

International Morse Preservation Society



KEY NOTE



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

E-Mail: fist1@btinternet.com

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32 Woodford Walk, Harewood Park, TS17 0LT
AWARDS MANAGER: G0FRL
12 Cavenham Grove, BOLTON, BL1 4UA
PRO: G4YLB. J.A. Welsh
3 Minster Cresc, DARWEN, BB3 3PY
CONTEST MANAGER: M0CLO
86 Coldnailhurst Ave, East Perry, CM7 5PY

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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, BARNSELY, 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

Welcome to Summer, 2001 where the bands appear to be full of the sound of bacon furiously frying. What few QSOs have been undertaken on 20m during June turned out to be almost exclusively with stations from Europe. At least we can hear a signal or two when old Sol begins to drop in the sky but conditions are such that the bottom can fall out of the band as abruptly as flicking a switch.

The thoughtfulness of a 'G' based QRP station went some way to restoring my faith in human nature when struggling with a QRO signal from Sweden on 40m. The problem was another station on 7.028 calling CQ QRP and he was not taking silence for an answer and was certainly NOT hearing (or at least acting upon) my advice that the frequency was in use. It would seem that his TX was for some reason on that QRG but he was listening on 7.030 plus. Suddenly he quit and after the QSO I was called by a QRP station who knew the identity of the QRM and had taken the trouble to telephone and ask him to QSY. He seemed almost apologetic when explaining what happened but I was a long way from being ungrateful.

CHANGE OF E-MAIL ADDRESS

Within the next few weeks, I shall be quitting AOL and my e-mail address will be <fist1@btinternet.com>. There are many reasons for this including the restriction by AOL of their own browser but suffice it to say I am disenchanted!

THE QRS PARTY

Keith, M0CLO, worked wonders with the incoming logs and produced a report much sooner than I had anticipated. He seemingly assumed that he would be sending out the certificates and as a consequence no addresses accompanied the winning entries. As it happened, two of the winning class 'A' entries were FISTS so the address was no problem and the other was a German station whose address was found on the callbook CD. The report is summarised below.

EUCW/FISTS QRS party, 22nd-28th April 2001.

In spite of a low number of logs being received this inaugural running of the EUCW/FISTS QRS Party seemed to be enjoyed by most of the participating stations. It was clear from the logs that a lot more people took part in the event than sent in logs.

The really good thing to come out from the logs was that several entries were received from people who had not entered any form of event before including the winner of the "Most Readable Morse" certificate.

The key/keyers used were many and varied from a Schurr squeeze paddle to a Swedish brass pump key and a G4ZPY key (presented as Fist of the year in 1996). This last key was used by G8NT who I believe was the oldest contestant at 91 years 8 months old and living in sheltered accommodation who finished runner up in Class A. Just goes to prove you don't need large antenna arrays to still enjoy contesting.

The power used in Class A varied from 100W to 5W so nobody needed to run a lot of power. It was also interesting to note that logs were received from 5 different EUCW clubs, but it was notable from comments made in the logs that a lot of people were expecting a better effort from the mainland European clubs. It was also commented in the logs that the input from the FISTS club was disappointing with few members getting involved.

One or two rule changes have been suggested and these will be considered in time for next year's contest.

Congratulations to all the certificate winners and especially to G4KXG for being voted "Most Readable Morse Heard" during the party. Many thanks to all whom sent in logs and hopefully we would have more participation next year.

Result List:

CLASS A

Callsign	Club	Points	Mults	Total
DL1BUG	RTC	314	52	16328 *
G8NT	FISTS	268	38	10868 *
IK2RMZ	AGCW	121	50	6050 *
Callsign	Club	Points	Mults	Total

G4KXG	FISTS	155	33	5115 *
G4FAI	FISTS	96	23	2208
G0GSY	FISTS	93	26	2208
F5LPY	UFT	135	15	2025
HB9CHE	FISTS	81	16	1296
M0BYN	FISTS	53	18	954
G4LHI	FISTS	43	18	774
G4NCU	FISTS	31	9	279
M0CMQ	FISTS	20	4	80
G0TBD	FISTS	7	4	28
G3VQO	FISTS	3	3	9
PA3CLQ	AGCW	3	1	3

CLASS B

HB9OU	HTC	31	11	341 *
HB9DEO	HTC	23	6	138 *

CLASS C

DJ9AO		33	8	264 *
OE8GHR		24	8	192 *

Many thanks for check logs from GW0SGG and PA3AAF. Hopefully these results will encourage more people to enter next year's event that starts on 28th April 2002. 73 Keith Farthing, M0CLO, FISTS Contest Manager.

Well I am sure that I will have the agreement of all when I say thankyou to Keith for doing a super job and I hope he will look kindly on other events in the future.

EUCW SKD (New rules for 2001)

This Year's EUCW SKD, arranged by the Scandinavian CW Activity Group (SCAG) is on Saturday 23rd June, from 0800 to 2200 UTC. It is not a contest but an opportunity to bring out your old manual straight keys and make a few contacts. As in all EUCW events, FISTS members are particularly encouraged to participate.

Frequencies: 3540-3580, 7020-7040, 10105-10125 and 14050-14070 kHz.

Mode: CW, straight key only

Scandinavian participants are encouraged to activate 10 and 14 MHz to give non-Scandinavian stations a better chance to get in contact with them. It is obligatory for Scandinavian participants to make at least one QSO with non-Scandinavian stations. Likewise, it is obligatory for non-Scandinavians to make at least one QSO with Scandinavia.

As a function of the number of QSOs, participants are invited to give a "vote" to stations with a particularly good "fist", as follows: 1-2 QSO, no votes; 3-5 QSO, 1 vote; 6-8 QSO, 2 votes; 9-11 QSO, 3 votes; more than 12 QSO, 4 votes. Do not issue more than one vote per station.

A "Straight Key Award" will be awarded to stations receiving at least 3 votes. Send logs not later than 1st of July 2001 to: Eric Wennström SM1TDE, Vasagatan 9-324, SE-172 67 Sundbyberg, Sweden. Logs can also be sent via e-mail, as a text-file, to: sm1tde@grk.se

MORE ON AWARDS

Was particularly tickled when Stan, K4UK, e-mailed me a copy of his 'Spoon' award directed at Chuck, M0AVW for his exploits with a mini-scooter. Coincidentally, Chuck has instituted his own award which will be issued annually to the member who present their QSLs in the best sorted manner. As a starter, he was particularly impressed with Tom, DL1CQ, whose presentation of cards was consistently faultless. Hope it encourages a few more to think about relieving Chuck of an unnecessary chore.

ABOUT THOSE BARRED CHARS

Alan, M0AXJ, is wondering why amateurs use IMI as an interogatory symbol. He harks back to his days in the forces when this was signified BEFORE a question as INT and IMI was used as a request for a repetition. Well I wouldn't bet my remaining teeth on it but I am sure that IMI was a jug handle long before the forces started using it in its altertive form. As far as I am aware it was employed in the same way it is now, to change the sense of a statement to a question. Dunno about the brown jobs but certainly in the RN, there were a number of odd-ball two-character entities that had to be rememberd such as PT (pen-

nant), FL (flag) and a few which were not official such as GS (get stuffed) and SB - a corruption of signal in an original unclassified code used when bunkering at sea - Suck Back. This was taken to read 'Stupid B!!!!' and was generally applied to anyone of more senior rank than a Petty Officer who issued an order which turned out to be less than intelligent. And that is about as much as I am prepared to divulge. Hi.

NEW MEMBERS

For some reason known only to great minds like Freud or Thomas Crapper, I was staring at the new members app forms last month, put 'em back in their filing box and forgot. Below is current listing from the last one reported:

7785	9A3SM	Mato	7786	GM3JIG	Ken
7787	2E0XRM	Dennis	7788	G3KEG	Cliff
7789	EA3BJE	Alex	7790	G0UBJ	Ken
7791	OM1YF	Mat	7792	G0WXM	Alan
7793	GM3UWX	Jim	7794	G0VLY	Phil
7795	9A0CW	Club	7796	G4JDC	Ies
7797	G3TZA	Alan	7798	G3EGY	Jim
7799	M0BQQ	Jon			

From here we take a leap since the US gang claimed the intervening numbers:

8300	M0SDW	Steve	8301	G3CRC	Club
8302	EI6FR	Declan	8303	MW0BJS	Jim

The club station 9A0CW is the club station of Zagreb (caretaker is 9A3SM) and G3CRC is the club station of the Clacton ARS whose caretaker is David, M0CHL.

AMALGAMATING AR CLUBS

A letter recently received from the Central Lancashire AR Club refers to an article in Radcom (Apr, pp72) and indicates that several members are very keen on the idea in principle. They thought it would be a good idea to 'sound out' other clubs in the area to test the feelings of amalgamation. I feel it is hardly going to work in our case being so widespread and with no local venue for regular meetings but the idea has great merit. Perhaps those members directly concerned with local clubs could put the concept to their members and for Lancashire in particular, direct communication with M1ACJ (sec of Central Lanes) at 42 Meadow Park, Wesham, PR4 3DN would be appreciated.

VLF QRP CW

"During my years in the double-bass section of the Scottish Symphony Orchestra, it was not always possible to concentrate on the music being rehearsed. A distraction would often be sought. Frequently the YL cellist sitting in front of me would take off her shoes to rest her feet and thewse shoes would be silently rescued and passed surreptitiously via sundry brass players who were always ready for a laugh, to the tympanist who, it is rumoured, sold them to 9M2 Emelder Marcos.

On one particularly trying day we were rehearsing an indescribable piece of modern music and Maestro was sorting something out with the wind section. It was time for a diversion. The principle viola at the time was my good friend Stephen, GM3XWJ, so firing up on the lowest string on my LF generator/doub le bass, I called CQ on a frequency of 28Hz. I chose this frequency as it was likely to cut through QRM caused by other stations such as flutes, oboes, clarinets, bassoons, paper combs, etc. XWJ's wide band Rx set between his ears did not at first seem to receive my QRP CQ so I increased power to a modest forte and tried again.

This time success and back came a QRZ?. sent my callsign and received an S9 reply from GM3XWJ on 440Hz (concert A). We made the traditional exchange of info, name QRH and report (mine being RST 573) with some QRM. At this point I was conscious of some unusual semaphore signals from the conductor who apparently could find no reference to double bass in his score. I later heard he was contemplating a complaint to the DTI/Head of Music.

Later during an eye-ball in the bar, XWJ said that he was sorry for the T3 report explaining that my signal sounded like a wet f..... and was not very musical. The CW exchanges took a little longer than usual but this is to be expected at VLF. Should I claim this as a cross-band contact or was it just split-frequency working?"

Item by Terry, GM3VQJ via MEGS news letter and kindly diverted from the badlands of Yorkshire by G4SSH.

instead of simply 'location' but this is like using a 0.25 inch spanner where a quarter inch one would do. Hi.

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THE MARITIME CONNEXN

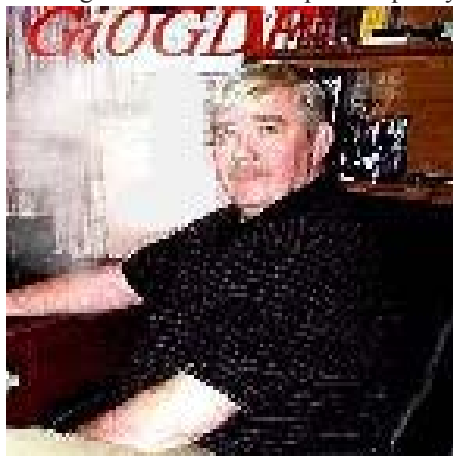
Bill, G0ELZ, has pointed me to some special activity 21 July from 1300z for the International Museum Ships on the air when both GB0PLY and GB0NYX will be active. The latter stn is HMS Onyx and the stage is set for some fun and games with both vessels moored within feet of each other. There should be a fair number of GB0 stns active during this period which ends at 2100z on 22 July. Bill is still teaching CW on-air six nights per week but as a member of: G-QRP, RNARS, RAOTA and ROA as well as FISTS and points out that the recommended QRGs are 'areas of activity' and are not cast in letters of stone.

HST COMPETITION

HL5AP. Cho participated in the IARU 4th. high speed telegraphy championship in Constanza as KARL team trainer. Looking forward to the next one in Minsk.

GI0GDE

Harking back to the item on picture quality, here is a picture of



Ernie isolated from his QSL card, which was either photographed or scanned. This is about as large as I dare expand it without the clunky graphics beginning to show. Still, it does give you an idea of what he looks like so if you happen to spot him at a rally or hamfest, you can take steps to avoid him. Hi.

G3TUX

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A US VIEWPOINT

George...I recently read with interest your comments on the ever slowing code speeds on the bands. I totally agree with you. It would seem, at least on this side of the pond, that we as FISTS and hams in general, are doing all we can to SUPPORT slow speed code, and allow for ops to maintain these lower speeds. Here in the U.S.A., there is no end of slow speed rag chew nets,

FISTS CW CLUB NEWS LETTER

slow speed traffic nets, and a constant reminder that we must slow down to accommodate the slower op who answers a call on a FISTS frequency at half speed. We are also hearing a lot of 12 WPM fists trying to send at 20 WPM. While I certainly agree that it IS a learning process, I don't agree with the stance that we must "accommodate" anyone. If the ops who want to increase their code speed would get on the air and/or start listening and copying live code, their speed would increase very rapidly indeed. Making no effort to move away from 5 WPM QSO's, slow speed nets, and computer generated practice code will result in an operator who is "stuck" at a very slow speed indeed. Perhaps more Elmering is in order as suggested, but the burden is still on the slow speed op, NOT the fellow who calls CQ and routinely operates at 20 WPM and up.
W8FAX 2192

Well, I suppose it is just this kind of quandry which sparked off the discussion about the desirability of extreme QRS on valuable band space and Alan seems to have gone some way to providing a sympathetic point of view.

G4ZPY

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THE SCARBOROUGH GANG

Roy, G4SSH, and the Scarborough Special Events Group are having great fun on the bands no matter what the conditions. Reactions from O/S FISTS members to both GX0000 and 2E0000 are always one of surprise and delight with comments such as "Wow, you just made my day" or (when giving numbers 7777 and CC=1111 as 2E0000) "Gee... are you pulling my leg?", rewarding the operators with just as much fun and enjoyment. This is what amateur radio should be about."



Samuel F.B. Morse
1791-1872

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FINALE

Yours truly has been suffering extreme discomfort these past few weeks, possibly due to the high pollen count, with glued up nasal cavities, an annoying disposition to 'eyeball twitching' and some pretty fierce headaches so I hope you will forgive me for again being somewhat adrift with the Keynote. Fortuitous that I did not attend Dayton for the stay would have been a miserable one indeed.

When you folks have finished tending your lawns, chasing next doors cat off your flower beds and rubbing in the sun-block, pse switch on occasionally and seek the gang on the bands.

73/88 es stay sober.

Geo.