bit short as Mollie has not been too well and my company was needed. She had a few days in hospital for an operation. She is at home now and making good progress to get fit again.

Hope I can get a few more points in December. Many thanks to all Fists who gave me points in 2011 and I wish everyone a Very Happy Christmas and New Year.

A special thanks to all the Fists Club Officials who keep Fists UK going from strength to strength. 73 to all, 88 where applicable, take care,

Derek, M0DRK

Hi Derek.

Sorry to hear that Mollie has not been too well of late. But pleased that she's home and making progress with her recovery. From all at FISTS, wish her well,

and from myself; good wishes and a speedy return to good health. I look forward to hearing from you next month.

Many thanks from all of the management team at FISTS for your kind words; as I've said before, it's a team effort and something we all enjoy doing.

161 to you both.

From Martin. IK2RMZ.

Hi Robert,

I just couldn't resist a swim against the CQWW stream :-)

Likewise I had a few nice 40m QSO's on the new CW only frequencies 7035-7040. (see [iaru.org](http://iaru.org)). Believe it or not, there are still some band plan illiterates who abuse these frequencies with other modes.

If the band plan is a gentleman's agreement where are the gentlemen?

But this will not spoil the good spirit. Thanks again for this nice activity I did enjoy it and I look forward to next year's activity calendar. I am sorry that I failed to honour our Angie but I just didn't manage to reach the UK on VHF. A hardware failure prevented me from being active in the E\_s season.

Take care and have a great Advent and Xmas Season.

Martin, IK2RMZ.

Hi Martin.

Good to hear from you. I notice that the CW QRG's (7035-7040) have been receiving comments on the NG. As with everything, it takes time for bandplan changes to filter through.

Best wishes to you and the family for the coming season.

From Phil. M6PHL.

Hello Rob,

Hope you are well? Here is my log for the November ladder.

Again many thanks to those who I worked on the Ladder, the second Sunday proving to be quite a challenge with the CW contest in full swing but still great fun trying to squeeze into, and be heard on the very much overcrowded bands.

Let's do it all again in December.

Season's greetings to all.

73

Phil M6PHL Fists 14543

Hello Phil.

Not too bad here thanks, hope all well your way? As earlier comments show, many had jumped in with CQWW and had fun.

And from Peter. G4LHI.

Hello Robert.

My summary for this month.

A fairly reasonable score this month, considering the poor band cndx agn, but certainly a slight improvement in some band cndx with some of the HF bands wide open at times for some good DX QSO's.

Very nice to work some very good DX QSO's, 8P6, AF4, W4, all Fists members. 4X4, W5, KJ4, VU2, KP4, K8, W1, K5, N4, K0, all non members, on 10, 12, 20 & 30 Mtrs.

I also had a very interesting QSO with, Paul, G6PZ/MM, on 12m, on board MV Aurora, in mid Atlantic on route to Antigua, not a Fists member, but who knows after our rag chew?

Very many thanks to all those that support this event, members & non members, & let's hope the band conditions will continue to improve?

I had 88 QSO's for a total of 302 points, very pleased to work 2 new members, only had the one maximum 90 minutes with dear Erkki, OH7QR, this month, Many thanks for that Erkki & the new members.

Very many thanks as always to all members & non members that suffered some poor conditions on the bands at times to make this a very interesting & challenging event, looking forward to December FSA & Ladder, unfortunately it will be the last of the FSA for a while, but I'm sure we can twist dear Robs arm

to bring it back again soon.

Hope you have all seen & studied the 2012 Activities Rob has provided for us; hope to catch up with some of you on there.

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 Peter.

Many thanks for your monthly round up of band condx from your perspective.

I note the wish from yourself (and others) regarding the FSA. I can assure all that the activity is not gone and forgotten. Let me suggest that it's been temporarily put to rest ☺

And from "Uncle Dick" SV0XBN

Dear Nephew,

Not a good month by any stretch of the imagination. Seemed to get distracted by so many other things – XYL going back to the UK for 10 days(!), contests, aerial maintenance etc etc.

Will try and add a few more next month.

Not to depress you any but it is 30th November and we have been sitting on the balcony in the sunshine this morning (20c), writing Christmas Cards!

Have a Cool Yule Robert es Gud DX in 2012.

Cheers...

Uncle Dick... SV0XBN/9

Hello Uncle.

Well well... Thanks from us all regarding the comment about writing Christmas cards in a 20c environment!

That's cheered us all up! 😊

No matter how much time you had to get on air, it all counts. Hope the aerial maintenance went well, and you're geared up for the winter ahead. Look forward to hearing from you next month.

From Peter. G4LHI with his ladder report.

Hello Robert,

I attach my claim & report for November Activity Ladder.

Quite good conditions on the bands this month, for the first Sunday at least but unfortunately we had the dreaded WW CQ CW contest on all bands for the second week, but like good Fists guys we did manage to squeeze in a few QSO's , albeit, I only used the usual bands for the Ladder, 40M being my main activity.

80M was very difficult as usual, only managed to work one guy on that band in the first afternoon session, many thanks Geoff, G0DDX.

I was very disappointed I did not manage to hear Gra with MX5IPX, this month, but many thanks to him for



coming on.

All my thanks, as ever, to members, future members? & non members, the stalwarts of the Fists Activities that are always there. I do like the Ladder for the opportunity to chat with the non members & hope to persuade them to join our Club one of these days? You never know. But unfortunately with the contest there was not much chance for the usual chats this time.

For this month I had 28 QSO's for 32 points.

Hope conditions continue to improve for the rest of the year.

Looking forward to December Ladder & meeting up with a few of those new members that have joined recently together with all the regulars.

Keep bashing the brass & good hunting to you all.

73 de Peter G4LHI # 2219

Once again Peter, many thanks for your report and comments.

From Piet. PA3AFF.

Hello Robert,

November hasn't passed by yet, but here are my results for the FSA and Ladder competition. There is no more time available for me this week after having been in the CQWW CW contest! Not that high score with good conditions on the higher bands. Almost all

points are from the lower bands. Good luck to all of you! My score FSA 46 and Ladder 16 points. Ladder points from both time-slots 1st Sunday.

Piet, PA3AFF Fists #445

Hello Piet.

Good to hear from you. Glad you found time to get on air and score some points.

And from Geoff. G0DDX

Please see attached File for my November Fists Ladder session.

Not many stations worked, again. However, my confidence is growing albeit slowly.

On Sun 27th, I found it very difficult to pick out the individual stations due to the contest, as I could hear several at the same time.

Oh how I wish that my Flex 1500 SDR was not in for repair (CW section has failed Grrr!!). The variable filter width and tracking notch filters would have been very handy. Also with the CQWW contest going on it would have been a good test for them. Going back to the IC706 shows me just how good the Flex 1500 receiver is. Some may not like it, but I love it.

Hopefully I will have it back in the shack for the next Ladder session.

I managed to work the usual nearby stations, and

also heard G3HAL and G0TLU but didn't manage to work them, perhaps next session.

After going portable for the Ladder last month when on holiday, I was just amazed how good a simple dipole held up with a fishing rod can be.

I have realised that I need to re-visit my antennas at home.

Then I will be able to work more stations and elevate my position on the ladder.

Regards

Geoff G0DDX

Fists: 15552

A pleasure to hear from you Geoff, glad you braved the CQWW. The simplicity of a radio and a dipole cut for a band is hard to better in my opinion! Let's hope that the aerial re-visit yields some interesting QSO's for you in the coming months.

From Gra. G3ZOD

Hi Rob. A few more trips out /P (static /M) this month. First were two 3 hour sessions in the annual RSGB 2m CW contest. Paul M0PNA also went out on the Saturday but sadly we didn't hear each other. Although the number of QSO's was a bit disappointing, I did hear a number of FISTS folk but not strong enough to work: G0DUB, G6TGO and I think M0PNN.

