

# Strike Notes

July 2005 Issue 54

News, Information and Trivia for ringers in the Derby & Ilkeston Districts

## Pot Luck Striking Competition at Brailsford, Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July.

No less than 34 people took part in this competition, enough to make up six teams. I helped make up the sixth team, so doubling my chances of a prize, but to no avail. The teams were drawn from a hat (and a fez) and were weighted to ensure that ringers of all experiences were scattered equally among the teams. Under John's guidance the marking system was tested. The team leaders rang a few changes with some deliberate errors (or so they claimed!). Then after a few minutes' team bonding the competition was under way. Each team rang the test piece based on the Arthur Ashby Cup, and also marked the efforts of the other teams, so there was a complete involvement throughout the whole afternoon.

It was a warm sunny day, and my abiding memory is of small groups of ringers scattered around the churchyard, carefully listening and marking the performances of the other groups. There is a question about marking; does one become more tolerant of mistakes as the competition progresses? We were first to ring and suffered a deluge of penalty points, compared with the later teams. This tends to prove the argument (nothing to do with our actual performance, of course). Interestingly, the ranking of performances by all the teams was remarkably consistent.

Picnics were taken during the afternoon and tea, coffee and juice were available throughout. The final activity was the declaration of marks, in the usual reverse order. Members of the winning team\* were given a surprise presentation of an engraved medal and a miniature bottle of refreshment.

Our thanks are due to the Brailsford incumbent and the ringing team for the use of the facilities, to Lizzie for the admin, to Steve for the prizes, to Rosemary for scorekeeping, to the team leaders for support and advice, and to the participants themselves for making this a fun occasion with a real purpose.

*Rod Pearson*



\*The winning team members were Jane Almond, Chris Booth, Rosemary Cheshire, Mary Cox, Alec Humphrey and Peter Sutton.

JMB

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## Starting Over #2

Having decided to try and start ringing again, the question was - where? My enfeebled condition precluded a heavy ring and unsure of my ability to even count up to eight it seemed that a lightish six was required.

I decided that Brassington fitted my wish list pretty well. Roy & Frances run the practice, and it's a pretty little out of the way place where I could attempt my comeback and make my inevitable mistakes in relative privacy.

Well, I went, but it wasn't the same. It is an upstairs ring now! Remember I've not rung for twelve years. I thought, well, that's probably an improvement as downstairs ringing chambers invariably act as dumping grounds for any equipment needed by other church groups. Flower arranging pedestals always figure prominently with several cubic feet of soggy oasis impaled on

various spikes; lawnmowers are another favourite whilst Cassocks and Hassocks and old Hymn books are often squeezed in also.

So it was up the stairs I went - only to meet a trap-door! Was it counter-balanced, was there a secret knock needed to announce my presence, would someone be standing on it, or would a tentative push do the trick? What an adventure I was having and I'd not even rung a bell yet!

I actually gained admittance relatively easily and there I was on a floor where there wasn't one before, looking at people whom I didn't know and who didn't know me, wondering if that was advantageous to all or any of the parties involved?

Next time I will try and explain what it felt like to actually try to ring and control a bell again.

*Geoff Peach.*

## Local ringing for VE/VJ day on July 10th

Here are the details of towers that I have been told about:

**Ashbourne** rang a peal of 5040 Plain Bob Triples

**Brailsford** rang a quarter of Bob Doubles

**Mugginton** rang various methods for a total of about 45 minutes.

**Ockbrook.** Didn't ring any Quarters or special methods — but they did have their oldest member ringing in his Army medals!

**St Peter's** rang a quarter of Cambridge S Minor

CONTRIBUTIONS for the next issue are needed by **August 25th 2005**. Please post to Jenny Booth at 51 The Plain, Brailsford DE6 3BZ, or e-mail to [Strike Notes@derbyda.org.uk](mailto:Strike Notes@derbyda.org.uk)  
*Strike Notes is compiled by Jenny Booth and printed by Steve Harpham*

## Secretary's Salutations

Firstly welcome to the following new members who have been elected to the Association:

- Frances Fagan from Melbourne who was elected at the June meeting at Netherseale
- John Britland, from Derby Cathedral
- Linda Cribbens and Neil Taylor from Horsley

They were elected at the Association Summer Meeting at Scarcliffe. Welcome to the Association.

It was announced at the Summer meeting that the triennial review of the district boundaries is due to be discussed at the general committee meeting in September. Jane Boden, Association Secretary, asked for any thoughts or ideas to be passed to her. The outcome of this will then be on the agenda for the October Meeting to be held at Breaston.

The Eight Bell competition will be held at Long Eaton, with general ringing at Ockbrook and Breaston.

Following on from my previous article about the National twelve bell competition eliminators, I thought I should write about the final. After such gorgeous weather we were greeted with a dull and overcast day for the trip to Towcester. The Melbourne 12 bell band competed against Birmingham, St Paul's Cathedral, Reading, York, High Wycombe, Towcester, Cambridge and the Ancient Society of College Youths. This was actually the order the teams rang in, with Melbourne ringing between the home tower and

Cambridge. After having unfortunately been practising the incorrect touch until the Thursday prior to the finals, the team came a very credible 6th. Well done. The band was the same as for the eliminators.

The Towcester ringers made excellent hosts. They took over the Chantry House which was next to the church, with a real ale bar and a mini ring to entertain ringers during the day. Along with bacon and sausage sandwiches on arrival, a scrumptious two course lunch and hog roast in the evening.

What was really noticeable was the number of young people and children attending, I have never seen so many prams and buggies at a ringing event!

The results were:

1st	Birmingham	78%
2nd	Towcester	75%
3rd	ASCY	73%
4th	York	72%
5th	High Wycombe	71%
6th	Melbourne	70%
7th	Reading	60%
8th	St Pauls	59%
9th	Cambridge	57%

So actually very close between 3rd and 6th place.

*M Elizabeth Cotton*

## Radio Ga Ga

The phone call from Emma came on Thursday morning. Would I be interviewed live on Radio Derby about the ringing on Sunday the 10th? Why me? What about \*\*\* and \*\*\*\* ? (I suggested some other committee members much more experienced than me). It seems they were unavailable. OK then, what time? The Nicholas Henshall Show, be there at 8.30am, Sunday morning. Ruth Smith would also be taking part.

Emma sent me the press release which had triggered the interest at Radio Derby with a brief that the interview would be about the occasions for which we ring bells; local, national, millennium, etc.

Having never done anything like this before, I knew I would be nervous so preparation and notes would be all important. Downloaded details of the show from the BBC website, some stuff from the Central Council website and later pulled out my ringing history books. The Central Council book had some details about no ringing during the Second World War but Jill Banks' book "That Rings a Bell" was a gold mine. (Lots of copies still available I'm told). Next day I bought some post cards and covered four of them with key words and dates. Sometime on Saturday I found out that Ruth would be on the phone — not in the studio.

Sunday morning arrived and the roads were strangely deserted on my way into town. Similarly, the Radio Derby building was very quiet, just a couple of people, one leaving, the producer Jan Rogers and Nick. I would be on about

8.45, so sat sipping some water and looking at my crib sheets. It was a relaxed atmosphere; joked with Jan, Nick came out and said hello, but all too soon it was into the studio and getting the headphones on. Nick spoke to Ruth on the phone but, slight panic, I couldn't hear her. "Don't worry, you will when we're on the air". Then Nick was doing the introductions, all the details correct I was pleased to find and the first question was "Steve, what made you take up ringing?" This I could deal with, nice connection with another radio show and with the millennium but I confess at this point my recollection of events is a little vague. Maybe it was the nerves but all I remember is Nick talking to Ruth about the bells at Melbourne, him playing a tape of ringing at Westminster Abbey then him calling me Mike and me making a link between the ringing on VE Day and the 60th Commemoration and getting Arnold Morley's name wrong. Then suddenly it was all over. Didn't use a single thing from my notes — where were the questions about ringing occasions? "Thanks very much, you can go out this way."

I sat in the car and didn't know whether to laugh or cry. At least nothing very bad happened. People I saw later in the morning kindly said it came over well but if you weren't listening, you didn't miss much.

*Steve Harpham*