

International Morse Preservation Society



KEY NOTE



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

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OFFICES

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3 Minster Cresc, DARWEN, BB3 3PY
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15a Buckden Rd., BRAMPTON, PE18 4PR

COMMITTEE

Chairman G4XHZ
Vice Chairman G4YLB
P.R.O. G4YLB
Secretary G3ZQS

Pse keep watch on all Novice allocations
Recommended calling QRGs:
3.558, 7028, 14.058, 21,058, 28,058

AWARDS

e-mail apps/logs to Dennis, K6DF:
<fistsawards@comcast.net>
written logs to HQ. No charges and no return
envelope required.

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. Cheques should
be made payable to just FISTS and sent to G3ZQS.

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

Lapel Badges, £1.50 incl. **Fabric patches** £1.50 incl.

QSL Cards £6.00 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 <m0avw1@ntlworld.com>
M0AYI Glenn@m0ayi.freeseerve.co.uk
M5AGL bobm5agl@btopenworld.com
M0ZAK jim.steel@ntlworld.com

ACTIVITY LADDER 2004.

April Returns.		Monthly Totals.	
Call.	Total.	Call.	Total.
G4LHI	42	G4LHI	167
G0VSS	24	M5ABN	117
M3GBT	18	M3GBT	68
M0RHB	17	G0VSS	63
GI4CBG	14	M5BRY	61
2E0EUK	11	M0RHB	60
GU4HUY	10	GI4CBG	41
M0CMQ	10	M0CMQ	34
GX2HDF	6	M0DRK	33
M5BRY	6	GX2HDF	32
OH7QR	2	OH7QR	29
		GU4HUY	28
		M5AGL	26
		2E0EUK	23
		G8XGQ	12

QSL BUREAU
All outgoing QSLs to M0AVW (address on banner).
UK members send stamps and labels (no envelopes necessary)
to the appropriate sub-manager as below:
M or 2 Prefixes (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,
BARNESLEY, S73 9AE.
G4, GM4 etc (Except GW4). M0ZAK. 6 Central Ave,
SHEPSHED, LE12 9HP.
G1, G2, G5, G6, G7, G8 (Except for Wales) and **ALL** special
(GB etc) calls to M0BPT. 38 Wheatley St, WEST
BROMWICH, B70 9TJ.
All members in Wales. M0AVW. Address as above

Pre-paid postal subscriptions

EU/DX Members: IRCs, UK Banknotes or US dollars to
M0AVW. The Club will provide envelopes. Any excess over
subs from non-UK members will be regarded as QSL post-
age unless otherwise advised.

GREETINGS

Our UK members and I guess the bulk of our EU members, have
been enjoying the benefits of some pretty fair weather. recently
and activity has probably suffered whilst they attend to the various
gardening chores. Fear not.. you have not missed much.
Conditions have been such that outside some very antisocial
hours, little has been heard on any band at all. Again we have to
ask if it was indeed conditions because persistent CQs on 40m
earned G, GM, GW, GI and EI replies of 579-599 plus though the
beam on 20m and 15m brought little better than Europe or East-
ern Europe much of which was barely above the noise level. Odd
ain't it?

Conditions still tend to be on the poor side with the odd peak. Do
remember if you are able to work Geo with the HQ club call , it
is worth 5 points and I have amend the relevant logs.
73's for now de Bob M5AGL.

DL1CC

On-air confirmation from Wolf that he will be operating from
Wolin Island (EU13Z for the Island hunters) from 10 to 17 June
with the call SO1CC. He also plans a further visit later in the year
to the UK and looks forward to a GD prefix from the Isle of Man.
Meanwhile attending the Esperanto congress in N. Germany.

FISTS WEB PAGE

We now have a dedicated web page <www.fists.co.uk> which is
currently redirecting to the original asel location. This is due
primarily to the foresight of one of our members who made the
purchase earlier.

Unfortunately, Andy G0JWX, has for the past few weeks been
very busy and indeed only manages to get home at weekends. It
will continue for a little while longer but given the time, he will
be shifting the focus from asel to the new site and we do have
plans to add links to other sites together with a further page
where I can dump text files detailing late news (F5NQL high-
lights for example) and other information.

The reason for the text files incidentally is that I am a little too
long in the tooth to start learning about building sexy and animated
presentations to the web so of necessity, I shall be restricted to
ASCII or perhaps .PDF files only.

SILENT KEY

On 03 May 2004 at age 88 years, Doug Woodford, G8IB.
Info via G3BLS

THE SCARBOROUGH GANG

Most of you will be aware that the resort has a new adopted warship following the breaking up of HMS Warrior. This is the Royal Fleet Auxilliary Tanker 'Wave Ruler' and is the 4th vessel to be thus adopted. It is one of the most modern in the fleet with some 31,500 tons displacement and a reported speed of 18 knots. A full colour photograph/QSL card will be in circulation for the call GB4RFA (Royal Fleet Auxilliary).

D-day Commoration

On the 5th and 6th June (hope I am not too late) they will be running GB6JUN to commemorate the 60th anniversary of D-Day and on this occasion, they will be operating from inside the Radar Pyramid at RAF Fylingdales. If you find yourselves harried by the NFD then fear not. The call will continue to be activated each weekend until the end of June.

Lighthouse weekend

GB1SCA will be active 21/22 August from the lamp room of the Scarborough lighthouse. Hope the weather conditions are better than last year when they were blasted by the fog horn during those East coast sea frets.

Summits on the air

Look out also for GX/GS/GC000/P in support of the Summits-on-the-Air. Meanwhile, their intermediate-class demo station 2E0000 will be active on the QRP frequencies on 17 June for the international QRP day.

If you seek further information, Roy can be found at <g4ssh@tiscali.co.uk>.

EUCW QRS

I was delighted to find Roy G4SSH active on the EUCW QRS party varying his call each day from those available to him - G4SSH, 2E0000, GX0000 and G7ROY.

I2VRF

I am sorry to report that Gian is most poorly. So much so that he has been obliged to declare himself QRT. Below is an email sent to Chuck and Dennis K6DF:

Hallo my good Friends Chuck and Dennis.

In the mean time I was writing to Geo. I wrote also to you, but the addresses was old.

My son is writing to you for me.

My conditions became so worse that I cannot sit down at the PC and at the radio, so my station is QRT. In FISTS I found new and gentle friends like you. I am sorry that I cannot continue.

Thanks again for all and God Bless you and your Families. A big hug and take care. Your friend, not very lucky, Giancarlo

It would be a nice gesture to send him a few words on your QSL cards if you could. His address is:

Giancarlo Vaia, via A. Grande 5, I-20091, BRESSO MI, Italy.

9V1VV

John's call will be found in the E. Asia listings instead of the normal EU/DX. It will still appear however on the full listing distributed from HQ.

DL/K6DF

My xyl, Pam, and I were on yet another visit to our daughter's home in Germany. This time to see our new grandson Thomas. Thomas is our first grandchild and I'm sure everyone who is a new grandparent thinks his or her grandchild is the cutest one ever, and I'm no exception. At six weeks old I was starting him out just right. I showed him the key paddle I brought with me, how to hold it and work the levers. Much to the chagrin of my daughter and wife, I instructed him, daily, that "Dah-Dah" was not the word "Daddy", but rather the Morse code sound for the letter "M". More instruction will follow during subsequent visits.

During our stay in Germany, I had the wonderful opportunity to operate as DL/K6DF on the 40 and 20-meter bands. My gracious host, Bill Piles DL4VCP, allowed me to use his station in Herforst. Herforst is only 2 km down the road from my daughter's home in Binsfeld. Bill's station consists of a Yaesu FT-990 running 100 watts to a dipole.

I operated for two days, April 8th and 14th. On the 8th I started on 20 with little results so moved to 40 meters. 40 was filled with signals! It was hard to believe all these European signals at S-

9 Plus! WOW! On the West Coast of the US, European signals are usually in or right at the noise level! I could tell this operation was going to be great fun.

On April 8th, the very first contact was on 20 meters with U3AZ in Moscow and he was 599 plus! After a QSO with DJ5BR, Dave, G3BLS who was also 599, answered my next CQ on 7.025. Part way through our QSO, Dave said he recognized my call and knew who I was. We exchanged FISTS numbers and had a very nice chat. Another QSO followed on the same frequency with Phil, G3LPN. While finishing up a QSO with DJ6IH I heard a very familiar call sign, GX0IPX, calling DL/K6DF! Wow! It was Geo G3ZQS, operating GX0IPX and he was 589! Geo was tactful enough to herd me up to the FISTS frequency of 7.028 for more FISTS QSO's! (I hate to admit it, but I had forgotten what FISTS QSO's was used for 40 meter FISTS in Europe. In the colonies we use 7.058 most of the time.) Thanks Geo for getting this lad on the proper road!

Yet another wonderful surprise was in store for me after I signed off with Geo. Another familiar call was heard. It was wonderful to hear the fist of my friend Peter, G4LHI in Huntingdon. It was great to hear Peter again, and copy his signal at 599. Peter and I have QSO'ed many times. But to copy G4LHI at 599 throughout an entire QSO was a real treat! It is my understanding that Peter has been a tough one to beat in the Ladder competition! What fun! After I signed with Peter I was called by Roy, G4SSH operating the club station 2E0000. Roy and I chatted or a good long time. I finished up the operating session on 40 with another QSO from Geo. Then went to 20 meters for a QSO with UT2QA to wrap up the operating for the day.

My April 14th operating started on 40 meters with Gerald, OE5GA, followed by a very nice QSO with Derek, M0DRK of Burwell. Derek and I had a very nice chat. It was a pleasure to copy Derek's CW fist. Next QSO was with Roy, G4SSH, this time operating the club station GX0000. Thanks Roy for the great club contacts! The last three QSO's of the day were all FISTS members, John, G0GKP, Eddie G4UIQ (I had a little trouble getting Eddie's name with the QSB settling in on the band), and last QSO was with Ian, G3MNS. Ian's excellent CW fist made for "arm-chair" copy.

After thanking Bill DL4VCP and his lovely wife Helga for their gracious hospitality I headed back to Binsfeld. I reflected back on the wonderful time I had and all the nice operators I met during these two days operating as DL/K6DF. My hearty thanks to one and all for making my operating from Germany an exciting event. QSL cards for all FISTS members have been sent via the FISTS bureau. Next time we are in Germany for another visit, I hope to make a side trip to visit my many friends in England and try my hand at driving on "the wrong side of the road"!

Tnx and 73, Dennis DL/K6DF.

P.S. Geo asked me to write a "short" note about my operating in Germany. Geo, aren't you glad I didn't send you the "Long" version?

E. ASIA CHAPTER

Yes I know I have given you this before people but such details are easy to mislay and we have new members in the interim so a quick reminder that their website is <www.fists-ea.org>. We will of course be providing links on our EU website asap. Harry JL3AMK is improving the site. Now it has BBS for members as well as Chinese, Japanese and English pages.

BPL IN CANADA

From WB2FXK a report from the QRZ column:

BPL (described by the writer of the article as the Exon Valdez of RF spectrum pollution) has arrived in Canada and is currently being tested in the Salte Ste. Marie in Ontario.

VA3AGC is reported to have been a couple of times in the past month and found the interference to be particularly bad between 10 and 30MHz. Worse still, he discloses that interference radiated via interactive coupling where lines that were not part of the experiment were re-radiating the interference.

Whilst he found the Industry Canada folk to be quite cooperative on discussing strictly technical matters, they would provide no information at all on the experimental BPL licence.

There are continuing rumblings about the Sudbury experiment

also in Raleigh N.C. where Progress Energy has also deployed the amperion system. It is PEC's position and interpretation of the FCC's rules with regard to "harmful interference" that any interference that may still exist is not "harmful" as that term is defined by the FCC's rules." In other words, Progress Energy was basically saying that "we've made a few changes to accommodate you whining ham radio operators, now shut up and go away". The boast by Amperion of being able to 'notch out' parts of the Ham Radio spectrum, effectively means that they simply dump their interference on another part of the spectrum; i.e. the International Shortwave Broadcast bands.

