

International Morse Preservation Society



KEY NOTE



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

<http://www.fists.co.uk>

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: M5AGL

15a Buckden Rd., BRAMPTON, PE18 4PR

COMMITTEE

Chairman
Vice Chairman
P.R.O.
Secretary

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@comcast.net>
written logs to HQ. No charges and no return
envelope required.

SUBS: e-mail Keynote £4.00, UK mail £5.00, EEC mail £7.00. Others £10.00. Your renewal date appears on the mailing label and your anticipation would be much appreciated. Cheques should be made payable to just FISTS and sent to G3ZQS.

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

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

QSL Cards £6.00 per 100 or £10.00 per 200 (UK and EU pse add £1.00 for p/p. DX members - on advice.

Personalised stickers £1.00 per sheet of 65. Max order 5 sheets.

Please include your CALLSIGN on all correspondence.

Useful contacts:

M0AVW 01642-869619 <m0avw1@ntlworld.com>

M0AYI Glenn@m0ayi.freeseve.co.uk

M5AGL bobm5agl@btopenworld.com

M0ZAK jim.steel@ntlworld.com

fortunate to get away with only a couple of inches. And this is **summer?**

In a 40m QSO with G4RNB, I learned - before he faded to zero - that Ron, G0VTN, having read of my encounter with the tarmac attempted to emulate the same ballet style moves (difficult when supported with a pair of sticks) only to find himself in hospital with a busted hip. At the time of writing, I have good reports of progress from his better half who tells me he no longer resembles a plumbers nightmare and has been shifted to a non-critical ward. Judging from her description of the pins, screws and other hardware which now share his pelvic area, he could be self resonant on one of the HF bands. Even though present band conditions mean that I will not be able to insult him on the same regular basis as before, I very much look forward to hearing him again.

A complimentary CD from Picnic Publishing in JA arrived which was choc full of jpeg files showing all manner of keys and paddles. Included was a range of kit from G4ZPY though a phone call from Gordon indicated that he was very much QRL with a significant back-log of orders and that indifferent health has restricted the time available to build. They also kindly included a brief run-down of FISTS and in particular, FISTS E.A. Sorry that I have to be the bearer of bad tidings but a phone call from Geoff's daughter told me that G4DNC had suffered a severe stroke and at her request, he has been removed from the active list. According to records, Geoff was born in 1920 and at such an age, a stroke of any severity is more than enough to handle.

18MHz was perhaps the best I have heard it so far this year and I collected a small bunch of JA calls on the mag loop. The bad news is that none of 'em were FISTS but I keep trying.

Chuck (M0AVW) was obliged to wheel his computer to an expert for the second time in 12 months. Same problem I fear - someone dumped a virus on him which brings to mind one of our members (GW3SB) who reviewed his phone bill and found entries of £20.00 to a premium number (the virus activated his modem when he logged on to the web). He arranged with BT to block any calls to such numbers and tells me that one poor soul he knows lost £1500.00 with the same virus. Be warned. BT does **not** have a sympathetic ear. Also BT's ISP (btinternet) lacks an intelligent approach to consolidating information. In June, fearing a possible fraud, I asked my credit card company to change my number. In July BT-Yahoo warned me that my account had become overdue. I gave 'em my new number and everything was fine - until August that is when my account was closed without warning. I phoned their 08nn number pdq and "Your account is overdue" said the man (in Delhi judging by the accent). The regime insists that the right hand must **never** know what the left hand is doing so it took all of 8 hours and numerous telephone calls before I was able to collect/despatch my email. BT's fault service surpassed itself when two lads were removing the offending Ivy and successfully removed the phone cable from my gable end. My son-in-law reported it to faults who said that they had tested it and there was "nothing at all wrong with it". We knew there was nothing wrong up to the point of entry and it took

QSL BUREAU

All outgoing QSLs to M0AVW (address on banner).

UK members send stamps and labels (no envelopes necessary) to the appropriate sub-manager as below:

M or 2 Prefixes (Except for Wales) M0AYI. 7 Tynedale Terrace, Annfield Plain, STANLEY, DH9 7TZ.

G0, GM0 etc (Except GW0). G3JRY. 3 Rochford Cresc, BOSTON, PE21 9AE

G3, GM3 etc (except GW3). G0UQF. 2 East St, Darfield, BARNESLEY, S73 9AE.

G4, GM4 etc (Except GW4). M0ZAK. 6 Central Ave, SHEPSHED, LE12 9HP.

G1, G2, G5, G6, G7, G8 (Except for Wales) and **ALL** special (GB etc) calls to M0BPT. 38 Wheatley St, WEST BROMWICH, B70 9TJ.

All members in Wales. M0AVW. Address on Banner

Pre-paid postal subscriptions

EU/DX Members: IRCs, UK Banknotes US dollars or Euros 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

Well, August has been a funny old month to say the least. The bands have been up and down with DX openings late evening and high noise levels particularly on 40/80 whilst we have been graced with a few occasions when those bands at least have reverted to a more acceptable norm. The weather has been no less predictable with an entire Cornish village virtually destroyed and the same extremes brought out rescue helicopters to pluck stranded people from land slides and flash floods. As some of you may know, my house is some 100 feet above the valley floor but in a mere 20 minute downpour the moorland dumped four feet of water into neighbours basements whilst I considered myself

a further 3 hours in a queue to convince them that there was **no** telephone line connected to the house. They eventually fixed it **five days later**. Whaddya mean I'm a BT cynic? Grrrr! Sure you all know that feeling that getting out of bed in the first place was a bad idea - trouble is that you can hardly stay in bed for a whole month.

For information, I have not had any response at all to the "for sale" item (filters) of last month so they are still awaiting a new home.

JULY LADDER RETURNS

Total scores.

CALL.	POINTS.	CALL.	POINTS.
G4LHI.	37.	G4LHI.	278.
M0RHB.	27.	M5ABN.	179.
GW4HDB.	17.	M0RHB.	135.
M0DRK.	11.	G0VSS.	108.
2E0EUK.	10.	M3GBT.	81.
GI4CBG.	10.	GI4CBG.	67.
M5ABN.	8.	M0DRK.	62.
GU4HUY.	7.	2E0EUK.	62.
GX2HDF.	5.	M5BRY.	61.
G8XGQ.	4.	M0CMQ.	45.
M0CMQ.	2.	M5AGL.	44.
		GX2HDF.	43.
		GU4HUY.	39.
		OH7QR.	38.
		GW4HDB.	17.
		G8XGQ.	16.
		PA3AFF.	4.

It seems the Saturday was the best of the two days this month from the returns received with G4LHI Peter top.

Fred 2E0EUK tells me he is working with less than 4 watts for his points until he has finished building a new amplifier, well done Fred. Welcome to Mike GW4HDB for his first return in ladder. It's soon going to be time to plan the contests for next year, I have tried with the ladder to make it more open for every one to have a go, and it appears contesting is not for most of you as I get an average 12 returns from over 1200 EU Fists members. So it's up to you all to have your say. Please let me have your thoughts on the ladder, do you want a rest for a year or a quarterly ladder rather than a monthly one.

I would like your suggestions on the ladder and other contests by the end of September please. Do remember these contests are meant to be fun and friendly as well as competitive to promote Fists and the use of CW.

So 73's for now de Bob M5AGL.

CHANGE OF CALL

M3WSZ Alan may now be recognised as 2E0MZX having recently obtained an intermediate ticket.

F5NQL

The first QSL card received for CW contacts with Vincent FO5RN arrived this morning. It was a FISTS card from Gary K7ZAD. I ask Gary (and others) to be patient as the cards are currently being designed in Papeete whilst the printer IK1PML is expected to deliver them to me by mid October for the Ham expo in Auxerre. Vincent will be active each morning around 0330 utc. Look for him CW on 20m.

By error it was wrote a wrong date in our last message, about the staying of Christophe, F4DZY, as TK/F4DZY in Corsica.

Christophe will be TK/F4DZY, from the 8th to the 22nd of September.

From France :

The annual meeting of the French DX Club, "The Clipperton DX Club" (-CDXC-), will be held in Malataverne, (South of Lyon, SE of France), the 18th of September.

The morning meeting will continue in the afternoon with numerous DXpédition reports and films projections as T33C Banaba, TO4E / TO4WW, Europa 2003, 5V7C Togo, Mexican Islands and IOTA., will follow.

The usual "Doctorate of DX" examination and the Pile up CW and SSB test will follow.

Awards, Diploms and other certificates will be given at the end of the Meeting.

The special callsign TM8CDX will be aired for that event from the 4th to the 18th of September

QSL via Rafiq, F5CQ.

More information at : <http://www.cdxc/>

From Italy

The annual meeting of the Italian Castles Award Society, will happen on the next 18 and 19 of September, in Mondovi (Province of Cunéo).

During the whole week end, the special callsign II1DC will be active. Activation by visitors possible (don't forget your licence)

Checking of DCI cards.

Checking of DXCC cards by I1MQP.

More information at : <http://www.dcia.it>.

Received from Yuki, JI6KVR

DS1NPP, DS4NMJ, DS5EVU, DS5LRJ and 6K5TET will be active as D88DX from Sonanji Island (AS-080) on 13-16 August. They will operate on 80-10 metres CW, SSB. QSL via DS3FGV. For further information please visit

<http://www.59dx.com/>

Received from Salvatore, IK1AWV

Dear friends,

I wish remember that, if you have qso with DCI operators who ask for direct qsl only, please don't send qsl, because these activities will not be ratified, as in award rules, and qsls cannot be credited for the award.

(For instance: IT9GL from TP 011 and TP012 August 08 2004 - IT9FXV is not the manager)

Please in these cases, don't lost time, money and qsls

IK1AWV STAFF D.C.I.

Received from Christophe, F5UBH:

For the International Lighthouses week end

The F6KUM ARS team will be active from the Cap d'Ailly Lighthouse, PB 009, FRA 012. - 49°55'N 0°57'E

Jean, F5IRC will be active from the Antifer lighthouse, (activation in HF for the first time), PB 050, FRA 220. - 49°29'N 0°05'E.

From the last ARRL letter :

Operations approved for DXCC credit:

Effective immediately, the ARRL DXCC Branch will accept QSLs for operation taking place in the

Somaliland (northwestern Somalia) and Puntland (northeastern Somalia) autonomous areas as well as the southern and central areas of Somalia. Operations possessing written permission from any recognized authority that is acknowledged to be in control of a particular region will be accredited. These QSLs will count for the Somali Democratic Republic (Somalia).

QSLs for past operations will be accepted where proper documentation has been submitted.

This is subject to change based on future developments in Somalia.

SCAG JUBILEE AWARDS

SCAG, the Scandinavian CW Activity Group, is celebrating its 30th anniversary with a new board, a new drive for membership and two special CW awards for 2004.

SCAG 30. Work 30 points in 2004 by working the eight special Swedish SC-calls, SC0AG-SC7AG (5 points per QSO), and/or SCAG members (2 Points per QSO). The same station can be worked on different bands. A list of SCAG members can be found on the SCAG website, www.scag.se Cost of award, US\$4, 3 IRC, or 3 Euro.

SCAG 30 ON 30. Work 30 different DXCC countries/entities on the 30m band (10.1 MHz). This award is free of charge. Closing date for applications for both awards 28th February 2005.

The awards manager is OZ5RM. The QSL manager for all SC-calls is SM6CTQ. Further information is available on the SCAG website.

Thanks to Tony G4FAI for the info.

OZZIES CHASING FIVE TON

Australian amateurs plan to stake a claim on the international distress frequency of 500KHz (popularly known as five ton) which will probably be abandoned by China - its only remaining

user - in 2005. 500 kHz has been instrumental in saving tens of thousands of lives in the last 100-odd years. It is thus fitting that the frequency be preserved as a 'spectrum national park' to commemorate those who made the supreme sacrifice in its use. The best way to do this is to establish a small slice of spectrum around 500 kHz - probably 495 to 510 kHz - as an amateur radio band. The band would also provide a unique opportunity for experimentation with antennas, propagation, advanced narrow band modulation techniques and receiver digital signal processing. A number of US groups have also expressed an interest in the frequency.

WI-FI VERSUS BPL

Spokane, Washington in company with other US towns and cities has opted for Wi-Fi over B-P-L. This as that city inaugurates a wireless Internet access system covering 100 blocks of downtown Spokane.

The wireless zone uses new technology that allows Internet signals to be transmitted more than a mile. This is far beyond the traditional 200- to 300-foot range of previous Wi-Fi systems. The Wi-Fi area is divided into a private network for use by the city and an open network for the public. Public users can connect for two hours a day at no charge, and subscription plans are in the works for extended use.

In fact, a couple of amateurs in the US recently established a record of over 500Km for a wi-fi contact and with these sort of ranges, BPL begins to look less and less favourable especially given the interference it can cause to HF broadcasts and even VHF FM. We wait to see.

Report from Amateur Radio Newline.

SPECIAL CALL

For info I have the use of the call sign, MXISWL/P courtesy of the ISWL for the month of September. Got some time off and hope to be active on Hf. Six and Qrp, grandkids permitting !!. Merv G0UJD Fists 01680 G-QRP 9220

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

6Y5WJ. Josh had rather special visitors recently in the form of his Daughter and hubby on honeymoon.

M0BHE. Malcolm is getting a wee bit fed up of with a few poorly trained people "since they started giving HF licences away" and fears that we are rapidly approaching the status of Citizens Band. Not as noticeable on CW he confesses except when one of them ignores the band plans and swamps QRP CW with QRO SSB. Guess we have always had our 'idiots' Malcolm but the relaxation has certainly not helped. We can only keep our fingers crossed and hope they learn.

G3VUN. Thank you for your obs Gloria and yes I could have made a better choice of word here. Forgotten the source of the information now but it was I am sure widely distributed before it arrived on my desk. By the way, your copy of this letter to G4YLB never reached him... the magic word FISTS on the envelope caused the local sorting office to redirect it here. Must be earning some sort of notoriety with the blue clad guys. Hi.

G0HYT. Due to his wife's poor state of health, Patrick has been virtually QRT for the past couple of years but is now making time to be more active on HF. Spending some time with a Datong tutor in an effort to regain his 15-18 wpm reading speed. Shouldn't be too difficult Patrick.. rather like riding a bike - you never forget how to fall off!

G0FVS. Jim follows up on his book outlining his service in RAF "The Blue Uniform" with an appropriately titled "The Trilby Hat" detailing life after demob. He still signs himself Peter Jackson on the cover which did cause some confusion in his previous book. I understand he is hunting for an ordnance survey (1900) of Colwick Loco - the loco works near Netherfield - to aid his recollections. Does this appear in any member's archives I wonder? "Do you know your neighbour" is really a tribute to Cmdr Andrew Clark ISM, DSM MBE treated discourteously by the locals as being someone with a wandering mind, he was an official photographer at Hiroshima; haunted by memories of what he saw there.

G3CWW. Tony's alternative passion is working in wood and with a garage full of timber collected over many years, a period

of non-activity was largely due to re-vamping his shack. He anticipates being QRV again this month. "*The work gets harder as the years pass but I am still enjoying it*".

M0CHQ. Together with Les G3VQQ, Mark has been taking part RSGB 80m CC with 220 points so far (largely down to Les he confesses) in the name of FISTS.

I2VRF. It was a disappointment when Gian resigned. This was because his condition was not improving and he found himself lying in bed with no prospect of ever being able to leave it. Since then however his situation has improved and he is able to operate after a fashion albeit with something like 4m of twin twist paddles and rig. The chief drawback is that he must rely on his wife to tune the rig. It is hoped that this situation can be improved since the rig is some 4m distant and although his wife is able to tune the ICOM per frequencies fixed in memory the Drake is a different matter. He was encouraged by the cards with messages of goodwill from many friends and members. We all hope your recovery continues Gian and of course it is great to welcome you back aboard..

G3WP. Jack has recently spent 10 days in hospital due to pneumonia. Still not back to his normal self but improving steadily. Odd thought... I remember as a child creating hysteria when pneumonia was mentioned and asking if there was any difference between that and old monia. Young and innocent, the question was not contrived.

G3LPS. Our Eric has recently returned from a 3 weeks holiday in the US built round an East to West coast rail trip which included a couple of nights aboard the RMS Queen Mary. Among the volunteers operating the station and showing visitors around are two members of the QM radio club (W6RO) both FISTS members. One was Jack WA6LOH though he is unsure of the callsign of the other.



G3LPS IN R/O (QUEEN MARY)

ANOTHER CHANGE OF CALL

Arthur M3BDU, has upgraded and his call is now 2E0BDU.

THE DX STUFF

Again not too much to shout about but I managed to dig these few off the web:

- Sep03/12, 3DAO, Swaziland
- Sep10/18, FP, St Pierre & Miquelon
- Sep12/19, HB0, Lichtenstein
- Sep22/29, PJ4, Netherland Antilles
- Sep23/26, OJ0YC, Market Reef
- Sep25/Oct16, VK9L, Lord Howe Isl

As usual, these are announced operations which include CW though there were a more with no indication of mode or non-cw stuff.

OH2 BEACON REACTIVATED

Finland's OH2B beacon is back on the air after an absence of two years.

OH2B is one of the eighteen stations in the world-wide five-

band International Beacon Project network. It has already been heard in the UK on 14.100, 18.110, 21.150, 24.930 and 28.200 Mhz. (GB2RS)

SOMALIA GIVES HAM RADIO INCREASED POWER LIMITS

This item was forwarded by a regular US watchdog WB2FXK and I found it so difficult to believe that I just had to share it. *And finally this week, the ARRL Board Meeting was not the only place where things where ham radio changes were happening last week. Another was the nation of Somalia which has acted to grant its ham radio population a power increase to 3 kilowatts. Thats right. We said 3000 Wats and thats 3000 P-E-P for SSB and 3000 watts average for other modes. Somalia is also letting hams use of the 88 to 108 Mhz band for FM and permitting Amateur Television broadcasts to be conducted on any unoccupied standard VHF or UHF television channel. WIA newscaster Graham Kemp, VK4BB, has more:*

Yes the Ministry of Information, Telecommunication and Culture in Somalia has made these changes and more as part of action to implement the W-R-C 2003 accords.

