



KEY NOTE



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GREETINGS

This burst of glorious summer weather has played havoc with the conditions. The HF bands were not useable at all until late evening and by that time, they were beginning to drop out. Add to this the inevitable noise of LF where I resorted to searching with a bandwidth of some 150Hz and it has not been a happy month for the DX chasers which, happily I am not. Hi.

On 40m I found Bill, GM3KHH rounding up the faithful in the RSARS test. He was on 7027 and since he was pointedly targeting the brown jobs, I shifted HF a few KHz to call CQ. Others however did not share my concern and despite not being RSARS members, called Bill for his FISTS number. I suppose this would not have been too bad had the exchanges been restricted and at a reasonable speed but this was not so and it just wasn't cricket. Almost akin to being persistently called by a local station when you are in QSO with rare and weak DX. The consequence of this is that Bill has posted his intention **not** to renew his subs next time. I think someone owes him an apology!

Portishead was doing a roaring trade on that special day when they were linking up with amateurs. G3ZQS and GX01PX were both acknowledged on the 80m link but, in company with most other UK stations, it turned out to be only useable band. 40m was alive like never before but sadly, the 8MHz answering QRG revealed only a weak and watery signal with lots of noise. A pity really for such a special occasion.

Afternoon on Saturday 13th found a handful of GB0 stations collecting calls. I registered three of them (two with FISTS connections) but the next GB turned out to be GB2ROA (the Radio Officers Association) under the fist of an old friend G0CMM, warming up his glass bearing arm before the annual dinner at some very exclusive Liverpool hotel. Doubtless there would have been 'some stuff supped' at the dinner proper and, as was predicted at the time, much lamp swinging.

The mast bearing the LF mag loop was something of a make-shift affair having only one bracket and comprising two sections precariously held together by one of those expanding crocodile joints. A 15ft length of thick-walled 2.5 inch alloy had been languishing in the yard for a few weeks waiting until I was sufficiently inspired to mount two new brackets but in the interim period, the gate breathed its last and my son turned up with a friend to build and fit a new one. I had not asked him to do so but together, they mounted new brackets and the loop now rides some two feet higher than before. It is used but rarely since it is little more than a standby in case something dreadful should happen to the W3DZZ but I did give it quick whirl, finding a couple of Swedish stations and a holidaying Brit in Majorca on

40m plus a few scattered G stations on 80. It is right on the edge of its range for 30m and has been known to cause TVI so remains untested on that band.

EUCW NEWS

Some EUCW clubs designate some of their activities as official EUCW events, and invite members of other EUCW clubs to take part in them. The Scandinavian CW Activity Group (SCAG) offers such an event with their EUCW Mid-Summer Straight Key Day. The idea is to simply use your hand-keys for relaxed and enjoyable QSOs on 3540-3570; 7020-7040; 14050-14070 kHz, or anywhere in the 10 MHz band. Those making at least 5 QSOs may vote for the best hand-style or "fist" worked, one vote for each of the three considered best. A "Straight Key Award" is sent free of charge to every operator who receives at least two votes.

This year's event is on Saturday 24th June, from 0600-1800. It has been somewhat neglected outside Scandinavia in recent years, and it would be nice to see a revival of interest among other EUCW clubs, especially FISTS. Logs and votes should be sent by mail or e-mail to the EUCW SKD Manager: Eric Wennström SMITDE, Vasagatan 9 Igh 324, S-17267 Syndbyberg, Sweden. E-mail: sm1tde@algonet.se

Another contribution from a major EUCW club is aimed at newcomers to CW.

The EUCW Novice Award is administered on behalf of EUCW by the G-QRP Club. This is available to any radio amateur who, during the first 12 months of holding an amateur licence contacts 50 different stations while using CW in either Class A (any licensed power) or Class B (QRP, up to 5w output.) Available to all newly licensed amateurs, many newcomers around the world have obtained this award and it represents an encouraging beginning to their amateur CW careers. If anyone would like a copy of the rules, send an s.a.e. to our EUCW Rep. Tony G4FAI, QTHR, or e-mail him at g4fai@connectfree.co.uk.

The 3A-CW Group, also an EUCW member, has a nice award for CW only contacts with stations in Monaco, open to all. There are three classes of award, Basic, First Class and Excellence, for both transmitting stations and SWLs. Again, if anyone would like a copy of the rules, contact me as above.

de Tony, G4FAI.

