

International Morse Preservation Society



KEY NOTE



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<http://www.fists.co.uk>

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

COMMITTEE

Chairman

Vice Chairman

P.R.O.

Secretary

G4XHZ

G4YLB

G4YLB

G3ZQS

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 bobm5ag1@btopenworld.com

M0ZAK jim.steel@ntlworld.com

the month of August, there was absolutely nothing - not even the ubiquitous SSB or data oriented stuff. Still, I suppose it gives those of you with green fingers the opportunity to get covered in soil and grass trimmings. Hi. It was quite some time ago when my Son came round and planted stone chippings in my garden but a couple of saplings have managed to find their way between the concrete bed and neighbours wall. You just can't win

ACTIVITY LADDER.

June Returns.		Total Scores.	
G4LHI	41.	G4LHI	241.
M5ABN	27.	M5ABN	171.
M0RHB	25.	G0VSS	108.
GOVSS	22.	M0RHB	105.
2E0EUK	12.	M3GBT	81.
M0DRK	8.	M5BRY	61.
M0CMQ	7.	G14CBG	57.
GX2HDF	6.	2E0EUK	52.
PA3AFF	4.	M0DRK	51.
OH7QR	2.	M5AGL	44.
		M0CMQ	43.
		OH7QR	38.
		GX2HDF	38.
		GU4HUY	32.
		G8XGQ	12.
		PA3AFF	4.

Conditions still seem poor and holidays have cut down on the returns and scores. Peter G4LHI still managed 21 QSO's for his 41 points.

Straight Key week.

From 0001utc on 5th Sep to 2359 utc on 11th Sep 04.

All licensed freq's EXCEPT the WARC bands.

Scoring; 3 pts for a club station, 2 pts for a Fist Member, 1 pt for a non Fist member.

Exchanges to be RST/NAME/QTH/FIST No/DAY No.

Sunday is day 1, Monday is day 2 and so on to Saturday

as day 7. A station can only be worked ONCE on each day.

All entrants must have used a straight key for all there

QSO's, but the station worked does not have to use a

Straight key. Logs are to include,

DATE/CALL/NAME/QTH/QRG/RST/TIME/FIST No or

Non Member/DAY No/POINTS.

All logs to be received by 25th September 04.

So come on dust of those straight keys and have a go, If you do

not have a straight key then please still try and give those taking

part some points. Good luck to everyone.

73's for now de Bob, M5AGL.

FOR SALE

Icom IC703 complete with CW filter. The rig is in **mint** condition with over 4 years extended warranty transferable.

First offer of £500 with transport etc. arranged.

Contact Jim, GM0NTR, 17b High St. OBAN, PA34 4BG.

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, BARNESLEY, 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. M0AVW. Address on Banner

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

The bands are still suffering but a lot depends upon the time you choose to operate. The insomniacs amongs you will be finding reasonable conditions on 40m during some pretty unsociable hours whilst the rest of us mortals must suffer with noise and an absence of signals until old man Sol sorts out his gastric problems. All is not lost however because as with the last month or so, we do get the occasional opening on 30/20m and some of our members have reported solid transatlantic contacts on 15 and 10m with VK/ZL also on those bands.

This is of course the 'silly season' which cut little ice with me until I checked on the web site for confirmed dx-peditions. For

F6NQL

To avoid interferences with the Scandinavian Activity Contest CW and the 2004 High Speed Telegraphy Championship, the first EUCW Belgian Society CFT (Club Francophone de Telegraphie) party which was scheduled on September 19th, has been postponed.

This party is still on the agenda and the new date will be published in further time.

During the next 27th "Jazz in Marcia" Festival (Gers Department South France, near Toulouse), the special callsign TM5JIM will be put on the air by the Gers Department Hams from August 1st to 15th.

The traffic is scheduled both in CW and SSB on 3.5, 7 and 14MHz, in HF and on 144 and 432 MHz.

QSL via Claude Bonne, F6DJB, Garderes 3 Vallées, F 32230 MONLEZUN, France via the REF French bureau.

For direct QSL'ing, see and 1 IRC. If USD, send 1 USD (for Europe) or 2 USD (outside of Europe).

M0AVV

Hi Geo

The grand total of used stamps collected for our charity is now 92000 and a big majority of them have been donated by Fists members, can you please thank them in the next keynote and ask them to keep up the good work, I will be asking the man upstairs if we could have a heavenly chapter of fists up there for all our stamp donating silent key Fists members.

Best 73s Chuck

MPP

Had a query from a recent member about proficiency tests. As you will know, volunteers for the proficiency initiative have been directed to G4BUO who, together with G0BQV and others, have been endeavouring to mould some sort of shape into the proposed service. It is up to the mpp team regional members to organise tests locally but aside from a few venues, there are thus far a lot of feet poised over the accelerator pedal but few occasions when it is actually pressed.

From Dave G4BUO, I received the following:

There seems to be a problem with the team - I have on several occasions tried to make it plain that there is no longer any push from the centre (be it RSGB or FOC) and it is up to Mpp team members to organise tests. We have some splendid examples such as G0BQV GM4EKC G0BYA and G4KGG but the rest of the people on the list haven't got their fingers out and organised anything. It's no good waiting around for 'someone' to tell them what to do.

Today I got confirmation that we will get a room at the RSGB HF Convention which can be used for Morse tests. which will be held near Gatwick and also at the Leicester Show, though that has yet to be confirmed following its change of date.

The RSGB Editor has approached me asking for details of tests that he can publish. However, until team members go out and organise something, there's nothing that I can pass to Radcom! 73, Dave G4BUO.

To the FISTS members who are involved in this most worthy endeavour, I ask that you be more pro-active. Chase up your local rally organisers well in advance of the occasion, arrange for a room and ensure that Dave and the RSGB is advised so that advance publicity may be put in place. Appropriate certificates may be obtained from G4BUO or, if the tests are entirely down to FISTS members then LMK and I can arrange for certificates.

SILENT KEY

On 4 July 2004, Bill Luscott FJSTS 00807G4VIJ due to Cancer.
Advice from his Daughter.

G7 QSL CARDS

Being the RSGB's new QSL Sub-Manager for the G7AAA-ZZZ series, I have recently completed a comprehensive audit of all the QSL cards and SSAE's which are currently in my possession and would like to take this opportunity to invite enquiries by email to G7QSLMan@lefars.org.uk to all current & ex-G7

callsign holders to check on how many, if any, QSL cards and / or SSAE's I am holding on their behalf.

73, Marc Litchman ~ GØTOC

FOR SALE

Dale ex-GM4ELV has for sale an FT840 at £300.

He would prefer that buyer collects Phone 0141-7814378.

He cancelled his licence some time ago but still has an interest in FISTS and indeed supports a number of E.EU members.

I know that many of you will relate when he says "XYL has had her last chemotherapy, so hopefully, she will get better. 21 years of having the big "C" is bad enough without Chemo".

THE JA CONNECTION

From the editor of Picnic Plan Publishing of JA, an email:

Dear sir of FISTS,

We are making a CD book about Telegraph Keys and their history. (the CD book will be written in Japanese language) .

FISTS is very famous in US, so, we'd like to introduce you and the web address of your site to Japanese readers on the CD book.

If you accept this, then we are happy.

Best 73, Toru.

I OK'd that one of course and also referred him to the E. Asia and ZL chapters.

BALLET (G3ZQS STYLE)

Following last month's memo about the Ivy and other climbing plants, I approached a local chappy who it would appear will do anything short of murder. He failed to turn up (must have had a bank robbery to deal with) and out of frustration, I took a pair of secateurs and set about the job of isolating the sucker bearing growth from their feeders. After some five minutes, concentration was split between this and maintaining balance on the rather uneven garden section as a result of which I performed a not too graceful transit from there to the road about 20 inches below me in a trajectory akin to a decaying exponential curve whilst having the presence of mind to twist through 180 degrees so that I should meet the asphalt in a forward facing attitude.

There is no obvious damage to the road surface but the conducted shock hit my already dubious right shoulder and I have spent the last week or more nursing a number of lacerations and finding ways to use a fully functional left arm/shoulder which has caused some difficulty in publishing this letter. Hopefully, things will improve for next month but for now, my apologies for any delay.

CFT ACTIVITY DAY 2004

The Belgian French speaking EUCW CW Association, the Club Francophone des Telegraphistes is organizing for the first time "The CFT DAY". All the CW women and men are invited to enter this new activity.

CFT Day contest Rules:

Goal

Having a lot of activity in CW (A1A) and join friendly EUCW ARS members and other hams on the contest bands.

Date: September 2004, 19th.

Time: From 0500 to 1500 UTC.

Frequencies : 3.520 à 3.560 MHz., 7.015 à 7.035 MHz., 14.030 à 14.060 MHz., 21.030 à

21.060 MHz., 28.030 à 28.060 MHz.

Mode: CW (A1A)

QSO: Each station is contacted once per band.

Categories :

1)

EUCW ARS members, up to 100 watts

Non members up to 100 watts

2)

EUCW ARS members up to 5 watts

Non members up to 5 watts

3)

SWL

Exchanges: EUCW ARS members send: RST/first name/ Club EUCW/membership number/ power.

Non Members of an EUCW ARS send: RST/first name/ NM (

Non member) /power

SWL : RST / information about the two stations in QSO , The first station listened in each QSO will appear only once per band; it's an EUCW ARS member one, to get points (see after SWL points).

Points:

Category 1 -100 watts and Category 2 - 5 watts:

50 Points per QSO with the Official station of the CFT : ON5CFT
30 Points per QSO with an EUCW ARS member using up to 5 watts.

20 Points per QSO with a CFT member.

10 Points per QSO with an EUCW ARS member.

05 Points per QSO with a non member of an EUCW ARS (NM).

Category 3 : SWL

SWL 20 points per QSO listened, EUCW ARS member , using up to 100 watts.

SWL 50 points per QSO listened, EUCW ARS member using up to 5 watts .

SWL 0 points per QSO listened non member EUCW ARS

Multipliers:

Each Club EUCW ARS is worth one multiplier per band; count also one multiplier per QSO with ON5CFT per band.

EUCW ARS list (updated 15 of June 2004)

AGCW BQC BTC CTC CTC-G EACW EAQRPC EHSC
FISTS FOC GQRP GTC HACWG HCC HSC HTC INORC
IQRP ITC MCWG OECWG OHTC OKQRP RTC SCAG
HSC SPCWC UCWC UFT UQRQC VHSC YLCW-G
3ACWG - 9ACWG

Associated EUCW ARS :

QRPARCI (USA) - CWAS (Brésil) - GACW (Argentine).

Logs :

All the logs must note :

Time UTC, band, Call-sign, RST sent and received (all the information),

A summary sheet is also sent with the log; it indicates:

Name and date of the activity.

Category (1, 2 or SWL), and information about the station and the power used.

Surname, First name, call sign, EUCW ARS and membership number.

Full postal address including the zip code.

Number of QSO and final score claimed.

The following declaration with date and signature:

"I hereby certify that in this contest I've competed according to the Contest rules (including band plans and keying tools) and the privileges of my license ."

Paper logs : All the paper logs must show 40 QSO per page on A4 paper format.

Electronics logs: The logs are accepted under .txt files, named "Callsign.log" and "Callsign.sum" recorded on 3"1/4 diskettes. They can be sent also as joined files to an e-mail .

Deadline:

All the logs are due up to 30 days after the contest (i.e. 19 of October 2004)

Checker address:

Paper or diskettes logs : Club Francophone Télégraphiste - CFT, rue neuve 124 , BE-6061 Montignies/s/Sambre, Belgique

By e-mail:

on4ldl@skynet.be or on4mic@skynet.be.

Aknowledgement of receipt will be return by the same way.

Awards: The first three stations of each category (1, 2 and SWL) will be awarded (Trophy and awards)

Miscellaneous:

This contest allows only straight keys, bugs or electronic keyers.

Those who use amplifiers don't excess 100 watts output.

All the decisions of the Contest committee are final.

CHANGE OF OFFICE (US)

A circular from Nancy indicates that they have a member who processes all requests for info. Very handy and why didn't I think of that?

Jim AA9LS, has stepped in to take over the Potential Member Info Sender/Outer position. Joe W5OS, did this job for over 10 years, and I am very grateful to him for all his help. We had many "potentials" turn into FISTS because of Joe's friendly approach to sending out the requested samples and applications.

NEW MEMBERS

With the bands in their current condition I am somewhat surprised we have the number we do to report. However, here goes:

10829 G0LDM	Malcom	10830 G1KRU	Arthur
10831 G3MEY	Jack	10832 MOSTS	Gordon
10833 G4EEH	Don	10834 MW1RES	Frank
10835 GW3GQN	Bill	10836 GM3RXU	Ian

Talking of numbers, the usual 8 sheets (16 pages) of listings reached the penultimate line following which a further sheet would have been added. With an eye on club funds, the possibility of moving up another notch in the postal stakes caused me to make a modification to the programme file and the list will now show five columns instead of the previous four and currently occupies only 13 pages as a result.

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

MM0RZZ. Ken noted my comments on possible email fraud from last month and confides that he is not at all happy with paypal. Well thus far I have received no complaints concerning this though they have only recently restored the auto generated email advice following their software "upgrade". Like so many other internet business ventures however, should anything out of the 'ordinary' hit them you are faced with bouncing pages which can be utterly frustrating. Even worse are those which do not offer a 'help' or 'contact us' service. You are stuck with a mindless piece of software which has no escape route. At least with paypal and a small number of others you can actually speak to a real live person and that is a rare thing these days. **G0IZW.** Derek laments the passing of Morsum Magnificat recalling that Gary Bold and his Morseman column featured within those pages on a regular basis. **M3WDH.** Bill has changed his callsign to 2E0WDH. He reports that since adopting this call he receives nothing but encouragement and courtesy which makes me wonder if he suffered at the hands of the ignorant with his M3 call. Such a shame if this is the case. Running 300mw with a Rockmite and although he knows he is not going to fill a log book too quickly this way, it is great fun.

G4ZPY

KEYS AND PADDLES

All items hand-crafted with the skill of a trained engineer. Also miniature versions which are much acclaimed throughout the world.

SAE/IRC TO:

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

Tel: 01704-884299

e-mail: g4zpy@g4zpy.co.uk

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

G0JLX

It would appear that your favourite webmaster will be using some of the remaining summer weekends by heading out to the hills with a small generator and a 40' extendible to support a G5RV. Listen out for his hand key.

VIRUS CHECK

Someone out there is not using a virus checker. Andy, G0JLX, is getting email with attachments purporting to emanate from myself, Nancy and others which, if activated, would seed a worm virus. I have got round this by the inclusion of a short phrase within the subject line. If it is absent then Andy knows that he has a possible rogue email. I have also had 'rejection' messages from various ISPs advising me that the attachment from an email originating from myself contained a worm virus. Certainly these have never originated here and indeed all my outgoing mail is checked by an anti-virus programme. Please update your virus checkers regularly and if (heaven forbid) you do not have one then you will find the excellent AVG (a free flit spray) on magazine cover discs or for download on the web. If in doubt LMK and I will point you the right direction. Be warned that some of these viruses can be extremely harmful - one of 'em managed to

completely screw up the HDD of Chuck, M0AVW resulting in loss of data and necessitating an expensive replacement.

FILTERS

I have the 'Timewave' AF digital signal processing unit here and hitherto it was in series with the Soundfield pseudo stereo filter but since I do not take part in contests, the latter has been switched out more than in for the last couple of years.

It is fairly wide-band and with a pair of stereo headphones enables me to use a 240KHz filter and listen to traffic some 1KHz on either side of the central 800Hz filter. The stereo effect means that traffic which would normally be outside the bandpass when using a 500 or 250Hz filter is still audible at a subdued level. Great if I am listening to contest traffic whilst the central filter still enhances signals in that part of the passband. Given the job it has to do, it is remarkably fast with no discernable lag although if operating QSK, I prefer to listen to the external side tone with enough 'grunt' to be audible beyond the cans since the few micro seconds delay is otherwise disconcerting.

Seems a shame to be languishing here and doing nothing so it is available for sale at £40. Pse phone or email to confirm availability.

On the more basic side, the Datong FL2 which was a very much sought after item a few years ago is a gift from G4YSQ and intended to raise funds for the club. Don't think £30 is unreasonable though compared to its QRK in old money, that price is little short of a steal. The one I had in use for many years went belly-up though if anyone thinks they can fix it, it is yours for the cost of postage. Same thing.... phone or email to confirm availability.

DELAYS

Well, it is not so much about train services these days (as bad as they are) but when setting out this newsletter, three orders for QSL cards arrived. These are normally dealt with pdq but I have to reiterate that Keynote has priority so there could be a couple of weeks delay involved. It's no just a matter of sending it to the printer and stuffing it in envelopes. Status has to be checked and overdue subs reminders for both snail mail and email acted upon. Listings are but a small problem since the laser takes the strain and I do not have to guillotine 'em.

PHOTOGRAPHS

I know I have mentioned this before but (especially with digital cameras) the definition needs to be HIGH. Most will default to 72 dpi for the internet but this is rarely good enough for reprinting and ideally, they should be twice the resolution of the laser at 1200 dpi. Yes, I know that make a huge file but the results are worth it.

GW0SGG

Received copy of letter from Bill to Roberts Radio Ltd acknowledging receipt of their recent catalogue and expressing satisfaction with their 12-band R9962 which is now in the hands of his Grandson currently serving in the army. Must be a good one as he asks if they have one which covers the amateur bands.

ALL-WEATHER ANTENNA

'RIG ERE 200MW ES ANT MODIFIED GOLFING UMBRELLA'

I caught this one on 10.1230 (or thereabouts) with a very respectable 569 at this end from a station in Finland.

This was reminiscent of a 160m base-loaded lash up from a friend (now sadly S/K).

He had gone to a lot of trouble scraping the paint of the ribs and soldering flexi wire to the joints with a 90-turn coil above the handle. When I saw it, it was supported by a wooden chair in the ground floor front room of a terraced house in Blackburn (only about 4 miles distant I confess) but his A.M. signal was readable for quite a distance around. Those were the days... 160m was the band of choice and USEABLE!

What's bothering me is how a golfing broly turns up in the shack of a Finlander - surely they don't play the game in that part of the world?

LATEST FROM F5NQL

Hi friends

Vincent, (ex FM5JV and F5MJV) do his first QSO's in CW on 20m, as FO5RN yesterday.

These were made to check the gear, so only 5 QSO's were logged.

We expect new QSO's soon. Please be patient :

1st, in QSO, Vincent has to get the habit of pile ups.

2nd, for QSL, cards which will be to the printer in the next month and brought to F5NQL for the next mid October Hamexpo in Auxerre.

Further news in due time.

FINALE

Sorry folks. The 'tumble' mentioned earlier has taken quite a toll. I left it this late hoping that the shoulder and fingers would return to a useable state but now I really must get this to the printer asap. At least I have the use of all fingers but the same cannot be said about the shoulder though I am sure that will improve in due course.

Reviewing the damage, I feel fortunate that I did not end up in hospital but if things continue to improve, I should be in better condition for next month.

73/88 and stay on your feet. Hi.

Geo