

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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OFFICES	COMMITTEE	NETS
QSL Manager: M0AVW 32 Woodford Walk, Harewood Park, TS17 0LT	Chairman G4XHZ Vice Chairman G4YLB QSL Manager M0AVW	Sunday US: 0100Z on 14058 Friday: GX0IPX/P 1930 ON 3.558 (+/-) also at 2200, on highest usable band
PRO: G4YLB. J.A. Welsh 3 Minster Cresc, DARWEN, BB3 3PY CONTEST MANAGER: M0CLO 86 Coldnailhurst Ave, East Perry, CM7 5PY	P.R.O. G4YLB Rally Coordinator G4PPG Secretary G3ZQS Committee G4MZS	DX 14/21/28.058 on the hour for 15mins Pse keep watch on all Novice allocations UK Net Controls use GX0IPX/P

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.
Up-dated listings may be obtained from HQ. Please include 3 2nd class stamps to cover return and running costs
Lapel Badges, £1.50 incl. **Fabric patches** £2.50 incl.
QSL Cards £7.00 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 <spence5@ntlworld.com>
 M0AYI 01207-283192 <m0ayi@netscapeonline.co.uk>

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) 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, BARNSELEY, S73 9AE.
G4, GM4 etc (Except GW4). M5AAQ. 6 Central Ave, SHEPSHED, LE12 9HP.
G2, G5, G6, 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
EU/DX Members: IRCs or UK Banknotes to M0AVW. US dollars to HQ. Club will provide envelopes. Any excess over subs from non-UK members will be regarded as QSL postage unless otherwise advised.

GREETINGS

Well, it's over. The man with the long white beard, scarlet suit and wellies has inserted himself into the last chimney for another year and the even more pervasive nightshirt clad idiot with a scythe has handed over the reins to a younger counterpart. Am I happy? Well not really. It just means that I have clocked up another another year on my mileometer and I am the possessor of numerous pairs of socks and a cardigan which was seemingly designed for an orang outan. How did the rest of you fare I wonder? Perhaps like myself there are some serious doubts creeping in about the ability of Santa to provide that which we crave and so have cut out the middle man and treated yourselves! In my case it was a replacement for a computer which has for some time now been finishing near to last place in the technological race. To avoid the pain of re-installing all the software on the Intel III, I simply tidied up an extremely messy hard drive and organised logical menus so I didn't have to go hunting through 50 plus icons, by setting the new hard drive as slave in the original machine. It was my intention to 'ghost' the original drive to the new 60gbyte monster and re-installing it as

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master in the new computer but it just doesn't work that way. Back to the drawing board!

Boxing day presented us here in the northwest of the UK with the first real snow of the winter. Nothing more than about an inch or so but the weather conditions following meant that for quite some time there was a carpet of hard-trodden frozen snow underfoot. Uuuugh! I remember such conditions in Birmingham as a child but in those days, there were gangs on the streets - all streets - shovelling the stuff into lorries. Nowadays the citizen ventures out at his peril whilst the A&E wards are bulging at the seams with broken limbs. Sumat wrong somewhere!! We seem to be rapidly approaching the point where the only 'real' radio amateurs left are the QRP enthusiasts. The rest of us (yours truly included) are hardly more than appliance users with little or no knowledge of what is happening inside the flash case. So many of us were introduced to the hobby at a time when a couple of valves were persuaded to do the work of half a dozen and you could safely apply a 50W soldering iron to just about any part of the rig. Nowadays, you open the box and all you can see is a population of rectangular black slabs with multitudinous pins on double sided plated through boards. They work well of course but they hold their secrets from you insofar as an overwhelming percentage of us will ship the rig back to depot if anything goes wrong. I wonder though just how many of these enigmatic lumps of silicon are being used? A goodly Part of the gubbins in my FT1000MP are devoted to such operations as SSB, RTTY and FM - modes which I *never* use.

SWINDLE?

From Maurice, F5NQL, a translation of a statement by Rosy, F5NLO who is High Speed CW correspondent for UFT. It would seem that information has been received from the German HSC (the genuine one it is stressed) which points to something of a 'fiddle' being perpetrated by someone perporing to speak on behalf HSC. Members should be aware of this possibility.

RUSSIAN POSITION ON CW

I understand that the Russians have rejected the proposals due to be submitted at the IARU concerning the requirements for Morse and that their licence conditions remain unchanged in this respect. Should we applaud this decision or perhaps take the view that without FULL international cooperation, the IARU is not an effective body? Whatever the bottom line at the IARU conference, a full acceptance globally of all their resolutions seems unlikely. Certain countries for instance have never even attempted to police the amateur bands or demand compliance with the otherwise widely accepted band plans. We all know from whence wide-band transmission in the segment which most of us recognise as CW only emanate - many South American countries seem to be the prime culprits together with certain Europeans. Look if you will at Canada even, where SSB and data mode operations are permitted in ANY segment of all bands.

SUBS

All committee members were sounded for their approval on a subject which has for some time been pecking at my conscience-

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namely subs for members who take Keynote via e-mail - with a view of reducing their costs. Whilst you could hardly get falling-down drunk on the annual subs, it is recognised that these people (100 plus at present) save us a fair amount in terms of postage. The figure I suggested was £4.00 and this would be a blanket figure applied throughout the world. I am pleased to report that such approval was forthcoming. Surely in this day and age, more members will find it convenient to go via this route

M0AVW AWARD

Each year, Chuck dedicates a certificate to a member who consistently submits carefully sorted cards. This year it goes to I2VRF. Chuck would like to thank Gian for his consideration which is not to decry others who also attend to the sequencing and thus reducing the workload.

QSL CARDS

I have had 'blank' cards returned to me from a batch of printed cards. This means only that the printer has sucked in more than one sheet when printing. There will still be the correct number of cards printed but I don't always spot the blank sheets which of course are guillotined with the rest. Just why we cannot get a reliable 'one sheet at a time' delivery is a puzzle. It happens sometimes with the laser though usually only one unwanted sheet and that occasionally but I have to watch the ink-jet like a hawk, frequently having to resort to manual feed - very time consuming.

NANCY & THE US GANG

Nancy is home again after her surgery and although she has not yet got the green light on lifting heavy objects, it is expected soon. In the meantime, she has caused a full page advertisement to appear in World Radio hoping to reach a large number of folks who have never heard of FISTS.

She would like to encourage EU and DX members to appear on the 15th of each month - coincidentally, this is our 15th anniversary - and club stations especially would be most appreciated by those chasing the anniversary award.

Although the bands have been a little unstable for transatlantic traffic lately, Chuck's turnover of US bound QSLs is testament to the fact that openings are not as few as may be imagined. I spent a fair amount of time on 10, 12 and 15m calling CQ to be answered in most cases by strong signals from the East Coast so the conditions are there.

HSC v HSC. e.V

I'd like to ask for your attention. Please be informed that there are TWO clubs dealing with highspeed-cw, the "HSC" and the "HSC e.V.". Both were founded in Germany. The first ("HSC") originated in 1951 as a club of radioamateurs who loved doing highspeed-cw on the bands. This club is not registered at German courts (registry of clubs = "Vereinsregister"). The second club originates about 1980 and is registered, therefore the suffix "e.V." = "eingetragener Verein" = registered club at court. There was some quarrel about using the same name and logo, but it is now clear, that both clubs exist in parallel and are not the same (although their names are very similar).

Some irritations occurred in 1980, that all members of the old "HSC" would be turned into members of the newly founded "HSC e.V." automatically. This was not true, as courts confirmed. Both clubs go their own way.

