

# BRASSPOUNDER

October 2009

Greetings once again and its time for the October edition of BP.

My apologies for the lateness. It's been quite a busy few weeks for me, as some of you may be aware; the beginning of October saw myself and my daughter, Laura (2E1LJW) involved in a minor car accident, nothing too serious, but warranted us being checked out at the local hospital with whiplash injuries. As some of you will know from experience, the problems caused by these mishaps takes up a lot of ones time; dealing with all the associated insurance documents, hire cars, getting quotations for repairs etc. However, all seems to be back on track at the moment, just searching now for a replacement vehicle.

On to business; not a lot from me this month, so I'll get on with the reports and observations from members and participants of the activities.

Firstly, from Larry G4HXL who sent in this report.

Hi Rob,

Hope you are well. Yesterday I took part in the FISTS Ladder event to give away a few points to members. I joined in too late in the year to submit an official entry. Thought I would send in a report anyhow.

Firstly before the event, I found 80 mtrs to be extremely quiet on the CW end which was strange considering it was a Sunday morning. In the morning the only FISTS station I could hear at all before the ladder event was Tony G3ZRJ who was as usual nearly knocking my little rig off the table, such was his signal strength! 599+ lots of dB's

During the early ladder session I went to 20 meters to see if I could hear Erkki OH7QR/M #8318 who had told me would be operating mobile on Sunday. Hearing Erkki sign off with Peter G4LHI, I jumped in with 2 watts and secured a 449 report.

Next it was down to 80 mtrs where Peter G4LHI # 2219 was booming in with a nice 599 signal. I usually have some difficulty working Peter and was pleasantly surprised to receive a 599 report back using my new Walford Brue 80 mtr mono band rig with 10 watt linear on the back end. How just a few extra watts can make all the difference!

Other stations worked during the early session were M0DRK Derek, VK3DBD David albeit in the guise of G3SCD nr Lincoln (well one can always dream!) So not too

many stations heard really. However I was really pleased to get to meet G3SCD David for a new member before flying back off to Oz.

In the late session stations worked were G3ZOD Graham for a new member worked. GOBAK Bill in Leeds another new member for me, and Bryan G0GSY Cleethorpes who always has a great signal over this neck of the woods.

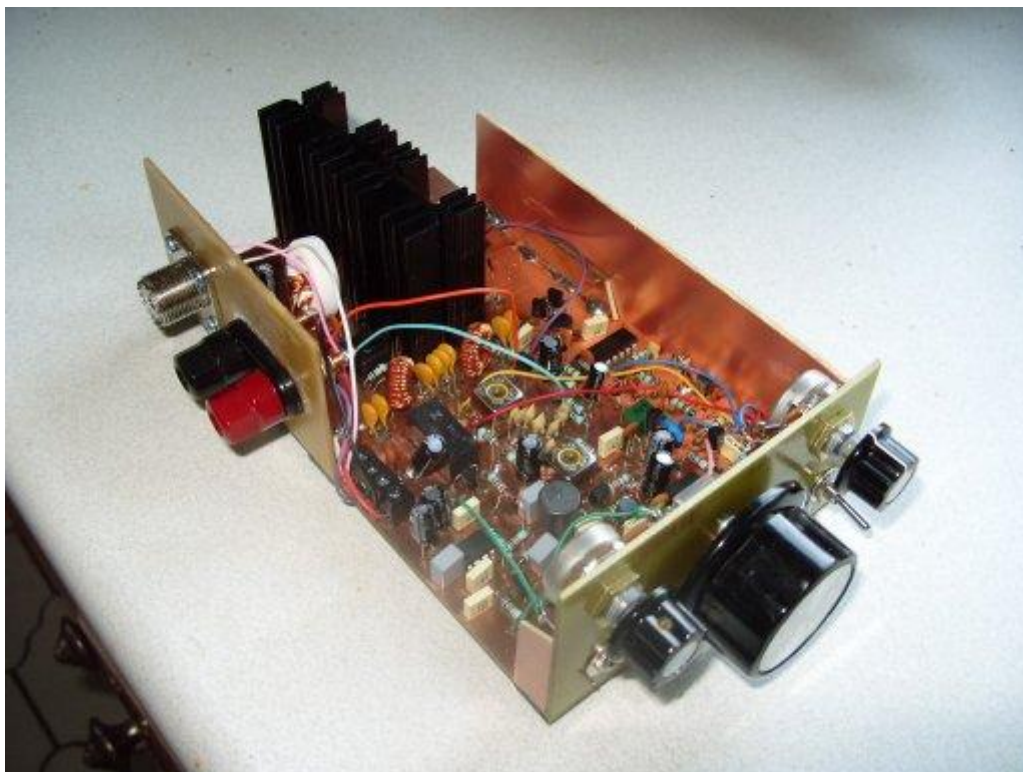
So Rob not so much quantity as quality yesterday in the ladder event as a very high proportion of members worked were new members for me.

I have inserted a pic of the 'SuperBrue' which I built last week to take me into the 'Big Gun' QRO category on 80 mtrs lol!

73 Rob,

### **Larry G4HXL FISTS #14525**

Rigs used 20 mtrs Heathkit HW8 2 watts  
80mtrs Walford Brue 10watts. (Pic below)  
Antenna 136ft doublet at 10 mtrs.



Thanks Larry for an excellent report and overview of your new addition and joining in the ladder with your "Big gun" (Hi) amplifier. Nice to see that you're enjoying the activity and meeting new members.

From Erkki OH7QR, who sends in this report.

Hello Robert,

Please find attached my ladder log.

On the first ladder day 11th Oct Leena and I were on the way home from Hailuoto. I had anticipated the ladder and had taken my mobile station with in the car. As usual the first QSO was with my good friend Peter, G4LHI. I met also Larry, G4HXL/qrp (many thanks to you both).

On the second Sunday I was at home. Peter again as first and some other members on 14.058 kHz. Larry was also on the band with his QRP-station. I was pleased to meet Tom ON4TOM fists 14535, it was our first QSO.

I attach an image of me working from mobile. This picture is taken in August on the island of Hailuoto. I activated IOTA EU-184. My mobile station consists of FT-897D and antenna is a single band whip (Moonraker Ampro-20). I have antennas for 80, 40, 30, 20 and 17 meters. Power comes from a separate battery of 70 Ah in the boot. Although I usually work with straight key I had to use the Bencher because the pile-up was so huge, HI. I am left-handed but I use the bencher with my right-hand. So is my left hand free for log-keeping, HI.

The winter is approaching. Our small lake was frozen over on 31st October. No snow yet but temperatures are below zero especially at night.

Many thanks to you for your valuable work with fists events. I am sure that it is highly appreciated among fists members.



Once again Erkki, many thanks for your report and image of your mobile operation. And of course for your kind words, it's a team effort, we welcome your words and thank you for

support of the society. I too am left-handed, I've not yet tried to master a paddle or pump key with my right hand, perhaps something to be considered in the future.

From Gra. G3ZOD

## Ladder (October)

11th October: This is the usual story with just two contacts during the afternoon session and two contacts during the evening session (all on 80m).

25th October: Okay, who turned on 80m in the afternoon?? Peter G4LHI was well up in strength and I had (for me) an unprecedented six contacts on 80m and one on 20m with Erkki OH7QR.

The later contacts were "tail-ends" from previous ones. Now, it has to be said that I'm not used to being called in this way. As the light was fading, the continuous contacts were preventing me from getting up to sort out the mains plugs so I could turn on my desk lamp, so I must have been quite a sight with my nose a couple inches from my notepaper struggling to see what I had written! (The main lighting is one of these wretched compact fluorescent light bulbs and it creates too much RFI to have it switched on whilst on the air. I'm looking forward to the day when LED lighting replaces the costly, short-lived, dimming over time and RF polluting CFLs!)

I was hoping the evening session might be productive on 80m too, but things were "normal" again with just two contacts and a third one lost in QSB.

73 de Graham (Gra) G3ZOD FISTS #8385

Nothing wrong with "tail ending" Gra....Do it all the time (Hi)

From Bill. GOBAK

Hi Rob

Please find attached my Ladder Log for October. I only managed just over an hour on the air for this months Ladder. I was pleased to score 5 points with so little activity and my 5 watts. I did find conditions a little better this month in general during October. I have some local qrn on both the Fists and Qrp calling frequencies on 80 metres.

