

BRASSPOUNDER

January 2019, Issue 128



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

Greetings Dear FISTS

Welcome to the first edition of BP for 2019!

As I write this I am getting close to completing my latest project, a Tim Walford designed Radio Transceiver called the Beer and Stout. The Beer is a multi band receiver – sold as a dual bander but upgradeable to three or four bands. I have made mine for 20,30,40 and 80 m. The Stout is a complimentary transmit section which is fitted to convert the thing to transceive mode. The radio was designed from the outset as a cw transceiver so it has no SSB function at all...hurrah!! On the front panel we have sidetone adjust, power adjust and a switchable filter (which IS marked as SSB / CW but is really just wide and narrow). It gives 5 watts out.

Now the sad bit...after Tim had designed it he sold precisely ONE unit! So I have the rarest of commercial kit rigs...serial number 001 of a run of...one. This is fully understandable as Tim says, there are better, cheaper, smaller easier kit radios out there so why would anyone buy this one? Well, for me because it is old fashioned soldering of wire ended components which could teach me a huge amount about home building. And it has, boy oh boy has it.

I have built a fair bit of stuff and a lot of Elecraft but Tim's work isn't in the Elecraft league and I have had to do a fair bit of figuring out sometimes. As mine is essentially beta testing the kit I have had some very deep headscratching times I can tell you...your kit will benefit! If you like receiving big bags of components that build into a rather decent CW radio, this could be a nice project for you. It is not a first build, but if you've got a decent soldering technique and know a diode from a resistor, it could be a fun summer project. You won't see this kit on his website, <http://www.walfords.net>, because he took it off as it just wasn't selling: but you wouldn't be disappointed if you emailed him and bought one. I hope mine is ready to operate in the next few nights. I will perhaps add more to a KN article.

Well, enough of that. Onto the last years league...as it stands now we have:

Leaders – located anywhere section: **1st G4LRG, 2nd G0ILN, 3rd G4LHI.**

Leaders – located outside England section: **1st I5ECW, 2nd DL3HR, 3rd OH7QR.**

All I can say is a terrific 'well done' to all concerned: band condx were atrocious sometimes as we all know and yet some great scores were achieved. I know from comments and emails that you all enjoyed the various activities.

Right now we are into the start of the [Winter Sports](#) activity and of course the [Ladder](#) starts again. I am still not changing the ladder as it seems to suit all those who enjoy it and I have had no requests for change.

I am thinking of future activities and one of them, a sort of radio hopscotch, was inspired by something that Graham mentioned to be during our nightly talks about winter sports...I will leave it at that and keep you guessing. We will have more Day Hopper this year and the SK week will reappear too, retaining it's new format as this seems to have been very well received for a variety of reasons. The idea of a two or four seasonal SKW is interesting...let me think about that one. I really don't want to overburden either Graham or the members with activities every five minutes! I haven't forgotten that we mentioned an activity for older gear – c 1970-1990 - but for now I need to let Graham's wife have Graham back.

73 everyone. Keep poundin' the brass.

David G4YVM FISTS 15868

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Results for 2018 Ladder

Callsign	Posn	Prev	Move	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
G4LRG	1	1	-	794	58	68	71	68	61	78	69	63	64	61	66	67
G0ILN	2	2	-	645	45	46	49	66	45	55	57	59	69	64	33	57
G4LHI	3	3	-	632	44	42	42	43	48	58	73	52	51	55	55	69
I5ECW	4	4	-	595	47	41	52	47	54	67	38	41	59	70	41	38
M5ABN	5	5	-	550	48	55	34	54	37	43	37	48	50	48	48	48
DL3HR	6	6	-	365		43	33	28	28	37	35	26	29	42	36	28
OH7QR	7	7	-	336	40	44	26	13	16	47	24	25	19	43	27	12
I5EFO	8	8	-	305	27	33	33	33	15	33	30	15	30	30	25	1
2E0DPH	9	9	-	269	45	45	24	19	21	21	12	34	24	18		6
M0DRK	10	10	-	185	26	18	15	12	24		19	18	21	16	16	
G3ZRJ	11	11	-	145	15	27	15	30		43		15				
M0GSX	12	13	↑	129						21			24	15	36	33
MW0BGL	13	14	↑	107	18	18		13	24		15					19
DK3DUA	14	12	↓	104	21	25		12			21		25			
MI0WWB	15	=17	↑	92						16	12	4	12	21	8	19
M0UZE	16	15	↓	85	12				9	31	15			3	6	9
G0OEY	17	16	↓	79				6	3	19	19	7	15	4	2	4

