

BRASSPOUNDER

April 2020, Issue 143



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

I have just finished writing a long piece for Key Notes, which will be out in short order, so I shall not repeat myself here. Thus...a short BP this month.

If you sense Déjà vu from that top bit...you're right. We are still awaiting Rob's publication of Key Notes but I think a few issues have delayed it...so I still won't be repeating myself.

I see that I am mentioned in the ladder comments this month..woo hoo! I do actually love working FISTS members and try to find them when I can. It is good to meet on air people we usually only see as an email. If you hear me do please shout...always happy to chat or just exchange RST, whatever you have time for.

Corona Virus has certainly given us some extra time - as Erkki, OH7QR, points out. I've actually never been busier because my wife and two of my children are 'front line' staff in the care industry and our house has gone mad - but I manage a few QSO when I can. I did try to send out a few 'isolation insulation' activities and they were well received in the early days but I think folks got bored of them and no one wants to play any more. Still, it was fun while it lasted!

I have managed some nice FISTS QSO recently both G and foreign stations. Excellent fun all round. One of the best was with the USA on 80m one morning (very early!). I can't remember when I last worked the States on 80m but it's not recent! I can work them any day on 40, but 80 is a different kettle of fish.

My Shack.

I have acquired a new radio since I last wrote to you...a very nice TenTec Corsair 2! This rig was sort of gifted to me by Martin, M0MWS, who bought, well, let's just say he bought more than one. He bought more than 3 actually...and then phoned me up and says "come and collect this rig...we can discuss the filthy lucre after Corona has gone way". What a gent he is, I have always said so...

The truth is of course, as the saying goes "you can never have just *one* TenTec" and we now have several each. But why? Well, as I have said before the fact is that each radio has its own foibles and it can be good to try a whole line from a manufacture to see how things progressed - it's just interesting. The Corsair is superb, no doubt about it. The side tone is saw-tooth and really needs help, so Martin has designed a change to that and it works well. I haven't done it to mine yet but I shall. The crystal filters are very good but it's the audio and QSK that are world beaters.

I also use my older Argonaut 515 and it's the only TenTec I can currently use on SSB so when I want to chat to my mate, a world-spanning mile away, it's on SSB on the Argo 515. The SSB audio is beyond compare, seriously. Could listen to it for hours. Last week I was running the Argo into a linear and getting around 110 watts out on 40m and after speaking to Ivan, G7DNG, I called CQ and had QSO with an Italian and a German station. Because of the audio quality I really enjoyed myself.

These Tentecs are vry good radios and come cheaply now – if you see one, buy it. You will like it I promise you.

On a similar vein I also, a few years back, decided I'd like to see the progress in Yaesu FT101 series so that's what I did. I bought and repaired a very early FT101, then I got a 101E then I got a 101Z and finally a ZD...That's a LOT of yaesu on the bench believe me!! Anyway, I then ran them all and tried to see the differences. I know the ZD is not a true descendant of the 101 range and the 902DM IS. I also have had one of those...

So quite what did Yaesu do over the years between 101 and 101ZD / 902DM? Answer...empty our pockets and give us 'new clothes' in return. Sure the filters were better and the first 101s were deaf and drifty BUT, they weren't rubbish and if you'd lived on an island and never known anything but the 101 you'd not be missing much. The same is true of Tentec...the change from the Argo 515 of 1980 to the Corsair and then the wonderful Orion 2 is not huge. All have fabulous audio and QSK and most have good filters (Argo 515, no!). I havent tried an earlier Tentec (but if you have one let me know how it works!) or the latest of their expensive offerings but those who have used them say that Tentec actually lost the game at Orion 2.

For me, I have shown that mnufacturers sell hot air and dreams, not real improvements. So, I hereby vow never to buy another radio...I just don't need one. Oh, look...a squadron of pigs just flew past...ha!

If you have done what I did and tried a range of rigs do please let us know your thoughts.



