

STRIKE NOTES

Issue 79, December 2008

Central and Southern Districts' news, information and trivia

Editor's Notes

Hello! I've failed again in my aspiration to publish thin, frequent issues of Strike Notes - so here is another late, fat one. It comes with my warm good wishes for the Christmas season (ringing for all those extra services is just part of the fun, isn't it?) and the New Year.

January is the time for Annual District Meetings, when all the District Committee posts are up for re-election. Why not come along and be part of the decision-making, and perhaps even offer to join the District Committee if you have ideas about what the District should be doing or if you're simply willing to help organise things. (You'll need someone to nominate you, but that should be easily arranged.) As well as the formal meeting, the ADM will include plenty of ringing and a good tea.

Elizabeth Heaton

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Situations Vacant (1): We need Secs!.....

.....or one in particular. For most of this year, the Southern District Committee has been without a Secretary. This coming January sees the Annual District Meeting, where Officers will once again be elected, and we would dearly love some fresh blood to come onto the Committee to offer new ideas, and ideally take on the role of Secretary.

What would your role be?

Well, as the old joke used to go, meetings can take hours, but secretaries just take minutes! However, the meetings are usually kept to about 3 per year, certainly don't take hours, and minute taking only need cover the basics-you won't need Pitman's shorthand. The main role is to act as a focal point for contact within the District, communicating with the General Secretary and Committee, distribution of posters, advertising materials and information, and *some* organising of District events. Please don't let the latter part of the role put you off: in reality this is likely to simply be organising towers for a few ringing meetings. The more complex events, such as the Quarter-peal Day, Strictly Come Ringing, and the Quiz are all organised by other Committee members. In addition, the rest of the Committee will be happy to help out if you need assistance.

So, why not give it a go? The District and its ringing events don't just happen by accident; if you have enjoyed them over the years why not give a little back and become involved in the work that goes into them? Similarly, if you think they can be improved, this is an ideal opportunity to put your ideas forward in the forum that makes

the decisions as to what happens!

If you are interested in the role, or would like to know more, please talk to any member of the Southern District Committee. We don't bite, honest.

Nick Daines

Situations Vacant (2): 6-bell striking competition organiser

A willing volunteer (or more than one) is needed to help organise the Arthur Ashby and Horsley Cup finals in May. This entails inviting the judges, booking the bells and the hall for tea, ensuring there are enough volunteers to provide the usual high standard of tea, and communicating with the bands that came through their District heats.

The job of organising the six-bell competitions doesn't belong to any particular district or officer of the Association - which is why a volunteer is needed. Support and guidance can be provided if you haven't done this sort of thing before. If you're interested talk to Jane Boden, the Association General Secretary, to find out more.

Elizabeth Heaton

Arnold and Walter

In the last issue of Strike Notes I promised that this one would say a bit more about Walter Soar and Arnold Morley, both of whom died in the summer. Both were cheerful and interesting characters and stalwart ringers, and much loved in the ringing community. Both seem to have been good at lots of other things besides ringing. They don't make 'em like that any more.

Walter was both unassuming and jolly. He made things (such as the model bell at Newhall) beautifully. He was a church organist and a pub pianist. His home tower was Ticknall, where he served for over seventy years as a ringer and chorister. Being good company and a capable ringer, Walter was also a welcome regular at various towers in the area. He rang quarter peals for his birthdays in his eighties, including his first of Cambridge Royal, and regaled the band with sandwiches and tales of his youth in the pub afterwards.

Arnold was a teacher and capable woodworker and keen gardener and played the bass in various bands - as well as being a ringer. He was Belper's Tower Captain for many years.

Ed.

Walter G Soar, 1921-2008

Walter was introduced into church services as organ blower to his father, and progressed to chorister and bellringer. These carried on throughout his life until at the age of 87 he finally had to retire. He was an employee of Rolls-Royce Ltd for many years during the war. His services were curtailed during the time of his buying a grocery shop, but he returned again after taking up other employment. He leaves twin girls and several grandchildren. Walter will be greatly missed.

Peter Marriott

W Arnold Morley, 1931-2008

In becoming a bellringer Arnold followed in the steps of his father and grandfather. The first service he rang for was in 1945. Arnold became Tower Captain at Belper in about 1955. He held the post of Derby District Secretary for three years from 1958.

Arnold rang his first peal, of Plain Bob Major, at Belper in March 1957. In 1963 he conducted a peal of Plain Bob Major at Belper, which was the first peal for four of the Belper band. In 1983 Arnold first rang with the Thursday night peal

band, and he became a regular member. Arnold usually had some project on the go in the belfry and his installation of sound control in the form of the famous mattresses over the frame at Belper meant that the Thursday night peals could be held every week at Belper.

In his will Arnold left a sum of money to the bellringers 'for the purpose of some refreshment (either liquid or solid) at some suitable time after my funeral'.

On Thursday September 11th the Thursday Peal Band rang:

BELPER, Derbyshire, St Peter

Thu Sep 11 2008 2h44 (14)

5024 Bristol Surprise Major

Comp. Stephen J Ivin

1 David W Camm;

2 Ian Duff;

3 Patricia A M Halls;

4 Robert J Marchbank;

5 Colin Aked;

6 Alan J Marchbank;

7 Richard L Taylor;

8 John V Chadwick (C)

Rung prior a gathering of friends to celebrate the life of the late Arnold Morley who was not only a regular member of the Thursday peal band but latterly the main organiser. He was the Tower Captain of Belper where, from the early 1980s, the majority of the Thursday night peals were rung.

After the peal thirty ringers gathered in St Peter's West End to raise a glass to Arnold and to enjoy a meal together.

Graeme Hughes welcomed everyone to the gathering and read a poem written by Rev. Robert Parsons, who was away on holiday and unable to join us:

Oh ringers all, you come today

To speak of Arnold Morley.

I'd love to come, but am away-

I'll miss the party sorely!

So with this little verse I write

And wish you in your sorrow

At Arnold's death, a shining light

To brighten your tomorrow.

He was a ringer first of all

A friend in many towers

And therefore you must heed the

call

To ring with all your powers.

But now, enough! My verse must

end

For you must start your party.

From holiday my love I send

and compliments most hearty.

Pat Halls also spoke to us about Arnold's generous nature and his willingness to help whenever he could. We then raised our glasses

in a toast to Arnold before sitting down to a lovely meal. It was particularly nice that Arnold's partner Priscilla with her daughter and grandson were able to join us for the evening.

Arnold's obituary appeared in the August edition of *The Ringing World*.

We are hoping to have a permanent memorial of some description in the ringing room at Belper and will be inviting any ringers who knew Arnold to contribute to this in the New Year.

Gill Hughes

Bells for Stedman's Church

Fabian Stedman was born in 1640 at Yarkhill in Herefordshire, where his father was the rector. There is a 17th Century ring of four bells there and it is quite possible that Stedman learned to ring there. As a young man Stedman went to live in London as an apprentice printer. There he became involved in the developing art of change ringing, and in fact he later became known as 'The Father of Change Ringing'. He published two seminal books on the subject, *Tintinnalogia* with Richard Duckworth in 1668 and *Campanalogia* in 1677, reflecting the developing 'state of the art'. Stedman's Principle is of course

named after him. (If you're not sure about the difference between a method and a principle, perhaps you'd better write and ask Aunt Sally.)

The four bells at Yarkhill are tuneless and unringable, but worth preserving because of their historical merit. There is therefore a scheme afoot to install a new ring of eight bells in a new frame below the original four. The good folk of Yarkhill have raised money for the bells and hanging, but are still trying to raise £35000 for a new ringers' gallery, lighting variable sound control, heating, decoration and (in kindness to visitors) a toilet.

They are hoping that members of the ringing fraternity will be happy to make donations because of the connection with Stedman (and because there will be a lovely new eight to go and visit). If you are interested, ask your District Secretary or the Association General Secretary for a leaflet, or visit www.yarkhillchurch.org.uk.

Elizabeth Heaton

Have you yet visited the DDA website, www.derbydda.org.uk? It has all sorts of information about the DDA and its activities, and links to other useful sites.

Southern District Quarter Peal Day

This year November 15th saw the first independent Quarter Peal Day for the Southern District and the format reverted to the style of the old millennium with all of the attempts taking place after lunch. The date also clashed with other ringing events with the result that many previously regular participants were not able to take part. However eventually, with recruits from outside the District, it was possible to organise ten attempts. Three attempts were lost, at Long Eaton, Sawley and West Hallam. The attempt at Long Eaton fell apart only four leads from the end so the band, bolstered by local recruits to replace those from miles away, reconvened at Ockbrook on the following Friday evening. Eight quarters, including the Ockbrook attempt, were successful. They were Plain Bob Minor at Alvaston, Plain Bob Doubles at Breaston, St Simon's Bob Doubles at Netherseale, Plain Bob Doubles at Newhall, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Minor at Ockbrook, Plain Bob Triples at Overseale, Grandsire Doubles at Shardlow and Plain Bob Royal at Ticknall.

Notable achievements included Lynn Betts' first quarter

peal as conductor and Alec Humphrey's 800th quarter peal as conductor.

Forty ringers took part and thanks are due to all of them, especially the eight who travelled from places as far afield as Ashby, Chesterfield, Bakewell, Sheffield and Nottingham to help.

Alec Humphrey

Central District Quarter Peal Week

Between 9th and 16th November Central District held a Quarter Peal Week which was really very successful. Thirteen quarters were successfully rung, only three being lost. 37 ringers took part, ten of whom were very welcome 'importees' from the other Districts. At Duffield we rang Plain Bob Minor, Stedman Triples and Oxford Treble Bob Minor, at Brailsford Cambridge Surprise Minor, Grandsire Doubles and two of Mixed Doubles. At Belper we rang Grandsire Triples and at the Campanile Neasden Delight Minor, and at West Bank Road, Allestree, a quarter of Plain Bob Minor in hand. At Ashbourne, Horsley and Etwall we rang Plain Bob Triples, Grandsire Doubles and Norwich Surprise Minor respectively. A full report is being sent for publication in the

Ringling World.

We rounded off the week with a visit to the Burton Bridge Inn to play skittles and tuck into a very good supper in front of a lovely coal fire.

It was a great help to have the support of ringers from Southern, Peak and Chesterfield Districts, particularly those who conducted quarters for us, but many thanks are due to all who took part and made this a good week's ringing.

Chris Willis

Definitions

Alec Humphrey has kindly sent in the following definitions, which are nothing at all to do with ringing, but maybe all the better for that!

Randomize - a squint

Doodlebug - draw a flea

Mish mash - be late for church due to drunkenness

Cursory - where young children are taught to swear

Subdued - ultra cool guy

Himalaya - transexual rooster

Don't forget to buy your Annual Dinner tickets; it should be a 'good do' and it's meant for all members, new or old.

Aunt Sally

Dear Aunt Sally,

*My arms hurt when I've been ringing for a while and the bell always feels heavy and sluggish. I know my style isn't what it should be. Do you have any suggestions?
Yours, Isabella *****

Dear Isabella,

You are probably gripping the rope too tightly and pulling it much too hard. This a common fault of people that do this. The result is

that you have to work hard to stop the bell rising too far each time and this makes the bell difficult to ring. Try the following: Don't pull as hard. Hold the tail end and catch the sally a bit higher. That way you'll be able by your own weight to stop the bell rising.
Aunt Sally.

Please keep sending in questions for Aunt Sally. Your anonymity is guaranteed (unless you choose otherwise) so there is no need to be afraid of asking silly questions.

Ed.

Sports Results

The W. W. Worthington Memorial Trophy ten-bell competition took place at Derby Cathedral in September. The test piece was a course of Cambridge Surprise Royal. The Derbyshire team came third, with 39 faults. You can read all about it and listen to the test piece at <http://www.worthington.derbyda.org.uk/>.

The Association inter-district 8-bell competition took place at the October quarterly meeting. Six teams entered (not bad for an Association with only four districts). The Southern A and B teams came second and fourth respectively, and the Central team came a very close sixth. You can read all about it at <http://derbyda.blogspot.com/2008/10/october-meeting-8-bell-competition.html>.

Forthcoming Events - also check your tower notice board

13th December, Central District Seasonal Celebration at Longford:

Ringling from 4pm. At 5pm a Seasonal Celebration of Carols and Readings for the Christmas Season followed by Hot Mulled Wine and Mince Pies.

13th December, Southern District Carol Service at Ticknall: 3-4pm ringling at Melbourne. 4-5pm ringling at Ticknall. 5pm Carol Service followed by Hot Mulled Wine and Mince Pies.

10th January, Central District ADM at Duffield: 2.30pm Morley, 3.15pm Breadsall, 4.30pm onwards at Duffield for ringling, service, tea, meeting and more ringling.

17th January, Southern District ADM at Ilkeston: 1.30pm Stanton, 3pm West Hallam, 4.30pm onwards at Ilkeston for ringling, service, tea, meeting.

5th February, Southern District Meeting at Breaston: 7-9pm. (TBC)

21st February, Association Annual Dinner at the Mackworth Hotel, Derby. The Guest Speaker will be Stephanie Warboys of Ringing World fame. Tickets £25 - see your noticeboard for details.

Contributions for the next issue please to Elizabeth Heaton at 51, Brough Street, Derby DE22 3EN or via email.