And the Ministry has also made additional frequency allocations for amateur radio experimenters in Somalia. Radio Amateurs in that nation can operate on additional bands including Zero to 9 Kilohertz, from 70 to 90 Kilohertz and 130 to 190 Kilohertz. On Medium Wave, frequencies include 495 to 526 Kilohertz, while on the High Frequencies the hams of Somalia get 5.060 to 5.450 MHz and 26.100 to 29.700 MHz excluding 27.995 the sliver band from to 27.999.

This Ministry is promoting Somalia as the best holiday and research destination for visiting radio amateurs. This, as a way of attracting skilled people to help the local Somali people become ham radio operators. Abdikariim Ali Sulatn in Puntland State Somalia confirmed again that Aussie Amateur Sam Voron, 6OA, will continue to conduct ham radio license qualifying courses and issue amateur radio licenses free of charge "in the name of this Ministry" until a national Somali Amateur Radio Society is formed.

And, oh yes. If you are planning to go there, a Somali Visitors Amateur Radio License is now issued to any class of overseas amateur radio license holder as a courtesy. It is free of charge and issued for life unless cancelled by the Somali Government. Talk about an inducement to visit a far off land.

According to a Somali spokesman, as of now, no other country provides radio amateurs with more frequencies or a higher transmitter power output. He added that Somalia welcomes visiting radio amateurs from throughout the world. (WIA News)

G0JLX

From our webmaster:

It is with great sadness that I have to announce the death of my father, who although not an Amateur, was a first class radio telegraphist with the Royal Signals 1939-1945 and POW in Thailand's Chang Mai, who was forced to work on the infamous Railway of Death and the real Bridge over the River Quai.

And even at 80, he could still send and receive CW with the greatest of ease and smoothness.

Eric Horace Digby, 23 July 1921 - 4th August 2004. Silent Key. 73's Andy Digby, G0JLX FISTS 358.

NEW MEMBERS

Not too many this month I fear but we can't expect shed loads every time:

10837 SV1JSB	Andreas	10838 ON6CN	Carlos
10839 ON7JA	Jan	10840 G0CPZ	Bruce
10841 2E0AFP	Bob		

GM0NTR

There could be problems contacting Jim, GM0NTR since he is not QRV on the net. Having met up with him recently at a mobile setup for the lighthouses weekend, she offers to act as contact with her own email address. She is off to Rhodes for a few weeks however so will be unavailable until 21 October. Meanwhile you still have Jim's address as before.

Hi George, thanks for that. Details as follows: Icom IC703 complete with CW filter. The rig is in mint condition with over

4 years extended warranty transferable. First offer of £500 with transport etc. arranged. Contact Jim, GM0NTR, 17b High St., Oban, PA34 4BG or gm0erv@dsl.pipex.com Oct. 21st or after. Thanks again, 73/88 Shirley GM0ERV.

Sounds like quite a nice deal and surely worth a stamp.

MYSTERIES OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY

The new office temp was a sweet young thing - all curves and eyelashes and much admired by the male members of the office staff.

When the manager found her in tears he attempted to play the knight in shining armour. "Good heavens Miss Fenner - what ever is wrong".

"It's this fax machine she said. I was told to send this document but it doesn't seem to be working"

The manager asked her to go through the routine so he could perhaps see what she was doing wrong.

First she put the document on the input tray and then dialled the number. The input rollers gathered up the document and delivered it into the out tray.

"That's perfect" said the manager.

"No it's not" blubbered the temp, "Look.... it's still there".

FINALE

Cor! It's another bank holiday. Never mind, it may give me a little more time to get on the bands since there will be an extra day with no mail. Trouble is I shop on Mondays and Thursdays (the latter being the day I do whatever business is necessary at the post office) so tomorrow I shall have to buy in an extra four days of food. If they must have 'em then why can't they make it Tuesday instead?

G3LPS enlarges a little on his recent trip and subsequent 2-night stay the "Hotel Queen Mary" at Long Beach. It easily equates with a 4 or 5 star hotel, roomy 'cabins' and two excellent restaurants. He missed out on what could have been the most exciting part of the rail journey however due to line work being undertaken on the final leg. For this most fascinating section of the line, buses replaced the comforts of the rail carriages though he still made me very envious.

Sorry. I am stuck for time again since I need to get this one into the hands of the printer for thursday or the aforementioned bank holiday may well mean an unwelcome delay.

Hope to meet up with some of you over the weekend.

73/88 people have fun and stay sober.

Geo