

International Morse Preservation Society



KEY NOTE



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FISTS (EU) WEB SITE <http://www.asel.demon.co.uk/fists-hq/>

OFFICES

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G4PPG
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NETS

Sunday QRS 0900 (loc) 3.575 2E0AJS
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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

Lapel Badges, £1.50 incl.

Fabric patches £2.50 incl.

QSL Cards £6.00 per 100 or £9.00 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.

QSL Bureau. UK SAEs (Stout envelopes recommended)

Mx, 2x (Except for Wales) M0AYI. 7 Tynedale Terrace, Annfield Plain, STANLEY, DH9 7TZ.

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

G3 (except GW3). G0UQF. 2 East St, Darfield, BARNSELY, S73 9RE.

G4 (Except GW4). M5AAQ. 491a New Ashby Rd, LOUGHBOROUGH, LE11 4EU.

G2, G5, G8 (Except for Wales) to M0BPT. 38 Wheatley St, WEST BROMWICH, B70 9TJ.

All members in Wales. GW0SGG. 14 Heather Cresc, Sketty, SWANSEA, SE2 8HE

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

PO BOX CLOSED

Effective immediately, all mail to Bob (for awards etc) should be directed to his home address (see banner) as the rental for the box was about to become renewable. It was opened primarily for QSL cards of course so is no longer required.

GREETINGS

As I write this, we have brilliant sunshine and a gentle breeze a little East of South though the bands remain very spasmodic. At the beginning of this month, my trips with Suzy through the Cemetery were a true joy. With our own native bluebells seemingly suffering a severe set back, we were greeted by patches of them flowering below the trees whilst a close-cropped lawn from the previous night was sparkling with daisies and forget-me-nots. I have even seen foraging bees though the tits seem less in number than previous years. Hope this is not a bad omen! Incidentally, my thanks to the many letters applauding the new partnership of Suzy and myself. These miniature yorkies are a yappy breed. She tends to challenge anything that isn't actually static which includes figures seen through the window. Bit of a pain at times but a price worth paying for her companionship and odd little quirks that keep both Ivy and myself smiling. New members continue to swell the ranks and you will note the latest, Cho, is HL5 from South Pusan.

THE BUREAU

Well at least we are getting somewhere with the bureau. I must confess to being in something of a flat spin trying to get this

month's cards into circulation. Neville, G0DWJ, went to some trouble with a block diagram showing the workings of the RSGB bureau but in the meantime, volunteers poured in. I was particularly keen to recruit these from the members who are QRV on the internet since communication can serve only to enhance the running of the system. Your hub is M0AVW and as you can see, the manager for your particular call is given. Chuck already has a number of QSLs to shift to the various sub-managers so could be that our first circulation will happen shortly after receipt of this letter. Those listed were the only members necessary and were chosen on a first come - first served basis with e-mail availability also colouring the choice.

My thanks to the remaining volunteers: M0BZG, G3CWW, M0BOS, G3ITB, M5AAF, F6CZC, GM4ELV, M0AXJ, 2E0ATX, G0DWJ and G4US.

As you can see, we were well covered. The only exception to the e-mail requirement was Bill, GW0SGG but it seemed such a good idea to divert all the Welsh traffic to Wales from where there was the possibility of direct pick-up, especially with Bill attending the various rallies that his offer was accepted. Hope that he may soon be brought into the 21st Century with a computer and internet access. Hi.

Considered also F6CZC (with an eye on the EU brigade) but learned that my initial assumption of cheaper European postage was false so Chuck will handle **all** the o/s members directly. Postal monies should be sent to HQ in order to relieve him of the problems associated with conversion. Whatever Sterling value I receive from o/s members will be totalled and sent as one cheque to M0AVW. Bear in mind the problems we have had with monies from EU etc., members should note that International Money Orders or personal cheques on other than UK banks are a no-no. The bank actually invokes a charge equivalent to \$7.00 (US) before they even start to negotiate these. Chuck will use the monies to purchase stamps of the most favourable value and advise members when their 'funds' are about to go below zero.

As you can see, o/s members were the only real problem and the above solution seemed about the least troublesome. Since the cost of posting envelopes to the bureau from overseas would be excessive, the club will supply them but if facilities are available, labels would be appreciated.

Ideally, all envelopes should be of the same size and I will review the purchasing of these for all members after a month or two when a supplier has been established. Makes sense too. Go to a stationer and try to buy half a dozen envelopes of even 110gsm and you will be getting well and truly stung. The club on the other hand will be purchasing envelopes of substantial quality in boxes of 1,000 and at much more favourable rates so soon, it may well be policy to ask all members only for stamps and labels. We are set to save a significant amount of funds with the new arrangements so my proposition that the club should supply envelopes for all members QSL cards is justified.

You will note that Bob's address on the banner has reverted to his postal location. The PO box is now not really necessary and I am sure we can find a better use for the £100 that it cost us latterly (it started out at £78.00 I think) and taken together with other savings - members accepting Keynote via e-mail for instance - there is every prospect that next years subs will remain

unchanged. The most cost-effective means of administering the club is of course of the highest priority and by way of illustration, the windowed envelopes used for the past couple of key-notes were purchased at a 50% reduction of their true price since they had become an embarrassment to the supplier. They turned out to be pain in the pancreas and although I shall be glad to see the last of them, their purchase was still a saving.

LETTER FROM G0FRL

I apologise to any member inconvenienced by resigning as QSL Manager. I wish to thank all those members who have wrote or E-Mailed me to thank me for the work of QSL Manager. The QSL Bureau was a victim of its own success, second to none in the world. Starting with a few hundred cards a month to thousands, too much for one person to handle.

Please respect Chuck, the New Manager and sort your cards to his specification

I know that Bob has had a huge number of letters lamenting the situation which makes it impossible to continue to operate the bureau and there is no doubt that over the years, the bureau has proved both efficient and friendly. With the cooperation of Chuck and the various sub-managers, it is set to continue this superb service. You will find Bob's home address on the banner together with that of Chuck, M0AVW.

WIRELESS AND FUTURELESS

I am very much obliged to Tim, G0TYM, who sent a facsimile copy of the Daily Express dated April 24, 1900. Within these pages is to be found a statement by Sir William Preece before the Institution of Civil Engineers and those famous words: "**Wireless telegraphy has made but small progress because there is no commercial business in it**".

Browsing through a journal published 28 years before I was born however unearthed many delightful tit-bits such as Lord Londonderry taking his new office of Postmaster General to heart by planning to issue postage stamps in book form to offset "the inhuman habit they acquire of sticking tightly together on the pocket" or - despite the utterance of Lord Preece - an item telling of how 'our Tenby correspondent' telegraphed details of the elopement of a provincial actress and the son of well-known London Society people whose father traced them to an hotel. He returned a telegraph "Ran quarry to earth; both in one burrow. Am bringing dog fox back." The advertisements were no less fascinating. "Mafeking still safe" declared the headline showing troops behind a barricade of Ogdens Guinea Gold cigarettes or Eiffel Tower lemonade at 4½d for two gallons. Hi.



The above handsome gent is GW0VSW and he seems to have some very interesting kit to play with. Good sharp .jpg file which needed no tweaking at all.

FROM DOWN UNDER

Well, I must say it was news to me but it would seem that the NZART has hitherto been denied access to licensing information and therefore not able to fully update the NZ call book. From Ralph (ZL2AOH) "*One ray of hope is that the ministry will now not hide behind the Privacy Act and will release details*

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of all amateur radio licences to the NZART. This means that the Call Book can be brought up to date in 2001 for the first time in about seven years."

AND STILL MORE DOWN UNDER

After clocking up some 70-80 fists qsos as G3SCD - not quite making the magic 100- points I have just had a rough count up of the VK qsos and surprisingly find I have upwards of 70 contacts, most of which will be two-pointers. So was just wondering on the current rules system and what do I do to obtain another wall decoration. I believe there is some significance in cc and diamond numbers too, but cannot find any info in my old fists newsletters.....

The 058 freq on 14 mcs is often pretty busy here - particularly when I call CQ fists! It certainly seems easier to work the world from VK. In spite of my simple 14mcs Inverted Vee. The beam is here but still waiting for something to hold it up!

The extra sheet to the newsletter produced by Ralph is very welcome and it is good to see the enthusiasm of the rapidly growing ZL membership. VK does not seem to have caught on! So I would appreciate a little help/advice please when you have a minute to spare.

In meantime enjoy the improving (?) weather. A beautiful autumn here that seems to go on and on but we are returning to UK for a few weeks soon, so will be clocking up three summers in a row. Can't be bad, Eh? 73 David, VK3DBD (3756)

WIDE SPACED CAPS

John, G0SDA, e-mailed me on noting that CAPCO had placed an advertisement for their mag loops in Radcom. I had noted this and wondered about the possibility of obtaining wide-spaced caps from that source to which I received the following:

Sorry to come straight back Geo, but on the subject of hefty caps, Mike Devereau of Nevada found a source of very well made caps for ATU's, mag loops, etc on a visit to the Far East, equally as good as our CAPCO friend's & much cheaper. I actually saw these caps on display on Nevada's stand at a Picketts Lock rally & they did indeed look very well made. I don't want to send you on a wild goose chase again, but I think it would be well worth while giving Nevada a ring.

Best wishes, Colin G0SDA, FISTS 1172.....

BADGES

The more long-standing members of the club are aware of the reason for my not hiking up the joining fee and sending a badge. I just don't agree with being charged for something which was not ordered. The last lot cost me well over £1K and although there are still many on hand, it is getting time to think about re-stocking. Everyone seems happy with the shape and colour so I am tempted to simply go ahead and re-order but if any member has an idea for an improved style then pse LMK. Initially, the thought occurred to leave sufficient free land to inscribe a call sign but not only was the price prohibitive, you would need to carry a magnifying glass for the convenience of those who showed an interest. A larger area of virgin land would mean that the badge would be much too large and downright ugly. I wait with interest for any comments!

THAT TVI PROBLEM

Ray, G3MWF wrote in reply to my obs on the TVI problem and suggested ferrite chokes on the mains lead of the transmitter. His recommendation was for 10 turns on 2 rings, 8 turns on 3 rings or 7 turns on 4 rings using the type of material available from Maplin Electronics. He stresses that there should not be too many or too few turns for a particular number of rings/QRG. The problem QRGs in my case of course was 15 and 10m. He also seems unhappy about my leaving the mains earth floating (I am using a RS mains filter and have left the mains earth free, connecting only the physical earth) suspecting that the presence of the earth core within the flex could cause common mode currents which would regard the three-core flex as a single lead.

DIAMOND AWARD HOLDERS

Bob has provided me with the latest list of Diamond holders listed below.

AC6TO, VA3JJ, KA4IFF, N4ZMP, W8BL, N8UD, AF9H, AI9L, WB2FXK, SV1DLS, N3RSD, W8III, G4LHI, WA1GAG, W4BX, VE5RD, N4GM, K4UK, WD8OCV, W6DDB, N4VEF,

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PP6CW, ZL1BSG, WA9PWP, WB2HEK, W3BM, 9A5I, K2SB, NB2T, K8HBI, KW7D, LZ1CY, GX0IPX.

Sorry I cannot manage to get them into alphabetic order - takes quite a bit of doing as they have to be assembled into a single column for sorting and then to the form you now see.

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NEW MEMBERS

Not too many this month which is something of a relief considering the panic generated by the need for QSL boss!

7176	G0EFG	Brian	7177	G4AVN	Noel
7178	JK7UST	Hiro	7179	G0AKX	Irene
7180	G3VGR	Dave	7181	HL5AP	Cho
7182	G4IOT	Tony			

Cho incidentally is resident in South Pusan and I'm sure he will be having a wild ole time of it on the bands. Hi.

FACTS N' FIGURES

It is some time since I did a check on the statistics but I offer these now for your interest:

There are currently 307 G0 calls on the list. We have 155 G4 calls, 154 G3s, 137 M0 with a mere 9 2E prefixes.

We have 83 members who are also RSARS, 68 who are RNARS and 93 who are RAFARS.

There are 253 members who are also affiliated to G-QRP and a magnificent 706 who (at the dime of declaration) were members of the RSGB. This latter figure is of course in some doubt since affiliation the the Society has been on the decline for quite a few years now.

NEW MEMBERS PACK

Since Bob is no longer handling the new members, I took the opportunity to slim down the number of pages they receive. There are three sheets now in total, one is a double sided Century claim form, one with a welcome letter and confirmation of number with the constitution printed on the reverse. A second page details the awards and on the reverse of this is a page titled 'ODDS N' ENDS' which includes a number of items that I thought may be of interest to some of you:

STRUCTURE

FISTS currently has two separate and autonomous chapters (it is hoped that there will be more in the future), USA and New Zealand/Australia. The USA chapter secretary is WZ8C and the ZL secretary is ZL2AOH. It was found desirable early in the formation of these chapters to make them financially independent of the hub (UK/Europe) in order to spread the administration load. Your end-of-year statement of accounts will reflect this financial division. Remember that although we are a non profit making organisation some sort of financial cushion is needed for the purchase of necessary equipment, replacement of older and tired items etc., and also for unforeseen contingencies.

On-air practices

As you will see on your certificate of membership, we encourage courtesy at all times. Cleanly formed and well spaced code of course, takes precedence over speed and whilst we would never dream of 'cracking the whip', regular activity is good for the mode. FISTS is about Morse and not FISTS. Encouraging non-members to use the mode is more important than recruiting them into the club though of course; their inclusion for their

reasons would be most welcome.

