

BRASSPOUNDER

January 2017, Issue 104



Welcome to this edition of *BrassPounder*, which covers FISTS CW Club Europe's [on-air activities](#) during December 2016. This month it includes results for Straight Key Week 2016 and the final 2016 Ladder results.

Firstly, funny story (sort of); when running the program that creates the tables of results and comments for December, I got nothing – zilch – blank.

After a short period of panic, I realised that I had asked the program for the results in December **2017** – oops! Mrs ZOD, who is a lot wiser than I am, when told of my woes immediately replied:

“You typed in 2017 instead of 2016, didn’t you?”



This is Mike GOPOT's PB213 straight key, made by FISTS member Phil GONVT. Its design is based on the much-admired Marconi PS213 key.

You can see [photographs of Phil's beautiful keys](#) on his website.

Propagation during 2016 was less than ideal, particularly on 40m, but nevertheless QSOs took place and we have a healthy Ladder table to finish off the year. Similarly, there were a pleasing number of entries in Straight Key Week. I have a suspicion that 80m might prove more fruitful for intra-UK QSOs during 2017 daylight hours, but hopefully 20m will continue to be a useful band.

Nobody has come forward who is in a position to take over the full role as the club's "Activities Manager". I had hoped to recruit from the band of participants, but as this hasn't worked out, I will advertise more widely. After some soul searching and consultation with the ever-wise Mrs ZOD, I decided that I would organise the Ladder for 2017 and continue producing *BrassPounders*, but the latter will have to be minimalistic to free up time until we can get help; it'll probably just contain the tables of comments and scores.

If you want to use the [FISTS Log Converter program](#) for Windows to submit logs for the 2017 [FISTS Ladder](#), [EuCW Snakes & Ladders](#), and [EuCW QRS Week](#) activities, you need to have installed [version 3.4.0 or later](#) of the program.

With that, let's move on to the important part – the results!

Ladder 2016 Results

Here are the comments received:

Entrant	Comments
Robert DM4RW	HNY! It's not much, but maybe it'll lift me a bit up the rank. 73, Robert
Richard G0ILN	Not a very good score this month mostly down to Christmas day; conditions were not good. But Hey Ho it's Christmas. Best wishes to everyone for the New Year. Richard G0ILN Fist 398
Chris G3XVL	Happy New Year to all!
Graham G3ZOD & MX5IPX	Station: 20 Watts into a indoor wire aerial (a very bent "doublet!") I look forward to meeting up with everyone in the 2017 Ladder. 73 de Graham G3ZOD
Peter G4LHI	I attach my log for the last Fists Ladder for 2016. Tuff going with poor band condx & contest on Sunday 11th, but enjoyed the challenge. I also worked one new Fists Club member enjoying the Ladder. May I take this opportunity to thank you Graham for the effort you have put into the Fists Activities for so many years & to wish you both a Merry Xmas & a peaceful & healthy 2017. de Peter G4LHI # 2219 k
John G7JMZ	Just one scoring QSO, but it was great fun.
Vanni I5ECW	Hello guys. This is the last 2016 entry. A little disappointed for missing 500 points. hi! Really poor conditions in December, especially the Xmas day. Let me wish to everybody a happy new year.
Emil I5EFO	Happy 2017. 73 Emil I5EFO
Daniele IK0NOJ	Not good conditions / propagation. 73 DE IK0NOJ
Derek M0DRK	Hi Graham. A very Happy 2017 to you and Mrs ZOD. Please find my log for the December ladder. Still a struggle with condx as they are. I look forward to taking part in this year's Ladder Activity. Many thanks for all the hard work you put in during last year and I fully support you in the way that things will be from now on. Hopefully you will have more time for yourself to do as you please and will be able to get on the radio as well. Take Care Graham and very 73 for now, Derek, M0DRK, 8344
Steve M0SHM	Heavy QRN on top of local QRM for afternoon and evening sessions.

Pete M5ABN	Please find my Ladder log for December. Shame the second Sunday fell on Xmas day and due to family commitments prevented my taking part. All the very best to you and your family for the New Year. 73 Pete M5ABN #6423
Mark M6MEN	A quiet month for me. HI. Thank you and a very happy new year.
Jarmo OH2BN	Here's wishing you, one and all, a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Hoping to meet up with you again every now and then on the FISTS ladder in 2017! 73 - Jarmo OH2BN FISTS #16593
Andy SP9NLI	Happy New Year to all!

Ladder table:

Callsign	Position	Previous	Move	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
I5ECW	1	1	-	493	36	46	30	42	41	50	41	39	44	58	40	26
G4LHI	2	2	-	385	36	44	34	30	30	35	23	27	31	40	30	25
M5ABN	3	3	-	372	17	39	38	33	37	21	27	44	27	35	40	14
G0ILN	4	4	-	363	22	32	42	23	29	29	28	31	35	43	31	18
2E0DPH	5	=5	-	290	27	41	24	26	20	21		18	34	37	28	14
OH7QR	6	=5	↓	288	34		18	35	35	33		33	41	31	16	12
G3XVL	7	7	-	277	24	31	34	23	12	21	24	32		30	27	19
I5EFO	8	8	-	268		18	22	18	21	25	25	28	34	28	36	13
SP9NLI	9	9	-	258	20	28	19	20	32	30	18	13	26	34	8	10
M0DRK	10	10	-	229	21	23	23	16	8	22	9	16	20	31	22	18
OH2BN	11	11	-	126	16		8	10	13	20	8	10	11	12	6	12
M6MEN	12	12	-	103	8		2	12	17	6	2	12	16	4	14	10
M0GGK	13	13	-	88	4	24	8	8	20	3	8	13				
F5OGJ	14	14	-	67	26	28			4	5					4	
IK0NOJ	15	17	↑	56	40											16
G4RHR	16	15	↓	50				7				10	12	21		
EA4BL	17	16	↓	46	6		10	14	14			2				
DM4RW	18	=21	↑	38	10	8	2							10		8
G0POT	=19	=18	↓	35		24	11									
G4IZZ	=19	=18	↓	35	15	20										
G3ZRJ	21	20	↓	33			5	4	8	16						
HA7HF	22	=21	↓	30		10						10	10			
DK3DUA	=23	-	↑	28												28
G4KLE	=23	23	-	28		28										
G3ZOD	25	24	↓	26							4	10	10			2
G0DDX	26	25	↓	20	8		12									
IU1DZZ	=27	=26	↓	18		8	8	2								
OZ8AGB	=27	=26	↓	18	4		2		4	4	2			2		
G0OTT	29	28	↓	15			15									
G4FWA	30	29	↓	12	6	6										
G0HGH	31	30	↓	11			11									
G4LRG	=32	-	↑	10												10
GW0VLN	=32	31	↓	10		4	4	2								
DM5RS	34	32	↓	9			9									
G7JMZ	=35	=35	-	6								4				2
M0SHM	=35	=35	-	6									4			2
SM7DUZ	=35	33	↓	6								6				
SV2BBK	=35	=38	↑	6											2	4
OK1PSI	39	34	↓	5										5		
EI6KH	40	=35	↓	4					4							
PA1FOX	41	=38	↓	2		2										
ON6PJ	42	40	↓	1					1							
MX5IPX				34								12	18	2		2
GX0IPX				5									5			

*=Check log

In this final month for 2016, we welcomed Tom DK3DUA and John G4LRG to the Ladder.

Here are the winners – congratulations to you!

Category: Overall:

- 1st place: **Vanni I5ECW**
- 2nd place: **Peter G4LHI**
- 3rd place: **Pete M5ABN**

Category: Entrants located outside DXCC entity 223 (England):

- 1st place: **Vanni I5ECW**
- 2nd place: **Erkki OH7QR**
- 3rd place: **Emil I5EFO**

Over the year, 44 different callsigns sent in logs in the 2016 Ladder, which is up from 33 in 2015; this is very pleasing and I hope that 2017 will be as successful. A very big thank you to everyone who participated and I look forward to meeting up with you in the 2017 Ladder.

Straight Key Week 2016 Results

Here are the comments received:

Entrant	Comments
Phil 2E0DPH	Please find my log for the SKW. Due to work commitments it has been very difficult this year to get on air to take part but still good fun when time and conditions allowed. 73 Phil 2E0DPH Fists 14543
Robert DM4RW	Hi Graham, I know it is not a lot, but with little time, bad conditions and QRP-radios, I'm glad I can be part of the game. Best 73 from nr Munich. Robert.
Chris EI6KH	Hi. Here are my 2 qso's for SKW. Not much to show but better than nothing. Happy New Year! Best Regards, Chris.
Gareth G0MFR	Hello. Please find attached a short, but enjoyable, log from this year's Straight Key Week. 73, Gareth G0MFR
Michael G0POT	Conditions were pretty flat here for SKW despite calling every evening. On the 7th the only other station I could hear on 40m was, ironically, another QRP station! de Michael (G0POT)
Chris G3XVL	Most enjoyable event. SM5RV informed me that he was using a Ericsson key from 1894. I tried to use a different SK each day but I don't have any that old!
Peter G4LHI	I attach my log for the Fists SK Week. Tuff going with poor band condx & contest on last two days, but enjoyed the challenge. I also worked four new Fists Club members enjoying the SKW. de Peter G4LHI # 2219 k
John G7JMZ	Just one QSO, but it was great fun.

