



Greetings Dear FISTS and please accept my apologies for the lateness and brevity of this BP! I have been extremely busy, sadly mostly with funerals which seem to be like buses. Anyway, enough...here we go for March.

You may remember that I mentioned my beloved Tentec Orion 2 had started to fail in strange ways: the VFO encode for VFO A was getting notchy and recently the front CW jack failed completely. The rear jack worked, but not the front one. Furthermore, whenever the rig was used with near full power all the lights and lamps would blink and dim - as if the voltage was being dragged down, which effect has always been put down to a rather poor DC connector to these radios. In fairness, the DC connector is rather laughable when compared to the Japanese versions of same.

However, some discussions later and I had the rig in bits – which isn't hard as the radios are essentially SDRs in a big box filled with boards and screens. Tentec Orions really are big boxes of air and connectors! I disconnected EVERY plug and socket and cleaned them all before replugging them all back (one at a time folks and take lots of photos!).

The moment of truth...smoke or no smoke??? CLICK...no smoke! The radio powered up fine and all VFO woes have gone. The CW jack still doesn't work so that's something more serious for another wet day BUT, the lamp dimming has also gone! I guess I have simply improved electrical efficiency everywhere! My beautiful Tentec is back in perfect working order again. Out of interest, after a few months now of side by side use, the Tentec STILL puts the Yaesu FTDX5k in it's place, and that place is 2<sup>nd</sup>. I cant explain why the TT is the better radio, but it is and it is by far. If I haven't convinced you yet to try TT, well, maybe I never will.

That's all...in a mad rush.

73  
David

The ladder has new entries his month:

Peter G3JRH  
 Enzo MOKTZ  
 Will M10WWB  
 Robin G4DNP  
 Peter G0TLU

Welcome gents! I really don't have time now to give you the usual welcome in detail biog, but if you care to send me something I will publish your text next time round! My humble apologies!!

### Comments for Ladder February 2022

Entrant	Comments
Ivan G0BON	Much better conx than last month, nice to get some new FISTS in the log which gained my 2 million sticker.
Richard G0ILN	After the storms I have lost my 10m mast so my G5RV is reduced to a sloper! Thanks for all the contacts. Richard G0ILN
Peter G3JRH	Only managed 1 session this month. Peter G3JRH
Chris G3XVL	Repaired fibreglass pole aerial support just in time for the 2nd ladder session after storm damage.
Tony G3ZRJ	73
Robin G4DNP	Very pleased to join the Ladder again. Certainly improved conditions even if unpredictable. Best 73/72 Robin
John G4LRG	Once again hard work dodging the other activities but really good to be part of the activity. Thanks to all for the points.
Ray G4XUZ	Good fun as always. Thanks to all. 73, Ray G4XUZ
John G4YTJ	Wow! 40m has been a blast in the afternoon sessions. I nearly didn't operate on the evening of 27th thinking I'd got my best scores in the two afternoon sessions but actually got one more QSO in the evening - another valuable lesson.
Kevin M0MCL	David,  Please see attached my log for February's Ladder.  I'm really enjoying the "Ladder" activity and is certainly helping to improve my code sending. Thanks to all those who worked me.  73,

	Kevin M0MCL
Steve M0SHM	Better condx with inter-G on 40m.
Pete M5ABN	Thanks for all the contacts & see you in March. Stay safe. Vy 73 Pete M5ABN
Will MI0WWB	It's been a while!
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, please find attached my log in Feb. All the best and stay safe. 73 Erkki OH7QR 8318
Norbert ON4ANE	Happy to meet more members on the ladder. 73 DE Norbert ON4ANE
Jan PA0SIM	Condx on 40m for UK getting better. 73 Jan PA0SIM
Adam SQ9S	Tnx for all QSOs in FISTS Ladder February 2022. Best 73 Adam SQ9S #20019

## Results for Ladder February 2022

Callsign	Posn	Prev	Move	Total	Jan	Feb
G0ILN	1	1	-	174	91	83
G4LRG	2	2	-	167	70	97
M5ABN	3	4	↑	130	61	69
G0BON	4	3	↓	111	69	42
G0JHK	5	=6	↑	95	40	55
G3XVL	6	=11	↑	93	27	66
ON4ANE	7	5	↓	81	41	40
G3ZRJ	8	=6	↓	76	40	36
G4YTJ	9	=9	-	75	30	45
M0MCL	10	=11	↑	64	27	37
2E0DPH	11	8	↓	63	39	24
G4TPJ	12	=14	↑	60	24	36
PA0SIM	13	=9	↓	54	30	24
G4XUZ	14	=14	-	51	24	27
MM0UMH	15	19	↑	46	8	38
G0DFC	16	=14	↓	45	24	21
OH7QR	17	=17	-	42	21	21
M0SHM	18	=11	↓	39	27	12
M0DRK	19	20	↑	33	6	27
SQ9S	20	=17	↓	27	21	6
G3JRH	=21	-	↑	18		18
M0KTZ	=21	-	↑	18		18
MI0WWB	23	-	↑	15		15
G4DNP	24	-	↑	13		13
G0TLU	25	-	↑	9		9
DL3GJ	26	21	↓	5	5	

\* Check log

## Upcoming Events

---

### March 2022

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sun 27 Mar		<a href="#">FISTS Europe Ladder</a>	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

---

### April 2022

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sun 10 Apr		<a href="#">FISTS Europe Ladder</a>	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 24 Apr		FISTS at <a href="#">Norbreck (Blackpool, UK) Rally</a>	1030 BST
Sun 24 Apr		<a href="#">FISTS Europe Ladder</a>	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Mon 25 Apr	Fri 29 Apr	<a href="#">EuCW QRS Week</a>	0000-2359 UTC

---

### May 2022

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sun 01 May	Sat 31 Dec	<a href="#">FISTS 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Challenge</a>	2022 0000-2359 UTC each day
Sun 08 May		<a href="#">FISTS Europe Ladder</a>	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 15 May		<a href="#">RSGB 4m CW Contest</a>	0900-1200 UTC
Sun 22 May		<a href="#">FISTS Europe Ladder</a>	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC