

International Morse Preservation Society



KEY NOTE



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<http://www.ase1.demon.co.uk/fists-hq/> <http://www.zl6qh.com>

E-Mail HQ: fist1@btinternet.com webmaster: webmaster@ase1.demon.co.uk

OFFICES

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32 Woodford Walk, Harewood Park, TS17 0LT

PRO: G4YLB. J.A. Welsh

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CONTEST MANAGER: M5AGL

15a Buckden Rd., BRAMPTON, PE18 4PR

COMMITTEE

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P.R.O.

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G4XHZ

G4YLB

G4YLB

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@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. Cheques should be made payable to just FISTS.

Up-dated listings may 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 £7.00 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 <spence5@ntlworld.com>

M0AYI Glenn@m0ayi.freeseerve.co.uk

M5AGL bobm5agl@btopenworld.com

M0ZAK jim.steel@ntlworld.com

QSL BUREAU INFO

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, BARNSELY, S73 9AE.

G4, GM4 etc (Except GW4). M0ZAK. 6 Central Ave, SHEPSHED, 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

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 postage unless otherwise advised.

GREETINGS

It was something of a surprise when midway into August, the bands began to return to a near normal state. 40m opened up to UK and Europe during daylight hours whilst some quite strong DX was also heard late evening and during the small hours. Very encouraging. 20m also opened to the US, Asia and down under whilst 15m and 17m brought members reports of some fair (though mainly somewhat squeaky) signals from Japan, Korea, Indonesia and South America. Most of this stuff was definitely 'workable' on our favourite mode though how they fared on the phone segments is questionable. I also had reports of sporadic activity on 13m and 10m though the inevitable 'plug hole' effect meant that such contacts were rather short lived. A few of you braved the seasonal racket on 80m which continues to behave like a cauldron of random QRN - even the fish-fone people seem to have deserted the band - or perhaps I just can't hear 'em below

the noise. Hi. We could be in for a very interesting Autumn! Restricted activity here from GX0IPX but such operations served to lift my spirits somewhat. There is always the flip side of course and on air, I learned that GM4KHH came out second best in an argument with a circular saw. Suspect he aligns with the majority and is right handed so it is fortuitous that the damage (some fractures are included) did not affect his keying. Moral: don't give the saw a chance to jump and keep your bits n' pieces clear. The removal of the Morse requirement for HF has understandably, raised a few hackles. However, the flip side of this one is that all manner of prefixes are appearing which were hitherto absent. Whether these are re-issues or not is questionable but in general, the code is good and of such a speed that makes me wonder why they were not in evidence previously. Could it be that CW ability was there but hampered by a reluctance to undergo a test? At this point I should point out that an email detailing a **change of call** for Theo from PA3HEN to **PC7CW** also contained the information that as of 4, Aug/03, the full range of prefixes for this series is PA - PB - PC - PF - PG and PI. Whatever, it seems the relaxations have done little harm to our aspirations since new members continue to join us and certainly during the last few months, the only viable mode on the bands has been our trusty CW.

ALTERNATIVE LICENCES

I was warned that the R.A. may well refuse to renew alternative club licenses after they become due. This of course would affect MX5IPX and for this reason, no action was taken in respect of the members who had offered to activate the callsign during the Sunday ladder. However, an email to the appropriate department of the R.A. brought a response indicating that they had no such plans.

CLASSICAL KOKUP

Stuffing reminder slips into envelopes is a tedious chore. I can stuff something in the order of 5 Keynotes into envelopes for each reminder slip so, faced with the prospect of over 90 of 'em, the temptation to quickly pre-load Keynotes with slips and put them aside for appropriate envelopes was overwhelming. Something however went wrong (OK then - I got a bit disorganised) and at least 20 were sent out unduly. Most recipients, no doubt appreciating my potential for errors, wisely ignored them but a few were clearly bothered and contacted me in a state of near panic. All is OK and my apologies for this super-blooper.

THE SECRET WIRELESS WAR

This unusual video is in two parts, "Beyond Bletchley Park" and "Black Propaganda". The first part will be of particular interest to FISTS members as it tells the story of those radio amateurs who, at the beginning of WW2 became Voluntary Interceptors, unpaid part-time members of the Radio Security Service. Their task was to listen in their spare time, in secret, to defined parts of the HF bands and report any unusual CW signals heard. Their reports were to be sent daily by post to Box 25, Barnet Herts.

They were listening for signals from German spies, or fifth columnists inside the UK but none were heard. What was

heard, however, was Morse traffic on non-military frequencies between German stations in occupied Europe, which turned out to be of great interest to the R.S.S.

There has been much written about the code-breaking activities of Bletchley Park but little about how the coded material was obtained. Through the memories of some of those involved in this work, the video tells how some 1500 VI's were recruited to monitor German Intelligence traffic, how the system worked, and how the success of the VI's and the RSS led to the establishment of a full-time listening station at Hanslope Park in 1941.

There is much more, all of great Morse interest. Direction finding stations pinpointed the location of monitored stations to help identify them and assist in the code-breaking process; the Y Service had 24 major intercept stations around the UK, monitoring enemy military traffic, feeding material into Bletchley; and "dummy" stations with names like "Cadbury", "Fry" and "Nestle" were set up to deceive the enemy before D-Day, disappearing from the air on June 6, 1944.

When the invasion took place, special vehicles were equipped with transmitting and receiving equipment by the Special Communications Unit at Whaddon Hall for use as Special Liaison Units. Together with similar vehicles housing cipher sections, these accompanied top military commanders in the field, providing secret communications between military and intelligence sections at Bletchley and the field commanders.

There is so much detailed information in this film, it is impossible to mention it all in a short review. But if you are interested in how the radio amateurs of the 1940's used their Morse skills to provide invaluable secret assistance to the war effort, you should have a copy of this historical and factual video.

The second part of "The Secret Wireless War" covers another extraordinary WW2 radio feat, the "black" propaganda campaign waged against the enemy with broadcasts from the UK that the Germans believed, in some cases, emanated from inside mainland Europe

The two one-hour films, "Beyond Bletchley Park" and "Black Propaganda", are on the same video, titled "The Secret Wireless War", price £14.99, which is available from the Bletchley Park shop, the RSGB, or direct from the producers, Grindelwald Productions, PO Box 38, Princes Risborough, Bucks, HP27 9YL. See www.grindelwald.co.uk for more details.

Many thanks to Tony G4FAI who seems to have derived much enjoyment from the review.

C2C

Just a reminder for the Coast-to-Coast event in September: Contest dates --- Runs 24 hours September 14th 0000 - 2400 ZULU (PDT 5 PM Saturday to 5 PM Sunday). Clubs will operate to their own schedules. They are not required to be on the air the entire 24 hours of the event.

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. We encourage Clubs to use the Novice segments also. Sorry, no WARC bands. Clubs will call near regular FISTS frequencies.

Only FISTS clubs will call. Clubs will call --- "CQ C2C" Exchange --- Clubs and operators exchange the following elements:

FISTS Members and Clubs: RST, Name, State (or 2 character prefix if DX), and FISTS number. Clubs: Send only your club's FISTS number.

U.S. Example: 579, Stan, VA, 2934

DX Example: 599, Ralph, ZL, 1073

Non-FISTS: RST, Name, State, and Power (be sure to suffix with 'W').

U.S. Example: 459, Bill, OR, 50W

DX Example: 569, Yuri, UA, 100W

Scoring: Points for C2C awards are accrued as follows - 1 point for each club worked on each band, once per band (which means a maximum of 5 QSO points for any club since there are 5 bands available).

For each individual club worked you accrue one multiplier point. The maximum possible number of multiplier points would equal the number of clubs participating.

To calculate your final score, multiply the total number of C2C

QSOs times your multiplier points.

Examples:

You had 20 club QSOs total. Those 20 QSOs were with 12 of the participating clubs (remembering that only one club QSO per band counts). Thus, your final score is your multiplier, 12, times the total QSOs, 20 = 12 X 20 = 240 C2C points. 12 clubs qualifies for the Silver C2C Certificate.

You worked 15 clubs. 10 of those clubs you worked on one band, 5 you worked on 2 bands. Your total QSOs are 10 + (5 x 2) = 20 QSOs. Since you worked 15 clubs total, your final score is 15 X 20 = 300 C2C points. 15 clubs qualifies for the Gold C2C Certificate.

You worked 20 clubs once on one of the 5 bands. You got an additional 25 club QSOs on other bands than the first band you worked them on. Your multiplier is then 20 and you made 45 club QSOs total. Your final score is 20 times 45 = 900 C2C points. 20 clubs qualifies for the Platinum C2C Certificate.