Clubstations are:

"HSC": DA0HSC, DL0HSC, DK0HSC

"HSC e.V.": DF0HSC

DOK:

There is a special "DOK" = "Distrikts-Ortskenner" issued by DARC - Deutscher Amateur-Radio-Club to the "HSC" which is "HSC" and "HSC50" in the year of the 50th anniversary of "HSC" (see above - 1951). The special DOK or in German "Sonder-DOK" counts for the award-programme of DARC. The "HSC e.V." (= DF0HSC) pretends to have a special DOK also. But the DARC did not issue it to the "HSC e.V.", so it does not count for any award.

Comparison of fees:

"HSC": Entrance-fee 10 DM, no further fees

"HSC e.V.": Entrance-fee 100 DM, annual fee 10,- DM

Becoming a member:

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"HSC": You have to make some QSOs with "HSC"-members who confirm that you were able to make contacts at at least 25 WPM for at least 30 minutes.

"HSC e.V.": Make a QSO with DF0HSC at any speed, receive his letter by mail and send the entrance-fee.

Membership numbers:

"HSC": Continuously

"HSC e.V.": No known structure of numbers

Memberlists:

"HSC": Can be found on the internet and on request by email (see end of text)

"HSC e.V.": Memberlists are not published

Contests:

The contests in february and november are held by the "HSC". "HSC e.V." does not hold contests although DF0HSC takes part in the "HSC"-contests (don't be confused!).

Contestmanager:

The new "HSC"-contestmanager is Lutz Schroerer, DL3BZZ, Am Niederfeld 6, D - 35066 Frankenberg, Germany. No-one at "HSC e.V." is contestmanager so don't send your entries to DF0HSC or DJ7LQ - you won't be on the list then.

This information is given to you because it might be, that you receive a nice letter praising your CW-skills and inviting you to become a member of "HSC e.V.", also inviting you to send the fee. Included are two QSL-cards. They cannot be sent via the bureau, because the operator of DF0HSC and the clubstation itself are no members of DARC. It is not necessary that you send cards via the club to them because both stations do not receive cards from DARC who deals only with cards of its members.

So be alert when receiving a letter and think twice before sending money. More information via email to hsc@darcd.de 73, Lutz

DL3BZZ / FISTS # 1640

This sounds like a right old can of worms and like most, I find it very puzzling. It was Lutz' intention to place the facts before you however and this is just what I have done.

PROBLEMS WITH ACROBAT

Those of you who view Keynote or other documentation via Acrobat and are finding problems may find the following from G3ZPF of assistance:

Within Acrobat Reader (v4) choose File/Preferences/General, and UNtick the Web-Browser-Integration box. This forces acrobat to open up as a standalone app instead of a browser plug-in. Superficially little difference, but it can make a BIG difference to your PC.

Typically, using acrobat as a browser plug-in, after viewing just one PDF file, even if you subsequently close IE (or netscape) the ACRORD32.dll will still be viewable under task manager, and will slowly eat up available memory. In tests, one person re-booted his machine and viewed just one PDF file before closing IE and leaving his machine on overnight. next morning there was no available RAM....all 256 MB had been eroded by the plug-in. If you use task manager to end the plug-in task, it is a lucky dip as to whether it ends, nothing happens, or it crashes. Apparently the problem is not so bad in acrobat 5 because (quote) "it rarely stays up long enough for the problem to develop". W/ton have abandoned acrobat 5 writer and gone back to v4. In reader 5, the option is under File/Preferences/Options/Display in Browser.

There is nothing about this on MS or Adobe websites, and I spotted it in a magazine, but W/ton IT have known about this for a while, apparently. grmmmmph!

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

F5LAW. Yann has not been too active of late but plans to be more so in 2002. Appreciates the 'talking Keynote' from GM4HYF saying that George is doing a magnificent job.

G0EOK. Paul has had the builders in and as a result, his antennas had been down for some time. The scaffolding was still up when he had a few very sturdy brackets constructed and took advantage of this to fix then to the gable end. Car spares shop turned out to be the final source for 'U' bolts to mount a mast though until the builder has finished, a 2m antenna is his only outlet. Should by now have erected his 80m doublet. **GW0SGG.** Our Bill recommends that owners of the TS930S bring their rigs

into the 21st. century by installing the new digital board in place of the X54-1670-00. Reckons it makes the rig equal to most and superior to many rigs on the market. **G10GDF**. A very dramatic piccy of Altcarry Head with an inset showing the Rathlin East Lighthouse with operators G10PGC, G10GDF and G10SRQ listed. **M0CGO**. In the same vein, Ricky offers a photograph of the IOW light from whence GX0BAR was operating. **G0GFG**. Mark tells me that the FISTS table at the local rally was well supported and specifically mentions Glen, M0AYI from whom much help was forthcoming. **2E0000**. From Roy and the Scarborough gang an update on their 'novice' station and some nice traffic on the HF bands. Remembering that these guys are running a bare bones novice setup, a response to their CQ on 14.048 from ZL2TX was much appreciated. Even more so when after being asked to QRX he whistled up a few locals and the log was enhanced with ZL2AOH, ZL1ATW and ZL1MAD. Can't be had for a modest 5W. **G3ASG**. Our Ray is seeking only Utah, Montana and Hawaii for Worked All States. LMK when you get 'em Ray - if they represent FISTS contracts then I believe the US gang do a very nice cert for this achievement. What puzzles me is how the dickens you managed such places as N. Dakota - seems I had to wait around 20 years for my first. Hi. **G4GJY**. Sid embellished his Hi-Mound with the cork from a bottle of Bristol Cream and doubtless enjoyed justifying the move in the process. A nice square cut and a dab of super-glue improved things a lot. If you crave a larger knob then champagne is the ideal route for the well heeled! Re the DL stations (and others) who sign '55'. Always was 'best wishes and success' I believe though it was shunned for some time after the war as a contraction of 'HH'. Upset quite a number of the DL boys following the outbreak of peace but seems to have returned to respectability. I tend to navigate round it with 'Haben sie eine schonen abend und GL'. Seems to be appreciated much more. Hi. **G3FIJ**. At the date of the letter, (10 Oct/01), his last 12 wpm Morse practice session on-air was with student G7SNO (Grazxyna). Not had an up-date on this though test taken 11 Oct and result awaited. This is likely to be among the last such exam undertaken. The Colchester club has provided 2m code transmission for the past 35 years and with over 400 conversions and will continue to provide 5 wpm if demand is there. **G4PTE**. Would like to have contacted Angie, G0HGA, re 2m CW but represents a (not insignificant) number who have no computer and don't even want one. There seems to be a trend (even by Radcom) to assume the **everyone** has e-mail facilities. Don't think it is arrogance Ken - just a habit we seem to have fallen into and I will try to avoid the trap myself in future. **G14CFQ**. More on make-shif knobs from Gary who found just what he wanted at his local B&Q - DIY Kitchen cabinets, furniture and etc. Includes offerings in solid teak, mahogany, brass or the ubiquitous plastic in a multitude of sizes and styles. **G0UHM**. Hi Les - we seem to be contemporaries since I clocked my 74th. year this month. Hi. Sold his packet gear and put the PC into FISTS mode to help with Century numbers. **G3OEP**. Our Dave has a hidden treasure there - an AVO Frequency meter of 1936 vintage. Must confess I have never heard of that one but we should all put aside our special stuff. Could raise big money for the family at some time in the future. For myself, I have a home-brew oscillator which doubles as a redskin telephone - key it and it produces smoke as well as audio. Hi. **M0AVW**. Chuck would like to say 'thankyou' for all those greetings cards and good wishes -same goes for yours truly of course. **G3ZDD**. Derek points out that the G3ZQS fingers are still giving trouble i.e. the new call for M5AIA should be M0SWL and not G0SWL. Ooooops!

