

STRIKE NOTES

Issue 81, April 2009

Central and Southern Districts' news, information and trivia

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56th Sir Arthur P Heywood Memorial Annual Dinner

The 56th Sir Arthur Heywood Memorial Annual Dinner was held on Saturday 21st February 2009 at the Mackworth Hotel, Derby. It was hosted this year by the Southern District of the Association, and the Master of Ceremonies was the District Chairman, Mr Rod Pearson. We were delighted to welcome as our guests the Bishop of Repton and his wife, Mrs Emma Southern. Bishop Humphrey prefaced his pronouncement of the Grace with some kind words of appreciation of the work of the bell ringers in the life of the Diocese.

Following the meal the Association President, Mrs Patricia Halls, proposed the loyal toast to Her Majesty the Queen. She then introduced the guest speaker, Stephanie Warboys, who concluded her interesting address with a toast to the well-being of the Derby Association. The District Chairman responded to the compliment with a few remarks of thanks and some small gifts of local products (chocolates in lieu of floral bouquets) to the principal ladies. He then turned the rest of the evening over to general mingling and chatter.

For those with a penchant for statistics, there were 62 diners, including the five guests of the Association. Each District was well-represented, including the Peak (8), Chesterfield (18), Central (14) and Southern (17).

Rod Pearson

A Bellringers' Outing 100 Years Ago

A member of the Melbourne Historical Research Group, Gordon Foddy, dug the following out of the archives. It was printed in the Derby Mercury, August 21st 1908.

The St. Michael's ringers had their annual outing on Saturday last, the place visited being as in previous years, Woodhouse Eaves. The journey was made by brake, and commenced at 8.30 a.m. Long Whatton was reached at 9.45 and here lunch was partaken at the Boot Inn. Continuing the the journey, via Loughborough, where another halt was made, Woodhouse Eaves was reached by noon. A capital dinner was provided at Ye Olde Bull's Head by Host Kirby. After dinner the party walked to the top of Beacon Hill and surveyed the surrounding country. After returning to headquarters the return journey was commenced, Shepshed being reached at five o'clock, and here tea was served at the Black Swan by Host Whitworth, an old bell ringer. The church was visited and touches of Grandsire Triples were brought round. After lowering the bells the party returned to the Black Swan, where the handbells were brought out and tunes were rung. Belton was

reached at nine o'clock, and here another halt was made. Songs were given by H. Barton ("If those lips could only speak"), F. Somerville ("Little Johnnie Horner"), T. Salisbury ("Tom Bowling"). The journey was then continued and home was reached about eleven o'clock, everyone having had a thoroughly enjoyable outing.

Now that's what I call a proper outing: lunch and dinner before 1 pm, 6 visits to pubs or watering holes I calculate; tea at 5 and I bet supper in Belton, one "touch" of proper ringing - half an hour? - and a short walk. Brilliant!! We have agreed at the Melbourne Ringers' AGM to semi-replicate the trip this year, hiring a vintage coach for the day and ending at the Taylor, Eayre & Smith Bell Foundry at Loughborough.

Phil Dobby

A Sad Tale

The sad demise of a Jack Russell called Fester was recounted as follows by his owner, John Foot:

Hunting Dog,
Motor Car.
Didn't Dodge!
Places Far...

He was replaced by a Jack Russell puppy from Derby who was the runt of the litter and lived to be 17.

Central District - Striking Contest Heats

This year, Central District held the Striking Contest heats at Denby on 7th March. It was a very enjoyable meeting, attended by 16 ringers. Duffield entered a team in the Arthur Ashby Cup and Mugginton entered a team in the Horsley Cup. The judge, Philip Hudson, made useful and constructive comments on the ringing, stressing the importance of the initial rounds to establish a rhythm and to iron out problems, and also the importance, as a general rule, of thinking and ringing as a team. A delicious tea was provided by Betty Marshall, with little bit of help from her friends, and evening ringing continued at Denby until 6pm. The results were:

| | | |
|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| Duffield | Arthur Ashby | 190½ points |
| Mugginton | Horsley Cup | 199 points |

Since there was only one team in each section, and there were no mishaps, then both teams go through to the final.

Chris Willis

Southern District - Striking Contest Heats

The Southern District heats took place at Sawley on 21st March, ably judged by Alistair Smith and followed by a fine tea provided by the local ringers. The results were:

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------|-----|
| Netherseale | Arthur Ashby | 80% |
| Long Eaton | Arthur Ashby | 78% |
| Cathedral Hornets | Arthur Ashby | 77% |
| Cathedral Wasps | Horsley Cup | 90% |
| St Peter's | Horsley Cup | 78% |
| Overseal | Horsley Cup | 71% |
| Long Eaton | Horsley Cup | 70% |
| Cathedral Bees | Horsley Cup | 66% |

In accordance with the usual formula (page 51 of the 2007 Annual Report), Netherseale go through to the Arthur Ashby Cup final; Wasps and St Peter's go through to the Horsley Cup final.

Rod Pearson & Elizabeth Heaton

A quarter peal gives you extended practice of a method you've learned.

Alec Humphrey, the Southern District Ringing Master, is willing to arrange quarter peals for people who feel they'd like to ring one. His contact details are in the Annual Report under Derby St Peter.

Forthcoming Events - also check your tower notice board

2nd May afternoon, Tewkesbury Shield: a Derbyshire band will be ringing in this national ten-bell competition in Tewkesbury.

5th May 7.30-9pm, Duffield's Big Practice: a larger practice at Duffield on the first Tuesday in the month; all are welcome.

9th May 2.30pm, Striking Competition Finals: Horsley Cup at Horsley and Arthur Ashby Cup at Denby. Tea and results at 5pm at Horsley.

14th May 7.30-9pm, Advanced Twelve-Bell Practice at Melbourne.

16th May, Association Training Morning.

20th May 7.30-9pm, Central District Meeting at Ashbourne.

30th May 7.30-9pm, Fifth Saturday Surprise Practice at Ticknall: Surprise Major and Royal.

2nd June 7.30-9pm, Duffield's Big Practice: a larger practice at Duffield on the first Tuesday in the month; all are welcome.

11th June 7.30-9pm, Advanced Twelve-Bell Practice at Melbourne.

13th June, Central District Walk and Ring from S Wingfield to Crich and back: 2-2.45pm ringing at S Wingfield, 4-4.45pm ringing at Crich. Bring suitable clothing and a picnic.

20th June, 6.30pm, Southern District Meeting at Aston on Trent: drinks and cake 6.30pm, ringing 7-9pm.

4th July, Association Quarterly Meeting: 2.30pm Wingerworth, 3pm Old Whittington, 3.30pm Chesterfield, 5pm Staveley.

4th July, National Twelve-Bell Striking Competition at St Paul's Cathedral, London: Melbourne team in the final.

7th July 7.30-9pm, Duffield's Big Practice: a larger practice at Duffield on the first Tuesday in the month; all are welcome.

9th July 7.30-9pm, Advanced Twelve-Bell Practice at Melbourne.

18th July 2.45pm, Strictly Come Ringing at Brailsford: the striking competition where everyone is a judge.

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