

STRIKE NOTES

Issue 77 Spring 2008

Central and Southern Districts' news and information

Hello

Space is tight in this issue so here is the shortest [AGM](#) report ever: it was a good day with lots of towers open, and there were no major surprises in the meeting.

Elizabeth Heaton

Harry Stewart

When Harry Stewart died on March 30, Melbourne ringers lost the senior member of the band, and a good and valued friend. Harry was remarkable in that he only learned to handle a bell at the age of 79, and rang rounds for the first time on his eightieth birthday for Sunday service. Although they lived in Findern, Harry and Erica began to come to Melbourne Church about fifteen years ago attracted there by the services under Canon Frederick Ross. Erica, already an experienced ringer, soon joined in with service ringing and eventually became a member of the team. Harry had always supported

Erica's ringing but remained detached allowing her to pursue her interests, as he had done in Freemasonry. However, he was eventually persuaded to have a go, and quickly became hooked. He progressed to rounds and call changes on twelve and plain hunting on seven before Parkinson's disease became too much for him. It is sad that he didn't learn earlier because he found great satisfaction and truly enjoyed ringing, and ringing outings. Whilst visiting his daughter Diane, he joined in practices and outings in Kent, and even rang at Canterbury Cathedral. Many ringing friends attended Harry's funeral and he left the church to the sound of Tittums on the twelve bells as he had requested. Harry will be sadly missed among ringers for his companionship, sense of humour and obvious enjoyment of ringing and all the accompanying social events.

Ruth Smith

A New Beginning

Well, it was not so much a new beginning, but really a re-invention of the wheel. Saturday 29th March saw a ten-bell practice at Duffield take place. It happened to coincide with the eliminators for the National Twelve Bell Contest at Tewkesbury, so some of the people who it was hoped might be supporters were not available, but nevertheless ten people assembled to ring an introductory quarter peal of Cambridge Surprise Royal. After 7:30, when they were joined by others for general practice, five surprise major methods, Yorkshire Surprise Royal, and Stedman Caters were rung.

During the rest of this year further ten-bell practices will be held on the fifth Saturday of the month, whenever it occurs. Each will be preceded by a quarter peal. This is to ensure enough reasonably experienced ringers and a sufficiently wide repertoire of methods amongst those attending.

The next ten-bell practice is scheduled for Saturday 31st May at Melbourne at 7:30 (we might, with a bit of arm twisting, be persuaded to ring some cinquos or maximus if there is a demand). Further practices are envisaged on August 30th and November 29th. Possible venues are under consideration are Derby Cathedral and Ticknall. Methods that we hope to offer at the practices include any of the standard eight surprise major methods, Yorkshire and Cambridge Surprise Royal, and Stedman; I would expect to provide the opportunity to ring almost any method on eight or more bells.

Alec Humphrey

Duffield, Derbyshire, on Saturday 29th March 2008, 1282 Cambridge S Royal: John Heaton (C) 1, Ruth Smith 2, Linda Pelc (1st of S Royal) 3, Luke Heaton 4, Richard Gibson 5, John Thorpe 6, Peter Marriott 7, Alec Humphrey 8, Jack Chadwick 9, Bob Smith 10. Thanks to Peter, who stood in at short notice.

"For unto us a child is born".....so ring a quarter

Longstanding readers of this pamphlet may recall that in 2004, Ockbrook cemented itself in history by ringing and naming the

eponymous method '[Ockbrook Differential Doubles](#)'.

Having agreed that we should do more of that sort of thing (naming methods), the band promptly forgot all about it.....until recently.

In early 2007, one of our longest-serving ringers, Sharon Rutland, gave us the news that she was pregnant—happy news except that Sharon would be stopping ringing right in the middle of the wedding season. September came, and Sharon went to watch her husband Phil pulling for a local pub tug-of-war team. During the contest, her waters broke, and the next day she gave birth to a bouncing baby boy, Joshua Vernon.

The band unanimously agreed that we should do something to commemorate this event, and a quarter-peal seemed like a decent (and achievable) target....then some bright spark suggested we ring a new method to name after Joshua.

I found in my list of Differential Doubles place notations one that gave a very similar blue line to 'Ockbrook'. This seemed sensible, as it would be more familiar to the band. We set ourselves a target of ringing the quarter before the day of the Christening. We had additional practices just for the method to make sure we could get it right, and on the 24th February we went for it. Four false starts later, at five to eight, I made an impassioned (grumpy??) plea: I was due on nightshift (which makes me narky anyway), and then off on my

holidays, so it was either now or dangerously close to the Christening. 43 minutes and 1320 changes later, we had 'Joshua Differential Doubles' in the bag. The details are:

Ockbrook, Derbyshire, on 24th February 2008, 1320 Joshua Differential Doubles: Pam Postans 1, Christine Grocott 2, Sharon Rutland 3, Heather Reid 4, Nick Daines (C) 5, Lewis Davenport 6.

For those who might like to try it, the place notation is:

3.1.345.125.345.123.5.1.123.5.345.5
.123.1.5.123.345.125.345.1 lh 21534

I hope this article might stimulate local bands to think what they can do with a bit of motivation and tenacity. With dedication and enthusiasm, you don't have to be a ringing 'high-flyer' to achieve something special and we feel we have done that with 'Joshua'—it has been published in the Ringing World, is on the Central Council Methods Website, and is something that no-one else can say they did first. That we did it for a fellow ringer made it especially poignant, and hopefully in years to come Joshua will learn to ring and have a go at his method himself. I encourage everyone to try something like this—IT CAN BE DONE.
Nick Daines

Central District Striking Contest Heats

Central District's Striking Contest heats took place on the 8th March at Osmaston, Only 3 teams entered the contest this year, two in the Horsley Cup section and one in the Arthur Ashby Cup section. The ringing was most ably judged by Tim Peverett who made keen observations on the ringing and many constructive comments before awarding the following scores:-

St.Peter's Belper	(Horsley Cup)	160½ points
St.Helen's Etwall	(Arthur Ashby)	204½ points
All Saints Mugginton	(Horsley Cup)	186½ points.

The Etwall team and the Mugginton team go through to the final of the Arthur Ashby Cup and the Horsley Cup respectively.

Thanks are due to Laurie Green who enabled us to use the church itself as our meeting place, since there were not enough of us to justify booking the local village hall. This was a big help. Thanks to Tim for judging the contest.

Chris Willis

Southern District Striking Contest Heats

The Southern District heats of the six-bell striking contests took place at Breaston on St David's Day. There were eleven teams, and the judge, Peter Humphrey of Tideswell, announced the following results:

<u>Arthur Ashby Cup</u>	<u>Horsley Cup</u>
1st Overseale	1st Derby Cathedral
2nd Derby Cathedral	2nd Derby St Peter
3rd Sawley	3rd Overseale
4th Derby St Peter	
5th Netherseale.	

Since five teams entered, Overseale and Derby Cathedral both qualify for the Arthur Ashby Cup final. Derby Cathedral go through to the Horsley Cup final.

Alec Humphrey

The finals will take place on 17th May at Horsley ([Horsley Cup](#)) and Denby ([Arthur Ashby Cup](#)).

Contributions for the next issue by 31/07/08 please to Elizabeth Heaton at 51, Brough Street, Derby DE22 3EN