This above is my 'new' Corsair 2 (1986 – 1989?) from Martin M0MWS. Supposed to give 100 watts out I think, mine doesn't but who really cares? As you can see, it has all the usual bells and whistles and despite the passing of the years, they all work. Ten tec rigs have odd looks – but only because we are used to Japanese offerings. After a while you grow to love 'em. Odd Side Tone, see text.



*Above: Earlier Argonaut 515, c 1980. Not obvious is that this radio is small.
Below: Orion 2, 2005 – 2013. Ot obvious is that THIS radio is HUGE!*



WordSearch 2020

Ive been asked if there's a wordsearch this year and the answer is YES. It will be announced in due course and will span three months at the end of the summer. Ive chosen a most intriguing phrase to find this year, it has a real and interesting back-story so I hope you like it.

Dunkirk

The Dunkirk maritime event has been cancelled but ours has not.

Portable Ops

Portable working has pretty much been banned as you know but that leaves the back garden! I was out recently with my QCX on 40m...good fun and a few contacts to be had. I also tried my trusty early-model FT817 and again, some fun to be had. Conditions as they are, on e has to choose the time well!!

That's it for me folks...hope you enjoy the read.

73 all...hope to hear you soon.

David G4YVM F15878

Ladder

New to the 2020 Ladder are:

Jo PG4I
Mike G0JHK
John GM0EPO
Peter G0TLU
Richard G4TGJ
Geoff G0DDX
Michael OZ8AGB

Welcome, welcome, welcome one and all. I hope you find it fun! I also hope to work you at some point.

On the ladder, Graham and I had a discussion recently because some folks do get their logs in a muddle. Please note the rules. You MUST send your logs in on time BUT BUT BUT...a resubmitted log OVERWRITES the previous one. So, if you sent in, say, this week's log for some reason, with say 50 QSO in it, then next week you decided to send in that weeks log for some reason, although the same month (it happens) with 1 QSO in it, it would overwrite the WHOLE entry and you would be credited with just one QSO. See the problem? The way round this is to send in ONE log per month. This time round we spotted it (royal 'we', Graham spotted it) and fixed it.

Comments for Ladder March 2020

Entrant	Comments
Phil 2E0DPH	Great to see the bands open again especially 80m on the second ladder week. Thanks to all, stay safe and see you all again next time. 73 Phil
Nils DL3HR	I have had Fun in March, CONDS were a bit better, hpe cuagn all in April. vy 73!
Ivan G0BON	Just Didn't have time to fix the antenna for the first two session. Last session was a lot of noise on the band but thankfully bands were quite active with FIST members.
Geoff G0DDX	Not been active for a while. Hopefully back to normal again! I think I need some antenna maintenance as had intermittent noise / level changes. Many thanks Geoff / G0DDX
Les G0DFC	Thanks guys, my little contribution to the ladder. Will try harder next month, if we are still here! Take care, Les