Tony is an ex officer of the EUCW and I grateful for his current involvement in which he represents FISTS. It is important that the EUCW promotions are supported by the various member clubs and the level of activity in the recent EUCW Fraternising Party, especially by FISTS members was much appreciated. There have been few responses to the request for ideas concerning a FISTS function though a couple of members pointed out that the WAB square would form a good basis of a contest style activity and that since the WAB LF CW contest seems to exist in name only, it could well be that an approach to the WAB people with a view to adopting the event would be well received. We are looking for something unique and it is probable that many EU stations would not have an interest in WAB and therefore would probably be unaware of their own square. I feel that something on the same lines as the the frat party would attract more support (name, qth, club and number) giving each participant a ready and unique id. There remains within FISTS

an objection to contests of any description so an activity period embracing pre-determined time slots and bands would probably attract more support. Any-one out there like to volunteer to run the event? We could publish a list of the top 20 logs plus certificates for 1,2 and 3.

ELVASTON CASTLE RALLY

This is scheduled for June 11 which does not leave a great deal of time to organise anything but any members who live in the area and propose to attend might like to give thought to a FISTS stand. Contact the rally organiser, G4CWD, on 01332-559965 to see if a late stand can be allocated and then get in touch with G4PPG on 01257-421442 and arrangements will be made to supply application forms, back numbers of Keynote, sample awards etc.

NEW NOSE FOR G3ZQS

Life without something sniffing round my heels and 'taking me walkies' had caused my (never exactly overlength) fuse to shorten dramatically. My daughter got wind of an unwanted miniature Yorkshire Terrier living a sad and lonely life in a local boarding kennels and was going free to a good home. Meet Suzy. She has a good 'hooter' but as you can see by the resonance panels on either side of her head, her hearing is important to her and she is possessed of remarkably keen vision. Initially, she arrived with a classic haircut and one was left in some doubt as to which end did the barking but it was causing her problems so she was treated to a short back and sides. I must confess that she seems much happier now and is never more so than when



squeezing into the few spare inches on one side of my chair or, by adding her modest weight to my lap, ensuring that I do not get blown away by some rogue wind. Seemingly unaccustomed to the joys of 'walkies', she is a little over-ex-

cited at present but I am sure she will soon take such excursions in her stride. For the curious, the barrel contains beer in case of emergencies and the gadget you see (slightly out of plonk) is the Soundfield Pseudo Stereo processor atop the Timewave DSP.

THE LAST SUNDAY LADDER

Results from GM4BAE for April 30, 2000:

Call	Mbr	MbrTot	NonMbr	Previous	Total
G4LHI	16	32	1	108	141
G0MRH	8	16	1	86	103
PA3AFF	17	4	5	66	85
G0AVN	11	22	0	40	62
M5AGL	6	12	0	48	60
F5NTP	14	28	1	22	51
G0PEH	2	3	7	38	49
GM0VIT	6	12	2	35	49
M5AQBN	10	5	2	35	47

I would request that all envelopes please be marked as Contest in some manner, reason as the envelopes come in I retain and only open them on the second Fri. after the Sundays Event, this allows time for Second Class postage.

Also please note one or two entries contained the SKW logs as well this resulted in these logs not being entered into the SKW list. Please Post SKW...LSCW Logs separately and well marked as for which event in future.

Again many thanks for your entries and the kind wishes = 73 Gerry.

ISLE OF PABAY

Jeff, G3LWM advises me that he is hopeful of activating GM0PNS (Island of Pabay, IOTA EU008, NH11) May28-31. Main target is seemingly 14.058. Hope I can get the news letter

out in time for this one folks but it was kinda late!

IS IT AS BAD AS THAT?

