

STRIKE NOTES

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Philip Dunderdale

Philip died in May - a sad loss to his friends and family, his tower and the Association. The following tribute is condensed from the one given by the Rev'd Stuart Rayner at Philip's funeral service.

Philip was a Lancashire man, brought up in Penwortham near Preston. Throughout his time there he was a committed member of St Mary's Church. It was there as a bellringer he met Ann, and there they married.

Philip's National Service was in the RAF. In his regular working life he was a chemist, a member of the Royal Institute of Chemistry. He worked first as an industrial chemist at power stations in Lancashire, before moving to Derby

43 years ago to work at Willington.

Philip was devoted to his family and known as a kind friend and neighbour. He was a faithful worshipper at St Helen's Etwall. He enjoyed fell walking and his garden, as well as ringing.

He was a ringer all his life apart from a break while Ann and he were bringing up their daughters Helen and Judith. When Helen expressed an interest in learning to ring, both Philip and Helen became members of the band at St Peter's, Derby. He also rang at times at St Luke's, the Cathedral and Etwall. He continued to ring at St Peter's until ill health forced him to stop. He was honoured to be elected as a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths. He rang many peals for the Lancashire Association of Change Ringers and 180 for the DDA.

He bore his illness with great strength and great dignity. We give thanks for all he has meant to each of us.

Horsley Cup and Arthur Ashby Cup Finals 2009

Saturday May 9th was the day for this year's extravaganza. Twelve teams in total met in the two finals, six teams in each. It was very pleasing to find some teams which had never been in the final of either contest previously. Once again, the weather was very kind and the rhododendrons at Horsley looked glorious.

David Marshall organised the ringing at Horsley for the Horsley Cup, and his daughter, Sue, judged it. John Thorpe oversaw the ringing at Denby for the Arthur Ashby Cup contest, and Graham Nabb from Kineton in Warwickshire judged it.

Thanks to the Horsley ringers, cups of tea were available all afternoon in Horsley Village Hall. The young Horsley ringers organised a raffle, which made £18.50 each for the Horsley rope fund and the DDA Bell Repair Fund.

At tea the village hall tables were laden with goodies of all description. Despite the best efforts of the assembled ringers, there was still some food remaining at the end.

Graham gave his verdict first. He remarked that the ringing had been of a high standard, made constructive comments on the ringing of each team, then gave the results. Ashford in the Water (Peak District) came first with 14.5 faults, then Old Brampton (Chesterfield District) with 17.5 and Netherseal (Southern District) with 41.5. The other teams in the final were Hayfield and Hartington (both Peak District) and Duffield (Central District). Several of these teams have never reached the final before and all deserve congratulations - especially Hartington whose bells were only installed two years ago. Graham presented the Arthur Ashby Cup to Linda Pelc of Ashford in the Water. Linda said she was pleased Ashford had won as they might not qualify for the cup in the future as some of them wanted to ring a peal! She also remarked that Ashford owed much to John Thorpe for his help.

Sue gave the results of the Horsley Cup contest. She had been judging in her car in the Vicarage garden when someone had started to drill loudly, so she had had to move quickly elsewhere in the garden so that she could hear! She placed the bands as follows: Derby Cathedral (Southern District) first with 237 points; second Darley Dale (Peak District) with 210 points; third Tideswell (Peak) with 207. The other teams were St Peter's Derby (Southern), Old Whittington (Chesterfield) and Mugginton (Central). Derby Cathedral have now won the cup for four years in succession - a record. Sue presented the Horsley Cup to John Heaton.

Thanks are due to the organisers, the judges, the many ladies who provided food and to the Horsley ringers for serving the tea and clearing up.

Pat Halls

Tewkesbury Shield and National Twelve-Bell Competition

In May the DDA team came first in the Tewkesbury Shield ten-bell competition, beating seven other teams from around the Midlands and beyond.

In July the Melbourne team came fourth in the National Twelve-Bell Competition at St Paul's Cathedral, beaten only by the home team, Birmingham and the College Youths - all noted for a high standard of twelve-bell ringing.

The Association AGM

Meeting reports usually say lots about the ringing and the tea, little about the business meeting. This one from Alec Humphrey is different...

The Association's AGM was on Saturday 25th April and the hosts this year were the Peak District. Ringing took place at Darley Dale, Elton and Youlgreave followed by the service, tea and meeting. At this meeting several new members were proposed and I fear we are most unlikely to see any of them at any future Association meetings.

The business meeting itself was hi-jacked over a succession of rule changes. The wrangling over these took so long that by the time the meeting closed there was no time at all for any further ringing. The reactions of people who have spoken to me about that meeting range from frustration to extreme anger. I have also spoken to ringers who decided not to attend because they knew that rule changes were to be proposed which were likely to be contentious.

Now I happen to think that the reason that people attend meetings is to socialise and ring together and that we need collectively to take the responsibility of tackling this issue which has all too often been a

problem in the past stretching back for more than forty years. If we do not find some way of dealing with this then the Association will suffer and deservedly so: support will dwindle if members attend only from a sense of duty.

A few ideas for controlling these situations have been tentatively suggested but I think that there are probably other solutions out there that may not have surfaced yet and which need to be included in the discussion; the more people that are involved in finding a suitable answer the more satisfactory is the result likely to be. If you have an opinion on this please do not keep it to yourself. If you don't want to voice it yourself in a public arena then feel free to make contact with one of the Association's officers: loads of them are listed on pages six and seven of the new report, and the district officers are shown on pages ten and thirty of the same volume. Please make your views known and between us we should be able to sort something out.

Alec Humphrey

I missed the July quarterly meeting but I'm told its business was concluded in twenty minutes flat! (with no rule changes). Ed

Aunt Sally

Now that the holiday season is upon us here are some questions that people often ask me about how to ring in unknown places.:

Q. "How do I find out where the nearest tower is?" and "Is there something on the internet that will tell me where I can ring?"

A. If you have a Ringers' Diary you can find out who is the secretary of the association that covers your destination and contact them to ask for a Report. There's usually a charge but it will

contain lots of useful information about ringing in the area. In particular, if you'd like to ring on 8 bells don't bother going to Little Pointon-cum-Inear where there are only 6 bells.

The on-line Dove at <http://dove.cccbr.org.uk/home.php> is useful for internet users. From here you can find out lots of details that should help you to contact the tower. Many associations have web pages and these can be found by using search engines or by visiting <http://www.ringing.info/>.

Forthcoming Events - also check your tower notice board

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

4th August, don't go to Duffield's Big Practice because there isn't one.

13th August, Advanced Twelve-Bell Practice, 7.30-9pm at Melbourne.

15th August, Southern District Meeting at Repton: drinks and cake 6.30pm, ringing 7-9pm (arrangements to be confirmed).

29th August, 5th Saturday Surprise Practice, 7.30-9pm at Youlgreave, Surprise Major and Royal.

1st September, Duffield's Big Practice, 7.30-9pm: **a larger practice at Duffield on the first Tuesday in the month; all are welcome.**

10th Sept, Advanced Twelve-Bell Practice, 7.30-9pm at Melbourne.

12th Sept, Central District Young Ringers' Afternoon, 2.30pm at Brailsford.

19th September, Southern District Meeting at Stanton by Dale: drinks and cake 6.30pm, ringing 7-8pm (arrangements to be confirmed).

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