



Welcome friends to this April issue of Brass Pounder. I have more time this issue so it's a bit better than the last one. Well, there's more in it any way...whether that's better is not for me to say.

As if to reinforce the idea of April foolishness, have a look at the photo below.



On the left of this photograph is my old friend the TenTec Orion 2, truly the finest radio I have ever had the pleasure of working with in all my nigh on 45 years of licenced working. On the right of the image is the FTdx5000 which has been passed around a few club mates, going through my hands twice and finally settling here on my bench as a "keeper". I fell in love with this model at Bletchley Park – it is to me eye candy, shack-bling, as much as a good radio (I think the TenTec puts it in its place mind you) and I am blessed that I can afford to keep it. Then sat in the middle, and actually in use, is the novel Xiegu G90. The G90 is an amazing rig - excellent tuner, good keyer, nice filters and a useful 20 watts and to me for the princely sum of, no not 500 quid Sir, nor even 400 quid to you madam, and to you my old friend, no Sir, not even 350 English pounds, but as it's a bit used, just 290 coins of the realm....and it is the one I choose to use at this moment in time. Why would I do that when I have world class radios to the left and right? I have no idea...but it's fun.

The little Xiegu really IS fun in fact and if you have the spare wherewithal and a little interest, grab one from Sinotel or even second hand, they're not so expensive but the performance will amaze you.

From the log

I have had some good QSO recently, especially with FISTS members. I have worked G0IIK, F172, Nigel who told me that we last worked in June last year. Good things computer logs !! It was a pleasure to work him as he is 81 he told me the usual stuff but reminded me that he also still rides his electric bike quite a bit. We chatted about the Xiegu G90, on which I worked him, and wondered about the use of such a radio for bike portable. I think it would be a good match!

I worked G4KLE Merv, G3SQU Chris and G4DUC, Glen. Great to work you all chaps. What I have noticed is that when I work on my Tentec the next QSO will be on a Xiegu, so I change to my Xiegu and work a bloke on a Yaesu...so I switch to my Yaesu and back comes a fella on a Tentec...ya can't win I tells ya, ya can't win!!

But this changing about did make me comment to my old mate Martin, M0MWS, that in fact a simple crystal Tx, half decent Rx and a straight key and I'd have just as much fun for a tiny fraction of the cost: I'm sure we all would in fact. The world was a lot simpler at one time and the biggest risk was a Kv up the wrist as we changed the valves...on second thoughts, maybe modern gear has some benefits.

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Big Jubilee activity

I'd like to claim this next bit as my own but I cant, it came from the brains of Chris, G5VZ...

FISTS CW CLUB ROYAL PLATINUM JUBILEE WEEKEND CELEBRATION

FISTS CW Club is celebrating the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth over the holiday weekend at the beginning on June 2022.

The celebration will take the form of an international on-air activity and culminates in the award of commemorative plaques to two participants.

Overview

An on-air activity on the days Friday, 3. June; Saturday, 4. June; Sunday, 5. June 2022.

UK stations may use the RSL 'Q' *per* Ofcom regulation. NoV applications can be made through RSGB at <https://rsgb.org/main/operating/licensing-novs-visitors/online-nov-application/>

Information about this Royal Platinum Jubilee activity can be found online at <https://fists.co.uk/activitiescalendar.html>

Activity

The activity is open to all licensed radio amateurs.

Work as many stations as you can over the three days – starting at 0001UTC on Friday, 3. June 2022 and ending at 2359UTC on Sunday, 5. June 2022.

All HF bands from 160m to 10m, excluding WARC bands and 60m: That is, CW contacts on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m.

Each contact must include the exchange of callsigns and, as a minimum, must also include signal reports, operators' names, location of stations and – as applicable – each operator's FISTS number or 'non-member.'

Scoring

Only CW contacts may be counted for scoring purposes.