Remember, you can only count a single club once per band. If you worked a club on one band, you can't count a QSO with that club again on the same band.

A number of EU and other 'DX' clubs (in the view of the US gang) have already indicated their support of this event. I will do my best to activate GX0IPX and wish the organisers every success.

FOC INITIATIVE

Received an email from an FOC committee member inviting FISTS to support an awards scheme. Whilst I indicated that I would be happy to help wherever possible, it became clear that one of the main requirements was organised examiners and cooperation with the RSGB was envisaged. What a shame that the RSGB acted with such alacrity to disband its current Morse examiners and their teams. This was done in such a manner that makes it highly unlikely that they will be able to restructure the service with the original volunteers. I have spoken to many such disenchanted individuals who indicated that they intended to allow their membership to lapse and that Hell would freeze over before they offered their services again.

The programme as projected suggested training in such things as handling pile-ups and contest operating rather than encouraging normal social CW oriented activity which is what most of our members would consider a priority and because of this will probably attract less support than it deserves.

Unbidden, I have already received a few suggestions but remember that what is needed is practical encouragement at ground level - the presence of support groups at rallies etc., in addition to on-air tuition sessions.

Although the advantages of CW are obvious to us, we need to impress upon all the simplicity, efficiency and sheer satisfaction of conducting a CW QSO.

F5NQL

From September 6th to 14th, a special call sign will be active from the GAP/TALLARD airfield, during the World parachuting championship. This call sign, TM5GAP, will be on the air on all HF, and 50&144 MHz..

The Département of Hautes Alpes hams are awaiting for QSO. Those who will be vacationing near this area will be welcome to the station, settled on the airfield. QSM as operator's instructions.

G0JLX HOME PAGE

Andy's home page is: www.asel.demon.co.uk/g0jlx/ and I understand that he is prepared to loan practice tapes at various speeds. I stress the word 'loan' because he does not have mass copying facilities so the most convenient way would be to borrow, copy and return. Took a shufti at the home page by the way and it is quite impressive.

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

M0BDD. Derek continues to to 'plug' FISTS at rallies though Lincoln produced only 4 signatures - the lowest yet. **G0UPL.** Hans found himself the target of no less than four of the (typically Nigeran) get-rich-quick scams; one for a poultry \$8.5m with the top marks going to \$21.5m. **M0ECS.** Sretan uskr! No it ain't my sticky fingers - it is Croatian for 'Happy Easter' and

it is perhaps timely to remind you that a useful source for odd multi-lingual greetings is www.nypl.org/branch/central_units/d/f/useful.htm or, contact Steve himself at fists@m0ecs.waitrose.com. **GM0MTR**. Jim would like to record his thanks to G3TEU, G0SSG and Messrs Burketts of Lincoln for help with the bits n' pieces etc., for the W8MT key. If any members would like to make use of the generated box of bits or indeed add to them, it is 17b High St, OBAN, PA34 4BG. **G4SSH**. Roys' daughter seemingly has connections with OFTEL and amongst others, he wrote to tell me that these mysterious phone calls are probably the result of 'call pinging' where companies set up a computer to ring random numbers to check if the number is active. Bit like internet spam in a way. Since the caller was evidently looking for a fax response I am happy to say that the nuisance has gone away. Hi. The practice I understand is illegal and such organisations are prosecuted when located. By the way, thank you for the L/H QSL Roy. **M0SOP**. Hugh is reaping the rewards for building the K2 though little operating time. Likens his radio hobby to that of a friend who spent much time taking his car apart and rebuilding it - didn't leave much time for driving. **G8NT**. We have had no challengers so I take it that my reference to Dick as our 'oldest member' being born 23 Aug 1909 is correct. August saw him reach the age of 94 years. Not as active as he would wish due to his wife's health but counts himself as fortunate in being able to enjoy this wonderful hobby especially CW. Dick, I am both humbled and privileged to share your friendship and trust you did not try to blow all those candles out in one breath mate! **G3WP**. Jack announces himself prejudiced in favour of bottles in receivers and on my comments about 'killing' the AGC notes that some modern rigs (he sites the FT840) do not permit switching out the AGC though this model does have the redeeming feature of permitting the insertion of attenuation. This does of course help a lot. My rig Jack - the FT1000MP. OK it's a bit pricey but there seems no reason why these features should not be available irrespective of the QRK. Check out some of the receive sections of some of the latest QRP kit. These do not break the bank and aside from DSP perhaps, many of them I am told offer all the facilities of the Yaesu flagship. Providing the selectivity is there, they can function as a separate RX to a QRO rig or transmitter. **M5DAP**. A bouquet (yes Ralph... I have spelled correctly this time) to Mick, G3RYZ for his readiness to help the learners. As a result, Dave is steadily increasing his reading speed. **G3MCK**. Tnks for your input re phantom phone calls Gerald. As you will note, it seems to have been sorted. Hi. **G3KJX**. Brian has recently returned from France and was told (presumably by a phone user) that CW will be dead within 20 years. Hmmm! **G0LU**. George sorted out a problem which had been bugging him for some time thanks to G3HBN and his item on the 'Z' match. One leg of his ribbon feeder was discoloured (almost black) over time and it would seem that the circuit was the answer.

NEW MEMBERS

09840	M0CWA	Bryan	09841	G4WDM	Bill
09842	M0MKA	Tony	09843	M0BRB	Brian
09844	M3WDH	Bill	09845	G0RJM	Alan
09846	2E0TPP	Glynn	09847	G3ZHP	David
09848	G8PG	Gus	09849	G4BYJ	Hasso
09850	G0OTE	Eric	09851	M0DEV	Mark
09852	EI5DS	Ned			

May I particularly welcome Gus, G8PG an octogenarian with whom I have shared many pleasant QSOs. Tony, M0MKA is the better half (or perhaps that is the wrong way round) of Lynda, M3LCM.

CHANGE OF CALL

Ricky, M3RDY becomes 2E0RDY following a recent successful trip to the examiners torture chamber. Congrats.

BUSAN TELEGRAPH CLUB

Cho HL5AP, sends info re the above sporting the call 6LOUR as of Sept/2001. SPARLS Award requires QSO from club members for Gold (30), Silver (15) and Bronze (5).

MCCAA (Morse Code Operating Active Award: Diamond 5000, Gold 2500, Silver 1000 and Bronze 500 CW QSOs. QSLs not required but confirmation from two independent stations.

FISTS CW CLUB NEWS LETTER

No QSO/QSL should predate the clubs establishment (6 Sept 2001).

Active members are: HL5AP, HL5UVW, HL5URV, HL5BUV, HL5FRF, DS5OYE, DS5GTC, DS5DWD, DS5ADV, HL5JTP, HL5BM and DS5AJT.

Applications to: Byon-Joo Cho, HL5AP. Busan Telegraph Club, PO Box 41, South Pusan, 613-6009, Korea.

\$7.00 or 10 IRC.

14th Asian games special award extended to end of 2003 checked with website <http://ham.or.kr>

VIRUS ALERT

The following from our web-master Andy, G0JLX:

Win32.Mimail.A is a worm that spreads using its own SMTP engine (that's the email protocol we all use). It's characteristics are that it appears to come from:

admin @ your_own_email_address_domain and it carries an attachment called message.zip

If it has infected your machine, look for: \windows\eml.tmp directory for Win98 + ME + XP etc \winnt\eml.tmp directory for Win NT + 2000 etc for exe.tmp file or zip.tmp file

I have now downloaded a standalone cleaner for this pervasive little bug, and the cleaner is completely independent of all anti-virus software. If anybody wants a copy, please visit our website and download cleaner.zip which will be available from 2359 hrs GMT on Saturday 9th August 2003.

Those of you operating your own anti-virus software, firewalls and email sweepers, will probably find that providing they are fairly current, you will be trapping this bug already, so the above cleaner is really aimed at members who do not have these defences in place.

Full information on the bug (including a complete list of its names + effects) is available at www.ca.com.au and by following the link to the virus information encyclopaedia.er.zip which will be available from 2359 hrs GMT on Saturday 9th August 2003.

And for those of you who visualised him as a long-haired pot-smoking nerd, here is a recent photograph which arrived prior to a brief but enjoyable visit to HQ in which he is devoid of the foliage that hitherto adorned his chops. I managed to edit out the police ID boards Andy!

And don't forget Andy's QRS sessions:

3.595 at 1830 local clock time on Mon, Tues, Wed + Thurs (normally). Currently running at 18wpm + 26wpm inter-char Farnsworth spacing. Another couple of weeks at 18s, then up to 20wpm + 28/30wpm Farnsworth. 4 weeks at that, then back to 5wpm + 12wpm Farnsworth for the new learners.



THE DX STUFF

Sep 04/07, Mexico, XF1K, XE2ED, XE2K, XE2ZY

Sep 08/20, Balarics, EA6

Sep 09/12, Swaziland, 3DA0MT (focused on WARC)

Sep 09/16, Turks & Caicos, VP5 (prime 6m - others if closed)

Sep 13/16, Seychelles, S79IRN

Sep 15/22, Sierra Leon, 9L1JT (40/10M mainly CW)
 Sep 16/22, Svalbard, JW, (numerous JW calls)
 Sep 16/23, Mayotte, FH, (FH/call)
 Sep 18/Oct 03, Austral Isles, (FO/call)
 Sep 19/26, Market Reef, OJOLA,
 Sep 23/27, Seychelles, S79RN
 Sep 27/Oct 10, Annobon Isl, 3C0+F,A,R,V
 Sep 30/Oct 17, Myanmar, XZ7A

MORSUM MAGNIFICAT



Samuel F.B. Morse
1791-1872

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ONE MASTED SLOOP

Well, that is the title offered by QST in the April 2002 edition but it is the choice of Ned, EI5DS, who photocopied the article for me. QST being what they are, I am reluctant to reproduce it for fear of a legal backlash but basically it is quad loop comprising 136ft of wire. The bottom corner is secured to a post about 7ft high whilst the top corner is supported by a 30-40ft mast or any other convenient support (a tree branch for instance) sufficient distance from the base that the plane of the loop is around 30 or 40 degrees from horizontal. It is fed at the top end with coax and performs well on all bands from 40m up. For those of you who have sufficient real estate for this or possible field day or portable operation (you will need some 30-40ft at the bottom end to spread support line) I have scanned the layout and it is here as a .BMP file.

DUPLICATE NUMBERS

Much of the confusion concerning what appears to be a kokup when duplicate numbers appear in the listings comes mainly from our newer members who are unaware that these are pinned to an existing members' alternative calls. This is the most straight forward way of handling these situations since no additional subs are demanded.

PY

KEYS AND PADDLES

All items hand-crafted with the skill of a trained engineer. Also miniature versions which are much acclaimed throughout the world.

SAE/IRC TO:
41 Mill Dam Lane, Burscough, ORMSKIRK, L40 7TG
Tel: 01704-884299
e-mail: g4zpy@lineone.net
<http://website.lineone.net/-g4zpy/index.htm>

LOST FOREVER?

It is some six months or more since I woke one morning too find the rubberised end-cap of my 40/80 mag loop missing. Could have been high wind that lifted it or even some prankster with a stick but I am at a loss to replace it. Currently looking for anything that will serve the purpose including all manner of domestic nylon ware but all to no avail. Bill, G0JWB, has the same

FISTS CW CLUB NEWS LETTER

antenna in bits so was able to accurately measure the outside diameter of the (suspect polyurethane) casing as 8.75 inches but have drawn a blank even on the internet since I don't really know how to describe the missing item. If anyone knows what it is and where I can expect to buy another from I would be most grateful. It is used but rarely and is more or less a prop in case my W3DZZ goes belly up.

PY

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L/H WEEKEND

Heard a number of lightship/lighthouse stations on 40m but only managed to work a handful since I was QRL with other matters. Was nice to work the Scarborough gang again since I had switched on specifically to do this with excellent signal conditions. Checked 30m early Saturday evening with no joy but surprised to hear a watery signal from JA working into Scandinavia. Great stuff but it kinda took the wind out of my sales when our Finnish friend reported the JA as 579. Really am gonna have to do something about an antenna for this band. The W3DZZ is not in the least bit happy with it and I need to use the FC902 Yaesu tuner to get a reasonable VSWR. Comfortingly, the HF mag loop bounces like a rubber ball on 18 and 24 MHz but of course activity at this time of the year is minimal to say the least. Hi.

SKW

As detailed in last month's Keynote, pse remember the Straight Key week. 0001 on 7 Sept to 2359 on 13 Sept. It is to be hoped that the band conditions have improved by this time.

THE SLOB

Note the upright and attentive and alert pose. My philosophy - if it ain't functional, ditch it. 'nuff said. Photo courtesy of G0JLX.



FINALE

Sri folks. Little adrift with this one and need to get it to the G0JLX and others but will try and improve for next month. 73/88, have fun and stay sober.

Geo