

BRASSPOUNDER

May 2022, Issue 168



Welcome friends to this April issue of Brass Pounder.

As I type this I have just been using a key lent to me by my old mate Dave, G0AYD and it's as shown below. I think these keys cost just a few ten of fine English pounds but my word are they smooth?!?!?! A really delightful key and as you see it Dave has fastened it by magnets and soft paint (!!) to a 1kg lump of steel painted Hammerite blue. It looks as good as it works. Nice Job Dave and thanks for the loaner! In fact, as I type this next line a few weeks after the first one, I can confess that I have bought my own so impressed was I with this key. I paid about £40 from Aliexpress I think, but ebay also sells them for about 60 or £70.



On this key I have just worked IS0IEK/QRP, sadly not a fist. Also worked Ray, G0FHK who is F 712. I almost bagged G0IHK too but I reported that his signals were broken and weak: to my shame it was my rig settings that had notched him out which I only found this by quickly flicking on another rig and found him 599. By the time I'd sorted out the FTdx 5k he had started a QSO with G0GSY so I had to leave them to it. C'est la vie.

I have made it my job this last week or so to work FISTS...I'm limbering up for the various activities over jubilee weeks and have thus had great pleasure in working many of you.

Another station I did NOT work was Lindy, G0GZN, FISTS 37. I heard her working as a GM station but as I was on my QRP rig and a portable aerial I was messing with she couldn't hear me, she was about 419 with me. Shame. Sorry Lindy!

The things I do for you...

I have had a Xiegu G90 for some time now and it's exploits have been well documented in this esteemed organ by my good self. However, to extend it's versatility I made extra power cables using the mini Tamiya connectors. However, I bought the ones from China and they are pretty but rubbish, so I elected to change to the also used Anderson powerpoles, which I know are a good plug, non-reversible and easy to use. They are more reliable than the wobbly Tamiyas in my opinion too. However, being a stingy git I bought the plugs at a penny a dozen from China and got these.... They LOOK like Powerpoles...



...and they are sold as Anderson powerpoles...but let me tell ya, Anderson powerpoles they are NOT. Not only do they not fit Powerpoles, they don't even fit *each other*!!

I had to swallow my pride and buy from Farnell some real Anderson powerpoles which look like this...



They cost a fortune in comparison but they fitted first time and the job's a good'un!

You have been warned.

At least I have a nice plastic box to keep them in.

Portable ops and QRM

I have recently spent more time in my favourite bolt hole in the Gower and managed to get some time up near a spot called Arthurs seat again. The joy of such operating is that the noise levels are of course very very low. I was using the Xiegu G90 but rather than the very popular and of course excellent Bantenna Sleeve antenna I was using a Watson Ranger 9 band on a magmount on the roof of the car. It worked well indeed: stations around the UK and a German in Frankfurt. The picture below shows the setup and the great view!

If you haven't tried portable ops recently or at all, I urge you to get out and give it a bash. [Bantenna](#) supply good aerials (the Sleeve), [Phoenixkits](#) online run by our own Paul, M0BMN, also sells very good stuff that will help your portable journey!



To show that /P isn't ALL fun and games, the photo below is the same view as the one above, one day later!! Incredible change. The fog lasted all day and all night, next day was back to its former glory.



Should-be FISTS

Everynow and then I work a station who really ought to be a FIST. I always send an email after the QSO urging them to join, so maybe...who knows. However, recently I worked Yannig, F4IUJ. His cw was slow but good and his conversation devent if broken - it was in English after all! I then checked him on QRZ and if ever a chap should be a FISAT it is Yannig. I hope he joins. On QRZ Yannig says this:

"I am a recently licensed Ham (March 2021) who is learning the ropes. At the moment I am learning CW on 40m with a QCX+ kit I assembled earlier.

I thank you all for your patience with my sometimes dodgy code and hopefully, I will get there soon... please space out characters so that my brain can keep up. My antenna is a doublet made out of speaker wires strung in the attic, the antenna is matched to the rig with a Z match which I assembled using the G-QRP kit.

I live in the city centre of Rennes in Brittany hence the limited opportunities for a super efficient antenna.

The local hams from the "[ARA 35](#)" have been very generous to me so I also have a Kenwood TS140s and a Yaesu ft290r that were given to me. I use the Kenwood to feed an end fed antenna when I am portable out of the city. The Yaesu although functional needs a bit of TLC which is fine as I am a tinkerer... I also have various kits waiting to be assembled so if anybody has a recipe to stretch out time, I am a taker for it!

Being new, **I love QSLs**, I prefer to exchange them by **Buro**, if you insist on sending one direct send it with a nice stamp and I will reply direct with a "Beau Timbre" as they call them at the French Post Office!"

There's a chap who won't let a bit of problem get him down!

FISTS activities

My initial impressions of the latest biggie - the FISTS 35yr activity – is really good. I've managed nothing like enough QSOs to win or even place (so far) but I have worked many stations chasing points. Fantastic news to my activities manager's ears I can tell you and it's great to hear such enthusiasm.

I haven't forgotten the Chadburn Cup either...QRX!

Ladder

On to the ladder and new to the 2022 Ladder in April are:

Dave G7WHI
Gabor M0LPZ
Hanns DL1DHM
John M0JVU

Phil M0PBZ
Simon M0ILR

Welcome chaps and may success stalk your every call!

That's all from me,

Have a great month of Dx and local QSO and let me know what's going on if you'd like to see your words in print.

73
David
G4YVM

Comments for Ladder April 2022

Entrant	Comments
Ivan G0BON	Second evening was a bit hard going, great fun again as always.
Richard G0ILN	Conditions seem to be improving . Thanks for all the contacts. Richard G0ILN
Peter G3JRH	Condx better this month. On 27th best signals for a long time, skip on 80 ws long on the second Sunday,.. Peter G3JRH
Chris G3XVL	Had a nice chat with Gareth 2E0BKW... welcome back , hope to see you again on the ladder.
Tony G3ZRJ	Sorry could only do one session this month Wishing all a fb May cu then
John G4LRG	Missed early activity but managed the latest - 24042022. Hard work but fun taking part. Thanks to all for the points.
Ray G4XUZ	Afternoon sessions quite busy. Good fun as always. Thanks to all. 73, Ray G4XUZ
John G4YTJ	A holiday meant that I couldn't operate for the sessions on April 10th (Yes I did consider taking a rig but decided against it with only a 15kg baggage allowance). Two good sessions on 24th, with a number of duplicate contacts between the afternoon (40m) and evening (80m) sessions.
Simon M0ILR	Really enjoyed it! :-)
Enzo M0KTZ	Just a few entries this month, but very good QSOs. 72 de Enzo M0KTZ
Gabor M0LPZ	Only 1 QSO this time, but happy as I made it with only 2.5 Watts. Thank you Vanni! I am quite happy with this month's activity. Got some good distances. I believe this is my best result so far. Thank you all! 73 de Gabor
Phil M0PBZ	Two good sessions.
Steve M0SHM	Better conditions this month.

Pete M5ABN	Thanks for all the contacts & see you in May! Stay safe. Vy 73 Pete M5ABN
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, Please find attached my log in April. Thanks, all the best and stay safe. 73 Erkki OH7QR 8318
Norbert ON4ANE	no strong signals but no problem to copy 73 DE Norbert ON4ANE
Jan PA0SIM	The QSOs on the 24th of April are made wid a Vibroplex Original bug. Started using a bug abt a month ago. It took me 10 months of practice, but it is a lot of fun using it. 73 Jan PA0SIM
Adam SQ9S	Tnx for all QSOs in FISTS Ladder April 2022. I created an unofficial group on a telegram. So you can Join FISTS CW Telegram Group on https://t.me/+NEuJE-IpDUM5NDE0 For Ladder and Upcoming events activity Best 73 Adam SQ9S #20019

Results for Ladder April 2022

Callsign	Posn	Prev	Move	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
G0ILN	1	1	-	377	91	83	105	98
M5ABN	2	2	-	274	61	69	62	82
G0BON	3	3	-	263	69	42	76	76
G4LRG	4	4	-	235	70	97		68
G3XVL	5	5	-	208	27	66	63	52
G0JHK	6	6	-	190	40	55	48	47
ON4ANE	7	7	-	166	41	40	35	50
G4YTJ	8	8	-	148	30	45	30	43
G4TPJ	9	10	↑	135	24	36	30	45
MM0UMH	10	11	↑	130	8	38	39	45
G0DFC	11	=12	↑	125	24	21	37	43
G3JRH	=12	17	↑	109		18	49	42
G3ZRJ	=12	9	↓	109	40	36	27	6
M0MCL	=12	=12	-	109	27	37	18	27
MW0BGL	15	20	↑	105			48	57
PA0SIM	16	14	↓	102	30	24	27	21
G4XUZ	17	16	↓	99	24	27	18	30
OH7QR	18	15	↓	93	21	21	30	21
M0SHM	19	=18	↓	90	27	12	24	27
2E0DPH	20	=18	↓	78	39	24		15
G7WHI	21	-	↑	66				66
M0PBZ	22	-	↑	59				59
M0DRK	23	21	↓	54	6	27	6	15
SQ9S	24	22	↓	49	21	6	10	12
M0KTZ	25	23	↓	41		18	14	9
G4DNP	26	24	↓	23		13	10	
G3ZOD	27	=25	↓	21			15	6
M0ILR	28	-	↑	18				18
MI0WWB	29	=25	↓	15		15		
G0TLU	30	27	↓	12		9	3	
M0JVU	31	-	↑	9				9
DL3GJ	32	28	↓	5	5			
M0LPZ	33	-	↑	3				3
DL1DHM	34	-	↑	1				1
MX5IPX*				9			9	

* Check log

Upcoming Events

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

July 2022

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Fri 01 Jul		EuCW Snakes & Ladders summer/autumn season starts	0000 UTC
Fri 01 Jul	Sun 31 Jul	FISTS Europe 35th Anniversary Challenge	0000-2359 UTC
Sun 10 Jul		FISTS Europe Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 24 Jul		FISTS Europe Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
