



In Touch

*The Newsletter of the North Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan
Guild of Church Bell Ringers.*



St. Peter & St. Paul Olney

Where the North Bucks / Towcester Striking Competition was held on July 25th.
(See Report Inside)

Don't Forget - Quarterly Meeting Hanslope - 5th September 1998

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Editorial

Hi everyone,

Welcome to another issue of *In Touch* your favourite newsletter from the North Bucks Branch of the ODG.

So another 3 months have passed and summer's only just arrived as I write. No doubt by the time you read this it will be pouring with rain again.

I would like to thank everyone who made a contribution to this issue and for anyone who wants to contribute anything for next issue, PLEASE do, anything no matter how small will help to make the Newsletter more interesting to others. If you think it's interesting, so will someone else!!

All tower captains out there (I know there must be some reading this), if you send any information about your tower, recent events etc. I will certainly put it in.

Also if you could get any of your younger members or learners to write a history of your tower, there will be a prize for the best entry, and no cheating, the article must be written by younger members NOT by the tower captain!!!!

Well I can't think of anything else to say, and I'm running out of space, so I hope I'll see you at the next branch practice or at the Quarterly Meeting,

Bye



Copy Date for the Next Issue is :-

Monday 12th October 1998

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

NORTH BUCKS BRANCH

Minutes of Quarterly Meeting

held at Maids Moreton on 6th June 1998

Appointment of Chairman

As the Chairman, Doug Hird, was not present, Richard Stanworth proposed Alan Marchbank as chairman of the meeting. This was seconded by Sheila Watts. There were no other nominations.

Chairman's Welcome

Alan Marchbank welcomed all those present to the meeting, with a special welcome to the Guild Master and striking competition judges.

Apologies for Absence

Received from Doug Hird, Hugh Butler, The Old Wolverton Band

Minutes of previous Meeting

These were published in the May edition of In Touch. However due to delays in the distribution of In Touch, not everyone had had a chance to read the minutes.

In order not to delay this meeting, David Joyce proposed that the adoption of the minutes of the AGM and any matters arising be carried forward to the next meeting. This was seconded by Richard Stanworth and carried without dissent.

Matters Arising

Carried forward to the next meeting.

Election of New Members

Nominations had been received proposing three members -

Tower	Name	Proposed by	Seconded by
Lillingstone Lovell	Tom Phillips	Robin Culley John Culley	Sheila Ware
Shenley	Annette Reed	Barry Smith	Lorraine Brookman

All were elected without dissent. The Chairman welcomed them all to the branch and Guild. The treasurer reported that they had already paid their subscriptions.

Officers reports

Secretary - Nothing to report

Ringing Master - Nothing to Report - will have more to say about future events

Treasurer - Thank you to all towers who have paid their 1998 subscriptions - only two towers remain to pay. Particular thanks to those towers who have given donations towards the printing of In Touch - a total of £142.00. This may sound a lot but not more is needed to cover the costs. I must mention three towers, Wavendon, Bletchley, and Milton Keynes Village who gave enormous donations. There are currently 189 paid up members, of whom 29 are Juniors. The current balance in the Building Society Account is £860.78

David Joyce asked if we had paid any money to the Guild yet as he had been asked about this at the Guild AGM. Sheila Watts replied that payment would be made in the next few days when the last two towers have paid their subscriptions.

Guild rep - Alan Marchbank gave a summary of his report which should have appeared in the May edition of In Touch. This will now appear in the August edition. He summarised this report for the meeting - the main highlights from the March General committee Meeting being: - the proposal to buy a mini-ring to support the Millennium project was not approved; the format of the Guild Festival is being reviewed for 1999; the Guild web site is also being reviewed; peal fees remain at 40p per rope; the Guild bookstall has been started under the management of the Stewards; and revision of the Guild rules has been completed.

Forthcoming Events

Richard Stanworth gave details of some forthcoming events :

- The branch striking competition and barbecue immediately after the meeting
- The annual competition against the Towcester branch on Saturday 25th July at Olney, starting at 6.00 p.m. Three separate bands are needed - 22 ringers in all - need as many volunteers as possible for the three sections - 6 bell 8 bell (Stedman Triples) and call changes on 8.
- The 10-bell competition at Thatcham on 11th July - Grandsire caters. Volunteers with experience on higher number are required.

Helen Stanworth stated that it is the turn of our branch to host the Guild AGM in 1999. We have booked the Church of Christ the Cornerstone in Milton Keynes for the service, but we have still to arrange the tea and hall for the AGM. She asked if we should get the Caterers at Christ the Cornerstone to do the tea or do it ourselves. It was felt that costs could be kept down if we do it ourselves but there some concern as to whether we could do it ourselves at Christ the Cornerstone. Brian Newman reported that he thought other organisation had done self catering there and that there should not be any problem with this. The chairman proposed that the secretary find out details and refer the matter to the branch committee.

Any Other Business

Sheila Watts reported that she had received a letter from John Lonsbrough, a former branch secretary. This letter was addressed to her because of her Open University connections. He had heard that Simpson bells were out of commission and was proposing that a new home be found for them, rather than lose the bells. He was proposing the possibility of housing the bells from Simpson in the tower at the Open University campus with provision for augmentation.

Alan Marchbank reported that the situation at Simpson is that the bells are ringable. The foundations of the south transept have failed allowing that part of the church to the south of the tower to break away and now there is a substantial gap between the tower structure and the church structure. The church has sunk, not the tower. Some work has been done to stop masonry falling off through roof, but fundamentally the work require is to underpin the south transept and this is a fairly substantial cost. The cause of the problem is the lack of foundation to the church. Alan felt that this matter is something to pursue gently with Simpson. Brian Baldwin is the person 'on the ground' and knows the current situation. The most realistic plan is to try and prevent the church from falling down. If that can't be done then we should consider a rescue plan for the bells.

Bobbie May had brought Bill Butler's bookstall which may supplement the Guild bookstall. She would be setting it up in the church porch after the meeting.

Andrew Jeffries requested that if anyone did not receive their In Touch within the next fortnight then please get in touch with him and he will endeavour to get copies to you.

Sheila Watts felt we should congratulate Andrew on his first on his production of In Touch. (applause) The chairman also agreed, especially as he had volunteered to do the job.

David Joyce felt that there was an item missing from the agenda as there was no report from the Millennium Project Liaison Team. There has not been a report for some time and he felt we should know what has been happening, if anything. It was agreed that this should appear on the agenda of the next meetings

David Joyce also emphasised the need to keep to the schedule for production of In Touch. There isn't a great deal of time between meetings to get it produced and distributed in time for each meeting. In Touch does need the support of the officers and members to contribute items.

The chairman proposed that all present take an action to contribute something to In Touch by the closing date 20th July or earlier.

The Ringing Master reported that we had been asked to ring at Tyingham, on 7th June. The Assistant Ringing Master was getting a band but as he was not here a band might have to be arranged at short notice.

There being no further business, the chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the incumbent and officers of the church at Maid Moreton for providing us with facilities for today's meeting and striking competition; to the ringers for the hospitality and feeding of us later on; to the organist for playing at the service; and in advance to our judges for judging the striking competition. Appreciation was shown in the usual manner.

From The Chairman

This year's lettuces are not at all bad. Due mostly, I think, to the liberal sprinkling of slug pellets earlier in the year. While gathering a few this morning I was reminded of a method that Bob Winstanley mentioned a few moths ago. Webbs Wonder. Now this sounded quite unlikely as a method name but not entirely, so I looked it up. Method number 305 in the Central Council Collection is Webbs Wonder Bob Minor. Its place notation: - 1456 - 36.34 le 12. It is a bit like St Clement's Bob in design and so is probably not too hard to keep together. Perhaps a few quarter peals for harvest festivals might be in order.

