

Strike Notes

October 2006 Issue 68

News, Information and Trivia for ringers in the Central & Southern Districts

Association 8-bell contest 2006 - a personal view

It falls to the ringing master of each district of the association to enter teams in the inter-district 8-bell striking contest and I decided that it was time for the Southern District to win it at Ticknall this year. There could be a number of criteria used for assembling a representative band. Whilst in discussion with the Central District's Luke Heaton he told me that he preferred to include principally those people who supported association events. My own objectives with the Derby District over the last few years, which I continued to apply this year, was to include as many people as possible so that there was less emphasis on what might be termed 'elite' ringers, and also to include ringers from as many towers as possible.

When I started recruiting for the band in July I received some amused looks because of the early start but I considered that it would undoubtedly be beneficial for the band to have the opportunity to practice together so getting the band organised in good time seemed the obvious thing to do. I eventually recruited sixteen ringers from eight different towers. I asked John Heaton to look after one of the bands and gave him first choice of ringers with the proviso that I wished for one of the bands to be good enough to win the trophy and not necessarily to try for two equal teams.

In the event, the team that I looked after practised by going for a quarter peal, and as it happens I miscalled it - there's many a slip isn't there?! John's team were unable to come

together before the day itself. Despite my attempt to be organised we found that we needed to recruit three substitutes, the first for our practice quarter peal, and the other two on the day itself.

On the day of the contest the team in which I was ringing was drawn to ring first. We duly trooped upstairs and adjusted the ropes. Unlike the 6-bell contests, this competition allows for five minutes of practice ringing so we rang a course of Grandsire Triples. I was really pleased with that initial performance and perhaps it was too good, since in my estimation our test piece didn't quite match up to it with a couple of trips in our final course.

I was unable to hear any of the other teams ring since I had to be at Chellaston and then at Melbourne to run the afternoon ringing there. As people began drifting in from the contest at Ticknall I enquired how the ringing had gone and each person that I spoke to had positive comments to make about the general standard of the ringing. This was confirmed by the judge, Terry Astill from Hinckley. The nail-biting bit was when he said that he had awarded exactly the same number of faults to two teams. The results were

Southern District - (Alec's team)

Grandsire Triples 26 ½ faults

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Sir Arthur rides again

I thought that after we'd scored a quarter of Duffield Royal at Duffield in April for the 90th anniversary of APH's death, that was that. But then a fan of APH, Mr James Waterfield of Boston, Lincs, contacted me for more information. He is not a ringer himself but a friend who is showed him the article about our quarter in the Ringing World.

James owns a working windmill called Maud Foster, in Lincolnshire, but also owns some original APH railway rolling stock & other memorabilia. He has reconstructed the dining car and some other pieces, which are kept at the Perrygrove Railway in the Forest of Dean. Anyone interested should have a look at their web site, which has links to other APH information such as a list of all his known surviving railway stuff.

James wants to expand the APH collection to include his ringing activities, and had the idea of recording Duffield as part of the display! We assembled a team of eight to ring Duffield Major, again at Duffield, on 23rd September. It wasn't raining, and the big trains had stopped running due to engineering work, so conditions were ideal for the little train enthusiasts to record us. We showed James & his assistant Richard what was involved in ringing, and they showed us photos of the remains of the railway at Duffield Bank, and of APH and his family, including his children working the controls! The present baronet has become involved and is very keen on finding out more about his ancestor's activities.

We rang lots of Duffield, both touches and plain courses, until we and they had had enough! We even allowed them to video us a bit. Thanks to Arnold and John for conducting, and to all the band for taking part.

As a postscript, does anyone still have a bell bearing, which were sold off when Duffield bells were rehung in the mid-1970s? There

should be twenty of these still around, and James is willing to pay a good price if anyone wants to sell theirs. The smaller ones have "APH" on the oil cap, the larger display his self-aligning system more fully. (He was very fond of casting the name of his workshop onto wagon wheels, too). If you have one of these cast bearings and would like to sell, I can put you in touch.

Sue Peach

PROs at Melbourne.

On the 14th October Public Relations Officers (PROs) from associations all over England attended a Central Council Forum. The aim of the day was to meet with other association officers and Central Council public relations committee members in order to share experiences and improve our understanding of what a PRO can do for an association.

Following a welcome from Pat Halls as the hosting association President, short presentations were heard on applications for grants, ringing and the television and ringing associations links to universities.

After a cup of coffee and a chance to natter with fellow PRO's Lord Raynham presented the BBC documentary "A passion for Churches - The East Raynham Experience" followed by practical advice on the use of charitable trusts when fundraising for projects. After a lunch recess, Tim Joiner, past Lord Mayor of Westminster, gave a lively talk on how to use the media. If this presentation was anything to judge by, then his recruitment to speak at the DDA dinner next February looks an excellent choice. The afternoon was rounded off with groups looking at how web pages can have an effect, the role of a PRO and how the Ringing World is assembled.

Chris Gilbert

CONTRIBUTIONS for the next issue are needed by **November 25th 2006**. Please post to Jenny Booth at 51 The Plain, Brailsford DE6 3BZ, or e-mail to Strike Notes@derbyda.org.uk
Strike Notes is compiled by Jenny Booth and printed by Steve Harpham

Peak District

Double Norwich CB Major 26 ½ faults

Southern District - (John's team)

Yorkshire S Major 20 faults

Chesterfield District

Little Bob Major 41 faults

Central District

Plain Bob Triples 34 faults

Congratulations are due to all of those who took part, but of course especially to the winning team.

Next year my target will be for two Southern District teams to beat the Peak District on their home ground, a tough proposition indeed.