I had a good session one evening on 80 metres when I had one station after another call me. It's a while since I have had that and never with my poor antenna at this qth. Thanks again for all the stations who try to pick out my qrp signals and I hope to manage a bit more time on the Ladder during November.

Best wishes Bill GOBAK Fists 13262

Always good to hear from you Bill. Nice to hear you were managing a "Pile up" with your activity. Lets hope you have the same success during November.

From Peter G4LHI.

Hello Robert,

I attach my claim for October Ladder

I did manage 9 Qso's in the first session & 8 in the second for my 32 points, conditions not too bad this month.

Very nice to meet one new member, Paul M0XPD. 14521, Qsl in my next batch to Chuck Paul & hope to find you on many of Robs nice list of activities for 2010? Many thanks of course to the regular ladder guys & thanks for the /M from Vierema on the 11th Erkki, OH7QR.

Nice to find Larry, G4HXL, a regular guy on the ladder now & nice to work again a couple of very low numbered members, 57 Chas, GM3JUD & 361, Mike, G0AXE, looks like the ladder may be getting more members now, well done, keep it up, it's nice to see more activity again, & Rob wont mind a few more claims to check hi !! Also, again, may I thank the many good wishes & support to Jean & myself, received during Jeans continued long illness.

That's all folks, so many thanks to all who support the ladder & look forward to a good November session & perhaps a few new members may join us?

"Keep Pounding the Brass" & above all, enjoy your CW & the good company.

73/88 de Peter G4LHI # 2219 & Jean.

As ever Peter, pleased to receive your report for the month. We all know how busy you are with other duties, and as ever pass on our good wishes to Jean and yourself.

From Derek M0DRK

Hi Again Robert.

Please find my log for October attached. Very pleased to meet some new (to me) members on the Ladder this month, Paul M0XPD 14521, Tom ON4TOM 14535, and Matteo IZ1CLB 13201. Also met Mike G0AXE 361 and Rich G4FAD 14086 for the first time on 80m in October but not on the Ladder. Thanks to all the other stations who also gave me points. Hope all ok with you Robert and maybe get you in the log again before too long.

Take care mate, 73 for now, Derek M0DRK.

Always good to hear from you Derek. Lets hope our paths will cross again on air in the not too distant future. Regards to Molly and yourself.

Finally, before I go on to show the latest ladder results. I've received a communication from new member Ian. G6TGO, who says.

Good Day Robert.

Just to inform you, that I am a new member of FISTS and I operate on 6m as my primary band throughout the year.

I am open to Skeds and also actively monitor 50.090 and 098 and put out regular CQ calls out so if any FISTS members wish to try a qso on 6 either for the first time or whatever I am here to help.

my email address is [ian4379\(at\)hotmail.com](mailto:ian4379@hotmail.com)

My QTH is Altrincham in Cheshire and I have good takeoff toward Cornwall, and the Cities of Southampton and London. Towards GM though I have intense noise from 25Kv Tramway overhead lines.

I operate on 6m QRP CW from Cornwall when on holiday I will advise you when I will be operational in 2010.

I hope this may interest your readers.

73 de IAN.

Hello Ian and welcome to the society. I'm sure that your words of introduction and the possibility of a 6m sked will indeed interest the people who read this offering.

So. Should anyone wish to meet Ian on air, he has supplied his email AD. I hope he'll be able to meet members during this year and perhaps during 2010 in the VHF activity.

Onto the ladder result table.

LADDERTOTALS 2009														
CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTALS	PWR
G4LHI	29	40	44	30	27	7	0	26	28	32			263	QRO
M5ABN	27	40	27	21	0	0	15	0	0	0			130	QRO
M0DRK	10	22	15	15	8	3	0	16	17	17			123	QRO
G4CMZ	0	21	26	22	5	4	13	8	7	0			106	QRP
IK2RMZ	7	12	20	0	43	10	0	0	0	0			92	QRO
G0BAK	6	8	16	14	12	4	10	9	5	5			89	QRP
G3ZOD	8	12	11	7	7	4	7	6	10	17			89	MIX
OH7QR	15	4	5	5	12	3	0	14	8	21			87	QRO
2E0TEK	18	20	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			52	QRO
G8XGQ	2	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			12	QRO

Thats about all from me for another month, till next time, keep well, keep pounding brass.

73. M0BPT.



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