Richard G0ILN	Things are looking up Ladder wise! and if you can't go out, play on your radio! Best wishes to everybody stay safe.. Richard G0ILN
Mike G0JHK	Nice to get back for part of March's Ladder...just got my antenna up again after storm damage. Mike 73s and take care.
Andrew G0OEY	A few for this month.
Peter G3JRH	1st session not a lot of activity, 2nd session lot of activity and good signals. Peter
Peter G4LHI	G4LHI Claim for March Ladder gud fun as usual, but Im afraid the band condx were not at their best, lots QSB & QRM but I got a few QSOs in spite of that Hi. G4LHI # 2219 73 k
John G4LRG	Conditions a bit better this time around - thanks for the points.
Richard G4TGJ	My first entry for a while. All the QSOs were with my homebrew 80m/20m transceiver with 12W.
Richard G4TPJ	08/03:2020: TS530 - Pwr 100 watts - Doublet - Himound Straight Key 22/03/2020: TS530 - Pwr 100 watts - Doublet - Begali Simplex
Ray G4XUZ	March ladder log attached. All contacts on straight key again - great practice! Ray G4XUZ
John GM0EPO	A few points to get me back on the ladder.
Paul M0GSX	Hi To David and all at FISTS, Please find attached my Log for the March 2020 Sessions, I managed the two evening sessions again as Propagation is much better for me at this time of the evening. Both sessions the bands were very lively with very gud sigs for Inter G and beyond, Managed Denmark and Ireland first session, and dare I say it a very nice contact on the second session with David G4YVM - sigs both ways were excellent. Been doing the ladder for a while now and would just like to say that the quality of the Morse from FISTS members is immaculate - very fluent and very nice to copy especially when the 80M band is this good. Well done Guys keep up the great quality of your FIST. 08/03/2020: Condx were very gud, Freqs very busy, with little QSB, with great sigs even into Denmark on 80M. 22/03/2020: Condx agn Very gud with great sigs - very gud inter G propagation for the whole of the session. Paul M0GSX #17642.
Phil M0PBZ	Quite busy both sessions and enjoyable
Pete M5ABN	Thanks to all who came on for the ladder & hope to see you all in April. Please all stay safe and well during this difficult time. Vy 73 Pete M5ABN
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, here comes my log. Now we have got much time to work on radio. All the best and stay healthy. 73 de Erkki OH7QR nr 8318
Jo PG4I	Hello, I have been a member of FISTS for some time now and I have discovered Straight Key

QSO-ing a few weeks back. Great fun! So here is my first LADDER participation.

Regards,

Jo PG4I FISTS #19288

Results for Ladder March 2020

Callsign	Posn	Prev	Move	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar
G0ILN	1	2	↑	193	27	80	86
G4LHI	2	1	↓	181	55	54	72
M5ABN	3	3	-	157	36	55	66
M0PBZ	4	4	-	127	36	33	58
G4IZZ	5	=6	↑	115		52	63
G4TPJ	6	15	↑	96	21	15	60
G4LRG	=7	=8	↑	94	24	27	43
M0GSX	=7	14	↑	94		37	57
MW0BGL	9	=11	↑	92		40	52
DL3HR	10	=6	↓	91	16	36	39
2E0DPH	11	=11	-	85	24	16	45
OH7QR	12	5	↓	84	28	25	31
G3JRH	13	13	-	76	12	27	37
G3XVL	14	=8	↓	67	24	27	16
G4XUZ	15	=17	↑	57	9	18	30
G0BON	16	=17	↑	56		27	29
G3ZRJ	17	=25	↑	49	3	1	45
MI0WWB	18	10	↓	46	10	36	
G0OEY	19	16	↓	41	20	12	9
PG4I	20	-	↑	40			40
G0DFC	21	19	↓	33		21	12
IW2JJS	22	21	↓	24	7	4	13
G0JHK	=23	-	↑	21			21
M0DRK	=23	=22	↓	21		6	15
OH2BN	25	20	↓	18	9	9	
GM0EPO	26	-	↑	15			15
G0TLU	=27	-	↑	12			12
G4TGJ	=27	-	↑	12			12
G0DDX	=29	-	↑	9			9
SV2BBK	=29	24	↓	9	2	3	4
M0DHP	=31	=22	↓	6		6	
OZ8AGB	=31	-	↑	6			6
G4DNP	=33	=25	↓	4		4	
G7WHI	=33	=25	↓	4	4		
M0UZE	35	28	↓	3	3		

Upcoming Events

April 2020

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sun 26 Apr		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Mon 27 Apr	Fri 01 May	EuCW QRS Week	0000-2359 UTC

May 2020

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sun 10 May		RSGB 4m CW Contest	0900-1200 UTC
Sun 10 May		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Mon 18 May	Fri 05 Jun	FISTS Eu Dunkirk Memorial	0000-2359 UTC
Sun 24 May		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

June 2020

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sun 14 Jun		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 28 Jun		RSGB 6m CW Contest	0900-1200 UTC
Sun 28 Jun		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