Over the past few years several ringers have expressed an interest in a Branch Internet page. The Guild, and many other associations already have one and they are proving to be a valuable aid to communication. If we want to make progress on this, we need to think about what The North Bucks Branch would put in a web page and how it would be best presented. I will bring this up at the next Quarterly Meeting in September so give it a few moments of thought between now and then.

Doug Hird

News From The North East

Lathbury

The band is now down to four members. However, with help from Newport, practices and Sunday Service ringing continue.

Downs Barn

A band of mini-ringers is learning to ring. After only a few weeks, several are almost safe. Which is just as well as some of the others are less safe when they are sitting around waiting to ring.

Olney

Quarter peals are not much like busses. i.e. you wait for ages and then two come along together. In this case, however, that is just how it happened. While organising Jessica's first quarter it became clear that we were going to have more ringers than we needed. The answer? Two quarters. We had already softened up the residents of Clifton Reynes the week before with a Stedman Doubles practice. Ten minutes after completing a good quarter peal of doubles, reinforcements arrived from Newport and Plain Bob Minor was rung.

(See Quarters page for details (AJ))

Doug Hird

From the Ringing Master

Branch Striking Competition

This was held at Maids Moreton, immediately after the quarterly meeting on Saturday 6th June. There were six entries who rang in the following order - Great Linford, Maids Moreton, Buckingham, Shenley, Hanslope, and a last minute scratch band.

Our judge was the Guild Master, John Wells. At the conclusion of the competition he gave us his thoughts on the performance of each band before giving the number of faults scored. John is a very experienced ringer and is able to discern unevenness in striking where the less experienced of us can apparently hear perfect ringing. The faults awarded were :

Band	Method	Faults
Great Linford	Plain Bob Doubles	98
Maids Moreton	Call Changes	177
Buckingham	Cambridge Surprise Minor	42
Shenley	Plain Bob Doubles	69
Hanslope	Stedman Doubles	40
Scratch	Plain Bob Doubles	109

The winners, who go forward to the Guild 6 bell competition in October, were Hanslope, with Buckingham second, and Shenley third.

Our thanks to John Wells for coming to the North Bucks Branch to judge this competition.

8 out of 10 - Must do Better

Despite contacting over twenty members, I could only find 8 ringers available on the day of the Guild 10-bell competition so we were unable to enter a team. My thanks to those who did offer to come. Let's hope we can do better next year.

Branch Practices

As mentioned at the AGM there will be a practice once a quarter when the focus will be on rounds and call changes, especially for our new recruits as part of the Millennium Project. Please come along and join in as the more experience you can get of ringing on different bells, the quicker you will improve and gain in confidence.

All are welcome, and don't forget to bring your instructor to help out. We can only make a success of these practices if we also have experienced ringers to help and provide a strong framework around the less experienced ringers

The next focus on call changes is on **21st August at Lillingstone Lovell.**

Training Sessions

If you would like help at your tower over the next year then please let the Ringing Master know and he will see what can be done. Please remember however that we all have commitments to our own towers and can only help you out when we have the time available, so don't expect an instant response to your request for help. Please note that at any tower where we come to help we will expect to run the ringing and attempt to structure the session to give most benefit to those present.

Richard Stanworth

The Following letter was sent to me by the Buckingham and Maids Moreton Ringers for inclusion in this issue. (AJ)

Buckingham and Maids Moreton ringers enjoyed hosting the North Bucks striking competition on June 6th. There was a very relaxed and friendly atmosphere and we were very fortunate with fine weather for the BBQ. All local members contributed towards providing food and helping.

It was also an opportunity for non-ringers to join us.

The Day was very successful and the BBQ and raffle raised £118.00 towards the Tower Repair Fund. Thanks to all those who came and supported us.

Yours Sincerely

David Goodger

North Bucks Vs Towcester Striking Competition

This year's event was held at Olney, a popular choice with the ringers but a less popular choice for one of the residents. Determination forced a local lady past several dozen ringers, all the way up the tower stairs only to be thwarted by "a very rude man who shouted..." Had she ventured into the ringing room while the Towcester band were ringing, the man might have been even more rude! In the end, Tower Captain Charles Knight went away with the task of appraising the Vicar of the situation so that he could sort it out.

The scores:

	Cambridge Minor	Call Change	Stedman Triples
North Bucks	12	20	19
Towcester	somewhat more	22	11

So a good result all round.

Towcester Branch won the George Holland Trophy while North Bucks won overall.

Bradwell Ringers Outing 1998

The outing started at Yarnton; the church stood just outside the little village in an idyllic and serene location. When entering into the church we discovered, quite by surprise that there were a number of tombs belonging to the Spencer family.

Unfortunately some of us were a little inappropriately dressed and found the steep ladder somewhat of a challenge. However, once overcome the bells themselves (considering the weight), were balanced and smooth.

The bells tower Eynsham, were a complete contrast to the first, being light and flighty. The tower itself was also very different as it was smaller and very warm. So we were relieved to find that a hatch opened leading onto the roof; where those of us stood to get out of the way of the current ringers.

Those of us on the roof were sure that we saw people drinking outside the neighbouring pub stare at their glasses, and then at us in utter disbelief.

During our time at the church there was a carnival to keep the non-ringers happy, and on hearing us ring a few ringers from Wheatley, visiting the carnival decided that we obviously needed some help, and so came up to ring with us.

When the time came to ring down, the band had just taken a coil when the lady who greeted us came up and told us that they needed the bells up, so would they kindly ring them back up again. Which they did.

South Leigh, the third tower had 8 bells which were gorgeous to ring, and sounded wonderful when rung well. In the main body of the church we all commented on how well a mural of the last judgement had worn.

At Freeland, the 4th tower the non-ringers were thrilled to discover that there were cream teas being served in the church; this was due to yet another flower festival being held.

When the captain sent someone down to find some ringers; he was surprised when that person came back with a large scone, but no ringers. After that there were very few people ringing, as those who did not go to have the cream tea rushed to the only toilet seen for 5 hours.

To reach the last tower of Bladon we had to climb a large hill, I was put off at once as the pub was so near and to get to the church it seemed like too much hard work.

However I was persuaded otherwise and we all trudged up the hill, with the same goal in mind; to get the ringing over and done with so that we could have a drink.

The bells themselves were actually quite nice even though I myself had a fight with the two, and lost. Everyone was on autopilot and were pleased when the time came to leave.

Getting up the hill was a struggle, however getting down it was an altogether different story. People passing could only have mistaken our decent for a marathon it was so quick. Having only one thought in mind, the pub.

On starting out a few of the band were not looking forward to the outing. But on reflection were pleased that they had come. One of the ringers who had very rarely smiled during his whole ringing career, was actually smiling at the end of the day. The day was itself a great success and the weather, though suspect at times held off and was good.

*By Christine Cable,
Bradwell Village*

A Defence of Calling Down

I notice that Doug has again attacked the practice of "calling down" in call changes, and feel that a spot of devil's advocacy is in order. I can remember going through the initial stage of trying to ring call changes. This was at a tower where the calling method was to repeat the whole change, twice (so "132546 - 132546"), followed by a pause long enough for the significance to sink in, followed by "Go". This achieved a clean change and allowed more than one pair of bells to be swapped at once, but did little to foster the learner's move from call changes to plain hunting. I then came across the other options - calling down, calling up, or calling the swapping pair, plus the most heinous option of randomising the calling method in the course of one touch.

The lesson learnt from this was that confusion is avoided if one calling method is established within your tower. For some time at Loughton this has been "calling down" (possibly a result of the Nottingham / Derby background of two of the callers?). The second lesson is that other calling methods may be used at other towers, so when calling at joint meetings it is essential to negotiate what method will be used for the touch. It may well be necessary to explain to some of the ringers how the selected method works. Learning this lesson the hard way (causing chaos at Bradwell where they "call up") provided the motivation to appraise the advantages and disadvantages of each method.