SILENT KEY

G0FUS kindly advised me of the death of G3BRR (Jim Leader) on 14th November, whilst in the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester, following a short illness. G3JKY also brings to notice the passing of G4IXL. Bob and Jakey went back a long way (55/57 RAF in Hong Kong) and I understand that Bob was also 2nd op at G2YY before entering the RAF.

ANNIVERSARY AWARD

Dennis, K6DF, has conspired with Nancy, WZ8C, to devise a somewhat challenging quest for you. 2002 marks our 15th anniversary

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niversary of course and from QSOs on-air, I gather that a lot of members over there are actively assembling the necessary ordinance. I reproduce an item from Nancy's NA Memo:

Happy Anniversary to us! 2002 is the 15th Anniversary of The Founding of FISTS. To celebrate, we have created a special award. This is going to be a challenging certificate to earn, both for the DX FISTS and the North American FISTS, but it's definitely do-able. The certificate has not been designed yet, but it will be worthy of prominent display in your shack.

The period of time to earn this award will be one year, 2002. QSO's made between January 1, 2002 and December 31, 2002 ONLY will be valid.

To earn this award, you must have a 2 way QSO with: 15 FISTS in each of the 10 call sign zones (0 through 9) - a total of 150 contacts, together with:

40 FISTS in England

40 FISTS in Canada

40 Non-England, Non-USA, Non-Canadian, DX FISTS

30 Clubs with FISTS numbers

for a total of 300 contacts.

Each contact must be with a different FISTS member. Each FISTS member is counted only once, no matter where they are located at the time of the contact; no matter what callsign they are using. If you contact WZ8C while I'm at home in Michigan and later when I'm on vacation in Costa Rica, you may count only ONE of the contacts toward the Anniversary Award.

Clubs are also only counted once, no matter how many different members you may work. Clubs may be US, or DX.

DX is defined by DXCC rules, which means Hawaii and Alaska are DX for the continental USA.

Once you have a member or club's number, they cannot be counted again toward your total.

73, Dennis K6DF

The format for UK and EU is exactly the same since (swings and roundabouts) non-US, non-VE and non-UK is mirrored by the more easily obtainable US areas for those members in the colonies! Go on.... it's not easy but it is attainable.

M5AGL

Bob still takes me to task over the 'ladder' and the choice of days/times. As M0CLO has asked, please let it run and see how it goes - if any changes need to be made for future occasions, they will be considered. The issue of non-members taking part was questioned but it has for some time now been felt that in order to fulfil our stated objectives of 'encouraging the use of Morse', the cost of a few certs would be negligible in comparison to the effects of additional CW operation. Remember that in SKW, Key of the Year may quite easily be a non-member. With your nomination, you are applauding skill with a straight key and I have heard some beautiful stuff coming out of the Eastern EU countries from individuals who are not able to find even our modest subscriptions.

More importantly he questions the issue of the last SKW. As far as I am aware, these details were published and all certs have been despatched but if any-one knows any different then pse LMK and it will be sorted. As most of you know, I have a pretty full schedule here and frequently it is a matter of prioritising - robbing Peter of time to pay Paul - and it is not uncommon for the odd gremlin to visit.

2M CW

G0JJQ FISTS-0851

We've started a new newsgroup on Yahoo, I wonder if you would be good enough to give us a mention in the Keynotes. Info as below:

2 Metre CW NEEDS YOU!.....

On October 29th 2001 Angie Sitton, G0HGA, founded the Two Metre CW reflector (e-mail news group) at Yahoo Groups to fill a gap not specifically covered by any of the existing web based reflectors. Angie identified a need for a forum where Amateur Radio operators, interested in 2m CW operation, could meet and exchange views and ideas, ask for help and post alerts. As long as it's to do with 2m CW then it's welcome! (It's also free and it's fun). So far we have a 23 members already signed up and some lively discussion but we need YOUR support. Obviously there also needs to be on-air activity, so, by the time you read this, we will have started regular 2m CW activity on Monday evenings. Watch this space for further developments!