1 point for each QSO per station contacted per band per day (One callsign only once per band on each of the three days)

One QSO point plus bonus points added

- 1 bonus point added for working any UK station using 'Q' RSL
- 1 bonus point added for a FISTS member when their member number is received on air and logged
- 5 bonus points added for a FISTS HQ station – including GX0IPX or GQ0IPX, GX3ZQS or GQ3ZQS, MX5IPX or MQ5IPX, VK2FDU, ZL6FF, JL3YMV, KN0WCW.

Scores will be subject to adjudication by FISTS Europe and that process will be final.

Awards

Logs must be submitted before the end of Monday, 13. June 2022 using FISTS Log Converter or by email to jw2022@fists.co.uk in ADIF format. Paper logs cannot be accepted.

Two awards will be presented: one for the highest scoring UK station using 'Q' RSL; one for a station – UK-based or elsewhere – being the station, not using 'Q' RSL, with most points. These awards will be commemorative plaques, engraved with the recipient's callsign and name.

I have seen a mock up of the award and it looks like this...



How cool is that? Well done Chris, G5VZ and thanks.

So we now have two big awards to challenge us all this year - the jubilee one and the FISTS 35th anniversary challenge which kicks off in May! Gentleman, your keys please!

I wonder if any of you have managed to get special special callsigns? Andover Radio club has managed to get GB70QPJ to use throughout June 1st to 28th (very important that, the 28 day rule. I'm not sure why but Ofcom say that if we use the same special callsign for a day longer than 28, like say the actual whole month, the world ends or something). I like using SES calls, great fun. I also have my NoV for GQ4YVM/70 so I was after QSL cards for the event. I want something really retro so approached a few manufacturers but they all seem to want to sell me high gloss cards. One supplier - the reason for telling you - has actually gone bust because they can't get card! Amazing. The world has gone mad in my lifetime.

Star Trek

Yes you read that right. I have been rewatching all the priginal Star Trek episodes recently because I was aware that I hadn't seen any of them in 50 years. In fact many of them (and there are dozens of episodes) I either hadn't seen at all or had simply forgotten. One thing struck me and that was how darned good Star Trek was / is. The sets and acting are first rate and the story lines, mostly, are excellent sci-fi. There's a bit of yukky smoochy stuff (basically our Captain was a bit of a Don Juan and wasn't averse to a spot of trans-specific snogging. By trans-specific I mean it literally - across species; he snogs a lot of aliens – rather than specifically snogging trans aliens. Oh dear, what a mess...). Anyway, yukky stuff aside, there's a lot worth watching. But that's not the message...in one episode I thought I heard "CQ, CQ" and Lt Uhura yells out "Sir, a message on the old frequency bands!" And it was too...not on the new fangled faster than light sub-space bands but on old fashioned radio waves, a space ship calling "CQ CQ". I wonder if the set technicians were amateur operators and got a tingle when that went out.

On this subject of light speed radio waves, in another episode the *Enterprise* picks up a signal 100 years after it was sent. Captain Kirk explains this well (recall that the *Enterprise* flies at up to about 8 times faster than light) but it made me think...I wonder who is now tuning into the transmissions from Marconi – SSS - or even World War 2 as if it were some soap opera. No one probably, but it's a good thought.

Heads-up

Rally season is upon us though and the Andover Car Boot Sale will be on April 24th at Wildhern again. Always worth a visit.

Please note that FISTS won't be at the NARSA Blackpool rally this year.

Okay that's me done I think.

Best 73 and see you next time round.

David
G4YVM

Right, onto the ladder...

- New to the 2022 Ladder this month are Alan MW0BGL and Graham G3ZOD/MX5IPX (!!). Graham is rare DX indeed but it is also a great pleasure to have Alan with us. Welcome!

Comments for Ladder March 2022

Entrant	Comments
Ivan G0BON	Many thanks all for the fist QSO's
Richard G0ILN	Conditions seem to be improving . Thanks for all the contacts. Richard G0ILN
Peter G0TLU	Please find attached my meagre effort for March 22! 73, Peter G0TLU #10803
Peter G3JRH	Condx better this month. On 27th best signals for a long time.. Peter G3JRH
Chris G3XVL	as in The Beatles song : It's getting better !
Tony G3ZRJ	Thanks to all for contacts in March in and out of the Ladder. Looking forward to lots of QSOs in April, watch out for GB0GKA 14/15 April I'll be using the call for Portishead Radio.
Robin G4DNP	Conditions continue to improve. Also, thanks to MT 73/72 Robin
Ray G4XUZ	Very little time on air this month, but managed half a dozen ladder QSOs. Thanks to all. 73, Ray G4XUZ.
John G4YTJ	Various commitments meant that I could only enter the evening sessions this month. On 13th I worked K3WWW which was my first ever contact with the USA (I've only been licenced since 1974 - no sense in rushing these things!). Fittingly that QSO took me over the million mark for the millionaire award. The 27th was very noisy on 80m and I thought it was not going to be worth the effort but it picked up towards the end of the session.

Enzo M0KTZ	Very good to meet other FISTS members, in a relaxed activity. All worked QRP with homebrew rig and ATU, and a random wire. TNX es 72
Steve M0SHM	Great enjoyment as usual. Always plenty of contacts and members to answer CQs.
Pete M5ABN	Thanks for all the contacts & see you in April. Stay safe . Vy 73 Pete M5ABN
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, Here comes my Ladder log in March. Thanks, all the best and stay safe. 73 Erkki OH7QR 8318
Norbert ON4ANE	still some very slow QSB on 80m, not easy to work someone. 73 DE Norbert ON4ANE
Jan PA0SIM	Always a pleasure to meet CW friends in the ladder. 73 Jan PA0SIM
Adam SQ9S	Tnx for all QSOs in FISTS Ladder March 2022. Best 73 Adam SQ9S #20019

Results for Ladder March 2022

Callsign	Posn	Prev	Move	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar
G0ILN	1	1	-	279	91	83	105
M5ABN	2	3	↑	192	61	69	62
G0BON	3	4	↑	187	69	42	76
G4LRG	4	2	↓	167	70	97	
G3XVL	5	6	↑	156	27	66	63
G0JHK	6	5	↓	143	40	55	48
ON4ANE	7	7	-	116	41	40	35
G4YTJ	8	9	↑	105	30	45	30
G3ZRJ	9	8	↓	103	40	36	27
G4TPJ	10	12	↑	90	24	36	30
MM0UMH	11	15	↑	85	8	38	39
G0DFC	=12	16	↑	82	24	21	37
M0MCL	=12	10	↓	82	27	37	18
PA0SIM	14	13	↓	81	30	24	27
OH7QR	15	17	↑	72	21	21	30
G4XUZ	16	14	↓	69	24	27	18
G3JRH	17	=21	↑	67		18	49
2E0DPH	=18	11	↓	63	39	24	
M0SHM	=18	18	-	63	27	12	24
MW0BGL	20	-	↑	48			48
M0DRK	21	19	↓	39	6	27	6
SQ9S	22	20	↓	37	21	6	10
M0KTZ	23	=21	↓	32		18	14
G4DNP	24	24	-	23		13	10
G3ZOD	=25	-	↑	15			15
MI0WWB	=25	23	↓	15		15	
G0TLU	27	25	↓	12		9	3
DL3GJ	28	26	↓	5	5		
MX5IPX*				9			9

* Check log

Upcoming Events

April 2022

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sun 24 Apr		FISTS Europe Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Mon 25 Apr	Fri 29 Apr	EuCW QRS Week	0000-2359 UTC

May 2022

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

June 2022

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Wed 01 Jun	Thu 30 Jun	FISTS Europe 35th Anniversary Challenge	0000-2359 UTC
Fri 03 Jun	Sun 05 Jun	FISTS Europe Royal Platinum Jubilee Weekend Celebration	0001-2359 UTC
Sun 12 Jun		FISTS Europe Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 26 Jun		RSGB 6m CW Contest	0900-1200 UTC
Sun 26 Jun		FISTS Europe Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
