

# BRASSPOUNDER

March 2019, Issue 130



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

Greetings Dear FISTS

As I sit here typing this the full blast of Storm Gregor or Gareth or something is belting us with all its might. My HF doublet has been trashed despite it being made of good wire and suspended with good runs of bungee cord. The force of the trees bending is just too great and one arm has torn away and the open wire feeder has been dumped unceremoniously on the ground leaving me temporarily QRT!

I thought I would try my little home brew wonderwand antenna...sadly it just got warm. I did get a RBN report from somewhere on the globe, so it does work, but it's efficiency is probably close to zero so wont be seeing much use I suspect!! On the subject of little aerials, Keith, G0HKC F16205, has been using a magloop aerial from home with some success. I was hoping for a full report from him but havent been able to properly request this yet. Maybe Keith can drop me a line telling me more about this aerial.

In answer to my request for photographs I got a nice one from Peter, G4LHI F2219. If you're mentally making Bird jokes...too late! Peter says this aerial works well on 80 and 40m. The VHF beam is the wrong polarisation Peter!! ( okay, probably not for your requirements) and I wonder if others think it all looks terribly impressive and much like a coastal installation? I hope they've withstood the gales Peter.



## **Winter Sports**

Talking of gales and storms, I do hope we don't have one brewing over [Winter Sports](#)...remember that when you submit your logs the software will select the best SINGLE DAY. i.e, it will assume you have entered the event many times and then it will take your best efforts. Multiple days are not cumulative!!! So, you could have a huge number of QSO but still achieve a lower score than you thought. On the upside...so will your competitors!

I have seen some very good entries for the WS activity: thanks for entering and do keep trying right through to the end. If your aerials are still up that is.

## **VHF**

Mark, M0BLT, F5501 has developed a 2m CW activity which you will see advertised in the forthcoming events calendar as "[2m refresher](#)". This is a 'day-hopper' style event to encourage people to get on (or back onto) 2m and have a go. There are five days of activity but only the best two or three will count. See the website for final dates, times and rules! Exchanges will be simple and the emphasis is on having fun on 2m...lets hope some tropo rears it's beautiful head!! As for aerials for 2m, well over the past twenty years or so the venerable beam / yagi has fallen from grace as activity has declined. Who now remembers the ZL Special? Or the almost biblical Out of Thin Air, a source of some then-good aerial designs but probably now superseded? Anyway, most VHF ops will have a vertical aerial rather than a beam – so it's a case of using what you have. If you enjoy 2m you will almost certainly want to put up a horizontally polarised beam though, and almost everyone uses a rotator too. Some stations use fixed beams, usually stations on the coast or in the far reaches of the compass such that almost all other stations will be in one predominant direction.

Whatever you have, have a bash at 2m CW and lets see what we get. The rules and frequencies on on the FISTS website.

## **Chirp n Drift**

As requested, a second [CnD activity](#) is scheduled for Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May, a UK Bank Holiday. Let's go for 1800Z to 0000Z ( which if you recall is after BST so will be 7pm to 1am British time). Last time we had some German and Dutch stations joining in so for you chaps it will be 8pm I think, but as it's not a Bank Holiday for you that might suit quite well). Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May then, dust off the chirpy gear and spread the word for another exciting and interesting event. I hope to work a few more 1154s and elusive Parasetts this time, but homebrew gear is also most welcome!!

## **Iconic rig event**

After the last Chirp N Drift I was asked to organise an [event for classic rigs](#) which might rarely get an outing but which do not chirp or drift! So, time to add volts to that FT7B, TS180, Drake TR7 and of course, the Gentleman of rigs, the FT101ZD plus a host of others time has removed from my memory. Let's hear them! I suggest we run this on May 27<sup>th</sup>, another UK Bank Holiday. Let's go, again, for 1800Z to 0000Z (7pm to 1am British time)

Well, I think that's it from a storm lashed Salisbury. Have a good spring and I hope to work you once I am once again QRV. Don't forget photos please...they do add something!

73 everyone. Keep poundin' the brass.

David G4YVM FISTS 15868

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### Results for Ladder February 2019

| Callsign | Posn | Prev | Move | Total | Jan | Feb |
|----------|------|------|------|-------|-----|-----|
| G4LHI    | 1    | 1    | -    | 156   | 78  | 78  |
| G4LRG    | 2    | 2    | -    | 155   | 76  | 79  |
| G0ILN    | 3    | 3    | -    | 124   | 65  | 59  |
| I5EFO    | 4    | 4    | -    | 116   | 44  | 72  |
| M5ABN    | 5    | =8   | ↑    | 97    | 36  | 61  |
| 2E0DPH   | 6    | =5   | ↓    | 93    | 42  | 51  |
| G3XVL    | 7    | 11   | ↑    | 87    | 30  | 57  |
| G0BON    | 8    | =5   | ↓    | 84    | 42  | 42  |
| OH7QR    | 9    | 14   | ↑    | 78    | 26  | 52  |
| DL3HR    | 10   | 13   | ↑    | 64    | 27  | 37  |
| 9H1PI    | 11   | 12   | ↑    | 48    | 29  | 19  |
| G3ZRJ    | 12   | 16   | ↑    | 43    | 18  | 25  |
| MW0BGL   | 13   | =5   | ↓    | 42    | 42  |     |
| M0GSX    | 14   | 15   | ↑    | 40    | 22  | 18  |
| M0PBZ    | 15   | =8   | ↓    | 36    | 36  |     |
| G0JHK    | 16   | 10   | ↓    | 33    | 33  |     |
| SP9NLI   | 17   | 18   | ↑    | 31    | 12  | 19  |
| MI0WWB   | 18   | 17   | ↓    | 29    | 15  | 14  |
| G0OEY    | =19  | -    | ↑    | 26    |     | 26  |
| G7WHI    | =19  | -    | ↑    | 26    |     | 26  |
| M0UZE    | 21   | =20  | ↓    | 25    | 6   | 19  |
| IW2JJS   | 22   | -    | ↑    | 23    |     | 23  |
| M0DRK    | 23   | 19   | ↓    | 16    | 7   | 9   |
| G4DNP    | 24   | =20  | ↓    | 15    | 6   | 9   |
| OH2BN    | 25   | -    | ↑    | 9     |     | 9   |
| G0UYG    | =26  | =20  | ↓    | 6     | 6   |     |
| SP2SWI   | =26  | =20  | ↓    | 6     | 6   |     |