OH2BN	18	=17	↓	76	3		6	6	9	9	9	6	3	16	6	3
SV2BBK	19	19	-	73		14	15	12	11		1			3	10	7
M0PBZ	20	20	-	63				27	36							
G0XAH	21	21	-	60			15	18	27							
G0JHK	=22	22	-	55									23	32		
G3XVL	=22	=33	↑	55										12		43
G0BON	24	26	↑	52											37	15
G4DNP	25	27	↑	48		3							18	6	9	12
G4KLE	26	23	↓	47						47						
G4TGJ	27	24	↓	42		3		9	10	7			10	3		
GM0EPO	28	25	↓	40	9	12		19								
EA7KB	29	28	↓	29	29											
G7WHI	30	32	↑	23								13				10
SP2SWI	31	=33	↑	18		3									9	6
IZ2FME	32	29	↓	17		17										
IW2JJS	33	35	↑	16						10						6
OZ8AGB	=34	=30	↓	15	3	6		6								
SP7OGP	=34	=30	↓	15		15										
DL4FDM	36	36	-	7			7									
M0DHP	37	37	-	6									6			
OK1PSI	38	38	-	4	4											
M0SHM	=39	=39	-	3								3				
SA5ACN	=39	=39	-	3	3											

Comments for Ladder 2018

Entrant	Comments
Phil 2E0DPH	HNY to all. 73 Phil 2E0DPH
Nils DL3HR	tnx to all in my first year at FISTS! Hpe cuagn in 2019, merry xmas and a happy new year 2019 to you and your families! 73
Ivan G0BON	Could only manage the 1st session the second session was wiped out by CQ WW. The last weekend was preoccupied with pre-Xmas things. Had good fun with the few QSO's I had though.
Richard G0ILN	Good fun as usual despite the condx! Richard G0ILN

Andrew G0OEY	Slow month for me. Only two. Thanks to all who took part and hoping for a better score next year.
Robin G4DNP	Looking forward to 2019 Vy best 73s to all
Peter G4LHI	G4LHI Claim for last Ladder for 2018. Been good fun & looking fwd to 2019 Ladder. vy mni tnx to all members & the officers of the club that make this possible. Season's Greetings to you all 73 Peter G4LHI # 2219
John G4LRG	Once again, many thanks for the points. Hard going at times but great to see all of the activity. Unable to get on the evening session on 23rd Dec due to family commitments. Looking forward to seeing you all next year.
Dave G7WHI	Conditions were a bit up and down tonight. Thanks for the QSOs though.
Vanni I5ECW	high noise, low attendance ,that's the result! merry xmas and happy fistsfull 2019 to all. 73's Vanni i5ecw #16505
Emil I5EFO	Happy New Year 2019 ! 73 de Emil, I5EFO (17028)
Giorgio IW2JJS	73 tnx
Paul M0GSX	Hi To David All At Fists, Please find attached my 2 ladder sessions for December 2018. I would Like to wish all at fists and members a belated Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Condx were good for me, probably my best monthly score to date, not sure if it's the new antenna (ZS6BKW) or not, need to evaluate a little more but seems a slightly better match on 80M (the internal radio tuner will just pull the antenna to a match on 80M CW) but how it resonates is a different matter Hi Hi. Thanks to all at FISTS who really do a good job sorting all the logs out for us - and not just one activity.
Mark M0UZE	Many thanks. A Very happy New Year to the FISTS Club.
Pete M5ABN	Many thanks to all who took part, and of course the team at Fists who make it possible. Happy New Year 73 pete M5ABN #6423
William MI0WWB	Another quiet month.

Jarmo OH2BN	Here's wishing you one and all Merry Christmas, the Best of Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year! May we meet again on the Ladder or otherwise during 2019, hopefully blessed with a little better propagation conditions than experienced in the year now ending. 73 - Jarmo OH2BN
Erkki OH7QR	Please find attached my log on Ladder Dec. 2018. Many thanks for your good work and all the best in the year 2019. 73 Erkki nr 8318

Results for Straight Key Week 2018

Leaders: 1st G4LHI, 2nd M5ABN, 3rd G3ZRJ

Callsign	Posn	Points
G4LHI	1	348
M5ABN	2	132
G3ZRJ	3	119
G4RHR	4	118
I5ECW	5	102
MW0BGL	6	96
G3XVL	7	84
G0ILN	8	83
G0JHK	9	75
K6DF	10	63
G4DNP	11	50
OH7QR	12	39
M0UZE	13	30
G0DFC	14	25
G4XUZ	15	15
SP2SWI	16	6

Comments for Straight Key Week 2018

Entrant	Comments
Les G0DFC	First SK event
Richard G0ILN	I enjoyed SKW it was good fun. some days not the best of conditions. Maybe we could have a spring or summer SKW as well as Winter SKW or four seasons SKW? Hi. I used an English Raymart Speed Key and German Junker key.

	Richard G0ILN Fists 398 .
Mike G0JHK	Most enjoyable event.
Chris G3XVL	Great to hear and work on the straight key, look forward to the next one!
Chris G3XVL	What good fun!!
Robin G4DNP	Lots of activity and great experience. Many thanks for QRS and patience of participants and my appreciation to FISTS management team
Peter G4LHI	G4LHI Claim for SKWeek. enjoyed it as usual & mni tnx fer all members participating. & the organizers who devised this format, nice to be able to do other things in the gaps between the allocated slots hi.73 Peter G4LHI # 2219
Ken G4RHR	A very enjoyable activity, and thoroughly enjoyed using my straight keys for the week, and meeting many friends on the air in doing so. Thanks to all who I had a QSO with.
Ray G4XUZ	My SKW log attached (as Calc sheet). Only a handful of contacts, but very limited set-up at the moment (only 5w into a poor makeshift ant), so quite pleased to get any at all ... and really enjoyed using the old brass straight key for a change. 73, Ray, G4XUZ, Fists 777.
Dennis K6DF	At first I did not think I would enjoy the one hour sessions every three hours, but decided to give it a try. I actually like the new format as it allowed me to see the band propagation change for different hours throughout the day and into the night. Great Fun! Tnx & 73, Dennis K6DF
Mark M0UZE	Many thanks. A happy Xmas and New Year to the FISTS Club.
Pete M5ABN	A great activity, many thanks to all who took part, the new format was perfect for mixing radio and family life Hi. Looking forward to the next one. 73 Pete M5ABN #6423
Erkki OH7QR	Here comes my log for SKW 2018. In the week I used my Swedish Key. Thanks to all for the QSOs, CU next year! Season's Greetings and 73 Erkki nr 8318

Upcoming Events

January 2019

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sat 19 Jan	Sun 31 Mar	FISTS Eu Winter Sports	0001-2359 UTC
Sun 27 Jan		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

February 2019

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Fri 01 Feb	Sun 31 Mar	FISTS Eu Winter Sports continues	0001-2359 UTC
Sun 10 Feb		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 24 Feb		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

March 2019

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Fri 01 Mar	Sun 31 Mar	FISTS Eu Winter Sports continues	0001-2359 UTC
Sun 10 Mar		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 24 Mar		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC