

# BRASSPOUNDER

October 2011

Issue 67

Welcome to the October edition of BP.

As I prepare this offering for publication, I'm in the throes of getting the 2012 activity calendar finalised for all to peruse.

As the end of 2011 comes on the horizon. I'm thinking of the sad losses to the society over the year. To name but two. Dawson; G3AHS and last month the passing of Jimmy G3HBN. I've had the pleasure of meeting both G3AHS and G3HBN on air; as time goes by, more and more of our respected members sadly become SK and noticed by their absence on air.

The contributions made by all of the societies members; (for that matter all amateurs) will be sorely missed by present and future users of this marvellous medium.

Lets take a look at the reports and comments received this month.

From Peter. G4LHI.

Hello Robert,

I attach my Report & Claim for October, (start of final season) Four Seasons Award.

My summary for this month.

A fairly good score this month, not quite as many QSO's as

Sept, but certainly an improvement in the band conditions with some of the HF bands wide open at times for some good DX QSO's.

Very nice to work David, VK3DBD back in his home QTH on 30M, very many thanks Dave & look out for you again one early morning (for me), let's hope it is a sign that the propagation may be changing & we may get a few more DX Fists members before the end of this FSA activity year.

I had 111 QSO's for a total of 362 points, very pleased to work 3 new members, only had the one maximum 90 minutes with dear Erkki, OH7QR, this month, Many thanks for that Erkki & the new members.

I had some very good DX QSO's, VK3, K8, W1, VE3, K1, WL7, all Fists members, TA, VE1, N2, JS3, JH3, VK6, K9, W4, KF4, FP5, K2, VE3, WX2, K3, non members, on 10, 12, 20 & 30 Mtrs.

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

Very special thanks to Graham, G3ZOD for bringing the UK National Club, MX5IPX, this month.

I must also congratulate Geoff, G0DDX, who is a relatively new member to the Club & even whilst on holiday he set up a portable station to join in the Fists Activity this month, & my thanks for the very good 599 QSO Geoff, hope you found a nice lot of takers?

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 November FSA & Ladder & 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.

As ever Peter, many thanks for a concise round of the months happenings. Some good DX worked during the month. As you comment; lets hope condx are on the up.

From Stan. K4UK.

As you can see I was not very active in the Four Seasons Challenge.

Did enjoy the openings on the 12 and 10 Meter bands. Had quite a few other contacts which did not last the required 5 minutes in order to make the log. Hopefully I'll be more active during November.  
73, Stan - K4UK

Hello Stan. Glad you found some time to get on air and support the event.

From Uncle Dick. SV0XBN

Dear Nephew,

A few contacts this month despite having even more friends turning up to stay nearby and letting us know two days before they arrived!

Best QSO of the month? Easy, it was with JJ, ON3ND, a

friend for many years.

So why the name JJ?

Well, sending 'Jean Jacques' on CW takes a long time!

Good to see 10m opening up a bit more . . .

Not sure if you will be running this activity next year Robert but January will probably be a washout for me as I will be back in the UK for most of the time.

No, I am not visiting then because I miss the cold WX but have several family matters to sort out and an invite to a Christmas Lunch! . . .

Also need to buy a power supply, some coax patch leads and some ferrite rings. All of which I can get in Greece but at huge prices!

WX cooler but beer still cold . . .

73

Uncle Dick. SV0XBN/9

Greetings Uncle.

Glad to hear the beer still cold. Keep me one in the fridge. Quite a few have commented on and ten and twelve being open. As earlier said. Lets hope its a return to the good times.

From Phil. M6PHL

Hello Rob,

Hope you are well, here is my log for the October ladder.

With very good DX condx on the HF bands of late, I must admit that I have strayed away from CW over the past month, to that other mode of TX called SSB Hi, but saying that, CW still used but had some great QSO's by actually speaking to other operators particularly in South America.

Again many thanks to those who I worked on the Ladder, the second Sunday evening proving to be very good conditions . I must mention working Gra G3ZOD again who normally is quite difficult to resolve but was a very strong 599 here in Ely, let's hope these better condx continue.