All you would be ops get rid of that frown,
The R.A.E is easy, they're gonna dumb it down.
Forget that Morse, they're gonna scrap that,
One Four for a copy, let's all have a chat.
Proper procedure - a thing of the past,
Just buy your linear and a sixty foot mast.
You'll soon get bored with your new found toy,
You'll get no kick, no pleasure or joy.
That needs effort or didn't you know?
Farewell great hobby - you're ready to blow.
Terry G0TBD 1163

QUARTZ HILL NEWS

You will be pleased to hear that the Wellington Amateur Radio Club has negotiated an extension of the lease over the Quartz Hill facility for an additional two years. Although we have a new landlord (Meridian Energy) their terms are similar and slightly more generous in monetary terms.
73 de - Ralph Sutton ZL2AOH

NEW MEMBERS

Not sure whether advanced senile dementia has suddenly occurred or perhaps if the bombardment of grey cells with free radicals is responsible here but I kept allocating the new numbers 6100 series instead of 7100. It caused a lot of questions to emanate from both the US and ZL chapters and just to make matters worse, I actually did it TWICE. Oooooooh!

7163	F5SHE	Jean	7164	UA3AJ	Anin
7165	G4KGG	Pete	7166	G0CHZ	Mac
7167	G3URA	Dick	7168	JH2QFI	Masa
7169	M0AJT	Chris	7170	M0CTD	Dave
7171	G8YNF	Geoff	7172	G4TCQ	Peter
7173	M0BYE	Dave	7174	GM30XX	George
7175	G3JME	Mike			

It is fortuitous that the list is not longer than it turned out because of Bob's absence. As it is, he returned to a whole raft of Awards waiting to be processed (sufficient indeed for the best part of a weeks work) so I have had to rescue some of the archived progs and process the new entrants packs from here.

SILENT KEY

Ian, G0TAW, sadly passed away in August. Belated advice from his widow.

Also, from his Mother, I record the death of G4JNA March 29 from lukeamia. I must confess that I was completely unaware of his condition so, on the assumption that I had other things to worry about, Robert kept it hidden.

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

G3BMO. Bert noted the problems suffered with the PC at this end and reports that somehow he imported a virus into his own setup. Hope you are finding your way through the logging prog Bert and in view of your experience, I think it is high time I invested in an up-datable virus protection system. Hi. **G3LPS.** Eric tells me that the T1154 (60th. anniversary) event brought out at least five of these excellent pieces of kit. One of these was a F5 station who was inaudible up here in the stix but workable from the south. **G4GDR.** Adrian was one of those activating a T1154 which, he confesses, is subject to some chirp and drift and as with Eric, found G3IFF and a few other FISTS ops. Currently completing work on a AT5 and since his grandson has shown interest, wonders if any member has a super-regen rx they would be prepared to part with for the lad. Plug in coils or whatever! **M5AGQ** initiated a double Elmer for G4UCJ and M0CET. **G4NCU.** Mike could not find his call on the recent CC list (or indeed could he spot G0WKS). Sorry about that mate. We do try to keep up to date of course but as you will appreciate, the list is in a state of constant flux. Sorry about the 'bashing' your QSL cards got at the hands of the Post Office Mike. Actually yours was the only such complaint we have had up to now. I'll look into the practicality of cutting some heavy board to size

for top and bottom but as they are, they lie pretty close to the limit with regard to postage. Could well go over the quid if we are not careful. **2E0AIZ**, Tom has been a wee bit frustrated because he can hear FISTS coming in from the US on 15m but cannot seem to make himself heard. Problem is that the States are invariably blowing each others heads off in average conditions - it's the same with 20m and as soon as one state falls out of range, another comes in. **OZ1HQG**. Ryan recently submitted his PhD-thesis to the local university and in addition, has found himself another job with better pay (can't be bad mate.. you alright for a touch?) so is anticipating an increase in activity. Hoping to find a new place to live and guardedly surveying antenna possibilities first. Hi. **G3RYZ**, Mick has been happily pursuing the DX on 15m but more to the point, has worked 19 states on 10m with just 5 watts. **G0FVS**, Thankyou Jim. I sure liked that little poem and since it has won you a year of free admission to Wild Fowl Trust property it just had to be worth it. The world is full of scroungers mate and whilst every would-be politician joins in the chorus of 'get rid of them' they must have a heck of a union because nil happens. Hi.

ODDS N' ENDS

Sad news

Hello George long time since you heard from me but I am sorry to inform you that my xyl Audrey passed away in St Mary's hospital Portsmouth on the 12th April after a short illness. Once I can get my head round this I should be more active on the bands. Arthur. G0JRN Fists No 0295.

I am sure the gang will be feeling for you Arthur and looking for you on the bands.