Assuming that one pair of bells is to be swapped, three ringers can be affected. One bell will be moving down, another moving up, and the third bell ringing behind them will maintain its position in the change but will be following a different bell. The bell moving down must ring a quick blow and its ringer has thus the shortest time to react; also if this ringer makes a mess of the change the following ringers have little hope of striking accurately. The bell moving up must ring a slow blow and its ringer has thus a little more time to work out what should be done, while the ringer of the bell following the swapping pair need only maintain the steady rhythm of the ringing.

"Calling down" (e.g. starting 123456, 4 to 2) gives perfect information to the ringer most in need of it; the bell moving down is alerted and told which other bell to follow. The ringer next in priority re. Information needs, the bell moving up, is served pretty well. In the example above, it is not difficult to work out that the 4 has been told to follow the bell that the three is currently following, 3 must now follow 4. The ringer with the least challenging task, that of continuing to ring steadily, must solve the problem of which bell (3) is now following the bell (4) which he was previously following. This ringer is in the best position to put into practice the advice that he should be working out which two (and not just one) bells are ringing ahead of him in each change. (This is claimed by some to be beneficial in leading the learner into plain hunting). On this basis, "calling down" provides information in the correct order of priority for the ringers concerned.

In fact call changes are used for two purposes; at practice, to assist learners to improve bell handling and ropesight, and in service ringing to achieve good striking with a band where this may not be possible ringing a method. For the second of these, I recommend "calling down" without reservation. For the former, ringers may argue that other methods better assist the transition from call changes to plain hunting. Personally I found the benefit of call changes to be mainly in bell handling; in learning to strike a quick blow, a slow blow, or a steady blow as required. Plain hunting the treble through bob doubles was a matter of doing enough homework to be able to calculate, while leading, what the sequence of bells would be at the next lead, following a plain lead or a bob (this useful skill was lost as ropesight developed!). Other ringers' experience may well differ.

Bob Winstanley

The Church Bells of Buckinghamshire - Their Inscriptions, Founders Uses and Traditions

By Alfred Heneage Cocks MA, 1897

Copy No. 164 of the 350 printed in 1897 is to be found on the shelves of Milton Keynes Central Library. It is at first sight an intimidating volume, being about four inches thick, and filled with elaborate representations of founders' marks and bell inscriptions. However, Cocks also took the trouble to investigate references to ringing in churchwardens' accounts, and to record what ringing was carried out in each parish. In these details there is much to interest and amuse the modern ringer.

In the 1890's the bells were a major source of information for the parishioners. First to remind them of exactly what services were to be held on a Sunday:

MILTON KEYNES (more correctly Middleton Keynes) (4 bells + Sanctus)

On Sundays, two bells are rung at 9am to remind people, it is said, that it is Sunday.

TINGEWICK (5 bells + Sanctus)

On Sundays, the treble is rung at 8am to give notice that there will be Morning Service; and at the conclusion of the service, to give notice that there will be Afternoon Service: this latter use is known as the "Oven Bell".

LOUGHTON (4 bells)

The bells are chimed for Service, the tenor being raised, and then rung in when there is to be a sermon.

BEACHAMPTON (3 bells + Sanctus)

On Sundays, the treble has been rung from time immemorial at 8am. Now on the second, fourth and fifth Sundays of the month, when there is a Celebration at that hour, the three bells are chimed, followed by the treble only. Before Morning and

Evening Service the tenor, as Sermon Bell, is rung for fifteen minutes, then the three chimed for ten minutes; the saunce for the last five minutes. Formerly a bell was rung directly after Morning Service, to give notice that there would be an afternoon service, but now, as there always an Afternoon Service, this ringing is done away with.

Very precise information was provided following the death of a parishioner.

Although the basic pattern of "tellers" (3x3 = a man, 2x3 = a woman) was common, you would have had to be a native of the parish to decode some of the more subtle usages:

BUCKINGHAM (8 bells)

Death Knell, for persons over twelve years of age, on the tenor; under twelve, on the second bell. At the conclusion after a minute's pause, nine strokes of the tenor for a male, and six for a female.