John GS0AYR	Decided to use local club callsign for Ayr ARG for SKW this year. Many thanks for the QSOs.
Martin IK2RMZ	Hi Graham. This is my SKW entry, 14 QSOs all with non-FISTS. Score is 14 points. Thanks for the organization. 73 de ik2rmz
Erkki OH7QR	Hello Graham. Here comes my log for the SK Week. I met seven (for me) new members. When AH6AX answered my call I was surprised that I got QSO to Hawaii. But it turned up that QTH was MD. Larry had kept his old call!! A DX anyway. Many thanks for your good work for us Graham. I wish you and your family Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2017. 73 Erkki nr 8318
Ron PA3GBY	I enjoyed working club members with my straight keys, although I worked only 4. Sure I will join this activity again next year. Best 73's, Ron PA3GBY
Fanis SV2BBK	This was my first participation in Straight Key Week. Although propagation was not so good, managed to make quite a few contacts and meet some new fists members. Was quite a fun week; really enjoyed it! 73 de Fanis.

Peter G4LHI came top with a decisive lead of twice the number of points as his nearest rival!

Callsign	Position	Points
G4LHI	1	248
G3XVL	2	124
OH7QR	3	113
I5ECW	4	79
SP9NLI	5	48
SV2BBK	6	43
M6MEN	7	34
GS0AYR	=8	33
M0DRK	=8	33
G0MFR	10	32
2E0DPH	11	25
IK2RMZ	12	14
PA3GBY	13	12
DM4RW	=14	6
EI6KH	=14	6
G0POT	16	4
G7JMZ	17	3

Thank you to everyone who participated and congratulations to the winners:

- First place: **Peter G4LHI**
- Second place: **Chris G3XVL**
- Fourth place: **Erkki OH7QR**



Gareth G0MFR's Begali straight key used during Straight Key Week

Thank you to Michael G0POT and Gareth G0MFR for permission to include their photographs.

Ladder 2017

The Ladder in 2017 has two changes to the rules, which are otherwise the same as for 2016.

1. The official last entry date is the 7th of the following month instead of the 5th; this brings it into line with the EuCW Snakes & Ladders last entry dates.
2. The scoring is now:

Points Station

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Non-member. |
| 3 | FISTS member (current or lapsed). |
| 5 | FISTS-affiliated club station. |
| 8 | FISTS HQ station (GX0IPX, GX3ZQS, MX5IPX, VK2FDU, ZL6FF, JL3YMV, KN0WCW). |

FISTS Americas Cumulatives

The results of the [FISTS Americas Cumulatives](http://fistsna.org/pdfdocs/fc_reports/FC_2016_Final.pdf) activity for 2016 are available from here:

http://fistsna.org/pdfdocs/fc_reports/FC_2016_Final.pdf

While no FISTS Europe member won a Vibroplex bug key, **Vanni I5ECW** came very close, just missing out by one place / five points. There are Vibroplex bug keys available for the new 2017 Cumulatives, which run from January to December inclusive. So, everyone has another chance (FISTS club officers excluded).

The next sessions are 2000-2200 UTC on 22 January and 12 February.

Regardless of where you are, please do give it a try – QSOs can be with members of any FISTS “Chapter” or with non-members. It’s along similar lines to the FISTS Europe Ladder with notable differences being that QSOs must be a minimum of 5 minutes long, bands allowed are 80m, 40m, & 20m, and there is a single 2 hour session per Sunday, which occurs in the US afternoon and European evening. The exchange is:

RST, name, QTH or state, and member number (if applicable).

Calling "CQ FISTS" is recommended. FISTS Log Converter includes the 2017 Cumulatives from [version 3.4.0 onwards](#), so if you have an earlier version, please upgrade.

FISTS CW Club DXCC League

This is a reminder about the website page that shows the club's DXCC league, based on data from Club Log. The links to it are:

FISTS Americas: <http://fists.co.uk/dxccleague.aspx?c=am>

FISTS Down Under: <http://fists.co.uk/dxccleague.aspx?c=du>

FISTS East Asia: <http://fists.co.uk/dxccleague.aspx?c=ea>

FISTS Europe: <http://fists.co.uk/dxccleague.aspx?c=eu>

All FISTS Chapters: <http://fists.co.uk/dxccleague.aspx?c=all>

The league includes current (paid-up) members and is in order of the number of "slots", which is the number of DXCC entities worked on CW for each band added together. Bands from 160m to 13cm are included.

QRU?

The [next activities](#) are:

First day	Event	Times
Sun 22 Jan	FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 22 Jan	FISTS Am Cumulatives	2000-2200 UTC
Sun 12 Feb	FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 12 Feb	FISTS Am Cumulatives	2000-2200 UTC
Sun 26 Feb	FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 26 Feb	FISTS Am Cumulatives	2000-2200 UTC

(Eu = Europe, Am = Americas)

That's it for this month. If you'd like to read previous *BrassPounders*, they are [available on the website](#).

Have fun with CW!

73 de Graham G3ZOD
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