As many of you now know, I passed my Intermediate exam in September, thanks for the congratulations sent by several members , and will now be heard using the call sign 2E0DPH, but for the rest of this year on the Ladder Activity, I will continue using M6PHLwith just my 10w.  
See you all again in November.

M6PHL

Fists 14543

Hello Phil.

Good to hear from you. Yes, band condx improving of late.

Glad to see all of you enjoying the enhanced conditions.

Once again, hearty congratulations on your licence upgrade.

Look forward to hearing you wearing your new hat.

And from Graham. 2E0JYK.

Hi Rob,

had a great time on the ladder this month looking forward to November, all this CW helps with the learning.

Trust you are well and in good health?

Regards.

Graham 2E0JYK 14822.

Hello Graham.

Pleased to hear that you're enjoying the CW and having a

good time on the ladder activity. All well here thanks for your enquiry. Trust you and yours are in good shape?

And from Greg. G0DUB.

Hi Rob,

I could only get on for the sessions on the 23rd where conditions were more suitable for DX so I couldn't resist :-)  
It was good to make my first FISTS contact outside the continent (Chris, WU1E) and the HF conditions were encouraging enough to drag me away from my normal horizontal loop antenna to the 7m vertical hidden in a tree. Hopes high to achieve my ladder target by the end of the year :-)

73,

Greg, G0DUB

Fists Nr. 6095

Hello Greg.

Good to hear from you, and well done on the trip across the pond with WU1E. I see that you have broken the century barrier with your points score this month.

From Derek. M0DRK.

Hi Robert,

Please find attached my log for October Ladder, a little bit better this time. 40 metres was very good on 23/10/11.

Very pleased to have at last got my Fists Platinum Award. A QSO with Terry,



G0UAD gave me that long awaited 100th Century Number. It was almost nine years to the day that I got the first Century number from Peter, G4LHI. Many thanks to all Century holders that have helped me get there.

Now, What's next? hi. Hope see you next month Robert, only two more for this year. 73 for now, take care, Derek, M0DRK.

Hello Derek.

Well done on the award; It took me an age to get my century award. Hi.

And from G4LHI

Hello Robert,

I attach my claim & report for October Activity Ladder.

Quite good conditions on the bands this month, with the HF bands wide open, 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 two guys on that band in the first afternoon session, one Fists member, the other a dear friend who I am desperately trying to persuade to join us, but appreciate the regular QSO's & one point for the Ladder each session hi.

Very nice to see a nice lot of new members joining the Club, unfortunately did not find any of them on the Ladder yet hope they will swell the Ladder activity in due course?

Very mni tnx fer the 5 points Gra with the National Club Call, MX5IPX on 40M on the afternoon of the 23rd & a good 589 both ways this time.

Also, I would like to add my congratulations to Derek, M0DRK, for getting his Platinum Century Award, well done mate, now you must start looking for the Platinum 250 hi.

I must also congratulate Geoff, G0DDX, who is a relatively new member to the Club & even whilst on holiday he set up a portable station to join in the Fists Activity Ladder this month, & my thanks for the very good 599 QSO Geoff, hope you found a nice lot of takers?

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.

For this month I had 20 QSO's for 41 points, so hope conditions continue to improve for the rest of the year.

Looking forward to November 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

Thanks once again Peter for your concise round up.

From Gra. G3ZOD.

Hi Rob.

As my birthday present, I opted to have one of those "emergency jump starter" units so I could go out as G3ZOD/P (in my case static /M as I'm not an "outdoorsy type"!) and run 5 watts from my FT-817 for a few hours. The particular one was £19.99 from Maplin with a 17AH battery, which seemed quite reasonable. I had a go with my "Miracle Whip" on a magnetic base on the car roof during the Ladder in the afternoon on the 9th October. One of the troubles is, though, it's not designed for outdoor use and it was a very rainy day. A quick solution was to wrap a couple of plastic bags around the matching unit and fix them in place with sellotape - not elegant! I managed just two QSOs - Erkki OH7QR #8318 on 20m and Piet PA3AFF #445 on 40m, so it wasn't a huge success but good fun nonetheless.

The first photo shows the makeshift antenna weather proofing.



The second photo shows the station in the car, with my PK4 keyer, FT-817 and the G4ZPY miniature paddles with magnetic base. The paper is so I can rest my hand on the FT-817 without messing up the paint work!

Back at home in the evening as MX5IPX on 80m was more fruitful, with five QSO's, including meeting for the first time Huw GW4DWN #14878, Ted G2HKU #841 and Roy G4VXV #13241

On 23rd October, I was on as MX5IPX in the afternoon and had a record (for me) number of QSO's. I was pleased to meet on the air for the first time Bill G0JWB #385 and Nigel G0IIK #172.

Back as G3ZOD in the evening I was surprised to work Phil M6PHL #14543 on 40m at 18:46, as normally I can't hear any G stations on 40m at that time of day.

Four seasons: In the early part of October, I was on the air a bit more than usual, enjoying the good conditions on 12m and 10m, with some quite distant stations popping up even on the lame indoor wire antenna. I had a chat on 12m with Roger K1TG #10462 for 35 minutes (when the QSB ended it). A new country (from this QTH) for me was Carlos PY2XC on 10m. Sadly, at 4 minutes, not quite making into the Four Seasons was another new country: Naito JF2IWW.

So, all in all, very pleasing results for October. I'm aiming to have a more weatherproof antenna for further /P in the future Ladder sessions - at least until such time as the snow sets in!

73 de Graham G3ZOD FISTS #8385

Good to hear from you Gra.

Thanks for sharing the images of your /P set up with us all.  
Your indoor aerial is not "Lame" by any means with the

impressive description of new countries worked.

### Some general news

#### FISTS Awards

Congratulations to the following members:

Derek M0DRK, #8344 Platinum Award

Gene W5GXV, #11347 Millionaire Award 17 Million Sticker

Billy M0JHA, #12589 Basic Century Award  
and 1 X QRP Award

All the above awards are particularly impressive achievements. Derek's Platinum Award requires receiving 100 Century Certificate (CC) numbers, not easily done. Gene's 17 Million Sticker requires 17,000,000 points accumulated by adding up the member numbers from contacts and Billy achieved his awards using a maximum of 3 watts with almost all the contacts being on 40m.

Lets take a look at the results tables.

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			310	QRO
OH7QR	27	27	19	22	26	19	22	36	31	40			269	QRO
M6PHL	20	25	28	15	29	23	30	34	22	26			252	QRO
PA3AFF	13	8	10	17	16	17	7	18	17	18			141	QRO
M0DRK	0	22	19	10	16	14	10	10	5	20			126	QRO
2E0JYK	10	12	12	0	19	14	12	14	10	12			115	QRO
G0DUB	4	16	17	11	0	17	4	13	16	10			108	QRO
G3ZOD	5	18	18	4	6	12	1	12	17	12			105	QRO
MX5IPX ©	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	16	24			58	QRO
G0BAK	9	24	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			39	QRO
2E0TEK	17	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			29	QRO
G0DDX	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	8			22	QRP

Some big scores in the ladder this month.

CALL	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTALS	CLASS	FISTS
G4LHI	362			362	A	EU
OH7QR	290			290	A	EU
IK2RMZ	183			183	A	EU
JO3HPM	174			174	A	EA
PA3AFF	78			78	A	EU
SV0XBN/9	55			55	A	EU
MX5IPX(c)	54			54	A	EU
G3ZOD	46			46	A	EU
K4UK	11			11	A	NA

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Band condx being favourable has meant that many have amassed excellent scores and their list of countries worked has swelled. Long may it continue.

Finally. I've decided not include the FSA in the 2012 activity calendar. It has been an interesting exercise, and something I may re-activate in the future.

You may recall that the FOTA Award (Fist on the air) encompassed the FSA. It will be included in the said award till its end on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011.

That's all from me for another month.  
 With Christmas looming on the horizon many of us will be diverting our attentions to the festive season.  
 So I hope you all find time to play at CW.

Till next time;  
 Keep well.  
 Keep pounding brass.

73.  
 MOBPT.

