



Welcome to this edition of *BrassPounder*, which covers FISTS CW Club Europe's [on-air activities](#).

Comments for January 2018 Ladder

Entrant	Comments
Phil 2E0DPH	HNY to everyone. Some good activity across the bands to start the 2018 Ladder, hope to work you all again during the year. 73 Phil 2E0DPH Fists 14543
Thomas DK3DUA	Happy New Year 2018 to all FISTS and tnx for the QSO's we made. I had much fun in my first year as a FISTS member, hpe cuagn next year. vy73 Tom DK3DUA
Richard G0ILN	After my year as G6HH/a it is nice to be back as G0ILN! Richard
Tony G3ZRJ	Thanks for processing my Ladder entry 73 Tony G3ZRJ 7727
Peter G4LHI	G4LHI. Log for Jan 2018. Enjoyed first ladder of 2018. .Mni tnx to all I had nice QSOS with during 2017 mni tnx Graham, David & Ian
John G4LRG	Evening sessions are becoming very difficult for any Inter-G activity so afternoon sessions work best for me. HNY Everyone.
Emil I5EFO	Many thanks for nice QSOs HPE CUAGN. 73 de Emil I5EFO
Mark M0UZE	Thank you
Pete M5ABN	Good to meet old friends again, look forward to Feb. Vy 73 Pete
Jarmo OH2BN	73 - Jarmo OH2BN FISTS #16593
Erkki OH7QR	Please find attached my log for the first Ladder in 2018. Many thanks to all for QSOs. 73 Erkki OH7QR nr 8318
Michal OK1PSI	FISTS member from 2016-10-28
Joakim SA5ACN	Hello Friends. I made one QSO so it was a 100% success for me. 73 de Joakim/SA5ACN

Results for January 2018 Ladder

Callsign	Posn	Total	Jan
G4LRG	1	58	58
M5ABN	2	48	48
I5ECW	3	47	47
2E0DPH	=4	45	45
G0ILN	=4	45	45
G4LHI	6	44	44
OH7QR	7	40	40
EA7KB	8	29	29
I5EFO	9	27	27
M0DRK	10	26	26
DK3DUA	11	21	21
MW0BGL	12	18	18
G3ZRJ	13	15	15
M0UZE	14	12	12
OK1PSI	15	4	4
OH2BN	=16	3	3
OZ8AGB	=16	3	3
SA5ACN	=16	3	3

Upcoming Events

February 2018

First day	Event	Times
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Sun 11 Feb [FISTS Eu Ladder](#) 1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

Sun 25 Feb [FISTS Eu Ladder](#) 1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

March 2018

First day	Event	Times
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Sun 11 Mar [FISTS Eu Ladder](#) 1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

Sun 25 Mar [FISTS Eu Ladder](#) 1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

Listen for Learners Activity (Provisional – final rules to be published on the website)

DESCRIPTION The idea is for older hands to work newcomers. We encourage listening specifically for newcomers during the periods stated. This is not an award, it's a simple activity.

BANDS Operation only on 160,80,40,20,15,10m bands.

DATES and TIMES Every day, March 2018. Times : 0000, 0300, 0600, 0900, 1200, 1500, 1800, 2100. All times Zulu

FREQUENCIES FISTS CoA.

New members of less than 1 year in FISTS to call CQ LFL Established members, 1 year or more, to avoid calling CQ for 5 minutes on the cardinal times (00,15,30,45). Established QSOs are not expected to cease and if you forget the activity and call CQ, never mind. Members can submit reports of numbers worked, soap-box comments etc. etc.

GENERAL Logs to include callsigns, start and stop times, FISTS Nrs.
For each QSO, please type one of the following single words in your log book's COMMENT or NOTES or equivalent field:
LFLNEW
LFLOLD
The first one (LFLNEW) means that you are a new member.
The second one (LFLOLD) means that you are an established member.

Points awarded 1 per QSO to beginners and 1 per QSO exceeding 10 minutes to older hands.
Points for FISTS:FISTS only.

Please email Activities manager, David G4YVM with any questions: activities@fists.co.uk

Well folks,

Doesn't the ladder look lean??? Can ladders lean? Shouldn't they be leaning a bit? Have I drunk too much wine having escaped Dry January? Interesting that the Ladder accrued rather more logs than did the much loved SKW...can I infer anything from this? I don't think so, I think that SKW-ers simply don't send in logs...but tell me if I am wrong.

Well, I wonder how your February is kicking off? As you will see below I have added a new activity for March called the Listen for Learners challenge. The aim of this is for newcomers to CW to be able to call and get a QSO. Now, I had never considered this an issue but I guess after nearly 40 years of CW we forget how daunting it can be! I was asked by a few members to think about a L4L activity and I think this is the one! On the cardinal times, so 00, 15, 30 and 45 minutes past the hour, all old hands of over a year's CW-ing STOP calling and LISTEN for newbies. Newbies should call CQLFL or CQL4L if they wish (I know what I'd call!) and hopefully a deluge of old 'uns will respond. Do try to keep the newcomer QSO-ing for ten

minutes or more so that they get into the swing of it...one point per QSO over ten minutes. After about 15 minutes you might find the newbie tiring, so prepare for sloppy cw! Another good trick is to ask the newcomer a question: for one thing it proves he is reading the code but the best thing is that he will feel like he's had a real conversation! It could be his age, how long in FISTS or even what he thinks of LFL...anything to make him have a real chat! (I say 'him', it could easily be a YL).

This activity is brand new so reports to me please about how you enjoyed it or how you think it might be improved. It isn't a contest at all and incremental points will be awarded simply by addition so that participants can see how they fared.

Later in the year I shall be unveiling (un-Vail-ing?) a rather exciting activity based around collecting letters to spell famous names. Watch this space!

Has anyone had much success mobile yet this year? I was out again today for an hour with my Icom 706 into a rather interesting Codan antenna. These are the auto tuning antennas used by UN Landrovers etc – see my QRZ page for info. They are fast and effective but mightily pricey! Mine is a borrowed unit and the owner and I are simply playing around with it. It works well and has allowed me to have my first ever (and probably last) truly mobile CW QSO. I was driving around Salisbury Plain away from traffic and chatting on my 8 Amp style key with my left hand. Yes folks, I really was using my left hand! I was pleased with the result to be honest...it's a personal goal achieved.

Have you achieved any of your personal CW goals yet this year...do tell us or tell the new Editor, Rob MOBPT, for inclusion in KN.

That's it for this month, well done to all ladderers and please, please, have a go at the LFL activity and let me know what you think.

73 for now

David G4YVM 15868 activities@fists.co.uk