On a more encouraging note however, not all BPL systems are necessarily bad. A California company by the name of Corridor Systems is testing a BPL system that operates on the microwave frequencies. This particular system looks quite promising with no interference to the bands. It also helps that the company president, Glenn Elmore happens to hold the amateur radio callsign N6GN and is a longtime packet radio and microwave experimenter.

FDU AWARD

The FISTS Down Under Award is earned by accumulating 50 points. For this award contacts with any FISTS Down Under (FDU) member in ZL or VK since the inauguration of FISTS Down Under on 1 June 1988 are worth one point. Contacts with FDU affiliated club stations are worth five points each. (Currently - VK2FDU, VK4RC/VK4IZ, ZL2SWR and ZL6FF). This award is available for all FISTS Club members worldwide. A station can only be claimed once. - Note, the one point for working a FDU station is the same for all members, (i.e. there is no premium for working outside one's country.)

As the number of FDU members increases, provision will be made for higher grades of the FDU Award
Please note the special E-Mail address for applications for this award - z12aoh@ihug.co.nz

The system of recording contacts and applying for the FDU award are the same as for all the other FISTS awards, except that logs should be forwarded to the FDU Award manager, Ralph Sutton ZL2AOH

Postal Address: 12c Herbert Gardens, 186 The Terrace, Wellington 6001, New Zealand

FCC AND NOVICE BANDS

CQ Magazine Editor Rich Moseson W2VU, is focusing on this new FCC proposal in his "Zero Bias" editorial column for the magazine's June issue.

A couple of years ago, the League filed a petition with the FCC saying: 'You're not issuing new Novice licenses anymore and that these band segments are not being well used. Let's expand the phone bands using some of these frequencies,' Moseson explains. Basically, he says, the plan would expand code and data privileges for Novices and Technicians.

And what they propose, basically, is giving Novices and Technicians with code credit access to the General CW portion of each of these three bands - 80, 40 and 15 and 10 meters as well. But CW only for them on 80, 40 and 15 and RTTY and Data on 10 meters. And then to take part of each of those Novice bands on 80, 40, and 15 and use them to expand the phone bands.

And, Moseson says, there are also some big changes proposed for General, Advanced and Extra-class license holders. The big winners here are going to be General class hams," Moseson says.

"They are going to get an extra 50 khz of phone band on 75 meters and on 40 meters and an extra 25 khz on 15 meters. Advanced and Extra class hams will also get additional space, 25 khz each on 75 and 40.

But they're going to lose some of the exclusive areas that they have now. The exclusive Advanced class bands are going to be shrunk down by 25 khz or so. Of course, since there are no new Advanced class licenses being issued and since a lot of people have upgraded to General since the code-speed requirement was dropped to 5-words-a-minute, this may, indeed, be the right thing to do.

Again, Moseson stresses, this doesn't address the A-R-R-L's proposal to revive a Novice class license that would be a "no-code" ticket with HF privileges. And, he says, it has nothing to

do with the raft of petitions on file at the commission to change the code requirements or add an entry level class by some other name.

IRAQ AND HAM RADIO

K6PZW highlights an appeal from Ian Abel G3ZHI prior to the planned governmental handover in Iraq.

A widely publicized e-mail from Laith Adhary, YI1SRA, in Baghdad asks the worlds radio amateurs for support in keeping ham radio a part of a new Iraq. This, as the June 30th date for handover of the government to local authorities approaches. Adhary is a member of the Iraqi Association for Radio Amateurs and works at the University in Baghdad. He says that it is urgent that Iraq establish a viable ham radio program in the country before the shift of governing takes place.

To accomplish this, Laith and the Iraqi Association for Radio Amateurs president Diya Sayah YI1DZ, are asking hams around the globe and their national societies to send a letter of support for the future of the hobby in Iraq. Both men indicate that this is a time sensitive issue and request support right away.

The best way to make sure your letter of support arrives is to send it by E-mail We have two addresses. Sayah can be reached at yil1dz@hotmail.com and Adhary is at laithtariq@yahoo.com.

F5NQL

Lots of interesting reports again from Maurice though unfortunately many of them were close to immediate. As mentioned earlier, I hope to make these effective by means of ASCII files on the new web page.

Vincent F5MJV is seeking approval for the call FO5xx on his year long trip to Tahiti, Marquesas and Australes. He will also be found signing /MM with an emphasis on CW. Stops will be mostly on rare IOTA locations so the Island hunters may well benefit for keeping an ear open.

From June 1-14, look for the suffix MKI (TM6MKI) from Panazol and Haute Vienna area on the occasion of the D-Day landings. This will also commemorate the killing of most of the inhabitants of the village of Oradour Sur Glane, shot and burned in the Church by the SS in retaliation for partisan action.

Some TM6MKI activities are scheduled using an original MKII transceiver as used by partisans during the war.

On 12 June, five Bordeaux DX group members will be operating from the Courdan lighthouse 0700-1500 with the call TM7BDX.

ALTERNATIVE CALL

David DA1BLS has an alternative call of M0BLQ which has been included in the listings.

ATHERTON QRP

Bob G0FRL, being unable to attend this year, Frank G4XHZ and myself will be running a stand at the above venue.

On this occasion, the organiser has specifically requested the availability of CW test facilities and we will be doing our best to provide this.

I may well be on the lookout for 'stray' FISTS members to sit in on the tests or to man the table so that Frank may do so as it is important that at least one witness be present.

Not having access to 'official' RSGB certificates, a temporary boiler plate has been printed which will be completed on site so that there is no delay to the applicant. The test will comprise approximately 3 minutes duration with a maximum of 6 uncorrected errors

I intend to offer tests at 5-25 wpm with particular emphasis on the 5wpm test. It is certainly a bad idea that prospective candidates should first have to climb a 10wpm barrier and confirmation of 5wpm at least gives them a start and encourages them to attend future test sites to add to their speed certificates.

KEEP IT SIMPLE

Geo G0LIU after many years of using a centre-fed configuration has reverted to the inverted 'L' with about 20m of coaxial cable earthed at the supporting mast. Says it seems to be working out much better - well at least the signal reports indicate an improvement. It is worth noting that there has been some revival of the W3EDP especially amongst the flea power brigade whilst the long-favoured end fed random wire seems to be very popular

with the E. Europe folks. Horses for courses I guess and the location has a lot to do with the final choice.

G4ZPY

KEYS AND PADDLES

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SAE/IRC TO:

41 Mill Dam Lane, Burscough, ORMSKIRK, L40 7TG
Tel: 01704-884299
e-mail: g4zpy@g4zpy.co.uk
http://www.g4zpy.go-plus.net

THE ANCIENT KIT

Eric G3LPS must be feeling quite chuffed with himself now that a seemingly derelict Bendix TA12c (807s) is on the air. Purchased from a Darwen Junk shop. He harks back to the days when he purchased his original TA12c for £3.00 and the T1145s were going for ten bob and that was OLD money. Hi. It could be described as the Ham disease I guess but he notes that domr folks are paying in excess of £300.00 on E-Bay. Why oh why did I ever dismantle my old MiniMitter - on those prices it would have funded a trip to the Bahamas. Ooooh!

Eric tells me there has been a mini revival of AM on 35625 and some very early kit has been resurrected. Eric talks of the DX100U, the LG100 (but that wasn't a bad CW rig) and the old and venerable KW Vanguard. Excuse me whilst I stop my lamp from swinging!

NEW MEMBERS

10815	M0K GK	Duncan	10816	M0N LD	Dan
10817	M0T IX	Rob	10818	G3V HL	Hugh
10819	2E0 TED	Graham	10820	G0S LZ	Alan
10821	G0G MA	Patrick	10822	TF8GX	Gilli

Gulli (TF8GX) turned out to be an embarrassment to the NA brigade since someone at the Dayton booth entered his details whilst Nancy was on walk-about and failed to recognise it as a EU call. There will be some email traffic and an apology waiting for him when he gets back to Iceland.

THOSE LITTLE SURPRISES

We must remember of course that our cousins in the colonies and elsewhere are experiencing exactly the same flaky band conditions as we in Europe.

When Dennis K6DF had 'one of those nights' he wandered into the shack at around 0300 local time and found JA7SSB calling CQ on 3.504. After successfully calling him, there followed a very pleasant chat for some 25 minutes before 80m returned to its noisy norm. Hope he managed to return to his bed and get some shuteye after that.

INDIA FREE-FOR-ALL

From an item via WB2FXX:

Amateur Radio training classes have just started at the National Institute of Amateur Radio in India and there is a very pleasant twist. According to Administration Manager Jose Jacob, VU2JOS, the course is available free of charge to anyone in that nation who is age 12 or older.

Well that is in no way bad news. There is precious little activity at present from Asia so, anything that promises to help plug the gap is more than welcome.

UP - UP AND AWAY

About five students become licensed each semester from the South - East bureau in Birmingham Alabama. Bill Brown WB8ELK runs a class is all about going up up and away—and getting college credit at the same time. Brown teaches a course on building balloon payloads at the University of Alabama in Huntsville—and he makes amateur radio a big part of the curriculum. The ham bands get used not just by the students—

FISTS CW CLUB NEWS LETTER

but by what goes up. Amateur radio experiments are aboard the payloads students assemble. His class is also creating a positive effect on amateur radio-by helping bring new people into the service

This item also from Amateur Radio Newsline per WB2FXX.

DAYTON

From all accounts, the prima US rally at Dayton, Ohio, was highly successful with dealers shifting more top of the range rigs than in previous years. The flea market was bedevilled by rain but aside from this, all seems to have gone well.

Nancy collected her usual clutch of new members and although she gives no data, odds are on the visitors book being well inscribed.

For those of you who have never been there, it is quite an experience. There are a few quiet moments but on the whole, the walkway on which the FISTS booth is located is a seething mass of people. Would love to go again some time but ano domini and all that coupled with the seeming determination of the US immigration service to treat 'aliens' (the popular description rather than 'foreign nationals') as potential hazards to security is rather off-putting. On my last visit, I spent near 90 minutes on my feet in a crocodile of hundreds of other visitors waiting to clear a sadly understaffed line of officials and missed my connecting flight in the process.

G3TUX

The QRP Component Company For Kits, Keys and QRP

Stockists of Keys (Bencher, DK1WE, Jones, Kent Schurr and the Swedish pump) also agent for the Samson series of electronic keyers.

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PO Box 88, HASLEMERE, GU27 2RF
Phone 01428-661501 FAX 01428-66795

GRAND OLD LADY

A big celebration out West in the world of Amateur Radio. This as the Queen Mary Ocean liner ham radio station W6RO turned 25 on April 29th.

W6RO is actually the club call sign of the Associated Radio Amateurs of Long Beach, California. Long Beach is where the retired ocean voyager is permanently birthed and open to the public as a tourist attraction. The club operates the W6RO station which is located in the Wireless Room adjoining the ships historic radio museum.

In its two and a half decades of operation, visiting hams from around the world have called C-Q and made numerous contacts using its gear, and its well known call sign phonetics of W-6-Rolling Ocean. (W6RO).

Source Amateur Radio Newsline

FINALE

At the time of writing, the RSARS gang are embroiled in a month-long contest. Most of them are doing us the courtesy of staying well LF of 7.028 but they are providing myself at least with something to listen to whilst 40m is in such a sorry state. Speaking of band conditions, I note that the propagation forecast in Radcom actually sported a pair of red 9's for ZL on 30m and even one on 20m but sadly they were the only splashes of colour in an otherwise bland block. Gives us some hope though. Hi.

I really must apologise to those of you who subscribe as e-Keynote recipients. I still dunno what happened with Andy though I do know that his father is seriously ill with cancer aside from his having to work away from home for the bulk of the week. I cobbled up a .pdf file (which I know will not be up to his standards) and distributed it as best I could. If I missed anyone, it was probably down to the e-mail programme which complained bitterly when it saw the size of the list so it had to be sent out in bits. Enjoy these super wx conditions and I will be looking for you on the bands.

73/88 for now people. Stay sober de Geo.