

The International Morse Preservation Society

FISTS CW Club

Exchange your age week 2011.

Welcome to you all. EYAW once again has been received with enthusiasm! Looking through the entries received this year, I see many members were on air getting involved with the event. Senior members, not so "senior" members were very active during the week.

I'd noticed too, that many early FISTS numbers, all the way to later FISTS numbers had found their way into entries this year. Indeed, it seemed that many of the society's members had blown the dust off the key(s) and came on for a chat with others!

Again, many non members were in entries received, no doubt enjoying the enhanced activity in the CW section of the amateur spectrum. A spectacular way to profile our chosen mode of operation, and to show all that CW is alive and well!

I did notice too, that some of our senior call signs; and other well known calls that are normally active; were conspicuous by their absence in members' logs. Let's hope that they are well and will once again be heard on the bands. This was noticed by other members' too.

For the first time, I've received two logs from FISTS NA Members, Thanks go to long time supporter of FISTS EU Events; Stan. K4UK; and a warm welcome to Dan; K3DRQ.

Let's take a look at some of the comments received.

Piet. PA3AFF comments;

Hello Robert,

Maybe it is your first entry for EYAW 2011. I will be in Belgium the rest of the week/weekend, without radio. I made 16 QSO's with Fists members ranging from age 37 to 90. The average age of the stations worked was 64.3, just over my age 59 hi. My score is 997 points.

73 PA3AFF Piet, Schaft, Fists #445

Hello Piet, Indeed, it was the first entry received; glad you found some time to join in before the trip to Belgium. Maybe you'll be active with ON/PA3AFF in the future.

From Graham, 2E0JYK

Hi Rob,

Find enclosed my entry for the Exchange Your Age Week. I must start by saying what a pleasure just taking part. I had quite a lot of contacts as you can see, I did think I was just going to QSO with the local lads, but I was wrong. It was a great pleasure working different people from different parts. And even the odd QSO with Europe (OH7QR).

I did get a very nice surprise from G3ZRJ; he sent me an e-mail complimenting me on my sending proficiency! I had never worked Tony before and he said my sending was very good and I never showed any signs of nervousness! I have already got the log ready for next year so hopefully I will be a lot better with CW and the hobby than what I am at the moment.

73 Graham 2E0JYK #14822

Hi Graham; Very pleased that you've enjoyed taking part! Nice that you managed to hook up with Erkki; OH7QR.

See my other comments at the end of this offering!

From Stan. K4UK.

Rob - MOBPT:

Attached is my log for this year's Exchange Your Age Week event. Wasn't able to operate much because we had to go to Florida for my wife's High School reunion on Monday.

And we used my wife's car for the trip which does not have any mobile antennas on it. Arrived back home on Wednesday afternoon. Never heard any of you chaps over there in the "Mother Country" But it was fun anyway for the short time I was able to operate.

73, Stan - K4UK

Good to hear from you once again Stan, I trust the trip to Florida was an enjoyable one?

Maybe a "Thing to do in 2011" will be to adorn Mrs K4UK's motor vehicle with some of your aerials (Hi). Glad you found time to get on nevertheless. Thanks as ever for your support of the event from across the pond.

From Derek; M0DRK

Hi Robert,

Please find attached my log for Fists EYAW.

Missed the first two days, many thanks to all stations that gave me points during the five short days that I was on air. It was a pleasure to work several stations for the first time. Though I

missed out on the Fists national call(s), I was very pleased to work GX0000 with Roy on the key. Hadn't been in touch with Roy for a year. Very nice to hear you again Roy.

I need just one more century number for my hundredth, so hope that one will soon come my way. It was November 2001 that I got my first CC number from Peter G4LHI, so a lot of patience needed.

Apart from a few QSO's on 2m, the only antenna used for Fists EYAW was the Snowdonia SRC X65MULTI which seemed to perform very well.

Take care Robert.

73 for now, Derek M0DRK.

Hi Derek. Glad you managed to get on and enjoy the event. I'm sure someone will come to your rescue and provide you with the elusive 100th Century Certificate you need to add some more wallpaper to the shack wall. As you say; patience is needed, but things always come to those who wait (Hi).

From Gra G3ZOD

Hi Rob. I got off to a slow start on the first day - couldn't hear or attract anyone's attention on 80m. Eventually the penny dropped that I was on 3.580 instead of 3.558 - oops!

I was very pleased to contact Erkki OH7QR and Peter G4LHI on all 7 days and had good fun during the week.

Special thanks to yourself and John M0CDL for putting GX0IPX and GX3ZQS on for us and to everyone who managed to copy my rather weak signals on 80m.

73 de Graham G3ZOD FISTS #8385

Hi Gra. Pleased to have hooked up with you during EYAW. I recollect you having said on an earlier occasion that 40 was not a good band for you. But you were booming through with me!

Best signal I've ever encountered from you! The vagaries of the ether!

And from Rod G0IAL

Hello Rob

Attached is my log for the Exchange Your Age Week; a great fun week, and for me an improvement over my results for last year. I had hoped to achieve more contacts on Saturday 12th March but the bands were awful with contest 'noise' filling every space. Thanks for running the event and I look forward to a repeat next year.

Rod G0IAL Fists 348

Hello Rod. A pleasure to hear from you and receive your entry once again. Good to hook up with you with the HQ Call. I had noticed that you were very active during the event. Looking forward to meeting you again.

From Peter G4LHI

Hello Robert,

I attach my entry & report for the March 2011 EYAW.

Band condx not too bad during the week, tough going at times, but very enjoyable event as always, great fun, there seemed to be a fair number of members about but I think a few of the regulars were missing or I did not hear them? I was concerned about dear Ray, G3ASG, he was so active last year, and I did not hear any other station working him either? Do hope he is alright & just conditions that kept him off?

I managed 116 QSO's (117 last year) for $232 + 7527 = 7759$ total points, (subject to contest managers red pen!!) (117 totals 7639 last year) the Club calls from Rob & Roy certainly making the total a little bigger, many thanks guys.

I worked 6 new Fists members during the week. Many thanks for point's guys & welcome to the club, I'm sure you will enjoy it & make many friends on the bands. Don't forget we also have the FSA running all the year, that's a very good event because you can work all the bands, including the WAC Bands, & a good chance to find your new CC holders etc.

Very many thanks to all members & non members once again for the very enjoyable QSO's including extra points for the FSA during the week, was great fun as all our Fists Club Activities are, many thanks Rob for a good calendar of activities for 2011.

That's all for now folks, hope to see all those that joined us during the week many times again during the year & lots more new members joining us, there certainly are a lot of new call-signs & big new numbers on the Fists Webpage every time you look at it, very good for your Millionaire Award!.

Keep bashing the brass! & enjoying your CW.

73 de Peter G4LHI # 2219.

Hello Peter. Thanks for your report and overview of the weeks happenings; A pleasure to meet up once again with the HQ Call(s). As you'll have seen in my earlier comments; I'd noticed too, the absence of some of our senior members, let's hope they are well and still active.

And From Phil M6PHL

Hello Rob

Please find attached my log for EYAW 2011.

Another great EYAW, as many of you know my second one, having 'dipped my toe' for the first time last year Hi!

Fluctuating conditions on 80m made it interesting and somewhat very difficult at times to complete a QSO but great fun all the same, isn't that all part of the hobby?

Many thanks to all those who participated, I really have enjoyed working both new members and the 'regulars' with a bit more confidence this year.

It is less than two years since I started learning CW, anyone reading this, thinking about or just starting to learn CW, all it takes is regular practice, working fellow Fists members who understand and are quite prepared to go QRS and of course a good tutor will help enormously, in my case Peter G4LHI, thank you again for your continued encouragement and support.

Lastly, I couldn't help but notice one or two active members last year were missing, I hope they are well.

See you all again next year.

73 Phil M6PHL Fists 14543

Hello Phil, Good to hear from you. Didn't manage to hook up with you during EYAW with the HQ call(s). I'd noticed; having the luxury of looking through entrants logs; that many newer entrants to the hobby (both M3/M6 prefixes and 2E prefixes) were much more abundant on the air this week! Very gratifying to know that many of our newer entrants to the hobby are discovering CW, more importantly, having the confidence to join in and enjoy the mode.

From Erkki OH7QR

Hello Robert,

Please find attached my EYAW log. It was a great week and I enjoyed every QSO. Thank you for the QSOs with GX0IPX and GX3ZQS.

The ages ranged between 37 and 89 years, average 63.5 years. So I am no more middle-aged with my 71 years, Hi.

I was pleased to be the first who answered to Paul's 2E0EAN CQ. We had a good QSO, many thanks Paul.

I had a QSO with Gra G3ZOD every day; he was very busy on band. Condx were against us on two days but we managed nevertheless. Many thanks also to my good friend Peter for our five QSOs. Thanks also to all others I met during the week.

Robert, your work with our logs is of great value, special thanks to you. I am sure that we all appreciate the work you do.

73 Erkki OH7QR.

Hello Erkki, a pleasure to meet you once again with the HQ Call(s) thanks for your kind words, as I mention to all, it's a team effort from the management team, and something we all enjoy doing. Many members were very active during the week, a real pleasure to hear the activity from members!

Time for the all important results table.

CALL	SCORE	CLASS	AVG AGE
G4LHI*	7759	A	64.3
M6PHL*	6041	A	65.9
G3ZOD*	4489	A	70.3
G3HAL	3562	A	66.4
G3ZRJ	2978	A	67.1
OH7QR	2688	A	63.5
M0DRK	1951	A	65.2
G0IAL	1900	A	67.8
2E0JYK	1887	A	67.9
PA3AFF	997	A	64.3
K4UK	618	A	60.1
MWOZAP	385	A	74.8
K3DRQ	327	A	63.6
M0KIS	206	A	66.6
2E0EAN	145	A	70.5
GX3ZQS	661	A	42.3
GX0IPX	595	A	57.6

* Denotes award Winners

Congratulations to G4LHI with an excellent winning score. M6PHL and G3ZOD came in second and third respectively with excellent scores too!

Summing up the event,

Looking through the entrants logs, many members were active on air! This can only be good news for the society and mode! CW certainly is "Alive and well". Let's hope this trend continues.

A mention must go to all who found time to get on air and send in an entry. This shows your support for the society and its activities. Fewer entrants than last year but condx were marginal at times; I'm assuming that this kept many of the regular stalwarts off air; many mentioned in email that G3ASG and G0AZR were conspicuous by their absence. I do hope they are well, and look forward to hearing them on air in the near future.

A welcome and thanks must go to MOKIS, MW0ZAP and 2E0EAN who joined us for the first time and supported the event. Dear Pol. G3HAL who commented that he enjoyed the event and hopes to be around next year! I'm sure you will be Pol. I missed you with the HQ calls this year; I did listen around for you!

Looking at the comments that came with the report of Graham 2E0JYK speaks volumes for those who are new to the hobby and CW in general; illustrates friendliness within the society that is hard to replicate! An email from G3ZRJ (Special thanks to Tony) praising him on his sending shows to all newer users of CW that there is no fear in coming on air! Our seasoned members are happy to accommodate you and spend time with you; helping you to gain confidence on air!

Our next event is the FISTS sponsored EUCW QRS Party running in April, why not make a note of this and join us for the event?

Finally, a few words regarding the youngest and most senior amateurs heard during the week!

Looking through logs (HQ included) the youngest heard was Thomas 2E0ETT at 37 years. Thomas is a relatively new member of the society and CW I believe. Thanks for taking time to come on air, and pleased to meet you with the HQ Calls.

More senior members/non members heard on air were Pol G3HAL (89 years) Dawson G3AHS (90 years) Davey G3AGA (90 years).

BUT! I can lay claim this year to working the most senior amateur with both HQ calls! Dear Bob M0BYJ QTH Birmingham at 94 years was the most senior amateur heard! Also heard and worked by M6PHL. Well done Phil. Bob was quite active during the week. It's a real pleasure to know that our senior amateurs are still active with the mode. I look forward to hearing you all next year when we're all a year older! (I prefer the word "mature" Hi)

Next event as earlier mentioned is the EUCW QRS Party; running from the 25th-29th of April 2011. Full rules etc. can be found on the FISTS Web-site.

www.fists.co.uk/activitiescalendar.html#fistseucwqrsparty2011

Or at my own unofficial site

<http://m0bpt-fists.webs.com>

It's time to close EYAW for another year. I look forward to hearing from you all in the next event.

For those who are not part of the FSA, why not total your entries and points gained during EYAW and submit them to the FSA? You can do this with any scores accumulated during the events throughout 2011!

That's all from the stable of MOBPT.

Till next time.

Keep well, keep pounding brass.