

International Morse Preservation Society



KEY NOTE



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<http://www.asel.demon.co.uk/fists-hq/> or <http://www.smartgroups.com/vault/fists/>

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NETS

Sunday QRS 0900 (loc) 3.575 2E0AJS

US 0100Z on 14058

Tues: GX0IPX/P 1930 ON 3.558 (+/-)

Net Control G3HZL

DX 1422-18.058 on the hour for 15mins

Pse keep watch on all Novice allocations

UK Net Controls use GX0IPX/P

SUBS: UK £5.00, EEC £7.00. Others £10.00. Your renewal date appears on the mailing label and your anticipation would be much appreciated.

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

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Personalised stickers £1.00 per sheet of 65. Max order 5 sheets. Please include your CALL SIGN on all correspondence.

All outgoing QSLs to M0AVW (address on banner).

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

M or 2 calls (Except for Wales) M0AVI. 7 Tynedale Terrace, Annfield Plain, STANLEY, EN9 7TZ.

G0, GM0 etc (Except GW0). G5RKY. 3 Rochford Cresc, BOSTON, PE21 9AE

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

G4, GM4 etc (Except GW4). M5AAQ. 6 Central Ave, SHEPHERD, LE12 9HP.

G2, G5, G6, G8 (Except for Wales) and **ALL special** (G5 etc) calls to M0EPT. 38 Wheatley St, WEST BROMWICH, B70 9TJ.

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

EU/DX Members: IRCs of UK Banknotes to M0AVW. Eurocheques, Girocheques or \$US bills to HQ. Club will provide envelopes.

GREETINGS

My goodness, it is December again.. it must be global warming or something but the seasons are zipping along like the end of the world. If the global warming has not oiled the wheels of the calendar then could it be responsible for the unusual weather conditions we have been having? The HF bands have been great and I found Jackie, 3B8CF doing a fair old trade on 24MHz and copying my 7CW via a mag loop at S6 so I am well satisfied but it sure didn't forget to rain. Many parts of the UK have suffered periods of extensive rain (2 inches plus in a 24 hour period not being uncommon) and some of our members who live in lower lying areas will have been experiencing the trauma of severe flooding. At this QTH, we are close on 1,000 feet ASL and fortuitously, some 150 feet above the valley floor where the local river (The Darwen) has been largely diverted to pass through the town but even here there was little flood problems. Just to remind you that because of the Christmas v New Year postal chaos here, make a break and your next newsletter will be for February.

We are still experiencing problems with members who notified Brian, W8BL, of their e-mail addresses but have changed them without advising him of the new ones. Please be sure that your e-mail info is up to date. I am getting many messages where the info is in the form of an attachment and have a tendency to delete

these from the in-box but they forget to include their address within the text of their attachments which leaves me with something of a problem. OK so it's my fault for deleting the crud from the in-box in the first place but it would help if you could remember to include the address in the body.

SMARTGROUPS FILES

There would seem to be a few members who are having problems with the self-extracting files which I have posted to the group URL. Just to be sure that all was OK, I downloaded them and checked at this end but all was fine. Remember that the unzipped results may be sited by default to a directory other than the one to which you downloaded the .exe files so please check before clicking OK.

NUMBER CHASING

We have been swamped with both snail and e-mail messages following the publication of the letter by G0SDA an example of which is:

Hi Geo, While I sympathise with the complaints of Colin G0SDA I object to his inference that as a Fists member I am classed likewise. Maybe I've been lucky but all my Fists qso's have been a pleasure. Of course you will find the few bad apples in any club and in any case it simply reflects the general deterioration of manners in today's society. To follow the logic of G0SDA the best way to avoid such behaviour is to resign from amateur radio altogether since one can hear that sort of thing, and worse, any day. I hope when his indignation cools down a bit he will realise that the Fists club is about the best going and the huge majority behave like G4LH who he mentions. The club cannot afford to lose members like Colin so I hope he reconsiders and remains a member. Don't let the yobs win!
73 from Bert GW4KUS.

This e-mail was CC'd to Colin who replied:

My membership of FISTS has also given me endless pleasure, but I fail to see how turning my back upon the few unpleasant experiences is in the least bit helpful or constructive. If we just turn our backs things can only get worse (more) quickly. The choice is ours, stand up, or lie down?