For more information on this new reflector please visit the 2 metre reflector info page at: <<http://www.qsl.net/g0hga/2mCW.htm>> or e-mail Angie at: <morseladyuk@yahoo.co.uk> for more information.

You don't have to join the reflector to join in the fun but you'd be missing out on an excellent source of information and advice. Please feel free to join in on Monday evenings (20:00 to 22:00 clock time) on and around 144.050 MHz, you'll be made very welcome. New CW ops. please note, if you want slow, accurate CW to get those first few QSO's under your belt and can get on 2 metre CW then this is the place for you. 2 metre CW on-air and the 2 metre CW group needs YOUR support so dig out that key and discover the fascinating world of VHF CW. I look forward to working you on the air. 73 de Wayne - G0JJQ 72/3! de Wayne

Without approval from the lass, I do not feel comfortable publishing Angie's address but as mentioned previously, there are a number out there who do not have a PC so if you wish to, you can address any tfc for her via HQ and I will QSP.

THE LISTENERS

I think that Geo, GSWL2, is our first SWL CC holder and a query re the standing of his reports was shunted to Dennis for info of Peter, G4LHI. The bottom line is I fear - no can claim - you are supposed to work your numbers on-air but it is heartening to know that Geo is not just sitting on his muscles. Peter tells me he bumped into Dennis (K6DF) on 10m from whence he raised the question.

DOK??

Martin, IK2RMZ/DL1GBZ added some info in an e-mail concerning QSL cards which I found interesting.

DOK means Distrikts und OrtsKenner, i.e. district ID and local ID. The info for Martins' cards is DOK A50 LDK RA and he explains:

The district ID is A which stands for the former province of Baden and 50 stands for the Murg Valley radio club which has been founded as 50th club in the Baden district.

LDK is a county code, the German word for county is Landkreis and RA means Rastatt (these codes are also on the license plates of cars). The LDK entry is now standard on DL cards and the (politically correct) message is the acceptance of the former Y2 CW club RTC (which issues the LDK award).

DXCC QRP

From Maurice, F5NQL, a snippet of info which may be of interest to the members particularly in regard to QRP:

The ARRL Board of Directors approved the new QRP DXCC Award at its July 2001 meeting. The QRP DXCC Award is given for working 100 different "entities" (formerly "countries") on the DXCC List while operating with an output power of 5 W or less. Standard DXCC rules <<http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/>> also apply to this new award. Contacts made since November 15, 1945, are acceptable.

The award is available to Amateur Radio operators worldwide. Applicants must submit an alphanumeric list of 100 contacts—sorted by call sign prefixes.

Application forms and additional information are available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/qrp/index.html>>, via e-mail to dxcc@arrl.org, fax 860-594-0259, or mail to

ARRL DXCC, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

ON THE LAST MINUTE

The following arrived as I was about to run Keynote. Bit of a panic whilst I re-organised things but here it is:

We really wanted to give the people who are working with less than maximum conditions and not a lot of operating time a chance to participate in our Anniversary, so in addition to the 300 point anniversary award, we offering this:

The rules are the same as the original Anniversary Award - each FISTS number can only be counted ONCE toward the awards. For the new award you must work - 2 way CW QSO - 10 FISTS members operating from each of the ten callsign areas (total of 100 contacts).

**NOTE: The FISTS member counts in the area from which they are operating, NOT the letter in their callsign.*

15 FISTS operating in Canada

FISTS CW

15 Clubs with FISTS numbers (DX or USA)

10 FISTS operating in England

10 FISTS operating from a DX country that is NOT England or Canada.

Total 150 points.

You may earn BOTH awards.

People who earn this award will get a beautiful certificate — if you decide to "go for it" and earn the original 300 point award, you will be awarded a plaque!

Starting date Jan 1, 2002 - ending date Dec 31, 2002.

I hope this will give your contingent more incentive to get on the air.

Don't forget the 15th of each month is "activity day", people are

encouraged to get on the air that day, specially if they don't usually operate much.

88 Nancy

NEW MEMBERS

8345	M5BRY	Bryan	8346	G3IWE	Mike
8347	OA4CQL	Basil	8348	HA5AK	George
8349	M0ATA	Alf	8350	2E0NPB	Norman
8351	M0DAW	David	8352	SM4ETF	Bernt
8353	G4BEQ	Doug	8354	M0ECS	Steve
8355	M0BVF	George	8356	DF2YJ	Jur
8357	M0DBI	Al	8358	G0KYA	Steve
8359	GX0BAR	CLUB	8360	GM4DKO	John
8361	MW0IDX	Roger	8362	M0BHA	Carlie
8363	G4ASA	Dave			

GX0BAR is sited on the Isle of Wight. Numerous ops.

UNANSWERED

Yup!!! I do occasionally get bogged down and this is just one example because I have a letter (complete with SASE) which I completely missed. Sri Michael.

On the whole, a keyer is a keyer is a keyer - some of 'em have varied bells and whistles - some of 'em have lots of memory, others have an auto increment facility for contest numbering, there are often options for emulating a mechanical bug etc. In this particular theatre, you generally get what you pay for. The criteria is Paddles. You may find yourself happy with a single paddle though eventually just about everyone ends up with twin paddles - got a learning curve but you can be competent within a week or two. It would be unfair of me to specify any particular make - get yourself off to a Rally and get hands-on. You will find small (very small) differences in feel between various makes but with trimming, they can all be made to behave in a way which suits yourself. If tactile feedback is important choose a pair which have wide tension adjustment but most of us who graduated from a mech bug end up with hair-trigger tension and gaps measured in microns. I know people who are happy using a pair of GPO relay contacts with a couple of blobs of wax on the ends! Rapidly gaining a reputation are those which employ magnets rather than springs even though any tactile response is reversed. In short.. you are very much on your own. Sri.

FINALE

Apologies to MM, G4ZPY, G3TUX etc. Definitely no space this month but we'll try and keep some for March.

There has been some fair DX recently (even worked Wigan on 15m) though as has been observed, it tends to be a wee bit patchy. Still lots of opportunity out there for assembling ammunition for the various awards.

EU and DX members.

Sri but some of you are just not reading Keynote... This month I have had to return four personal cheques and two Euro Cheques. Although IMOs may appear to be the answer, they still attract a handling charge of £7.00 and since they also cost the originator a surcharge it is a two-way rip off. I'll let you know next month about the viability of paying subs in Euros but in the meantime, surely even preferred banknotes in registred mail is cheaper than some of the alternatives??

CUL

Have fun people - and just in case I do find myself with some free time, I look forward to natters on-air.

73/88 and stay sober

de Geo

ODDS 'N ENDS

MX5IPX/P

Terry, G0TBD, had quite a bit of fun with the club call in November working 26 countries, 4 continents, 46 FISTS members with a total of 101 contacts.

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

G0ONS. Jim has finally got his rig back from Yaesu - hopefully in a decent state of health. He ascribes the title 'computer expert' to me which is a long way from the truth. Weighed up the time he spent on the net against the cost of local calls v all-in packages and came to the conclusion that the latter were too expensive. I concur there Jim - I only took a package for convenience but unless you are spending hours a day surfing then you could be losing out. On the other hand, when the server totals up your on-line time they may well decline if you are showing a profit... swings and roundabouts I guess.

SILENT KEY

Belated advice of the passing of John, **G0WSL** in October. His wife advises that it was the result of a sudden massive heart attack. Also, from an aneurism on 16 Nov, 0372 **G4EIB** Jim at 76 years of age.

CHANGE OF CALL

Pse note that M5ALH is now recognised as M0MPS.

SILENT KEY

I was absolutely mortified to learn that Fred, **G14PCY**, passed away 24/10/01. Fond personal memories and I am sure he touched the lives of other members also.