The three local teams were:

Southern - John's VIII

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1 Janet Foulds | 2 David Marshall |
| 3 John Heaton | 4 Pat Halls |
| 5 Pam Timms | 6 Bob Smith |
| 7 Christian Peckham | 8 Tim Peverett |
- 4 towers represented

Southern - Alec's VIII

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Jane Boden | 2 Brian Tomlinson |
| 3 Alec Humphrey | 4 Peter Marriott |
| 5 Chris Gilbert | 6 Morris Bates |
| 7 Anthony Cotton | 8 Paul Bradley |
- 5 towers represented

Central VIII

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1 Mike Willis | 2 Graeme Hughes |
| 3 Luke Heaton | 4 Mike Lilley |
| 5 Arnold Morley | 6 Robert Marchbank |
| 7 Jack Chadwick | 8 Steve Harpham |
- 5 towers represented

I would especially like to express my thanks to Elizabeth Heaton, Janet Foulds and Jane Boden for stepping into various breaches at short notice and saving the day in the process.

Alec Humphrey

Celebrating the first ten years of a New Band.

In July this year the newly formed Overseal/Netherseal ringers celebrated our first ten years of ringing. It seemed like only yesterday that six "never been in a bell tower before" people stood outside Overseal church waiting for Mr and Mrs J Heaton (!) to arrive to introduce us to bell ringing.

Had I known then what I know now I wonder if I would ever have started. After our first lesson, with John pulling the ropes and Elizabeth showing us the Cathedral model bell, I thought "two to three months and we would all have cracked this ringing lark". Then all we had to do was arrive at church and pull the ropes for 10 - 15 minutes on Sunday mornings. How wrong can you be?!

What none of us realised was that you never actually stop learning. What I personally didn't realise was how big a part of my life ringing was going to become. Ten years on, I am just as eager to learn as I was at the beginning. As Ian and the children will tell you, until I started ringing NOTHING would have got me out of bed before 10:00 am on a Sunday morning!!

As with all bands, ringers come and go for various reasons. At the moment we have a very enthusiastic band, albeit a little small (visiting ringers welcome) but each of us has rung several quarter peals and three of the original six have rung a Peal. In 2003 we rang our first Quarter with all Overseal ringers and conductor. We are also very proud to have won the Arthur Ashby Cup three times. Not bad for a band that started from scratch!

I haven't written this just to blow our trumpet; but to show what can be achieved by a good teacher and a willing band of students.

Mary Venables

Secretary's Salutations

The Association eight bell striking competition was hosted by the Southern District this year, with the draw at Ticknall and the competition on the back eight there. It was a lovely sunny day and with the judge, Terry Astill from Earl Shilton, being looked after by Paul and Elizabeth Arnold, ringers at Ticknall. Rod Pearson welcomed everyone and produced his fez again for the draw for the order of the ringing.

The first team set off while others sat enjoying the sunshine, listening, talking, others enjoyed the delights of Calke Abbey and several visited the local shop to purchase hot beverages. With general ringing taking place at Chellaston during the competition it was a busy afternoon.

Off to Melbourne for the service with our Chairman playing the piano and then the wonderful spread of food organised by Ruth Smith, it was delicious! Before the meeting Terry gave the results. He had judged the competition by giving one point for faults, trips, gaps and unevenness and two points for a clash, the total then divided.

Team One. Southern (Alec) Rang Grandsire Triples in 7 minutes and 45 seconds, making a peal speed of 2hrs 55mins. Good rhythm until the single at the home, second half not as good as the first.

Team Two. Peak. Rang Double Norwich in 7 minutes and 37 seconds, making a peal speed of 2hrs 51mins. Some clips and variations at the start, got better with a good finish.

Team Three. Southern (John) Rang Yorkshire Major in 7 minutes and 47 seconds, making a peal speed of 2hrs 56mins. Good rhythm all the way, no problems, clips after the tenor became 3rds place bell.

Team Four. Chesterfield. Rang Little Bob Major in 7 minutes and 31 seconds, making a peal speed of 2hrs 49 seconds. Rushed at times, several two fault occurrences, didn't settle, felt pressure was on the conductor ringing Little Bob.

Team Five. Central. Rang Plain Bob triples in 7 minutes and 58 seconds, making a peal speed of 2hrs 59 minutes. Times sounded nervous, several two mark faults. Nice rhythm.

The trophy was presented to John Heaton. It had been professionally cleaned and polished at Haddon Hall by the organisation of the Peak District. It is also now covered with a cloth by courtesy of Lord Manners.

Elizabeth Cotton

Beth's Wedding

Beth Sadler, a former Belper ringer who has moved up to Yorkshire, married Saul Willoughby on Friday 6th September at St Peter's Belper. Beth's parents live opposite the church, and we stationed a spare ringer at the window to watch for her approaching up the drive. Beth however had decided to go the long way round and approach up the other drive! But she said we stopped at exactly the moment she got into church.

All the ringers attended the very happy service, which included a reading by the bride's mother from "Captain Corelli's Mandolin". The old bell ropes which were replaced at Easter came in very handy, being tied onto the balcony above the door and hanging down into the bottom of the tower, thus forming an archway of ropes and ringers for Beth and Saul to walk through as they came out of church.

Beth also wanted to ring afterwards, so we made sure the tower steps were spotless. Ringing in her wedding dress was no problem; we had more difficulty trying not to lasso the video man & the photographer.

Later in the evening we joined Beth & Saul and their families at the evening reception at Masa restaurant in Derby, There were four wedding cakes, one for each season. We wish Beth and Saul every happiness and blessing in their future life together, and hope Beth will still come and have a ring with us now & again.

Sue Peach

Webb Ivory catalogues

are available for ringers, family or friends to place orders.

Profits go to the Bell Repair Fund.

Do your Christmas shopping from your arm chair before the rush starts!