It may be of some consolation to realise that we are not exactly on our own. This number chasing business causes friction within other clubs but all we ask is that such members temper their enthusiasm for accumulating numbers with a little diplomacy. Responding to a QO call and asking for a number is one thing but breaking into QSOs or tail-gating an existing QSO and terminating the contact with nothing more than RST and number etc., is generally not welcome. At least stop to say hello and exchange a few words even if only about the weather.

Well there you are. Perhaps it is a little unkind of Bert to call them yobs... I suppose they are simply keen to make up the last few numbers in a long list and simply forget that such info is an introduction to a QSO rather than the whole of it. The number chasers and 'bang bang thank you Maam' brigade are in actuality a very small percentage of the total membership and what appears to be missing here is patience. OK men. You have waited on the side for a QSO to finish and the guy you want indicates that he is going QRT. So what? There will be others even if you don't manage to hear the one you waited for. Many keen and

useful members are operating well out of the way of FISTS these days in order to find a 'normal' QSO which is quite a shame since they will tend to go LF and operate beyond the speed range of some beginners. Self defeating isn't it?

KITCHEN TABLE ENGINEERING

You will recall that I was unable to print the photographs from MOBLO so he has kindly undertaken some photographic work (presumably with a digital camera and some careful lighting) and the resultant .jpg files are very suitable indeed for reproduction.

The one shown here is on a 5 x 2 1/4 inch steel base with adjusting screws, lever, blocks etc, being fashioned from brass. The contacts are allen screws which have been shaped, hardened and polished whilst the knob is black nylon.

The spring is a 2 inch section of a 6 inch steel rule and tension is adjusted by sliding a rod in or out (rear) and locking with the knurled screw above it.

"This" says Peter, "is my favourite with a solid feel and easy to set up."



This (below) is on a 10 x 5 inch slate base. the contacts have been rescued from a 1970s BMW motor cycle and trunion bearings for the arm are from a model aero engine. Total weight 4.5lb. "Takes up lots of room on the operating table" says Peter but I bet it pays for this in feel.



I have other examples of Peters' ingenuity and skill which will be shown in later Keynotes.

SMARTGROUPS

I am sorry folks but due to the misuse of the messaging service (unwanted messages being posted to members) I have been obliged to revoke this facility. Messages may of course be sent to individual members by the normal internet methods.

This is rather a shame because some although some group members seeking information were thus able to post their requirements to the whole group, replies to these queries were also using blanket coverage and causing much annoyance to others. Smartgroups/fists was **never** intended to be a reflector - rather a convenient place from which to pick up late information, listings and other items of interest. This is still the case of course and listings etc., are refreshed whenever it is possible.

CONCOURS UFT

I include this in case any members care to join in the fun. UFT is of course a member of EUCW so participation would be welcome. Info courtesy of Les, G3VQO.

Dates:

Part 1 Sat 16 Dec 2000 1400-1700

Part 2 Sat 16 Dec 2000 2000-2200
Part 3 Sun 17 Dec 2000 0700-1000
all times UTC.

Freq: 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10M

Exchange RST/UFT Mem No or RST/NM (Non-mem)

Points (for UFT members)

F8UFT	20
UFT Members outside Europe	10
UFT members within Europe	5
Non Members outside Europe	2
Non Members within Europe	1

Points (for non-UFT members)

F8UFT	20
UFT Members outside Europe	2
UFT Members within Europe	1
Non-UFT Member	0

Multiplier

Each UFT member per band
F8UFT per band

Logs

date/UTC/band/callsign/RST_sent/RST_received/Pts/Mult

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ACTIVITY FROM PAKISTAN

I have been working in Pakistan since June this year on a one year contract. Getting a licence to operate here is next to impossible so I took the opportunity on Saturday 4th November to work from the shack of Bob AP2AZB in Karachi as AP2JZB/G0EYV. Bob has a splendid shack with FT990, linear for SSB and several towers. In between other frequencies I spent some time on 28.058 and among many others had QSO's with OH3TV, G3KYF, G3RHP (on 5 watts) all FISTS of course. Work commitments prevent another op before Christmas but I do hope to have at least another operation in the new year. If FIST people wanting AP (on the senior mode) wish to email me at david.stansfield@nphub.com indicating their interest I will try to accommodate them with a date, time and QRG in the new year David G0EYV.