Rare Item

From G0SDA, an item from his local rag describing the discovery in a Norfolk attic of a "rare morse code receiver and sender identical to one used on the liner Lusitania, sunk by a German U-boat during the first world war with the loss of nearly 1200 lives". The finder, Andrew Bullock of Aylsham, expects it to realise thousands of pounds at auction. I just gotta have a scratch round in my cellar — ya never know! The item included a scan of a colour photograph and after I had done a lot of work on it, it struck me that I could be violating copyright.

New call allocation

Geo, please note that I have now been allotted the call, 5B4AGP, 73 Tom, G3RZ, Fists 4862.

2002 and all that

Heard on 2 meters here (not a simplex QRG but one at edge of satellite band, these people obviously don't want to obey any rules) a group of B licences who incidently, openly encourage and talk to any CB'er who calls in - no call signs are ever given here. One said "I don't fink I'll do my Morse, I'll wait until 2002 when they hand it over to us". Anybody want to buy my gear, I Don't think I can stand what is happening to this great hobby.....Mni tnx Geo for all your work 73. Terry G0TBD FISTS 1163.

Low spec - high performance.

Hi Geo, I am claiming 59,840 points from 195 QSO's in the recent 7MHZ CW DX contest. I have entered this contest almost every year since I got my ticket and this years score is my all-time personal best. I do not live in a very good QTH. I am tucked in under the hills of Godalming, and I am screened to the south and east by rising ground in the form of some woods. My aerial is a trap dipole which is an extended 7 MHZ dipole with the tuned traps and it's only 30ft high. I also did fairly well in BERU. VKs and ZLs actually called me! It's never happened before!

73's Derek - G3ZDD.

Change on banner

At the suggestion of G4MRH, you will note that officers and committee members are now shown on the banner.

QRP CONVENTION

Just to remind those of you within range that the annual event a Leigh will be held on June 4. G0FRL will be there of course though I am no sure about Bill (G0JWB) and myself but will sure make the effort if at all possible. This is a nice friendly affair, a bar to hand and the usual assortment of goodies to pick through. Not so computer oriented as your run of the mill rally so for those despairing of the direction they are headed for, this should make a change.

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MORSE POWER

This is the heading of an article in the April edition of Computer Shopper kindly submitted by G3DCO. Considering the nature of the magazine, it goes into some depth even to the extent of photographs of pump handles, miniature keys and iambic paddles. It notes that Morse was the first successful digital coding system and as such is a direct predecessor to the ASCII code which is so important to modern day digital communication. "In one way" the article continues, "it is more sophisticated than ASCII because it uses the principle of variable length encoding which was used much later in the Huffman scheme for data compression".

"By the 1870s the telephone had been invented and it appeared that Morse code would soon become obsolete. However, with the invention of radio in the 1890s, Morse code was given a new lease of life since, in this pre-electronics age, there was no way speech could be transmitted by radio. "It wasn't until the 1920s following the invention of triode valve that the transmission of speech by radio became feasible. And from that time onward, very gradually, digital Morse code signals started to be replaced by analogue speech signals. It is interesting therefore, that before Morse has totally disappeared, those analogue signals are themselves being superseded. They are being replaced by digital signals - basically Morse code brought up to date. Without a doubt, Samuel Morse was a man ahead of his time".

G3TUX

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TONGUE BITERS

Ever had the feeling you could bite your tongue off after some inopportune remark? G0MYP found the following in The Mirror Newspaper.

Can't act, can't sing - can dance a little

Uttered by a MGM executive in 1928 after viewing Fred Astaire's screen test!

For God's sake, go down to reception and get rid of the lunatic who is down there. He says he's got a machine for seeing the wireless! Watch him.. he may have a razor on him!

Spoken by the editor of the Daily Express in 1925 when fending off an interview with John Logie Baird.

He has no talent at all, that boy. Tell him please to give up painting.

This time it was Manet about Renoir's work in 1864.

The cloning of mammals by simple nuclear transfer is biologically impossible.

QSL BUREAU - PROBLEMS

SEND NO FURTHER CARDS TO BOB UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

I am sorry folks but we have reached a crisis situation here. Bob returned from Atlanta to find thousands of cards in addition to all those which had been held in abeyance from last month. Even more frustrating was the fact that over 75 bundles were UNSORTED and this after repeated requests in the newsletter. The members concerned know well who they are so the blame lies squarely upon their shoulders. He is no longer prepared to continue in this fashion where he is up until 3 or even 4 a.m. and as a result we need a new QSL manager.

We are simply going to have to restructure the QSL bureau and the most logical way would be to do so on the same lines as the RSGB and other clubs. Members would send stamped envelopes to a manager who would be responsible for a range of callsigns (G0 for instance) who would in turn receive cards destined for such a range from a central point. As with the National Bureau of course, all QSL cards would be sent to the central bureau.

The central point or hub is the key to the bureau's efficiency. Over in the States, there is a FISTS oriented club which handles QSL cards. Half a dozen members turn up regularly to pigeon-hole and with cooperation of this nature, there is no burning of midnight oil. In this country I fear we are lacking such enthusiasm and we must now find a member with a number of blessings to his name. The first of course is time. An active retiree would make the best candidate whilst space is another. Bob's house was literally taken over by the business of the bureau - a full bedroom was surrendered to the demands of filing (currently there are 9,000 plus on hand). Whilst a computer and access to the internet was essential hitherto, lack of these facilities need be no barrier since everything can be done by snail mail but certainly internet access would be an advantage.

I am therefore asking for volunteers - firstly for QSL manager proper and also for sub-managers who will be asked only to cater for a specified range of callsign. Volunteers will of course be fully reimbursed for any expenses and, if it is deemed desirable, will be exempt from subscriptions.

The arrangement will actually enhance our financial status since we have at present a situation whereby a member from Brazil is costing us between £3.50 and £4.50 per month in postage and even some UK members are receiving cards as excess at postal rates varying between £1.50 and £2.00. At this rate of course, it takes only a couple of batches of cards to completely wipe out their subscriptions and members who receive more modest batches would doubtless feel that they were subsidising others. Bob is prepared continue handling incoming and outgoing traffic for the US and NZ chapters, forwarding UK and other destined cards to our central manager although strictly speaking, this would be an unnecessary extension which should be handled by the QSL manager himself.

Until the residue of cards is cleared in the normal manner, Bob will continue to include them in the Keynote envelopes and members should NOT send SAEs in anticipation but rather wait until a sub-manager for their particular callsign range has been nominated.

There is an inevitability about this. For 13 years now we have been able to offer a service second to none and FOR FREE and whilst the number of members who found it too much trouble to sort their submissions has contributed to the situation we now have, the volume of cards passing through the bureau has been such that Bob was certain to be overwhelmed sooner or later. Whilst I continue to hope that we can replace him directly by another local amateur who can perform the same services, I must be realistic since I know of no-one in the immediate area who would be able to pick up the envelopes, add appropriate cards and arrange for posting which was the only way that the hitherto free service was possible.

Finally, if anyone is at all familiar with the workings of larger bureaux (G-QRP, RSGB etc), then a roundup of the modus operandi would be much appreciated since we are in-fact entering new ground.

G4ZPY

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Radio has no future!

These immortal words were issued by no less an authority than Lord Kelvin, then president of the Royal Society in 1897 following Marconi's experiments of that year.

From now on, I'm gonna keep my flapper zipped!

FINALE

I fear more space was taken up with the item about the QSL bureau than would otherwise have been but it is most important that everyone is fully aware of the situation. Bob will continue to handle awards of course which itself is something a demanding duty but hopefully, when all has been sorted out, it will leave him with more time to enjoy his near full time job of caring for his grandchildren.

As the LF bands are gradually coming to life in the late evenings, those of you QRV on 160m may well find yourselves in some undesirable company. After I successfully worked Sweden the other evening using the power line of the HF mag loop, a taste for the 'Gentlemen's Band' is beginning to emerge. Currently, the ratio of CQs to QSOs on that band is dismal but it's great fun when you do get a response. Hi.

73/88 for now people. Am sure you will be enjoying all the fine weather which will occur between Test Cricket venues but pse don't desert us altogether. CU on the bands.

Geo.

Doctors J. McGrath and D. Solter reporting on their research in 1984.

I think there is a world market for about five computers.

IBM Chairman Thomas Watson in 1953.

You will never amount to very much.

A Munich teacher to 10-year old Albert Einstein, 1889.

Everything that can be invented has been invented.

US patent office commissioner C. Duell, 1899.

Even the Royal Society is not exempt from uttering the the most outrageous of verbal cockups: