

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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Vice Chairman
QSL Manager
Awards mgr
P.R.O.
Rally Coordinator
Secretary
Committee

G4PSE
G4XHZ
M0AVW
G0FRL
G4YLB
G4PPG
G3ZQS
G4MZS

NETS

Sunday QRS 0900 (loc) 3.575 2E0AJS
US 0100Z on 14058
Tues: GX0IPX/P 1930 ON 3.558 (+/-)
Net Control G3HZL
DX 14/21/28.058 on the hour for 15mins
Pse keep watch on all Novice allocations
UK Net Controls use GX0IPX/P

SUBS: UK £5.00, EEC £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 obtained from HQ. Please include 3 2nd class stamps to cover return and running costs

Label Badges, £1.50 incl.

Fabric patches £2.50 incl.

QSL Cards £6.00 per 100 or £9.00 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.

All outgoing QSLs to M0AVW (address above).

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. 491a New Ashby Rd, LOUGHBOROUGH, LE11 4EU.

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.

GREETINGS

Here we are again people but wotta mess the bands have been in. GX0IPX was significantly absent from the SKW for which I apologise but as many of you will know, I had to spend quite a lot of time on the web setting up a group. Seems to me that whenever I got on the air, 80 was as dead as a doornail, 40 was producing few members and the HF bands were awash with nothingfulness. Hi.

For those of you on the web, you can now check in to: <http://www.smartgroups.com/vault/fists/> where you will find many messages from other members and also a load of files available for downloading. We will enhance this group site by adding links to other sites and I shall be constructing a database of members shortly. This by no means replaces the FISTS website which Andy (G0JLX) has kindly set up for us but rather to augment it with news items and such which Andy would otherwise have difficulty in finding time for. It would seem that the government is keen to see everybody able to access the web asap and at the current rate I can see at least 50% of the members being thus QRV within a year. Is it an alternative to Amateur Radio? I think not; in fact used sensibly it will enhance our experiences on the bands.

The early part of this month found many of you chasing round trying to find the odd litre of petrol or diesel following the

(generally applauded) actions of farmers and private haulage operators which must have occupied much of your time though I confess to a nice comfortable feeling at seeing the roads so quiet.

Tony, G4FAI, has laid down the ground rules for a week-long activity period dedicated to the EUCW of which, FISTS probably represents the numerically most significant member. We are still hunting for a manager for this event though so please, if you think you can spend a little time each year sorting through the entries, then let me know. Tony has done most of the work to make things easier for someone to manage.

Apologies to a bunch of members who I knew were waiting patiently on the side in a recent excursion to 20m. Fact is that I can no longer afford the luxury of staying up later than about midnight because of commitments to Ivy. Shame the band could not have opened up a little sooner but it was seemingly flat until something in the order of 2330. It was most gratifying though to find nobody being 'pushy' - they just waited on the side lines until each QSO was terminated.

Suzy showed her breeding the other day when she disappeared behind a screen of bushes and failed to respond to my calls. I went investigating and found her hind legs and stubby tail sticking out of a rabbit hole and wondered, had the hole been any larger, just how far she would have got. Hi.

LAST SUNDAY LADDER

Callsign	Mem	MemTotal	NonMem	Previous	Total
G4LHI	13	26	1	227	254
G0MRH	0	0	0	166	166
PA3AFF	2	4	3	156	163
G0AVNV	0	0	0	158	158
M5ABN	3	6	6	119	131
M5AGL	12	24	1	106	131
GM0VIT	9	18	1	94	113
G4RBE	3	6	0	96	102
F5NTP	0	0	0	88	88
GOPEH	0	0	0	66	66
GW0SGG	0	0	0	26	26
G0IYZ	0	0	0	23	23
M0BHE	0	0	0	23	23
G0VBH	0	0	0	14	14

Less than normal entries this month, this being the holiday period we cannot expect too much in the way of entries. Band condx have been varied but in my experience mostly down. It has been a pleasure to meet up with some of the members now that I have a Doublet in working order.

Looking forward to the SKW logs also the "FIST of the Year" nominations coming my way. Till the next time 73 GM4BAE.

IDEAS FOR KEYNOTE

In recent times, Keynote has contained an ever increasing amount of general chat. This, in turn, has resulted in a significant reduction to its Amateur Radio content. A good example of this lies in the September Keynote which contained a lengthy discussion about the pros and cons of buying a new club printer. In my opinion, this news item could easily have been covered by two or three sentences, making room for some more interesting

Amateur Radio news and views.

I am not sure what factors determine the balance of information in Keynote. Could it be that members are not coming forward with suitable articles or are the limiting factors time and finances? The following types of articles would, in my opinion, significantly enhance the club newsletter:

Members' experiences of particular band conditions.

Members' DX and QRP achievements.

Simple constructional articles, complete with circuit diagrams.

Technical topics for both novices and experienced amateurs.

Hints and tips relating to the Morse Code.

Reviews of kits, keys or indeed any product related to Amateur Radio.

Advertisements, both personal and commercial.

Long articles could span two or three issues if space was limited. Advertisements could boost finances and maybe allow Keynote to expand from two sheets to three or even four. An expanded newsletter could reserve space for regular features. Readers could then keep these features in a ring binder for future reference.

As someone who is not particularly interested in contests or QSL card exchange, Keynote is a major part of being a FISTS member. The above enhancements would certainly make the newsletter much more interesting and may even result in a flood of new members.

Please feel free to publish this article in Keynote, either fully or in part.

It would be interesting to discover if other members share the same views as myself.

Dr. Graham Butler, M0BDS, FISTS 4839,

To a large degree, the content of Keynote depends on input from you the members. At the same time, members are most enthusiastic about the 'chatty' style and I feel sure that a change to the type of content you find in technical magazines would not be a good thing. The problem over the printer is one of great importance to me since it will be your money I shall be spending and incidentally, the printer is performing OK now though how long it will continue to do so in this age of built in redundancy is anyone's guess.

I would most certainly welcome articles for inclusion in the news letter especially since I find my-self scratching around for such items generally.

Advertising. Well now, most of you will know that we do **not** make any charges for club members who advertise in Keynote and of course, your sales or wants are published when they occur. It would also be improper to invite advertisements from sources outside the membership as I would have to guarantee space being available - which is not always the case - and an additional sheet (2 pages) would mean at least 6 hours extra unpaid work in collating and stuffing to say nothing of printing the additional pages.

In its present format, Keynote squeezes as much information as possible into its pages and were I to use the DTP to its maximum capability, the number of pages could be easily doubled but who wants 24pt headings and bulleted 12pt sub-heads with floating frames all over the sheet?

CHANGE OF CALL

Wolf, DL2GWL has changed his call to DJ2WL and note also that GSWL1 (John) is now M5AKX. John quoted a 2E0 call which seems to have escaped me earlier or perhaps he forgot to let me know? Now that we have space on smartgroups, it will be possible for me to post call changes and other up-dates received from Nancy or Ralph.

DXPEDITIONS ETC

OK, so you're only off to Majorca for a couple of weeks or whatever but these surprises rather shake the lads and lasses on the bands. If you intend to be operating whilst the rest of the family is sunning themselves on the beach or guzzling cheap booze and exotic food then a word in advance would be appreciated. It really is surprising how many such calls turn up when I am trawling the band and considering my limited on-air time, I guess the same applies others..

STAMPS AND LABELS

No real problems with the bureau at present, in fact things are beginning to settle down very well. There is a small snag though inasmuch as many of you have outstanding cards and no labels lodged. Pse make an effort to send something to your sub-manager so that the decks can be cleared.

It is also important to put any instructions on your label i.e. 'First 6' or 'When up to weight' etc. as a couple of 'em have had queries about cards when there are cards waiting but the envelope is not up to weight. There is no point in sending an empty envelope of course and if you do not specify the number of cards you want in the envelope for postage then the sub-manager is obviously going to wait until it comes up to weight.

Pse note that a 1st class stamp returns exactly the same weight as a 2nd class stamp - are you in that much of a hurry? Preferred stamp values are 19p (60 gms), 33p (100 gms) or 44p (150 gms). If you include a high value stamp but are not very active, then clearly there is going to be quite a delay before your envelope is despatched.

For overseas members of course the values are different but such members usually send currency which is converted into stamps by Chuck and despatched when a reasonable weight has been reached.

There will also be a difference in policy from one station to another in regard to QSLs. From GX0IPX, I QSL on the first contact and after that only for new bands or some special occasion. If you worked 50 FISTS stations last month it does not follow that there will be 50 QSLs in the bureau for you.

As always, sorting your cards before sending 'em helps a lot and it is no trouble surely to group all you Ws, Ks, Gs etc together and very little extra work to put the suffixes into alphabetic order also.

DX FONASKED

An e-mail was cc'd to HQ concerning a station in Honduras. The call is N0UEP/HR1 and is on active duty with the USAF at Soto Cano. Ken was asking about the US 'code buddies' programme which is similar to our own fonasked but possibly more wide-ranging. DX schedules of course are extremely unreliable particularly on HF so John, W9EM, was unable to help as indeed we ourselves are. However, if anyone knows of a possible contact in the HR1 area, perhaps they could help. Ken is QRV 0030 to 0400z weekdays and much of the weekend so worth keepin an ear open.

SPONSORSHIP

We had a most kind offer from a member offering to support one of our East EU stations but that station is already supported by another member. However, he did intimate to Chuck (M0AVW) that he would be prepared to pitch in with the cost of posting QSLs and I am sure that Chuck will take him up on this one. Just a thought in case any other members would like to help an East EU station; The station must be nominated (I am not prepared to play God and choose one of the many such stations who enquire but find that subs are difficult to find due to the current financial climate twix East and West) and the sponsor should be prepared to support the station whilst the current situation exists.

The club already supports some 20 stations (mainly East EU but also a few Gs on limited income) and the cost of this is usually well covered by donations.

QRS EUCW CONTEST

Tony, G4FAI, has done most of the donkey work here and submits a summary of the work required by a prospective contest manager. We still hope to find such a volunteer from our ranks but Tony - with some reservation - has agreed to do the job **for the first year only.**

We envisage the event taking place beginning on the last Sunday of the April. and terminating the following Saturday.

Entry categories for QRO, QRS and non-members with an opportunity to SWLs to take part. Certificates for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in each category.

This is not a straight key event. Electronic keyers may be used though the maximum speed is to be no greater than 14 wpm. More information nearer the time since there are a few points yet to be clarified.

The duties of the contest manager whilst at first appearing some

what demanding is really not that much of a problem. It is mainly concerned with advance publicity to various publications and a degree of cross checking received logs to confirm the winners in each section.

I have here Tonys' rundown of the process for anyone interested in offering a hand and remind you that this is an **annual** event and not an ongoing one such as the ladder.

EUCW CONSTXN

FISTS has been asked to vote on a proposed new constitution for the European CW Association. Previously there have been no membership fees, but the club nominating the chairman has been expected to pay his expenses in producing a quarterly EUCW bulletin. Now it is proposed that all clubs pay a small fee which together should cover the chairman's expenses instead of putting the burden on one club or individual. (The current chairman, ON5ME, has been paying his own expenses). The cost to FISTS would only be 20 Euros a year, (about £12), so I'm asking our chairman, G4PSE, to approve that without going to a vote.

There is also a proposal to create new officers to help the EUCW chairman, and if any member would like to consider standing for any of the new EUCW posts they can obtain full details of what is involved from our EUCW representative, Tony Smith G4FAI, QTHR, or e-mail him at g4fai@connectfree.co.uk

Nominations are also sought for the appointment of a new EUCW chairman (details also available from Tony) so the full list of EUCW vacancies is:

- Chairman (existing post)
- Treasurer/bulletin distributor (new post)
- Awards database manager (new post)
- Contest database manager (new post)

If anyone is interested, contact Tony in the first place, who will be pleased to discuss these posts and provide further information if required.

The remainder of the proposed new constitution is basically an expansion of the existing constitution to make everything clearer. The document is too big to print in *Key Note* but if anyone would like to see a copy send Tony a stamped addressed DL envelope or e-mail him: g4fai@connectfree.co.uk

If I receive no adverse comments by the end of October, I will seek the chairman's formal approval to the new EUCW constitution on behalf of FISTS, and EUCW will be notified accordingly.

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to see these and many other services.

SMARTGROUPS

It would appear that there are other members apart from G3ZQS who do not fully understand the workings of the groups website. Following an enquiry, I sent an e-mail asking if it was possible for members to use the group to send messages to other members. To most people, it would be obvious but of course the internet is still a mystery to me.

Go to group/members. Double click on the member you wish to contact and an editing page will be presented. It's as easy as that!

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

Every now and then I get a query from recent members questioning the significance of "The Strawberry Basket". This goes back some 13 years when FISTS was but a handful of members and letters were filed in an old fashioned punnett. This has been up-graded to a big plastic thing but I guess if push came to

shove, we could still use it to accommodate strawberries. Hi. **GOVQO**. Les encountered the same frantic level of activity that I did myself during SKW and he says:

"As a shift-worker, I was around at odd times of day and night, but I only found one station calling either FISTS or SKW throughout the period. Was I desperately unlucky, or was that a realistic snap-shot of the level of activity? I am certainly in favour of any event that gets FISTS meeting fellow FISTS on-the-air, but is this event what the membership want?". He tosses an idea into the arena which may appeal to others:

"How about a FISTS Activity Week during which the aim is to work as many other members as possible? One QSO with each member within the week, per band (to stimulate activity on other bands), and the QSO to contain no "contest-like" elements - ie normal RST, name, QTH, FISTS number, CC number (if appropriate) and normal chat"

In fairness though, the low level of activity was due more to the conditions than anything else. Inter EU/UK was pretty ropey especially on 80m though 40m during daylight was quite good.

G4ABE. Jim noted over the last few months a number of SSB stations operating within the CW segment of the bands. On one occasion, a CW operator reverted to SSB and politely asked the offending (G) station on 7.033 if he was aware of the frequency he was using. The answer was "Yes and I do NOT intend to move as there is plenty of room for the cw operators and a gentlemen's agreement concerning the Band Plan does not concern me."

Jim suggests that to counter this selfish attitude, cw operators should spread out. **MOAIR**. Hi Stephen. Note the smargroups address on the banner! **GOEML**. I have made mention of Jerzy, SP3DG and the beautiful self contained keyer he hand builds. Ray happened upon him and a few days later was delighted to receive "a wonderful well made keyer with a really great finish" delivered by a family friend who was visiting London. Having seen and used this item my-self, I can attest to all that Jim says.

SM7KJH. Chris has been touring in Scotland and London. In GM, he witnessed the military tattoo in Edinburgh but spotted only one tower with a beam. He was also disappointed to record absolutely no sign of Nessie. In London, trips on the 'eye' were booked up well ahead but a consolation was a boat trip to Greenwich in order to correct his watch. **G3ICH**. Pete echoes many obs concerning the awful conditions on 80m. Cannot remember such a situation in almost 60 years on the air as both military and civilian R/O. Tells me that Ken, G3GPE has been off the air for a while due firstly to illness and then by the loss of his antenna in a storm. Hoping to have him back on the air shortly. You are not the only one to query the silence from Don, G3HZL Pete so Don... where have you been? **G3TTB**. Another QRP devotee is our Peter with 300 mW of RF and would like to thank all members he has worked thus far for sticking with him right to the end of the QSO. **G14CRQ**. Thank you for the enquiry Ken and Suzy is doing great. His attention is split due to his own new pup of only 5 months. **G0HIS**. Hi Dave. Think you must have got something skewed up somewhere. 6094 is Jerry, G4NRO and G4SVC (Dave found him signing /EA5) is indeed Tim and nr 7102.

G3BMO. Wow! Never heard of other btinternet users having that problem Bert. Best thing would be to delete the lot and start again with one of the free ISPs. Pse let me know if you manage to sort things out. **GM3HEN**. Tony aligns with the remarks by Jack, G3WP, about deliberate jamming of DX stations. I note that G3SXW comments on this sad trait in the FOC news letter though there are numerous complaints concerning these "DX" stations arriving here particularly regarding an absence of ID. Some of this Jamming may well be due to frustrated operators listening to CALL=599BK with no clue as to the identity of the DX station. When those who fail to apply spacing in their code discover that replies are getting fewer, the penny usually drops and they start to analyse their own keying. Hi. **MO CET**. Andy makes his own flash QSL cards via his colour printer. Despair not, the diamond numbers you seek for the millenium are increasing in numbers and we still have 4 months to go. Hi. **G0LYY**. John comments on the "How d'ya hear me" item since his daughter, not being much of a party-goer; was quite unable to pick out what nearby folks were saying. He mentions that workers in noisy factory environments could carry on a normal conversation without shouting whilst casual visitors could hear only the noise. Is it a case of what you are used to? *We are accustomed to picking up wanted signals from all manner of noise but it must be difficult for a beginner.* **MOBTY**. You're doing fine there

Peter. We have many long standing members who are still struggling for their 500.



LZ1AF took himself off to Dayton and came back with a group picture of WB2FXK, Nancy, WZ8C and KY4KI. Not bad Dimiter but the background gave me problems and it could have been sharper.

Nancy petal.. what have you done with that gorgeous hair?

G3TUX

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NEW MEMBERS

7700	M0BAU	Geof	7705	G4YWP	Dave
7706	VACANT	7707	M5AIO	Jeff	
7708	M0SSF	Petr	7709	G4KKI	Bill
7710	M0ETO	Brian	7711	GM0TWB	Ian

M0SSF is the Rev Petr and 7706 returned his new members pack after a disagreement with his sponsor. The number will be re-allocated with the next app form to flop through the letterbox.

UFT AND THE INTERNET

Hi dear Geo!

Please would you note and publish in a further Key Note add, the website address, of the EUCW Ass Union Française des Telegraphistes (UFT): <http://www.uft.net>.

We are sorry but because French is the current language of most of our members, this site is for the most part wrote in French; However it contains a lot of ham or commercial links in English. A good downloadable software library is also available at this site, not especially in French.

For more informations in French you may mail to the UFT President, Michel DENEVE, F5JDB, at f5jdb@infonie.fr.

For more information's in French or English, about the site, you may mail to our webmaster Maurice COLOMBANI-GAILLEUR, F6IIE, at f6iie@free.fr.

For more information's in French or in English about the UFT activities (membership, UFT callbooks - paper and on-line -, nets, contests and challenges, supplies...) you may mail in English to : Maurice A. CHARPENTIER, F5NQL at maurice_f5nql@nomade.fr. Maurice, according to your request, will answer you directly under the cover of F5JDB.

I hope to read something of you soon and as you say us each month I'll be sober but not of CW.

Sincerely

Maurice, F5NQL, FISTS 1816

ODDS N' ENDS

Call Change

Got a call from Chuck, M0AVW to advise me that new member M1ETJ has passed his CW exam and is now M0PCB. Now that's an easy callsign to remember whenever we hear on air of a printed circuit board. Hi.

We need a symbol

Nigel, G0IHK, drew my attention to a problem has had me puzzled on a few occasions: "Dunno if you had noticed something that old Sam could not have foreseen. Now that we have the miracle of E-mail, it poses another problem or two when sending e-mail addresses on the key." Now I am not at all sure about this but to my knowledge there has never been a requirement for an ampersand in text sent in CW. When describing an e-mail address, I have resorted to "AT" in an effort to resolve the difficulty of "fist1@" etc. No problem really because it has been understood up to now but would it still be clear if the recipient were of a non-english speaking country? I am sure that many would be grateful for your ideas on this

Life after Death

Guy in Sussex asked Soc Svcs why his pension book had not been renewed.. *We understand the Mr. ??????? is deceased..* I can assure you I am very much alive.

According to our records you are deceased.

In that case, there must be life after death

We cannot amend your records without a certificate from your Doctor.

I am a doctor and very much aware of the essential difference between life and non-life.

From Nigel, G0IHK.

Left hand versus Right

For some time now, I have been missing a few of the up-date bulletins issued by Nancy and on the last occasion, requested a complete breakdown of her list and found that we were some 80 members shy. Although this information has up-dated us, I fear there could still be problems in the future when Nancys deletes or SK lists do not reach my mail box. It is fortuitous that at least one US member keeps the info in a form which permits it to be issued in dBase format so I will endeavour to arrange a monthly exchange instead of troubling Nancy because her data is not kept in a form which is sympathetic to the fields and formatting which is used here. Full listing on the web-site or via smartgroups.

V31JP. *Next trip, I will be spending more time chewing the fat with friends. In Belize, I have a Force12 C3E up at 76 feet for 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 meters. On another tower, I have a Force12 Magnum 340N 3 element 40 meter Yagi at 82 feet. On 80 meters, I have a dipole at about 73 feet. On 160 meters, I have an inverted 'L'. This from Joe, K8JP.*

Sprechen zur Deutsch

Most obliged to DL1YAL (Steve) who has kindly offered to undertake any transcriptions which may be needed to or from the German language. Normally use one of those software translation packages but the results are often hilariously incorrect.

G4ZPY

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FINALE

Sorry for the delay with this issue people. up-graded to Windows/ME and a few hiccups but all ok now.

Apologies for the photograph. Had to break it down to three small ones due to a restriction on the available printer memory.

73/88 es stay sober

Geo