For the less confident, please do not feel overwhelmed by the 'rag chewing' that you will undoubtedly witness between members. You want to keep a QSO short? That is your privilege and no-one will think any the worse of you for doing so.

QRP friendly

You will note that our recommended QRG's are just a couple of KHz away from the QRP segment. This represents a starting point from whence you are encouraged to tune LF. It was initially chosen when VFOs were not as common in QRP rigs as they are now so that crystals would not have very far to be 'pulled'. Please respect the QRP segment and if you are operating with flea power then we ask that you colour your CQ calls accordingly; i.e. CQ FISTS/QRP.

ROBOTIC CW STATION

Hi George, you may wish to mention this in the Fists newsletter. I had an unusual reply to my CQ on 20m yesterday. I was called by HA5DM/RO, Robone in Budapest. Turns out this is a robot station.

As well as a rubber stamp style QSO he will reply to various questions. Afterwards I worked his 'master' Frank HA5DM who told me Robone has made some 400 QSO's in the last two months. Their licence allows for robots to run unattended, signing either /RO or /RH. Robone uses a package called 'Multi-channel Cluster Buster' which can decode up to 16 CW signals simultaneously using a PC sound card. This decoding software can be downloaded from Frank's web page: www.qsl.net/ha5dm.

I've heard of robots being used in contests before, but this was the first time I've had a chat with one!

73 Fraser G4BJM

OK Fraser and I remember also the Italian robot station IY4M of which I have heard little these days and alas, following the loss of much material from my hard drive, I no longer have information on.

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

G0ADE. Bob wrote to say that this is his 58th year of cw operating and the last year - being in FISTS - has been particularly enjoyable. He has currently clocked 300 different QSOs with club members and thus far, only one QPC point chaser who offered his number and continued chasing. **G3HZL.** Don points out that if the tuesday evening net is inaudible on 80m then it would be worth checking 40m on 7028 or thereabouts. He robs not only myself but many others of a source of giggle juice since the demise of the Noddy Car means that he is now sporting 'L' plates (after 38 years of driving) with a modified Astra 1.6. Anyone living in the Stoke-on-Trent area and encountering an erratically steered vehicle of that type in British Racing Green would be well advised to get out of the way pdq. **2E0ATX.** Hi Al and thank you the offer of sub-manager duties. Bob actually resorted to returning packs of unsorted QSL cards but since this practice cost us money, he settle by dumping 'em on the back burner until time became available. **PA7XG.** Hello Mike and vmt the info re the PA QSL Bureau. As you can see, we have sorted everything out so it should be no problem. **G4SSH.** Roy points out that strictly speaking QSLs are not necessary since they are not demanded as a basis of award claims. But yes Roy, a lot of members really do value the service and look forward to receiving the 'final courtesy' so to deny them a bureau service when we can do something about it would be unkind to say the least. **G0IYZ.** Chris sends a nice item on the 'forgotten joys of CW' which I shall retain pending space. "*When people at work ask why I use CW, I take them into the workshop and tell them to listen. There is a foreman called Mick who is an incessant whistler. The noise and general hubub in the shop is quite loud. Cranes are moving, saws are sawing, shafts are being balanced and hammers are hammering. 'what do you hear?' I ask. 'A lot of noise' they reply. I point at a fitter and ask 'What is he talking about?' They reply 'I dont know- I cannot hear him for the noise'. 'What tune is Mick whistling?' 'The Dambusters March' they reply. I smile and simply say 'I rest my case'.* **G0UKX.** Thanks for the kind sentiment Ray. Leaving the pooch where she was happy was a most unselfish act! **PA9RZ.** Robert is a little disgruntled since he heard ZF2 calling 'CQ FISTS ONLY' on 28.060 and appeared to be blissfully unaware of anything below S7. He points out that they are trying to

promote 10.106, 10.116 and 24.906 as QRP frequencies. Note the comments on page 3 Robert! **MD0BXX**. Dave sings the praises of the Morse Test Stations in May who reverted to QRS if requested. Managed to work 11 of them so is anticipating some wall paper. Hi. **HL5AP**. Cho advises me that he has held the calls HM1AP, HM9AP/9 and HM5AP and currently holds 7J4AJE, 9M8BC, V85AP and 9M8BC/6. He is a founding member of the KARL (take that to be the Korean Amateur Radio League?) and there is only one way to describe the letter he sent - enthusiastic. Hi.

ACTIVITY FROM GREECE

Bill, G0STR, will be on family holiday on Zartes 11/7 to 25/7 and whilst not being able to guarantee operating times, will be found (usually evenings) 14060 and 7060 with his QRP Elecraft K2 transceiver. He is most pleased with the performance of this rig and says it was hardly any bother at all to build.

G3TUX

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THOSE E-MAIL ADDRESSES

I keep asking those of you who are QRV on the web to e-mail your addresses to Brian (W8BL) but am continually embarrassed when his up-date list fails to recognise a large number of UK and EU members who send me e-mails. If your address has not been listed thus then please get on the computer and send a brief message to blafont@tir.com. Also, if you would be prepared to accept Keynote directly into your mail-box, then significant savings may well be made which, once again, would enhance the possibility of subs remaining unchanged. This is of course important to the many members who are ticking over on a low fixed income.

LAST SUNDAY LADDER

Gerry submitted the following report but observed that there were many logs missing. Points were being given to participants who have not submitted logs. I would all help you know!

Call	Mem	MemTot	Non Mem	Previous	Total
G4LHI	18	36	0	141	177
GOMHR	19	38	0	103	141
PA3AFF	13	26	6	85	117
G0AVN	11	22	4	62	88
GM0VIT	12	24	1	49	74
F5NTP	7	14	2	51	67
M5ABN	8	16	2	47	65
G4RBE	12	24	1	40	65
M5AGL	0	0	0	60	60
G0PEH	3	6	3	49	58
GW0SSW	0	0	0	26	26
GOIYZ	0	0	0	25	25
M0BHE	0	0	0	23	23
G0VBH	0	0	0	14	14

Some of you will be aware that Gerry has been undergoing a period of chemotherapy for a blood problem so he will no doubt be much relieved to have finally finished this most unpleasant phase of his treatment. He is now on 'control' medication so it is sincerely hoped that his condition will soon revert to normal..

ODDS N' ENDS

30m Beacon

Tuning higher than normal on 30m found the beacon which many of you may well be aware of so my apologies if this is so. The station is DK0DCY and is found on 10.1440 issuing data on

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conditions. Don't know the stations conditions but it was certainly bouncing in here at 599 plus 10dB and in view of this a string of DL stations was worked on 10.126. Included in this batch was Wolf, DL1CC running the special call DL0EOK for the 50th anniversary of the Esperanto society.

About Earthing Systems

Eric, G3LPS rang me t'other day on a completely unrelated matter and I happen to mention that my radio earth comprised of three rods strapped together. Wrong way! It does exactly nothing that a single rod on its own would do. The trick according to Eric who had lots of experience with telephone systems, is to extend the next rod by a distance equal to the length of the rod and strap it to the first. Do this as many times as possible using stout wire (Eric used the readily available 7x029). The effects of additional rods so placed is more exponential than linear so to reduce earth resistance from (say) 10 ohms to 4 ohms, you would need perhaps five or six rods.

Alternative Call

Theo, PA3HEN is also running the call M0HEN. I have advised him that it is OK to add his FISTS number to his QSL cards but please remember that with these alternative calls, the member should give you a reference to his listed call. If you have printed space on your card for the call then the alternative call could go there but the reverse of the card is the important bit. Make sure that the listed call goes on the top left hand corner in BOLD or, inscribe alternative via list i.e. M0HEN VIA PA3HEN. This of course applies to ALL alternatives. For the convenience of the bureau, alternative calls will be added to the database with no other information that Prefix, Suffix, Call and Name. The logical field for a mailing label will be flagged as FALSE. Without this information, Chuck (your QSL manager) will be blowing bubbles in his beer in much the same way that Bob did previously.

Those holiday locations

Pse try to advise HQ of any /P plans you may have for operating on holiday or indeed, any DXpeditions you may be involved with. It is always a little frustrating to find an e-mail in my box saying tha "I will be QRV from bangalooland for two weeks as from next weekend". Use the 20th of the month as a possible cut-out for the Keynote so that such information will be received in time to be useful to the rest of the gang.

Latest figures.

UK, Europe and DX	1108
N. America	3687
ZL and VK	0034
Total	4729

The latest lists are available from the Website of course or for a few 2nd class stamps from HQ. As you can imagine, with 80 lines in 4 columns on an A4 sheet (320 listings per page) we are talking in terms of 8 sheets printed both sides and it is pretty close to the edge of the 2nd class postal band. Hi.

G4ZPY

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FINALE

Just about it for another month people and now Chuck, M0AVW, will have donned his steel helmet and ducked below the firing field. If this weather keeps up I'm gonna think about installing an air conditioner and if the band condx continue then I wonder what is the going price for a secondhand FT1000MP? Hi. Those of you who spend much time operating are doing a fine job in the name of CW; keep up the good work. You would be surprised at the number of letters I get from non-members who appreciate your enthusiasm.

73/88 es stay sober. Geo

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