

International Morse Preservation Society



KEY NOTE



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

<http://www.asel.demon.co.uk/fists-hq/> <http://www.zl6qh.com>

E-Mail HQ: fist1@btinternet.com webmaster: webmaster@asel.demon.co.uk

OFFICES

QSL Manager: M0AVW

32 Woodford Walk, Harewood Park, TS17 0LT

PRO: G4YLB. J.A. Welsh

3 Minster Cresc, DARWEN, BB3 3PY

CONTEST MANAGER: M0CLO

86 Coldnailhurst Ave, East Perry, CM7 5PY

COMMITTEE

Chairman

Vice Chairman

P.R.O.

Rally Coordinator

Secretary

G4XHZ

G4YLB

G4YLB

G4PPG

G3ZQS

Pse keep watch on all Novice allocations

Recinbedded calling QRGs:

3.558, 7028, 14.058, 21.058, 28.058

AWARDS

e-mail apps/logs to Dennis, K6DF:

[<fistsawards@attbi.com>](mailto:fistsawards@attbi.com)

written logs to HQ.

SUBS: e-mail Keynote £4.00, UK mail £5.00, EEC mail £7.00. Others £10.00. Your renewal date appears on the mailing label and your anticipation would be much appreciated.

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

Lapel Badges £1.50 incl. **Fabric patches** £2.50 incl.

QSL Cards £7.00 per 100 or £10.00 per 200 (UK and EU pse add £1.00 for p/p. DX members - on advice.

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Useful contacts:

M0AVW 01642-869619 <spence5@ntlworld.com>

M0AYI 01207-283192 <m0ayi@netscapeonline.co.uk>

one end and 5 (insulated) at t'other and Bill is also keen to know about maximum power etc.

QSL MGR???

G3LUZ (Fred) mentions that a station (reputedly from the Falklands and signing VP8LUZ) is quoting him as his QSL manager. Since he knows nothing of this, the VP8 should be regarded with extreme suspicion.

For Sale

Fred also tells me he has a standard Vibroplex (on grey base) for sale and is looking at something in the region of £70.00. Check on <g3luz@aol.com>.

SILENT KEY

Belated advice of the passing of Fred Grant, G4ENQ, in December/01.

THE LADDER

Sorry.. was so puddled I forgot to include this in last months letter but from Keith, M0CLO comes the following results: First place (February) was G4LHI and March was G0SCP. The latest Yearly listings show

G4LHI 581 points, G0SCP 424, M5ABN 226, G3VQO 112, G0MRH 49. M0CMQ 49 and OH7QR 12.

An interesting set of results this month and congratulations to Tom, G0SCP, for winning this month's ladder. It's a shame more members can't find time to send a log in as there are plenty members on other peoples logs, 88 on the winning log alone. Many thanks to all those who took part and look forward to some more logs next month. 73 Keith M0CLO

CONTEST MANAGER

Keith, M0CLO, has indicated that he wishes to stand down from his duties as contest manager due to fresh family commitments and an apparent general lack of interest. He will continue to cover the SKW and record the ladder results until the end of the year but before that time, we need to find a replacement. Keith is QRV on the internet so any volunteer can perhaps get the low-down via that medium well in advance of further contest activity.

I feel that there has never been an overwhelming interest in contests - most members either like to chase awards or simply enjoy a good natter but for the remainder, we did try to provide a contest atmosphere of sorts. I was rather hoping that a contest manager could provide this element whilst leaving me free to concentrate on the day to day traffic within the club and this will continue if we can find another volunteer. PLEASE!

STRAIGHT KEY WEEK

New Rules Now Open to Non-Members

FISTS CW Club invites all licensed radio amateurs and shortwave listeners to take part in its yearly Straight Key Week. This is a leisurely, relaxed, event and QSOs need not necessarily be of the "rubber stamp" variety if participants wish to chat and

All outgoing QSLs to M0AVW (address on banner). All UK/EU 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, BARNSELEY, S73 9AE.
G4, GM4 etc (Except GW4). M5AAQ. 6 Central Ave, SHEPSHED, LE12 9HP.
G2, G5, G6, G8 (Except for Wales) and **ALL** special (GB etc) calls to M0BPT. 38 Wheatley St, WESTBROMWICH, B70 9TJ.
All members in Wales. GW0SGG. 14 Heather Cresc, Sketty, SWANSEA, SA2 8HE
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

Has summer arrived at last? Something is stirring - there is the usual sound of frying bacon on most of the bands and mid-month a bee was spotted here in the NorthWest investigating some of the early flowers. There is considerable activity amongst the squirrels (grey sadly - no red ones hereabouts) and just as an added boost, a few of our common tits have been spotted.

My thanks to those kind souls who ask about Ivy. She is in a residential home close by though it looks like being long-term if not permanent. Makes things a little easier for me I guess with much more free time but it sure gets lonely!

Some of you are still forgetting to update us on changes to your e-mail addresses which is causing some problems for Andy and the digital keynote. Please keep us up to speed!

Dennis (K6DF), is being kept very busy with awards and I must thank those claimants who ignored the changes which made the awards free by including a 'donation' with their applications.

INFO WANTED

Bill, GM0KMG, is in need of info on the Collins SWR unit. ID is 524/4116/004, MCN, 2788. It has 4 connections lying bare at

exchange more than the basic information required by the rules.

Dates

The SKW runs from Sunday 16th June till Saturday 22nd June 2002.

Times

From 0001 UTC on the Sunday, to 2359 UTC on the following Saturday.

Please note that any QSO's on the Saturday can also be used for the EUCW/SCAG Straight Key Day as well. Details available from the contest manager shown below.

Frequencies

Any licensed amateur frequency, except WARC bands.

Mode

CW, using straight key only.

Exchanges

RST/Name/QTH/FISTS Nr (Non-Members, send NM)/Day Number.

Note: Sunday is Day 1, Monday Day 2, and so on up to Saturday Day 7. This allows duplication of working the same station on different days.

Classes

A: Transmitting (including non-FISTS members)

B: Short-wave listeners (including non-FISTS members)

Scoring

1 point per station worked, or participating station heard by SWL, per day

Logs

To include: Date; Call worked or heard; RST; Name; QTH; FISTS number (if not a member = NM); Day number; and, *one* vote for "Best Fist" as described below.

SWLs may log one or both participants in a participating QSO, provided they have not logged either of them in a previous QSO on the same day.

The name and call sign of the entrant (or name of the SWL) should be printed clearly at the top of all log sheets. The name and address of the entrant should be printed at the end of the log together with his/her FISTS membership number, if applicable.

Best Fist of the Year

Entrants are invited to submit with their logs *one* vote for the station which they feel had the Best Fist of all stations worked (or participating stations heard and logged by SWLs). This station does not have to be a member of FISTS.

The operator receiving the most votes will be declared "Best Fist of the Year", provided he/she has also submitted a log for the SKW, and has not been declared "Best Fist of the Year" in a previous SKW. If the station receiving the most votes is disqualified for either of these reasons the qualifying station receiving the next highest number of votes will be declared "Best Fist". If there are equal top votes the person scoring most points in the contest will be declared the winner.

Awards

In the SKW, the "Best Fist of the Year" will be awarded a prize of a Morse key and a certificate.

The first three runners-up in the voting for "Best Fist of the Year" in the SKW will be awarded certificates.

The three highest scoring operators will receive certificates.

The three SWL entrants with the highest number of points SKW will receive certificates.

Recipients of any award or certificate in this event are not required to be members of FISTS.

Entries

Entries to be received Not later than the 31st July 2002

FISTS Contest Manager,
Keith Farthing, M0CLO,
86, Coldnailhurst Avenue,
Braintree, Essex, CM7 5PY,
England.

Or e-mail:- keithm0clo@hotmail.com

Results

Results will be published in *Key Note*, newsletter of FISTS CW Club, and radio related magazines.

Non-members may obtain the results by sending an s.a.e. to the Contest Manager, as above.

QRS AND THE NEW HAMS

FISTS have always been prominent in offering encouragement to new licencees and much painstaking pump handle QRS work has been in evidence especially on the 80M band. There is just

one small problem though! Quite a few these stations are unaware of the accepted QRP segment and as a result, a few notes of discontent have been heard. Please continue the good work in this area but also, try to encourage them to QSY (HF if possible) out of way of the flea power boys. Working QRP recently (I do not have a true QRP rig here - just turn down the wick on the FT1000MP) to an OK1 station with some 3 watts, I was overwhelmed by a local M5 and in the process of trying to get him to QSY, my original contact disappeared. I don't spend a lot of time there but I can imagine that it must be very frustrating for many dedicated QRP ops.

G3TUX

The QRP Component Company

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

Used keys of all types bought and sold

SAE/IRC for prices/data
PO Box 88, HASLEMERE, GU27 2RF
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THE QUARTZ HILL GANG

Think I remarked upon this last month but for clarity, I include a short e-mail from Ralph, ZL2AOH:

The Quartz Hill site isn't really a FISTS entity, although I am closely involved with the administration. The type of operation from there is principally contesting, so I never tried to get it as a FISTS club. I can't imagine them stopping to exchange numbers. (I loved the article about contesting - when there are big contests on I usually go and do something else.) Something else I don't do is join in DXpedition pile ups. There are the same sort of rude police with their amplifiers and tons of metal in the air prowling around there also.

THE HISTORY OF AMATEUR RADIO

UA4LFR (Alex) sends me an item he picked up on the internet which could be of interest since there is a whole wealth of various topics. Try www.dxzone.com/ and be warned, you could be in for a seriously extended session.

SUBS FROM EU

Yes I know we have a problem here. Werner, HB9US, mentioned last month that with the provision of an IBAN (International Bank Number) funds could be simply transferred. I am still in doubt as to the cost at the originating end though and meanwhile, Norbert (ON4ANE) has arranged with his bank to 'transfer' his subs. He points out that it is forbidden in Belgium to send banknotes through the post. I note however on the photo copy of the document that there is what I take to be a handling charge of 7.50 which I take to be in Belgium francs.

I have pointed this out before but Norbert suggests that we need only one member within the EEC to open a bank account on behalf of the club and act as pay-master, transferring accrued subs at years end.

All this is for a paltry £7.00 (or even £4.00 in the case of digital Keynote recipients) but the fact remains that EEC members would need to send £14.00 or £11.00 per above, to cover the £7.00 that UK banks demand for processing a cheque from an EEC country. Even the hitherto friendly Eurocheque is now subject to this rip off. Some members (notably our Italian friends) make use of Girocheques for which the bank makes no charge whilst others send subs in the form of a UK based bank cheque via a building Society. Otherwise, for such small sums, it is a no-win situation since a charge of £7.00 would still be levied on £100.00 or perhaps an even larger sum. Crazy or what?

THE MORSE ABOLITION QUESTION AGAIN

Hi Geo,

I just wanted to comment on Colin, G0SDA:s entry in this months Keynote.

Isay: Let them abolish morse. But don't allocate the frequencies to anything else! Running CW on a few watts can get you

everywhere and through all kinds of noise. A modern slogan would, perhaps, be "it rocks!"

Leaving the CW portion of the bands intact would lure people into morse when they realize that SSB is not really an alternative for long distance communication (with practical amounts of watts and aeriels). Letting everyone onto SSB would make the SSB portions of our bands even more crowded too.

I occasionally make SSB QSO:s but am always frustrated by the bad sound quality on the frequency, due to both QRM and QRN. With morse, on the other hand, I can take almost any QRM or bad signal/noise-ratio and still get every word sent to me.

What is the alternative to morse then? SSB? Ruled out, as per above. Leaves digital techniques: RTTY, PSK etc. I don't do any of them (even though my work is computers, computers and computers again, I don't like them crawling into my rig) and the thought of having to have a) another source of interference and b) even more hardware in the shack is repelling. But I am biased on this - I like uncomplicated hardware, heck, I use an old HW-8 even today...

At the end of the day I can see no way that CW will die. It is too good in

my practical, daily DX-life to do so.

Cheers,

Micke sm5jab, #8379

EUCW/FISTS QRS PARTY

To encourage newcomers to Morse operating, and as a contribution to the activities of the European CW Association, FISTS CW Club invites all licensed radio amateurs, especially members of EUCW clubs, to take part in the annual EUCW/FISTS QRS Party.

This event provides an opportunity for EUCW club members, and non-members, to meet and exchange greetings with each other at a leisurely pace. At the same time it is an opportunity to make contacts qualifying for the prestigious Worked EUCW award.

Although not a contest in the normal sense of the word, there is a contest element for those who thrive on challenge, with awards for those who score the most points, and a merit award for the "Most Readable Morse Heard" voted for by other contestants. In this event, taking part is more important than winning, providing fun for all in a non-stressful introduction to a contest-like event for beginners, and an opportunity for more experienced operators to put something back into the hobby by helping and encouraging those less experienced in CW operating.

Feedback can only be obtained from contestants' reports so, whatever your level of experience, and even if you only have time to make a few contacts, please make an effort to send in a log.

Dates/times

From 00.01 UTC on the fourth Sunday in April, for one week, to 23.59 UTC on the following Saturday. For 2002, the dates will be Sunday 28th April to Saturday 4th May.

Mode: CW only.

Frequencies: All bands, except WARC bands. Non-QRP stations are requested to avoid calling CQ on the popular QRP frequencies.

Keys/Speeds: Any type of key or keyer may be used, but no keyboard sending or pre-programmed messages from computers or keyers allowed. Maximum speed 14 words per minute (70 cpm). The speed of a QSO should be at the speed of the slower station

CALL: CQ QRS/EUCW. Stations may be worked or logged once each day in each band used

EUCW Clubs:

Listen out for members of the following clubs, taking part in the EUCW/FISTS QRS Party:

AGCW-DL (Germany); Benelux-QRPC; BTC (Belgium); CFT (Belgium); CT-CWC (Portugal); EA-QRPC (Spain); EHSC (Extremely High Speed Club); FISTS; FOC (First Class Operators); G-QRP; GTC (Greece); HACWG (Hungary); HCC (Spain); HSC (High Speed Club); HTC (Switzerland); INORC (Italy); I-QRPC (Italy); ITC (Italy); MCWG (Macedonia); OE-CWG (Austria); OHTC (Finland); OK-QRPC (Czech Republic); RTC (former GDR); SCAG (Scandinavia); SHSC (Super High Speed Club); SP-CWC (Poland); UCWC (Russia); UFT (France); U-QRQC (Ukraine); VHSC (Very High Speed Club); YL-CW-GP (Germany); 3A-CW-G (Monaco); 9ACWG

(Croatia).

Club Membership: Entrants who are members of more than one EUCW club should take part in the QRS party as a member of only one of those clubs.

Classes:

A - Members of EUCW clubs using more than 10w input or 5w output power

B - Members of EUCW clubs using QRP (10w input or 5w output, or less)

C - Non-members of EUCW clubs using any power

D - Shortwave listeners

Exchanges:

Class A & B, RST/QTH/Name/Club/membership number

Class C, RST/QTH/Name/NM (ie, not a member)

Class D, Log information for both stations

Scoring:

Class A/B/C - 1 point per QSO with own country, 3 points per QSO with other European countries.

Class D - 3 points for every complete logged QSO.

Multiplier, all classes: 1 multiplier point for each EUCW-club worked/logged per day and band.

Logs: To include date, UTC, band, call worked, info sent, info received, and score claimed for each QSO

Summary: To include entrant's full name, call, address, EUCW club, Class entered, multiplier claimed, total points claimed, station details, including type of key/keyer used, power used, comments (if any) on the event, up to three votes for "Most Readable Morse Heard" (only one vote per station), and signature of entrant.

E-mailed logs and summaries are acceptable, provided they follow the same format as detailed above.

Entries: Send log and summary to:

FISTS/EUCW Contest Manager,

Keith Farthing, M0CLO,

86, Coldnailhurst Avenue,

Braintree, Essex, CM7 5PY,

England.

or e-mail to: keithm0clo@hotmail.com

All logs to be received not later than 31st May.

Awards:

a) A certificate will be awarded to the three top scorers in each class.

b) A certificate of merit will be awarded to the operator receiving most votes for the "Most Readable Morse Heard", provided the operator nominated has also submitted a log. If the recipient of the most votes has not submitted a log the certificate of merit will be awarded to the qualifying entrant with the next highest number of votes. In the event of a tie multiple certificates will be awarded, endorsed "Shared Award".

No correspondence can be entered into. The Contest Manager's decision shall be final in making all awards.

G4ZPY

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e-mail: g4zpy@lineone.net

<http://website.lineone.net/~g4zpy/index.htm>

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

G3PNF. Will be off at the end of May to Sardinia and then to Corsica. Normally takes Summer holidays outside of zone 14 in order to give RSARS members an o/s contact and award point so ISO/G3PNF and TK/G3PNF will be QRV for about 10 days each beginning around 24 May. **G4BWJ.** Cheques to just plain "FISTS" are OK Barrie. He has ceased the reading of GB2RS news broadcasts after 10 years and some 500 broadcasts. Sadly, no acknowledgement from you-know-who but recently pushed the 'on' switch of his HF rig after it had been idle for some 6

months. Second home to neighbours' inky black labradore who frequently takes Barrie walks and whom he doggy-sits when neighbours are away. **M0ADB**. Sorry to hear that your Wife died Norman but as you say, 'looking to the future' and hope to find you on the bands. **GM4BAE**. Gerry is still very much QRV although he still has to undertake 3 round trips of 150 miles each week for Haemadlysis. That means leaving Stranraer at around 0545, arriving back home at around 1500. Doesn't leave you much time Gerry and am sure the gang will treasure each QSO because of it.

THOSE CONTESTS

Got a whole A4 page from Don (G3HZL) headed "Those Contest" in which he confesses their appeal and re-iterates the oft published recommendations to make use of the WARC bands during contest weekends if you are not of that following. He is perhaps fortunate that he has never encountered opposition to his general calls. I and others have been known to call "CQ NO CONTESTS" in frustration which is to some people like a red rag to a bull. By their reckoning, you are simply not entitled to be on the bands during a contest doing anything other than taking part.

I am reminded that some contest (other than FISTS generated ones) are worth taking part in such as the RSGB slow speed ones which are conducted in a hassle free environment and have the same end result (encouraging beginners) as our own EUCW/FISTS QRS contest

"I do lose my cool a bit at times when they get my callsign wrong but I do try to be patient and often receive a fast QSL with apologies" is typical of the thoughtful attitude of those attracted to FISTS and is very much applauded.

As he says himself, very few of us are from a professional background and most have had to struggle to overcome the 'hump'. Don and I go back a long long way and since he is 'self taught', my initial respect for him is strengthened.

I must point out that last months item was very much tongue in cheek by a member who occasionally indulges in contest activity himself but balks about spending each and every weekend embroiled in fictitious reports and mayhem. However, I do hope it gave you a giggle if nothing else.

NEW MEMBERS

Not too many this month since I am in a hurry to get this letter into circulation before the end of the month but we have so far:

8396	MOBYS	Hill	8397	GC0EJE	CLUB
8398	G3NYY	Walt	8399	G3JJG	Gerry

I am about to take a leap forward to a new set and leapfrog the US listings so the next 100 EU members should be in the 8900 range provided Nancy does not beat us to it!

The custodian of GC0EJE is GW0GUY and represents the Pembrokeshire R.S.

I am also reminded in the most gentle of manner that last months listing was incorrect and that not only was **DJ7PW** listed as DF7PW but his number is **8395** and not as 8384 as quoted. Wolf kindly observes that Murphy is everywhere! This was a kokup of greater than average dimension since although his number is correct in the records, the call is definitely wrong. Pse ammend your listings. One wonders if senile dementia is joining forces with sticky fingers and dubious visual acumen.

MORSUM MAGNIFICAT



Samuel F.B. Morse
1791-1872

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ODDS N' ENDS

Tnks

M0DBO would like to acknowledge the assistance of G0ONS for his tuition and also to GM0HYF for the tapes. Sri to be so late with this but the e-mail was one the 'escaped'.

Pirate

Advice from ZL2AOH that ZL8RI is a pirate. The call has not been issued by the NZ Ministry of Economic Development since the last official DXpedition to the Kermadecs in 1996.

The dizzy heights

Below is the view of the TW33 of Wolf, DJ7PW taken from his QSL card. Dunno who executed this shot but I got an attack of vertigo just scanning it!



GB90MGY

As with many other stations, I sought in vain for this one. Must have been up on the HF bands somewhere!

The Godalming group worked over 100 countries with 2685 QSOs. The station you will remember was set up to mark the 90th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic and especially in remembrance of the Chief Radio Officer, Jack Phillips who shunned the lifeboats and stayed to the end broadcasting his SOS messages. The exercise was not wasted however since I found G0ADE and others who were on a similar quest.

Masquarade

Chuck (M0AVW) reported working S58MU claiming to be a FISTS member and offering the name Mil on 15 April later finding a QSL card addressed to this character dated 14th from a member. The Callbook identifies him with the name Milan (so far a trace of honesty) but the call could simply be pirated. Pse note **he is not on the list**. Should we be wary of this or flattered?

Ladder quandry

Originally, Keith (at my suggestion) planned that no member could receive more than one 'winner of the month' but due to a restricted list, this rule has had to be waived in favour of G4LHI - highest score for March. Moral: no matter how insignificant it looks, send in your log!

Quiet isn't it!

Putting the finishing touches to Keynote, it is 19 April and is there something wrong with my beam? 20M and 15M, apart from mush are filled with quietfulness. The beam is North of West so I shift East and CQ. I find UR, UN, US and then a VK4 at 349. Bit of a struggle clarified in the end when he tells me he is beaming long path and of course I am short. Grrrrr!

FINALE

Plenty of activity for you this month and for the EUCW/FISTS effort, I am sure you will find lots of new friends and renew acquaintance with some you almost forgot. In this respect, keeping a digital log frequently turns out to be an eye-opener - mine often shows decades between contacts it is always a special delight to find an op who has been QRT for a long time not only returning but doing so with CW.

Remember that for those in the UK who have a reasonably good fist, MX5IPX/P is available. Find yourself a free week or so and you will have lots of fun just flying the flag. QSL cards will be printed for you and you will long be able to look back on pleasant memories.

The dire predictions of famine, flood, earthquakes and global mayhem with the alignment of all the Solar planets like others of that ilk has failed again.... what did you expect?

Have a super month and I hope to find sufficient time to indulge in some activity on the bands. 73/88 and stay sober.

Geo