

International Morse Preservation Society



KEY NOTE



Sec: E. (Geo) Longden, G3ZQS. 119 Cemetery Rd., DARWEN, BB3 2LZ, England. 01254-703948

<http://www.ase1.demon.co.uk/fists-hq/> <http://www.fistsdownunder.morsekeys.com>

E-Mail HQ: fist1@btinternet.com webmaster: webmaster@asel.demon.co.uk

OFFICES

QSL Manager: M0AVW

32 Woodford Walk, Harewood Park, TS17 0LT

PRO: G4YLB. J.A. Welsh

3 Minster Cresc, DARWEN, BB3 3PY

CONTEST MANAGER: M5AGL

15a Buckden Rd., BRAMPTON, PE18 4PR

Chairman
Vice Chairman
P.R.O.
Secretary

G4XHZ
G4YLB
G4YLB
G3ZQS

COMMITTEE

Pse keep watch on all Novice allocations
Recommended calling QRGs:
3.558, 7028, 14.058, 21.058, 28.058

AWARDS

e-mail apps/logs to Dennis, K6DF:
<fistsawards@comcast.net>
written logs to HQ. No charges and no return
envelope required.

SUBS: e-mail Keynote £4.00, UK mail £5.00, EEC mail £7.00. Others £10.00. Your renewal date appears on the mailing label and your anticipation would be much appreciated. Cheques should be made payable to just FISTS and sent to G3ZQS.

Up-dated listings may also be obtained from HQ. Please include 3 2nd class stamps to cover return and running costs

Lapel Badges, £1.50 incl. **Fabric patches** £1.50 incl.

QSL Cards £6.00 per 100 or £10.00 per 200 (UK and EU pse add £1.00 for p/p. DX members - on advice.

Personalised stickers £1.00 per sheet of 65. Max order 5 sheets.

Please include your **CALLSIGN** on all correspondence.

Useful contacts:

M0AVW 01642-869619 <m0avw1@ntlworld.com>

M0AYI Glenn@m0ayi.freeseve.co.uk

M5AGL bobm5agl@btopenworld.com

M0ZAK jim.steel@ntlworld.com

QSL BUREAU

All outgoing QSLs to M0AVW (address on banner).

UK members send stamps and labels (no envelopes necessary) to the appropriate sub-manager as below:

M or 2 Prefixes (Except for Wales) M0AYI. 7 Tynedale Terrace, Annfield Plain, STANLEY, DH9 7TZ.

G0, GM0 etc (Except GW0). G3JRY. 3 Rochford Cresc, BOSTON, PE21 9AE

G3, GM3 etc (except GW3). G0UQF. 2 East St, Darfield, BARNSELY, S73 9AE.

G4, GM4 etc (Except GW4). M0ZAK. 6 Central Ave, SHEPSHED, LE12 9HP.

G1, G2, G5, G6, G7, G8 (Except for Wales) and **ALL** special (GB etc) calls to M0BPT. 38 Wheatley St, WEST BROMWICH, B70 9TJ.

All members in Wales. GW0SGG. 14 Heather Cresc, Sketty, SWANSEA, SA2 8HE

Pre-paid postal subscriptions

EU/DX Members: IRCs, UK Banknotes or US dollars to M0AVW. The Club will provide envelopes. Any excess over subs from non-UK members will be regarded as QSL postage unless otherwise advised.

GREETINGS

A log arrived here for the ladder but it should have gone to Bob, M5AGL (address on banner) whilst a small number of members send their subs to M0AVW instead of here to HQ. Such misdirections are few and cause little problem but it would help if note was taken. I think I should also remind you that computerised claims for awards may be sent directly to Dennis, K6DF at <fistsawards@comcast.net>. Those without internet facilities should send written logs here to HQ and they will be emailed direct to Dennis. Return envelope not necessary and whilst small donations are appreciated, there is otherwise no charge.

What would happen if a group of subscribers found their broad band access screwed up by some local amateur? That is a question which has still not been answered though from information received the authorities in the US are pushing hard for the idea

of transmitting data over power lines. Would you believe that after all the hoo-ha they are still persisting. Would the offending station have his licence revoked or would the authorities tell the subscribers that they must live with the problem? I know what my money is on!

We are getting some odd callsigns these days especially from Germany and many of them can be justifiably described as QRS. The DC1 station from Hannover I worked early in March on 30m was typical though at an estimated 12 wpm he was QRQ compared to others heard. Didn't spend too long with him but there was no doubting his appreciation of my QRS and the QSO. Do please encourage these guys whenever possible.

Paypal.

Received first subs via paypal early in March. Was not too sure what to expect but it appears to be a self-generated page from the paypal site. As it happens, there was no ID problem but members using this service are asked to remember that your callsign is unique and is therefore used to index records here at HQ. Please be sure to include your **callsign** somewhere on the page to save me from going into Sherlock Holmes mode. A direct reply to one such advice incidentally was rejected by the ISP (qsl.net). They didn't like the content which explains why Andy cannot send the email Keynote to many net based ISPs. We must have your **real** address.

Frustratingly, I am still getting subs via snail mail from members who can be identified only as Mr. Jones or Mr Brown, often simply a cheque with no additional info. There's lots of room to add your call on the reverse of the cheque even if you do not wish to include a note.

The bands improve very reluctantly of late with more noise than signals on most. The resultant dearth of activity leaves me wondering if some of you have ventured up other roads - like taking an Open University course in pole dancing - though there are a few encouraging periods. It is not a bad idea to leave the rig running quietly on the speaker and tuned to your favourite band with a broad bandwidth just in case. Many of you do just this and it frequently produces dividends as with 15m in late February when someone lifted the cover and much of Africa became available for a short spell. Worth the wait!

Mary G0BQV has recently entered an impressive 174 ex Morse examiners into her spreadsheet as volunteers for the Morse Proficiency initiative. Very encouraging but it would be much more satisfying to see local clubs and rallies offering the service rather than just the big national affairs. I do not apologise for reminding you of the importance of this especially at local level so if you have aspirations of putting something back into the hobby please keep an eye on the situation. 'Nuff said.

CONFEXN

Please do **NOT** use an application form for your subs renewal. It causes much confusion here and my bill for aspirins is already running high.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOWT

I note that the ARRL among others appears to be in something of a tizzy concerning the "@" symbol and has joined in the paper chase of finding a unique symbol for sending it in CW.

The latest offering appears to be the chars A+C but am I missing something? I give my email address out over the air regularly and thus far my faith in the intelligence of those to whom I send it remains intact. I send "fist1 at btinternet.com". Yes the spaces are included to avoid confusion and I trust that if someone is sufficiently clued up to ask for the address then they will also be aware that spaces are not permitted so; the "at" **must** be intended to convey the "@" symbol. Could someone please tell me where the problem is?

We are amateurs and do not convey reports from news paper correspondents to their employers! When was the last time that you send something in parenthesis on air. The same symbol (KK) is used for both open and close brackets even though 'KC' is available to indicate a closure (or is it the other way round). You trust the savvy of your contact to assume that the second occurrence of 'KK' is interpreted as a closure.

We are in danger of getting bogged down here - are we to have unique symbols for the asterisk, the strike through, the ampersand (what is wrong with 'es' or 'and'), the percentage sign (here PC will suffice if in context or if in doubt then the full spelling). The caret, the dollar or pound sign, the exclamation mark (who would need it indeed) - are they all to have their own exclusive sounds?

Truthfully, the only odd-ball symbol I need is the underscore since this can legitimately form part of the name in a computer file and since there is, to my knowledge, no such symbol I again trust the intellect of my contact and use a combined "DU". This comes from the days when a short break (I I) was written as a hyphen whilst barred "DU" was a hyphen proper and since hyphens are not allowed in file names then it will be interpreted as an underscore. There must be many of you who remember when a separate symbol was used to indicate that the values that followed were to be interpreted as a fraction. (what a pain in the pancreas that was), when you preceded a question with 'INT' instead of sticking a jug handle on the end of a statement. Most of them were exclusive to the services and it is hoped that they have long been buried with appropriate honours. R.I.P. Hi.

EUCW\FISTS QRS PARTY

To encourage newcomers to Morse operating, and as a contribution to the activities of the European CW Association, FISTS CW Club invites all licensed radio amateurs, especially members of EUCW clubs, to take part in the annual EUCW\FISTS QRS Party.

This event provides an opportunity for EUCW club members, and non-members, to meet and exchange greetings with each other at a leisurely pace. At the same time it is an opportunity to make contacts qualifying for the prestigious Worked EUCW award. Although not a contest in the normal sense of the word, there is a contest element for those who thrive on challenge, with awards for those who score the most points, and a merit award for the "Most Readable Morse Heard" voted for by other contestants.

In this event, taking part is more important than winning, providing fun for all in a non-stressful introduction to a contest-like event for beginners, and an opportunity for more experienced operators to put something back into the hobby by helping and encouraging those less experienced in CW operating.

Feedback can only be obtained from contestants' reports so, whatever your level of experience, and even if you only have time to make a few contacts, please make an effort to send in a log.

DATES/TIMES: From 00.01 UTC on the fourth Sunday in April, for one week, to 23.59 UTC on the following Saturday. For 2004, the dates will be Sunday 25th April to Saturday 1st May 2004.

MODE: CW only.

FREQUENCIES: All bands, except WARC bands. Non-QRP stations are requested to avoid calling CQ on the popular QRP frequencies.

KEYS/SPEEDS: Any type of key or keyer may be used, but no keyboard sending or pre-programmed messages from computers or keyers allowed. Maximum speed 14 words per minute (70 cpm). The speed of a QSO should be at the speed of the slower station

CALL: CQ QRS/EUCW. Stations may be worked or logged

once each day in each band used

EUCW CLUBS: Listen out for members of the following clubs, taking part in the EUCW\FISTS QRS Party:

AGCW-DL (Germany); Benelux-QRPC; BTC (Belgium); CFT (Belgium); CT-CWC (Portugal); EACW (Spain); EA-QRPC (Spain); EHSC (Extremely High Speed Club); FISTS; FOC (First Class Operators); G-QRP; GTC (Greece); HACWG (Hungary); HCC (Spain); HSC (High Speed Club); HTC (Switzerland); INORC (Italy); I-QRPC (Italy); ITC (Italy); MCWG (Macedonia); OE-CWG (Austria); OHTC (Finland); OK-QRPC (Czech Republic); RTC (former GDR); SCAG (Scandinavia); SHSC (Super High Speed Club); SP-CWC (Poland); UCWC (Russia); UFT (France); U-QRQC (Ukraine); VHSC (Very High Speed Club); YL-CW-GP (Germany); 3A-CW-G (Monaco); 9ACWG (Croatia).

CLUB MEMBERSHIP: Entrants who are members of more than one EUCW club should take part in the QRS party as a member of only one of those clubs.

CLASSES:

A - Members of EUCW clubs using more than 10w input or 5w output power

B - Members of EUCW clubs using QRP (10w input or 5w output, or less)

C - Non-members of EUCW clubs using any power

D - Shortwave listeners

EXCHANGES:

Class A & B, RST/QTH/Name/Club/membership number

Class C, RST/QTH/Name/NM (ie, not a member)

Class D, Log information for both stations

SCORING:

Class A/B/C - 1 point per QSO with own country, 3 points per QSO with other European countries.

Class D - 3 points for every complete logged QSO.

Multiplier, all classes: 1 multiplier point for each EUCW-club worked/logged per day and band.

LOGS: To include date, UTC, band, call worked, info sent, info received, and score claimed for each QSO

SUMMARY: To include entrant's full name, call, address, EUCW club, Class entered, multiplier claimed, total points claimed, station details, including type of key/keyer used, power used, comments (if any) on the event, up to three votes for "Most Readable Morse Heard" (only one vote per station), and signature of entrant. E-mailed logs and summaries are acceptable, provided they follow the same format as detailed above.

ENTRIES: Send log and summary to:

FISTS/EUCW Contest Manager,

R. Kimpton, M5AGL, 15a Buckden Road, Brampton, Huntingdon, Cambs. PE28 4PR. England.

e-mail bobm5agl@btopenworld.com

All logs to be received (by surface mail or e-mail) not later than 31st May 2004.

AWARDS:

a) A certificate will be awarded to the three top scorers in each class.

b) A certificate of merit will be awarded to the operator receiving most votes for the "Most Readable Morse Heard", provided the operator nominated has also submitted a log. If the recipient of the most votes has not submitted a log the certificate of merit will be awarded to the qualifying entrant with the next highest number of votes. In the event of a tie multiple certificates will be awarded, endorsed "Shared Award".

No correspondence can be entered into. The Contest Manager's decision shall be final in making all awards.

C2C

The US coast-to-coast event seeks to involve most if not all US FISTS club stations and has been re-scheduled to October in the hope of encountering better DX conditions. Meanwhile, EU and other FISTS clubs are invited to make plans to activate their calls for the occasion.

THE WITCH & THE QSL MGR

A re-directed email from the Ma in Law of M0AVW carried an airborne witch and this was perhaps a result of one of his pranks. Last year, Chuck bought a brand new broom stick and managed to juggle it through her letterbox and leave it standing against the

wall. Must have been quite a shock when she opened the door so, knowing the nature of the beast, you are advised to inspect your QSL envelopes carefully before opening them.

K6DF AND NEW HARMONIC

Not sure if I told you or not . . . March 3, 2004, I was made a Grandpa for the first time!!! My daughter in Germany gave birth to Thomas Wilhelm Cluverius, 8 lbs 1.4 oz and 55.25 cm in length! I'm getting code tapes prepared for him so he can start studying ASAP. Hi. Pam and I are going to Germany beginning of April for a visit, we are so excited!

Dennis is also planning a further visit later in the year when he hopes to visit the UK and HQ so more info as it arrives. I'd better empty the ashtrays and find a clean shirt!

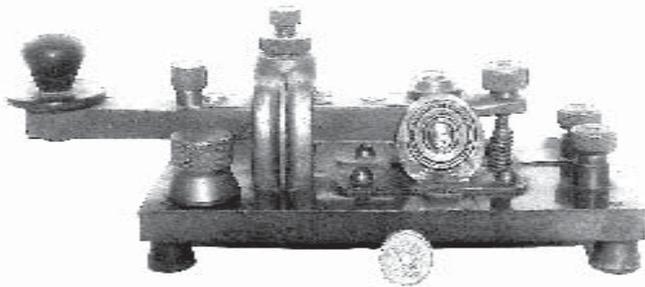
THAT MYSTERY KEY

There was some missing text associated with this item which has since been retrieved by G3RSP:

The "Mystery Key", (Keynote December 2003) was custom built for me by an engineering officer onboard the Super Tanker SS Esso Demetia during a six month tour of duty in 1975.

The key is 11 inches back to front with two 1 inch ball races for bearings retrieved from a steam atomiser pump.

The "Bridge" part is the upper section of a low pressure steam valve and the key contacts were recycled from a 500amp breaker. I cant remember the name of the ship mate who made it because we shared his fee of a 6 pack of beer and bottle of rum .



Recently on-air, Alan hauled it out and it was a delight to hear something in the order of 25 wpm perfect code coming from it. Wonderful piece of inspirational engineering.

MIXED KEY WEEK

It has been pointed out to me that if you are able to work only one station on five or more bands during the week no gain is achieved. One point times the final score, still leaves the final score with the same total, and no advantage has been gained by working a station on five or more bands.

Please note I have decided that if you work a station on five or more bands then the multiplier will be times 2 for each station worked on five or more bands. This should now give you the incentive to try and work at least one station on five or more bands. I will amend any log sent in to comply with this good luck to all who are taking part.

73 de Bob M5AGL.

INFO ON DATONG TUTOR?

From Dave G4BUO, an SOS:

I received the following in an email from M3RGO today, I wondered if anyone on here can help him by giving some information about the Datong Morse Tutor? Max M3RGO's address is bmews@hotmail.com. He picked up a Datong tutor at Donington, and copies the groups at 13 wpm with a delay of just under 0.5 sec. However, he doesn't have a manual. Any idea what delay a Datong should be set at?

Any help will I am sure be appreciated.

SILENT KEY

From Daki 9A2WJ, the sad news that 9A51 Ivo #06461 passed away 18 March. No further info.

FEB LADDER RETURNS

February Returns.	Annual Totals
Call.	Pts.
G4LHI	79
M5ABN	72
M5BRY	36
M3GBT	31
M5AGL	26
M0DRK	25
M0RHB	24
G0VSS	18
M0CMQ	15
GX2HFD	14
GU4HUY	13
GI4CBG	12
OH7QR	10
G8XGQ	8

Well done to Peter M5ABN who tops the returns For Feb. Welcome to G0VSS Ray, GI4CBG Roy and GX2HFD (Club Stn) operated by Mark M0BLT, for their first Ladder return. The Ladder is open to you all, so don't just give points to those whom regularly compete, please send in a log as well. The next weekend Ladder date is 27/28th March. 73's for now de Bob M5AGL.

NEW MEMBERS

09883	GW0ETF	Stew	09884	G4ASE	Ron
09885	M0CLX	George	09886	G0GKP	John
09887	SM5CZQ	Ken	09888	G4MTQ	Tony
09889	G4ZWI	Fred	09890	GW0TWL	Mart
09891	I1MQ	Ada	09892	M0MEC	Mike
09893	G4TTX	Roy			

FISTS E.ASIA

Jun JM1JOT has made quite a bit of headway in instituting the E. Asia chapter. Currently they have a QSL bureau organised and also a (temporary at present) website at:

<http://homepage.mac.com/jun/FISTS/>

This at present offers only an intro in English and links to other sites including the BV gang in Taiwan.

I was particularly delighted to note that initially at least, they managed to restrict their subs to \$5.00 US.

Keynote and possibly a 'local' news letter on the stamp of FISTS Down Under, will be circulated in Japanese and it is assumed that the BV boys will be doing the same thing in their language. It is I confess, a faster start than I had anticipated but hopefully when the band conditions get back to normal there will be exchanges made between all three chapters.

All credit to Jun for his dogged persistence and organisational talents.

New members will be allocated numbers in the range 15000 to 15999 which will give them, like ZL/VK a chance to establish a reasonable membership before Nancy and I start leapfrogging.

CHANGE/REINSTATE

00847 G7GOD RILEY. Recently moved back to civilization from the wilds of Scotland so delete the 'M' from GM7GOD.

QSL MGR FOR WALES

Bill GW0SGG, after having having handled all QSL traffic within Wales since the formation of our QSL bureau feels that he is approaching the point when he will be unable to continue due to advancing age and other circumstances.

We are therefore in need of a replacement. It is preferable that this should be another GW member though failing this, Chuck has a pool of contacts from which he can draw.

G4ZPY

KEYS AND PADDLES

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41 Mill Dam Lane, Burscough, ORMSKIRK, L40 7TG

Tel: 01704-884299

e-mail: g4zpy@g4zpy.co.uk

http://www.g4zpy.go-plus.net

NZART AND MORSE

Ralph ZL2AOH received the following recently:

I have been asked by National Council To send this item for your comment

It is to have a competition now that the Morse has been dropped from the amateur radio exam.

If you have any suggestions or comments they will be very welcome, as I will be disappointed if the Morse was to disappear from amateur bands and that a Morse club be set up by amateurs interested in encouraging the use of CW.

73 Don ZL3SZ Nat. councillor

I know that the activities of FISTS will not be on every desk in every country though I am surprised that the NZART was seemingly unaware of our activities. Ralph replied:

The FISTS Club NZ Chapter (FISTS Down Under) already exists for that purpose. We have about 120 members in ZL and VK, 73 of who are in ZL, two offshore and the remainder in VK. We started about five years ago with one member in ZL and two in Australia. Therefore there is obviously a great deal of interest among the Morse community to have a mutual forum, so I do not see the need to have another organisation for the promotion of Morse.

We in FISTS do not require any membership of any other organisation nor, for that matter have any need for members to be licensed. However all our members down under are licensed and I understand most are NZART or WIA members. I did think that we should become affiliated with NZART but under NZART rules, members of affiliated clubs have to be NZART members. Unless a waiver was given to FISTS for the NZART membership requirement we could not comply with the rules as they stand. For us to administer such a competition would require some discussion e.g., what stations would have to be worked? There is a great difference between working local stations and DX. Running a regular Morse transmission would require some dedication, although with modern technology it could be automated. I will bounce this proposals off some of my FISTS colleagues and they may come up with something worthwhile. We are at present working on a FISTS Down Under Award that would add to the various awards that are already operating in the FISTS Club worldwide. I will be in touch later.

Don replied after a couple of months saying that the NZART council agreed that there was no need for another organisation for CW operators and asked that Ralph prepare an article for "Break In" the NZART bi-monthly publication.

ZL3SZ further said that he had forwarded Ralphs comments to the council and would advise asap. I look forward with interest to further info.

F5NQL

Frank DL2SWW and Rick DL2VFR will be in Manitsoq Island (OX - Greenland) 23 April to 5 May. This location is high on the IOTA wanted list (NA-220) and surrounded by the highest mountains in W. Greenland will present difficult propagation conditions.

MM0BQI/P Treshnish Islands IOTA EU108 IOSA NH07

IOTA expedition to the uninhabited Treshnish Islands off the west coast of Scotland is scheduled for the first week in May 2004. EU108 is currently number 32 in the list of most wanted European IOTAs.

The operation will take place from the island of Lunga, the largest in the Treshnish group. (Islands Of Scotland Award reference NH07).

Activity will be on all bands 80-6m, SSB, CW, RTTY using IC706g and IC7400 transceivers. Antennas will be Butternut verticals and wire dipoles.

QSL via the bureau or direct to Jim Martin, MM0BQI, 3 Lismore Avenue, Edinburgh, EH8 7DW, SCOTLAND. All surplus money from direct QSLs will be donated to the Hebridean Trust, who own and work to preserve the islands and whose permission to land and operate is gratefully acknowledged.

JW/F8DVD. Francois F8DVD QRV 4-10 April from Longyearbyen (EU-026) on 80/10mtrs. QSL via bureau or QTHR.

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

G4FAI. When the club call GB2MC is is unavailable, G0NWT may be used as an alternative. GB2MC or G0NWT are QRV at various times on Wednesdays, Thursdays, on Sunday afternoons, and most Bank Holidays, and is always pleased to work other FISTS stations. Based at the Muckleburgh Collection, Norfolk's largest military museum, the Group has an impressive vintage radio exhibition open to visitors on the same days. Pse do not confuse with the Norfolk ARG. **ZL2AOH.** Ralph reports that G3JKY is now back in Blighty until later in the year. **G0HGA.** The VHF CW GROUP renamed VIVATMORSE with 100+ members and re-activated the old 2m CW group (28 Mbrs). More info at <http://www.qsl.net/g0hga>. **G3KMG.** Curious about my comments on bands. Says he works ZL, VK and Ws on 20/15m all above noise with JA1CPZ early March. Nope! it ain't my idiots lantern Dave. **PA9RZ.** Robert is QRP enthusiast mainly chasing DX on HF with a preference for 2xQRP. The reference in Feb Keynote to Aurora was misplaced as it concerned a GW3 on 2m during one of the biggest auroras ever recorded. **G4VLW.** Roger is still dragging his feet on the erection of a vertical purchased ages ago. Come on now... WX is improving mate. **M0CGO.** Some construction work at the club premises caused the GX0BAR window to be brought to earth. Hope by now it is back aloft. Ages since I have seen output from a dot matrix printer Ricky. Bit like steam engines... noisy and expensive but they do have their adherents. **GW4ZVL.** Sample QSL card from Henry with FISTS logo. Also superb p/c of an item on Sam Morse from - of all things - an electronic trade magazine. **G4KPN.** Bruce's claim for Platinum accompanied by note that he is currently using CT paddle but is still looking for a Peter Jones and a bug (presumably vibroplex ?). Says larger model shops stock plastic display cases for 1/18 scale model cars which are very good for displaying keys/paddles and keeping 'em dust free.

G3TUX

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Phone 01428-661501 FAX 01428-66795

DX STUFF

In addition to those already reported by F5NQL, look for Malawi (7Q7) from 18 April to 01 May. Ops G4JVG., G4AXX, M5RIC and GU4CHY. There are a couple of others noted but CW is not specified.

FINALE

Not actually late this month but snail mail could make it appear so since I need to give our printer time to plate up and run. Tried to get it out a week previous but having problems with my eyes now - I hope it is not a prelude to a more serious condition but at 76 years anything can happen. Plan trip to optician some time during the month in the hope that something can be done. Cheers for now people. 73/88 and stay sober de Geo