I have some new mobile whips now: an 80m monoband and a 40m-6m multiband. First use was on the Ladder in the afternoon on 13th November as G3ZOD/P then on 20th November in the afternoon as MX5IPX/P. The latter session was in the height of the CQWW CW contest. Despite wall-to-wall QRM on 20m and no CW filter in the FT-817, I was delighted to manage to have a chat with Martin IK2RMZ. Dropping down on to 40m was not a success though - as I couldn't hear any FISTS callsigns and not having much power or a big antenna, I dropped down on to 80m where I was pleased to meet up with Dave G0BXV.

At the time of writing (5th December), we have had sleet so I'm not sure how many more trips out are practical now (and going out for the Ladder on 25th December is highly unlikely HI).

The evening sessions from the comfort of home but with the high noise levels have been a bit tough going. Along with the regulars, I was pleased to meet up with Bill G0WJM for the first time.

I'm sorry to see the Four Seasons ending but am looking forward to the new activities and awards for 2012. I have found that when visiting the HF bands, the Four Seasons has tended to make me try harder

to find people willing to have a reasonable QSO rather than going for the "599 TU" business.

I wish everyone a very happy Christmas and good DX for 2012.

73 de Graham G3ZOD FISTS #8385.

Hi Gra.

Good to hear from you and many thanks for your report and overview. The time of year dictates that you must spend a little more time in front of the fire ☺ unless of course you surprise us with your dogged determination and brave the elements to do some /p operation.

Some awards news;  
Congratulations to the following members:

- Ann KE6OIO #3364 Millionaire 4 Million Sticker
- Philip K9PL #6753 Worked All States
- Cecil K5YQF #8077 Rag Chewers
- Gary W4IHI #13344 Millionaire 4 Million Sticker
- Richard ACOMP #15301 Basic Century and Millionaire

Time to take a look at the results table(s) for November.

CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL	POWER
G4LHI	28	37	34	20	34	23	23	39	31	41	32		342	QRO
OH7QR	27	27	19	22	26	19	22	36	31	40	19		288	QRO
M6PHL	20	25	28	15	29	23	30	34	22	26	21		273	QRO
PA3AFF	13	8	10	17	16	17	7	18	17	18	16		157	QRO
M0DRK	0	22	19	10	16	14	10	10	5	20	13		139	QRO
G3ZOD	5	18	18	4	6	12	1	12	17	12	16		121	QRO
2E0JYK	10	12	12	0	19	14	12	14	10	12	4		119	QRO
G0DUB	4	16	17	11	0	17	4	13	16	10	6		114	QRO
MX5IPX ©	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	16	24	8		66	QRO
G0BAK	9	24	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		39	QRO
G0DDX	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	8	16		38	QRP
2E0TEK	17	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		29	QRO
IK2RMZ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16		16	QRO

The CQWW affected scores during November but congratulations to those who stuck it out.

With just one month left of the FSA I'm expecting entrants to hopefully have a good time during December and cross the final finishing line in style.

CALL	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTALS	CLASS	FISTS
G4LHI	362	302		664	A	EU
OH7QR	290	270		560	A	EU
IK2RMZ	183	197		380	A	EU
JO3HPM	174	97		271	A	EA
PA3AFF	78	46		124	A	EU
G3ZOD	46	37		83	A	EU
MX5IPX(c)	54	22		76	A	EU
SV0XBN/9	55	5		60	A	EU
K4UK	11	18		29	A	NA

Many thanks to those who've participated over the year.

HB9DEO	13	11		24	A
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As I've mentioned earlier; for those who've enjoyed taking part, I shall look at revisiting the FSA in the future.

That's all from me for yet another month.

All that's left to do is to wish members, participants,  
and followers of this offering;

"Compliments of the season"

Enjoy the festive period.

Keep well.  
Keep warm.

"Keep pounding brass"

73.  
MOBPT