## Comments for Ladder February 2019

| Entrant        | Comments  |
|----------------|---|
| Phil 2E0DPH    | Please find my log for the Feb Ladder.<br>Many thanks to all taking part in the ladder. Good to see plenty of activity during the afternoon sessions.<br>73<br>Phil<br>2e0DPH   |
| Ivan 9H1PI     | 73's Ivan 9h1pi.  |
| Nils DL3HR     | Conds have been a little better in Feb, hope to meet u all in March - vy 73!  |
| Ivan G0BON     | Another Enjoyable Event. Tried 40mtrs and 20mtrs as well this time to get a few points for the winter sports.   |
| Richard G0ILN  | Off and running for another year.<br>Good fun.<br>Richard G0ILN Fist 398  |
| Andrew G0OEY   | First entry for the year. Conditions not great but nice to see some familiar calls on again.  |
| Robin G4DNP    | Condx a little better for QRP and, as always, mni tnx to management team. 73s Robin   |
| Peter G4LHI    | G4LHI Claim for February Ladder for 2019.been good fun & looking fwd to March Ladder. vy mni tnx to all members & the officers of the club that make this possible. 73 Peter G4LHI # 2219   |
| John G4LRG     | Once again a challenge but delighted to see the good turnout on all sessions. Thanks to all for the points.   |
| Dave G7WHI     | Thank you for all the QSO's   |
| Giorgio IW2JJS | TNX fer IW2JJS  |
| Paul M0GSX     | Hi to Graham, David and the crew,<br>Please find attached my log for the February Ladder, only managed one session and one contact from the other session, band was not too bad but think others may have done better but still trying. Hi Hi.<br>Thanks to all at FISTS what a wonderful job you all do!!!<br><br>Paul M0GSX #17642. |
| Mark M0UZE     | Many thanks.  |
| Pete M5ABN     | See you all again in March<br>73 Pete M5ABN #6423   |
| William MI0WWB | A rather quiet month.   |
| Erkki OH7QR    | Good success on 24th of Feb, got 10 QSOs, all Fists members. Many thanks for points and hope to meet in March. 73!<br>Erkki nr 8318   |
| Andy SP9NLI    | Conditions still far from perfect, but I was pleased to work a member from the US.<br><br>Vy 73 de sp9nli   |

## Upcoming Events

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### March 2019

| First day  | Last day   | Event  | Times                        |
|------------|------------|--|------------------------------|
| Fri 01 Mar | Sun 31 Mar | <a href="#">FISTS Eu Winter Sports</a> continues | 0001-2359 UTC                |
| Sun 24 Mar |            | <a href="#">FISTS Eu Ladder</a>                  | 1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC |

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### April 2019

| First day  | Last day   | Event                                 | Times                        |
|------------|------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Sun 14 Apr |            | <a href="#">FISTS Eu Ladder</a>       | 1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC |
| Mon 22 Apr |            | <a href="#">FISTS Eu 2m Refresher</a> | 1900-2100 UTC                |
| Sun 28 Apr |            | <a href="#">FISTS Eu Ladder</a>       | 1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC |
| Mon 29 Apr | Fri 03 May | <a href="#">EuCW QRS Week</a>         | 0000-2359 UTC                |
| Tue 30 Apr |            | <a href="#">FISTS Eu 2m Refresher</a> | 1900-2100 UTC                |

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### May 2019

| First day  | Last day | Event                                 | Times                        |
|------------|----------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Mon 06 May |          | <a href="#">Chirp n Drift</a>         | 1800-00 UTC                  |
| Wed 08 May |          | <a href="#">FISTS Eu 2m Refresher</a> | 1900-2100 UTC                |
| Sun 12 May |          | <a href="#">RSGB 4m CW Contest</a>    | 0900-1200 UTC                |
| Sun 12 May |          | <a href="#">FISTS Eu Ladder</a>       | 1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC |
| Thu 16 May |          | <a href="#">FISTS Eu 2m Refresher</a> | 1900-2100 UTC                |
| Sat 25 May |          | <a href="#">FISTS Eu 2m Refresher</a> | 1400-1600 UTC                |
| Sun 26 May |          | <a href="#">FISTS Eu Ladder</a>       | 1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC |

