

## International Morse Preservation Society



# KEY NOTE



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<http://www.asel.demon.co.uk/fists-hq/> or <http://www.smartgroups.com/vault/fists/>

### OFFICES

**QSL Manager: M0AVW**  
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: GM4BAE**  
Northbrae, Brookfield Cresc, STRANRAER, DG9 0HY

### COMMITTEE

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G4PSE  
G4XHZ  
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### NETS

Sunday QRS 0900 (loc) 3.575 2E0AJS  
US 0100Z on 14058  
Tues: GX0IPX/P 1930 ON 3.558 (+/-)  
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**Personalised stickers** £1.00 per sheet of 65. Max order 5 sheets. Please include your **CALLSIGN** on **all** correspondence.

Sorry was not able to include this item in the last Keynote but I did the next best thing by posing it in 'LATEST.TXT' in smartgroups. I also regret that I was unable to be QRV myself Terry - did make an effort but found myself 24 hours too late which I guess is typical.

### LS LADDER

The LSCWC Results for month ending:- Sept 2000

Callsign Mbrs MbrsTot NonMbrs Previous Total

Callsign	Mbrs	MbrsTot	NonMbrs	Previous	Total
G4LHI	17	34	2	254	290
PA3AFF	8	16	1	163	180
G0MRH	0	0	0	166	166
M5AGL	13	26	2	131	159
GOANV	0	0		158	158
M5ABN	13	26	1	131	158
GM0VIT	8	16	1	113	130
G4RBE	9	18	4	102	124
G0PEH	2	4	10	77	91
F5NTP	0	0	0	88	88
GW0SGG	0	0	0	26	26
G0IYZ	0	0	0	23	23
M0BHE	0	0	0	23	23
G0VBH	0	0	0	14	14

### EUCW FRAT PARTY

A reminder that as FISTS is a member of the European CW Association, FISTS members are encouraged to take part in the annual EUCW Fraternalising CW Party which this year will be held on 18-19th November. Although there is a contest element in the sense that certificates are awarded to top performers, its real purpose is to give members of EUCW clubs the opportunity to meet each other and demonstrate that amateur Morse is still alive and well. Last year there was a commendable FISTS entry and we would like to see even more members take part this year. Remember, however, in a fun event like this it's more important to take part (and to send in an entry) than to win!

There's a lot of scope. Look out for members of AGCW-DL (Germany); ARI (Italy); Benelux-QRPC; BTC (Belgium); CT-CWC (Portugal); EA-QRPC (Spain); EHSC (Extremely High Speed Club); FISTS, FOC (First Class Operators), G-QRP, HACWG (Hungary), HCC (Spain), HSC (High Speed Club), HTC (Switzerland), INORC (Italy), I-QRPC (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), UCWG (Russia), UFT (France), U-QRQC (Ukraine), VHSC (Very High Speed Club), YL-CW-GP (Germany), 3A-CW-G (Monaco), 9ACWG (Croatia).

Details are as follows:

Dates, Times, and Frequencies

18 Nov  
1500-1700 UTC 7010-7030 & 14020-14050 kHz  
1800-2000 UTC 7010-7030 & 3520-3550 kHz  
19 Nov  
0700-0900 UTC 7010-7030 & 3520-3550 kHz  
1000-1200 UTC 7010-7030 & 14020-14050 kHz

#### 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, BARNESLEY, S73 9AE.

**G4, GM4 etc** (Except GW4). M5AAQ. 6 Central Ave, SHEPSTED, 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. Eurocheques, Girocheques or \$US bills to HQ. Club will provide envelopes.

### STAMPS & LABELS

Hate to keep going on about this but Grant, G0UQF, has stamps and labels for 42 members out of a possible 160. If members do not require QSLs then pse indicate this in the QSO otherwise, pse send stamps/labels to your sub-manager. Chuck (doubtless tongue in cheek) has suggested an award for the member who sorts cards correctly. I know; I have had QSLs directed to me that are obviously in the order under which they were worked with no attempt whatever to sort them alphanumerically. We have already lost one QSL manager through this lack of thought so please remember it is an **unpaid** job and lend what help you can.

### SECRET BUNKER

*Dear George. On 18th Oct I operated GB0SNB, this is situated in what was once a "secret nuclear bunker" for London and the east: it is situated near Kelvedon Hatch, Essex. The shack is 100ft underground, surrounded by 10ft thick concrete walls and the antennas are supported by a 160ft tower with clear take-off allround and about 350 ft a.s.l. I managed to work Gillian (MW0BTG/P) and Eric (ZS6ME) and sorry if I missed anybody else. Hopefully I shall operate from there again and hope to work more Fists stations.*

*Best wishes Terry G0TBD Fists 1163*

## Classes

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

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

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 from both stations.

Call: CQ EUCW TEST. Stations may be worked or logged only once a day, per band, during the contest.

Scoring: **Class A/B/C** - 1 point per QSO with own country, 3 points per QSO with other EU country. **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, info sent, info received, and points claimed per QSO.

Summary: to include full name, call, address, total points claimed, station details, power used, and signature. Entries to be received by the EUCW Contest Manager, Guenther Nierbauer DJ2XP, Illinger Strasse 74, D-66564 Ottweiler, Germany, not later than 31st December, 2000. Certificates will be awarded to the three highest scorers in each class.

Additionally, this event offers a good opportunity to make contacts qualifying for the prestigious *Worked EUCW Award*, printed on heavy parchment type paper depicting the map of Europe "at the time of Samuel F.B. Morse". Full details of the award can be obtained by sending 2 IRCs to the EUCW Award Manager, Gunther Nierbauer DJ2XP, address as above. I can also provide details on receipt of an s.a.e. - or email me: [g4fai@connectfree.co.uk](mailto:g4fai@connectfree.co.uk)

Tony Smith G4FAI, QTHR,  
FISTS EUCW Representative.

## Morsum Magnificat



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1791-1872

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## SILENT KEY

Sorry to advise you folks but Shirley, xyl of Ron, G3NCL, rang to say that he had passed away on Monday, Monday 16 Oct..

Ron had been seriously ill for some time and had only recently agreed to enter hospice whilst Shirley organised a re-arrangement of their house to make life easier for both.

She asked me to continue sending Keynote because she enjoyed reading it and, as a licensed ham herself, has agreed to her call (G4HES) replacing that of Ron.

Also reported is the passing of Gordon, G0HLG on Sept 25. I understand he was 77 years old.

## EUCW QRS PARTY

Tony, G4FAI, has put in a lot of work preparing the ground for a prospective manager for this event. I was therefore delighted to learn that M0CLO, Keith, has taken up the challenge. He has a fairly relaxed schedule for the next few months organising publicity for the event with the various organisations and

magazines but the tough time comes after the event when he is called upon to peruse the logs and declare winners.

The event takes place from the 4th Sunday in April so will be publishing details a little nearer the time.

This will be the first FISTS sponsored event in the EUCW calendar and I trust you will all make every effort to take part.

## ADVENTURE RADIO

*I am trying to drum up some interest in Adventure Radio. The idea is to encourage operations in the wilds using QRP gear. The concept is well established in the USA where the Adventure Radio Society publishes an internet magazine and organises contests and other events. They can be found at <http://www.natworld.com/ars>*

*The ARS is keen to encourage home construction as well and has an initiative to help people constructing from schematics (as opposed to kits).*

*So far there has been little going on in Europe. However, I have been speaking to the US ARS organisers and we are jointly going to try to encourage some more interest in Europe. I have published some ideas for this, including a suggestion for a contest on my site at <http://www.qsl.net/g3cwi>. The ARS also has an idea about a contest called "Across the Pond", more on this later.*

*QRPers (and hopefully non-QRPers too!) will find lots of other items of interest on my site, including some links to look at for details of the new Yaesu QRP HF portable rig.*

*FISTS members might like to consider joining the ARS. It costs nothing and has some really interesting articles and information available on the web. CW is the mode of choice for Adventure Radio!*

*Please respond via my home email address of [g3cwi@qsl.net](mailto:g3cwi@qsl.net)  
73 Richard G3CWI*

## E-MAIL SKREW UP

Dunno how it happened but I started getting anomalies with e-mails - some could be read others not - and it transpired that the index was mangled. Having re-indexed, I found no less than 6 messages in the in-box that I had not seen before so, anyone sending e-mails last month which warranted a reply and did not get one then pse cfm.

## DIAMOND AWARD HOLDERS

AC6TO	GX0IPX	VA3JJ	KA4IFF
N4ZMP	W8BL	N8UD	AF9H
AI9L	WB2FXK	SV1DLS	N3RSD
G3ZQS	W8III	G4LHI	WA1GAG
W4BX	VE5RD	N4GM	K4UK
WD8OCV	W6DDB	N4VEF	PP6CW
ZL1BSG	WA9PWP	WB2HEK	W3BM
9A5I	K2SB	NB2T	K8HBI
KW7D	LZ1CY	W9YQ	W2HDW
WA6RND	K8JP	AA5EA	K8XF
KU0S	VE3CWG		

This was the latest list supplied to me by Bob, G0FRL. You have only two short months in which to make use of it and claim your millenium award. Get to it!

## SKW

Gerry reports that results for this years' event are: G4LHI (125), G3IUC (23), G4ZHE (14).

There were submissions for key of the year in favour of G4LHI (2) and G3VQO (1).

On the face of it, the whole thing was almost a non-event. That contacts were there to be made is proved by G4LHI though even this score could have been greater had there been sufficient support. Admittedly, the LF bands were disgraceful - old Sol must have had a severe case of gastritis or something - but in view of the response, Gerry suggests that we restrict this to one event per year (the main September one) and forget about the February SKW.

He also reports that logs for the Last Sunday Ladder are pitifully thin on the ground and suggests that we should give this a miss for 2001.

Since it is Gerry who is doing all the work here, I can do nothing but accede to his recommendations.

We have activity aplenty on the bands but little support for our organised events

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### FROM THE SUNNIER CLIMES

John, G0NAN who is currently languishing under the more exotic 6Y5WJ with streams of rum on his doorstep is still active on all bands including WARC and frequently calls CQ FISTS which can result in a pile up lasting for hours. As a taster, in one afternoon he worked no less than 65 FISTS.

He will be hosting a couple of ham friends April/May of next year so during this period you can look forward to much more activity.

### LONG-WINDED ADDRESS

JR0QWW has recently moved to a new location and e-mailed his new address. Under normal circumstances, addresses are contained within four fields but, displayed properly, this one would have demanded another two. Restructuring the database to accommodate this would have been somewhat troublesome but Taro kindly trimmed it a little. I found this interesting since Taro pointed out that "We usually use original character, ideograph, which we can write more short than we use English letter. For example, we can shorten 'Muikamachi Minamiunomagun' to seven characters in Jpanaese". Now then, those of you who are fond of tongue twisters!!!!

### EXCLUSIVE FREQUENCIES

There is no such thing of course but it was most discouraging to receive a note from one of our members who will **not** be renewing his membership since he is sick to the back teeth of people telling him to QSY from **7030** as this is the FISTS QRG.

No way. Our recommended calling frequency is 7028 which is a comfortable 2KHz LF of that and members are encouraged to migrate lower from that spot rather than higher to stay clear of the QRP segment.

We should not really be having this problem but it must be said that some QRPers seek to institute a no-mans-land between 7025 and 7030+ to compensate for inadequate filtering on home brew receivers. A few have been heard to complain about stations which are operating as much as 4KHz below 7030 whereas most operators are deaf to signals more than 500Hz away from their operating frequency. I can sympathise with the low power brigade asking QRO stations to shift down the band a little but they cannot demand this and phraseology such as 'QRP ONLY = QSY LID' (which I have heard myself) is inflammatory and must surely invite a refusal to comply possibly accompanied by equally acid comments. There really is no need at all for members to be within the QRP segment calling FISTS. On 40m, 1 watt is frequently as good as 100 so unless the objective is G-QRP or other QRP stations, there seems little profit in using a frequency where the target will be unlikely to hear them.

I don't know how often it is necessary to say this but as far as I am aware, the majority of FISTS members are staunch supporters of QRP; indeed the number of members who are also G-QRP is very significant.

Also this month, a very legitimate complaint from Colin, G0SDA about SSB intrusion during a contest and he writes:

"But some FISTS members are no better. It is now Sunday afternoon & I have decided that I've had enough of being buried by greedy, aggressive FISTS members, most of whom only wanted to say a few FB's & Dr OM's & be on their way "hunting". One character was so eager he butted in by sending his own callsign three times before the operators he was breaking in on had even finished their chat. I decided to pack it in before I had even had

one QSO & do something more interesting, like having a whinge at you.

What were these people hunting for? They all knew each other so numbers didn't come into it. And if they did, I thought that FISTS was **NOT** about number crunching but about enjoying the companionship of other radio amateurs who enjoy communicating in Morse Code. But perhaps I'm wrong. You are wondering what sort of wallpaper to bestow on these characters next. I was "cut up" by four FISTS members before I gave up in disgust. Obviously I listened to each exchange before I attempted to call, but I waited until the current exchange had finished & 73 SK or whatever had been sent. The only operator I heard who was blameless was Peter G4LHI which did not surprise me. He was one of the few operators I worked during SKW. He's always polite & courteous & it's always a pleasure to work him.

I think I am about 2 from my first century but I shan't bother now, what's the point? I'm sorry Geo, but if this is what FISTS is about you can stuff it. I get far more pleasure working the MTS stations once a year, at least they have time to say something & for whatever reason people seem to wait quite patiently for their turn, so why can't FISTS members show a little patience as well?"

After all that folks, the ball is in your court!

### THE WHISKERED ONES

A recent e-mail from Charlie, KA8OQF, indicated that he is now gainfully employed. Charlie has the facial adornment which puts you in mind of an explosion in a weaving shed so, on hearing this encouraging news, I asked if this meant that he could afford to buy razor blades to which he replied "T'hell with the blades. To quote the late great Allan Sherman: Every morning when I got up, I'd shave my beard off. The next morning, I discovered that God had put it back while I slept. Finally, I decided to let him have his way"..... Well, I guess that put me in my place. Hi.

## G3TUX

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### THE CQSSB CONTEST

During this contest, the 40m cw sub-band was wall to wall SSB with 'contestants' screaming CQ TEST.

G3KSU among others was clearly disgusted with this and sought information relating to the organisers of the event. He was advised to contact G3SXW and received the following reply:

"You are quite right - band-plan infringements cause some inconvenience to CW users, especially on 40 metres. The reason, put simply, is that this is a very narrow band and the CQ contest has such massive support (some 30,000 participants) - they just can't all fit in. I don't condone it but the circumstances are extreme.

For the short-term - we have lived with this problem for many years. Contests NEVER take place on the WARC bands so there is always a refuge! So the CW segments of eight HF bands are not affected by CQ WW SSB. Longer-term - there is a good possibility that our 40 metre band frequency-allocation will be substantially expanded by ITU. This should resolve the conflict. Meantime, it is unlikely that the CQ Committee will be able to take action. This has been discussed in every detail over a long period of time. CQ cannot enforce band-plans nor contravention of licensing rules. Instead, we would ask that non-contestants merely accept that for those 48 hours each year tens of thousands of radio amateurs are enjoying the hobby to the full. They are also contributing greatly to band-occupancy which our bands need in order to protect them".

What Roger fails to appreciate is that it is not simply a case of

48 hours each year. CQ also runs RTTY and other contests and on 40m, the result is exactly the same.

There is the possibility of course as G3KSU suggested that those who so blatantly ignored band plans were not actually taking an active part in the contest but merely, being fascinated by the sound of their own voices; joining in the 'fun' and revelling in the experience of holding up two fingers at those who seek to bring order to the bands.

#### WEST MANCHESTER RALLY

This will be held at Horwich as usual 19 Nov. Bill, G0JBW may be absent as his Mum is in hospital but Bob and I should be there.

#### LZ CLUB

The LZ CW Club was founded on 17 October 2000 to promote CW activity.

Club meetings are held every Tuesday at 19.30 UTC on 3527 kHz. It is open to foreign licensed CW operators. A candidate must be nominated by a Club member and approved by the meeting on Tuesday. Annual fee 3 IRC.

A bulletin will be started shortly. The Club will issue certificates.

Pres: LZ1AF, Vice Pres.: LZ1FW, Secretary LZ2AU (YL).  
73 LZ1AF

## G3TUX

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#### NEW MEMBERS

7712	G4USS	John	7713	G0UOG	David
7714	M5AJO	Mike	7715	2E1HXX	John
7716	G3KSK	Joe	7717	M0BSF	Nick
7718	MW0BBU	Steve	7719	G4GMZ	John
7720	G3RLF	Don	7721	G3CMJ	???

I await a preferred 'name on air' from G3CMJ.

#### THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

**G3HBN.** Jim is another member who is tiring of 'number crunching' likening it to his childhood trait of collecting train numbers. **LA3BX.** Hi Ted. Here's me thinking all those nice people in Norway are up to speed with the new century and you are running Win 3.1 Hi. The mysteries of Linux escapes me sri but I sure hope you can get Acrobat up and running. **G0VTN.** Rheumatism is bothering our Ron but he manages to keep the paddle wagging and has good control over the steering column with which he writes. **IK1TXL.** Hi Mike. You simply send all your cards to Chuck, M0AVW (see banner). Two IRCs will be OK for your listing. **M5AJO.** Hi Mike. Well yes, most members will identify themselves with CQ FISTS and in any case, ALL will send at your speed. **G3TLF.** Fred is still doing a good job encouraging his locals to use cw. Yup! it certainly does keep the old grey cells active mate. **M0BDD.** Full time job keeping his three canines dry this wx but still QRV. **G3PLE.** Thanks for the ROARS memo David and also for the QSL from Portishead Radio. **G4GZG.** Larry's xyl has brought him kicking and screaming into the new century by returning to school. This demanded a new computer with access to the web. When QRV, he sports quite a variety with Drake R4B/T4XB, TT Century 22, KW 2000A, Eddystone EC958 with ex SOE B2 tx and a 1936 HRO. Wow! some of that stuff is going back quite a way Larry and that HRO is just 8 years younger than me. Hi. **GM3OAV.** Thank you for the kind words Doug and by the way, I like your 'tail wagger' logo! **G4GFQ.** Oh Ron. We really must get you a little more active than you are at present. I appreciate the problem with the Arthritis (believe me you are not on your own) but a few more appearances on the bands or I will be obliged to 'send the

boys round to see you' Hi. **G0EOK.** Nice to bump in to you at Rochdale. Was a bit crowded this time though. **G3DKN.** Tom gives me a run-down of the kit at Worksop ARS (G3RCW) with its own club premises and HF/VHF, Computers, G5RV and, of all things, a BAR!. Sad to hear that you sometimes have to suffer the personal presence of G0JWB but we all have our crosses to bear mate. **G3BMO.** Bert stuck up a simple 10m dipole at 5 metres and found PY8/IZ3CQI who was running QRP from the Amazon Forest. A friend (G4IUF) worked 101 countries on 28th October though with the advantages of a 3 ele yagi and QRO. **G3KSU.** Alan found himself watching 'Belfry Witches', a new series on childrens TV and a scene in which the coven TV was suffering badly from a cw transmitter. The source turned out to be a black cat (what else) busily tapping away on a large pump handle though Alan was unable to read anything due to QRM from cackling witches. Would also like to give a mention to a book 'The Singing Line' - story of the man who strung telegraph across VK land.

#### KEY OF THE YEAR

I recently received a Hi Mound from M5AAQ to be used as a prize and this will be sent to G4LHI shortly.

We normally commission Gordon, G4ZPY, to construct a 'special' for the station nominated for this event. Gordon though is recovering from medical problems and also is extremely QRL with a back-log of orders so I am sure he will appreciate the release from his annual chore.

My thanks to Jim for his kind donation.

#### ODDS 'N ENDS

At Rochdale this year, much chinwagging and lamp swinging was indulged in but surprisingly, one subject cropped up on no less than three occasions and that was poor cw. On each occasion, the question was asked 'do these people never think of taping their own transmissions for appraisal?' It has always been a good thing. Most of us when starting out simply do not realise that the quality of our code is poor and of course, most feel embarrassed to report it during on-air contacts. It is very easy (especially with an electronic keyer) to 'think' ahead and consequently run characters together. The most effective cure for this is to consciously exaggerate the inter character spacing especially with the magic 'T' and 'E' chars. Once this has grabbed hold, normal spacing soon falls into place and such common bloomers as 'NAG' are replaced with 'NAME'.

Nancy sent me a huge list of defaulters this month which means she will doubtless be busy with reinstating the bulk of them in the coming months. Well... it keeps her off street corners doesn't it?

Just a reminder that an up-dated listing may be obtained from the smartgroups website though some of you may need to upgrade to Winzip v7.

Pse keep an ear on 18 and 24 MHz as conditions improve. There has been a fair amount of activity on those bands of late though precious few FISTS members in evidence. The WARC bands are cake plus icing to the SSB brigade so use or lose!

## G4ZPY

### KEYS AND PADDLES

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

#### FINALE

Once again I am 'strapped for space' but will endeavour to include a number of outstanding items next month. By that time, mayhap the new scanner will have put in an appearance allowing me to do a little more justice to various photographs submitted. In the meantime folks, have fun because I am sure the bands will continue to improve.

73/88 es stay sober de Geo