AP2 should not really be as rare as it is but I guess that at the present time there is quite a small Amateur Radio presence there. Hopefully this will improve.

OOOPS!

Dear Geo, Nice to talk to you by phone and I'm happy that the fee is there. This morning I had the possibility to download the memberlist from the website. (my last was gone by the crash of my HD) I find out that on the century list my member number is wrong, 6577 instead of 6477. Please be informed. 73, Theo PA3HEN

GOLD AWARD

Sorry people... I gave you false information previously. Bob points out that the award requires Century plus Silver plus 250 points. Some of the confusion was born from reckoning each of the Century and Silver values but no-one by-passes these so send listing for your additional 250 points and quote your Century and Silver awards.

G3TUX

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THOSE MOBILE PHONES

Sitting here listening to all the mobile phones ringing out everything from Mission Impossible to Wagner irritates me no end. (what the ### is wrong with ring-ring?) I had a REALLY sad idea. Has anyone thought of programming a 'tune' for their mobile phone which goes CQ CQ CQ de <callsign>

Such thoughts come from the mind-works of David, G3ZPF, and it is something which certainly never entered my mind. Be interesting to know if anyone has actually done this as it would surely make a change from the tiresome jingles which assail us from just about any quarter these days.

THERE ARE NONE SO BLIND

Isn't it amazing? I took the donated key to a class jeweler in town and explained my needs - a boss inscribed "G4LHI FIST OF THE YEAR 2000". He read it back to me "FIRST of the year". *No no no please - you have got it wrong already - FIST of the year.* Alright so I was a bit grumpy but his response was that he was sorry but he was unable to take the responsibility which, I suppose was a polite way of saying Get Lost. The next visit was to a small watch maker cum shoe repair business in the market. Again I wrote the thing out in bold upper case letters only this time I explained very carefully that it was indeed **FIST** and not **FIRST**.

Picked the thing up the following week, stuffed it into the box and posted it to a luckless Peter who e-mailed me to say the inscription read - yes you've guessed it - **FIRST OF THE YEAR**. He removed the boss and sent it to me stuck on a FISTS QSL card and I took the whole caboodle back to the engraver who was most apologetic and assured me that the replacement would be correct. Keeping my fingers crossed though. Hi.

LAST SUNDAY LADDER

Call	Mem	MemTot	NonMem	Prev
Total G4LHI			16	0
290	322M5ABN		17	34
2	158 194 M5AGL			15
30	2 159 191 PA3AFF			
4	8 2 180 190 G0MRH			
7	14 0 166 180 G0ANV			
9	18 1 158 177 G4RBE			
12	24 1 124 149GM0VIT			
3	6 1 130 137 G0PEH			
2	4 5 91 100 F5NTP			
0	0 0 88 88GW0SGG			
0	0 0 26 26 G0IYZ			
0	0 0 23 23 M0BHE			
0	0 0 23 23 G0VBH			
0	0 0 14 14			

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THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

G4GDI. I am writing to say that due to encounters with FISTS members on accepted G-QRP frequencies, I for one will not be renewing my suibs. I feel that making a stand in this way might get the otherwise unheeded message across. **G8VL.** First licensed in 1937, Iain has never used phone (AM or SSB) on the HF bands. **GW0SGG.** Bill found a use for his old impact printer by making a simple but effective QSL card. Even uses it to produce handy labels for QSO info - saves writing time! **DL1CC.** A nice picture postcard from Huttenstadt from Wolf, acknowledging QSO with DL0EKO. Also a card recording a QSO with DF0ESP during one of his promotions. Most will be aware that Wolf spends a lot of on-air time promoting the use of Esperanto. **G3IUC.** Bob harks back to SKW which he quite enjoyed and recounts the sad tale of Glyn, M0CHO, who blew the fuse in his rig halfway through a QSO. Returned about 15 minutes later to continue but was it significant that it was on Wednesday the 13th? **M0BZG.** Johns' off centre dipole (25ft x 41ft) at 25 feet aql was not behaving too well when I worked his 2 watt Drake QRP station early in September. Worry not John.. condx were very noisy at that time. The card shows his black pooch with greying muzzle and the slogan "go ahead.... make my day". **DL1ZQ.** Hans sports a most unusual QSL card with a sketched 'mugshot' with the message 'WANTED'. and closes with the warning 'Hard-boiled CW op'. Card also proclaims membership of Friends of Sam.F.B. Morse, High Speed Club, Slow Speed Club and Very Slow Speed Club. **KC2AIO.** Bobs QSL came direct from Robbinsville, N.J. and a sylised submarine on the face points to the fact that he spent much of WW2 in the Pacific on 'pig boats'. **G0LWI.** Hi Frank and your suspicions are not without substance. We will learn more shortly I suspect. **G4UIA.** Sorry to hear about the problem Derek. When the old mitts start giving roblems, we support any move at all to keep on CW including keyboard senders. Hope you manage to sort the AEA out though. **F5NQL.** Hi Maurice. Sorry but the RA does not permit exorting the club call to countries outside the UK. It can be operated /P from GM, GW, GI, GU etc. **G0ONS.** Thanks for the mention in the Northampton Radio Soc news letter Jim. **G3CWW.** Hi Tony. Now then... I do sometimes call as G3ZQS but under those circumstances it is usually on the FOC preferred QRG. Tony was QRT for amost 6 months after losing his antenna in the gales of last November and t'was not until the following may that he managed to get active again since when (at the time of writing) he has worked 80 members new to his log with 70% of them outside Europe. The bands are not as bad as some folks make out he claims - "just requires the application of an old skill called LISTENING. Try 0330z to 0630z for a change - bands beautifully quiet and plenty of activity." **G3IUC.** Thank you for the 'funnies' Bob. If I can find the space will try to include 'em in dribs and drabs. **G4BNU.** CongratsPaul!

IMPROVERS NETS

A note from M0CMQ reminds me that the QRS skeds remain few and far between. Remembering that we are here mainly to promote the use of CW, it does seem rather sad. I have already had letters from some new members expressing their desire to develop their speed amongst other things and the odd 'phonasked' info has been doled out in these circumstances. Really speaking, there should be many QRS nets to include in Keynote but Marks' mention of an 'improvers' net took me back to thoughts shared with a few members when we were barely 50 strong.

Whilst phonasked is a good idea in itself, I am reminded that recent research into education concluded that in many cases, children make the best teachers and the idea of beginners assisting each other in this manner is one which certainly appeals. Out there on 3.5650 plus, there is lots of unused space which would be ideal for self-help groups to get going. Individually, improvers nets would be small in number and it would be possible for learners to gravitate from one to another as their speed improves.

If you would like to start such a net then pse LMK together with frequency recommended and it will be published in Keynote.

CHANGE OF CALL

I have relinquished the callsign G10PCU and my callsign now is G13OBO.....Ocean Blue Ocean.....so you can amend your

listings.

On the IOMI stay with Stan GD3LSF and his XYL Cary GD7ESU, so Keep a listen out for GD3OBO/P on the Fists QRG.....it'll be this grey haired old ### on the other end HI. G0NVY. Peter is likely to be active with two special calls. G3LQS and GX3KQB being the RAF amateur radio club stations at Coningsby and Digby.

G4ZPY

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THE CQ CONTESTS

We seem to have opened a real can of worms here with input split between those who sympathise with G3SXW and those who object to the intrusion of SSB contesters.

"I'm a bit dismayed by the item on the CQ SSB contest, which I felt showed a lack of mature give and take, and would not portray in a particularly flattering light to our amateur brethren" (EI2IH). Others consider that the fault lies with the US organisers of the contest and think that since much of the world does not share the luxury of the 40m band allocation enjoyed by the US and other countries, the organisers should take this into consideration and leave the band out of the equation. It was pointed out that the CQ WW CW contest sees wall to wall CW on 40m which includes the SSB segment and that since the band plan indicates that we are in the unique position of being able to operate in any part of the band, tolerance must be shown. Tony, G4FAI, checked up on the recent CQ CW contest and indeed found CW stations working up right through the SSB segment. This literally blows any objections of 'intrusion' that CW operators may pose, clean out of the water. Are we being selfish I wonder or is the contest element in our hobby too pervasive?. On the basis of 'use it or lose it', we do need to populate the bands but with what?

NEW MEMBERS

7722	F5PBL	Claude	7723	M5ALH	Brian
7724	M0NFM	Don	7725	G3ICO	George
7726	G3XNE	At	7727	G3ZRJ	Tony
7728	G0KHH	Arthur	7729	2E0ICK	Annick
7730	IK3OBX	Moreno	7731	G8VG	Pete
7732	G4ELG	Don	7733	G4WSL	Roy
7734	OM3TBGM	Lan	7735	G3LME	Ken
7736	G3HRU	Jeff			

Amongst the newmems, Annick, 2E0ICK is a w/s op. She signed up with Bob at Horwich.

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1791-1872

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CHANGE OF ISP

Please note the change of e-mail address on the banner. Compuserve has been playing havoc with my system of late necessitating a hard re-boot whenever I wanted to pick up mail. AOL works fine on the same system (Windows/ME) that Compuserve refuses to function on and their support was about as helpful as a boil on a bunion.

The Compuserve address will be OK until the end of January when I will terminate the account.

OBS ON NOVICE TICKET

I extract the following from an exchange of views on the US reflector:

"When the Novice License was established, Lo, these many years ago, it established a means for entry into HF operating on CW portions of HF. Many, many Novice licensees used that chance to learn how to receive and send at higher speeds. In due time many of them got their operating speed up to 13 WPM and passed the General test. Quite a few of them went on to 20 WPM and got their Extra license.

Sure, a lot of folks can now get HF privileges by simply meeting the 5 WPM Morse testing requirement. But, those who realise the fact that CW can provide them solid QSO's through QRM, QRN and QSB will do just as the Novices of old did.

I feel this will be especially true when the new licensees find out how hard it is to have decent QSO's in the overcrowded and oft times restrictive phone bands. They will HAVE to learn to use Morse code at a level leading to actual on-the-air proficiency. Many of my most enjoyable rag chew QSO's have been with DX stations on CW in the "Extra" portion of the bands.

I feel we CW ops need to actively publicize this to "wet the appetite" of those who become frustrated by their inability to make meaningful QSO's in the phone bands. Rather than give up on the long-term existence of ham radio, we need to present positive attitudes toward what is GOOD in Amateur Radio. And I think CW operation is GOOD, actually one of the BEST.

As is true of most human endeavors we will continue to have "terminal whiners" who feel every thing they want should be easy to obtain. The 5 WPM licensing requirement does at least require these folks to become aware of Morse Code. What they do with it after they get their privilege to operate is up to them. I think a little prodding about the advantages of CW operation from us old timers is surely in order." Stan K4UK.

This same exchange urged a change in title to Promotion rather than Preservation but we have been through this before and the change was not appreciated.

ACTIVITY AND THE WARC BANDS

Many have been the dedicated directional antennas found on 18/24 Mhz and I have even found yagis and wire beams on 10.1 Mhz but oddly these bands still remain relatively unused. Beacons are a good guide to band conditions and a quick shift on 24.915 the other day revealed IK6BAK, a beacon which added its web address (www.qsl.net/ik6bak). Accompanying this lower in the band were two German stations, one OM, one FR a weak but audible VE3. QRN was minimal and the band would have supported scores of solid QSOs.

AND THE OTHER BANDS

Now then, there are close on 5,000 of us and if we all chose to operate at the same time it would be absolute bedlam. .058 represents the uppermost QRG for searching/calling so there is little profit in competing for space on that particular frequency when there are lumps of nothingfulness LF. You will find members as low as .035 in busy condx so please use the space.

FINALE

A bit late again folks... sri. A wee bit under the weather but that is really a poor excuse since I had almost two pages ready within days of posting the last Keynote. I will try to be a bit more consistent but remember I am not printing to schedule - if I were then I probably would not do the job.

Christmas cards have already started to roll in here including one to Suzy from a couple of other canines. Hi. Most appreciated of course though the logistic problems of replying to all is too great. Have a happy Festive season people - 73/88 and on this occasion - stay a wee bit sober. Hi.

Geo.