CLIFTON REYNES (5 bells)

Death Knell, as soon as the Sexton returns from work. The age is tolled, and distinction made between males and females.

GREAT LINFORD (6 bells + Sanctus)

Death Knell: for one hour after news is received, unless after sunset; when it is tolled the following morning. Tellers, at the conclusion of the knell; three strokes = a male, two strokes = a female. Tenor used for adults, the fifth for a child over five years old, the fourth for a child under five.

OLNEY (6 bells)

Death Knell: tenor used for adults, the fifth for children under fourteen. Tellers: three blows on each bell = a male; two on each = a female. The age is of the deceased is tolled in scores; that is a pause is made at the end of each of each score completed; and if the odd number over, exceeds ten, another pause is made at the completion of the last ten (e.g. 73 = 20, 20, 20, 10, 3).

LECKHEMPSTEAD (3 bells + Sanctus)

Death Knell (on the tenor); as soon after death as possible. Tellers 3x3 = a man; 2x3 = a woman; 1x3 = a child

Bells were also used as fire bells, for Vestry meetings, or to mark the time of day:

EMBERTON (5 bells + Sanctus)

The Dinner Bell is rung on the second bell, every week-day at 1pm, for three minutes.

NEWPORT PAGNELL (8 bells + Sanctus)

The fifth bell is rung every week-day at 5am, from 1st March to 1st November
And at 1pm and 8pm every week-day throughout the year

OLNEY (6 bells)

The third is rung daily at 1pm, as "Dinner Bell". The Gleaning Bell was rung during harvest for some thirty of forty years, at 7am and p.m., the third being probably the one used. This practice ceased about 1885, or 1886. The Pancake Bell is rung at 12 noon on Shrove Tuesday; the second and fourth are used to imitate the sound "Pan-cake".

PADBURY (6 bells)

The Pancake Bell used to be rung on Shrove Tuesday, within the memory of the current clerk; the second or third was rung about noon, after which the boys were allowed to jangle the bells anyhow.

SHENLEY MANSEL (5 + Sanctus)

The day of the month is tolled on the tenor every morning, after chiming for the 8:45 Service.

STRATFORD, FENNY (6 bells + Sanctus)

The curfew is tolled on the tenor, for a few minutes nightly, at 8pm during the winter months (but this can only, of course, be a modern revival). There is a small endowment (land) for ringing the Curfew.

It is clear that there was as much, or more, chiming than ringing, except for special occasions. For such, ringers would receive additional payment in cash or kind:

BEACHAMPTON (3 bells + Sanctus)

Formerly the bells were rung on the Queen's Birthday, and 5th November; but these ringings were discontinued when the

Churchwardens ceased to pay for them, about or before 1870.

CLIFTON REYNES (5 bells)

1702 To the ringers at the Queen's [Anne] Coronation 0-2-6

DRAYTON PARSLOW (3 bells + Sanctus)

Formerly there was ringing once or twice a week from 5th November to New Year's Eve, and including Christmas Eve; but as the ringers refused to ring on the day of Her Majesty's Jubilee [Author's Note: No doubt this was merely a question of "loaves and fishes" and that no disloyalty was intended] there are now no regular ringers.

HANSLOPE (5 bells)

Ringings on the Queen's Birthday, Harvest Thanksgiving, 5th November, St. Andrew's Day, Christmas Eve and Day, and New Year's Eve. Ringing for weddings occasionally . . . £5 is allowed annually from the Feoffee Charity, for ringing.

MEDMENHAM (3 bells)

1770 Apl. 15 pd Thos. Osborn for Ringing, Killing Sparrows and Hedge Hogs &c. 1-0-11³/₄

1773 April 12 pd Johnson for Rining, Polecats, Sparrows &c. 0-10-5

April 3d to John Johnson for Sparrows & polecats & hedgehogs & ringing mony 0-9-3

STOWE (5 bells + Sanctus)

Formerly, 5th November, Queen's Birthday, etc., were marked by ringing, but since village has been removed (1¹/₄ miles) from the immediate neighbourhood of the church, these usages have ceased. A collection is made at Christmas, from ratepayers, through the Churchwardens, for the remuneration of the ringers; the amount (which naturally varies) has, of late averaged about ten shillings each, to the band of seven ringers.

WOUGHTON-ON-THE-GREEN (4 bells)

Before the appointment of the present rector (1884) the bells were rung from 5th

November Until after Christmas by special ringers. Now their places are taken by regular ringers, who begin in Advent, and ring nearly every night, and for Service on

all chief festivals and Saints' days. Ringing for weddings, when paid for, or when some friend of the ringers is married.

LOUGHTON (4 bells)

The bells are rung from six weeks or so before Christmas, until January 6th.

Midnight ringing on Christmas and New Year's Eves. Ringing for weddings on the day if paid for. There was formerly ringing on 29th May and 5th November (= Oak-Apple Day and Gunpowder Treason), in the evening; on St. Thomas's Day at 5 to 6am; and also on the Sovereign's birthday; these were paid out of the church rate.

I have tried in selecting the above examples to keep mainly to towers in our branch. If you found them interesting, it is possible to get the book out of the Library. If Hon. Newsletter Editor can spare the space, another selection will follow, covering old-time steeple-keeping.

Bob Winstanley

I shall certainly find space in the next issue for the next article. AJ

FILL THIS SPACE

I need articles, anything considered. If you think it's interesting, someone else is sure to!!

COMPETITION

Also a reminder to Tower captains (or information for those who don't read by intensely interesting editorials!)

Don't forget my competition for younger members of your tower.

Write a historical article about your tower and bells, any interesting anecdotes should be included.

There will be a prize for the best entry/entries.

Entries should be addressed to me at the editorial address on the inside front cover.

Entries should be sent to arrive by the Branch practice at Stony Stratford on 15th January 1999 and be no longer than 2 sides of A4 using 12 point typing.

Editor's decision is final (unless you give me a lot of money!!)

PEALS & QUARTERS

QUARTERS

Clifton Reynes

Friday 24th July 1998
1260 Doubles (Grandsire
& Plain Bob)

1. Nicki King
2. Sheila Watts
3. Jessica Webster
(1st Quarter Peal)
4. Charles J. Knight
5. B. Douglas Hird (C)
6. David Jones

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1. Catherine Stacy
2. Nicki King
3. Jessica Webster
(1st of Minor)
4. Gareth Grayson
5. Charles J. Knight
6. B. Douglas Hird (C)

Maids Moreton

St. Edmund
Monday 1st June 1998
1260 Grandsire Doubles
1. Catherine Stanworth
2. Helen Stanworth
3. William Yates
4. Andrew Spencer
5. Richard Stanworth (C)
6. David Goodger
70th Birthday compliment
to Alan Gowler, Father of
2, Grandfather of 1.

I'm sure there must be
more Quarters but I guess I
must have lost the letters
telling me about them.

Sorry.

If you send them to me
again I will include them
next issue. (AJ)

Notes for October Practice - Double Court Bob Minor

Double Court is really Double Norwich on six bells, so if you have mastered Double Norwich, you should have no difficulty with this method! Double Court is a double method - this means that the blue line is symmetrical about the halfway point and the back work is a rotated image of the front work.

The "rules" of the method

Double Court can be rung by a set of rules. The rules for Double Court can be summarised as :

1. You NEVER dodge in 3-4
2. You always dodge in 1-2 and 5-6 unless you meet the treble - the treble is plain hunting
3. If the treble prevented you from dodging before you left 1-2 or 5-6, then do places in 3-4, farthest place first. The treble will pass through the middle of these places and will then prevent you from dodging when you arrive in 1-2 or 5-6 after completing the places.
4. You always go from a dodge to a dodge and from a place to a place

The Blue Line

The 6th starts with a dodge in 5-6 and then goes down to dodge in 1-2 - **remember never dodge in 3-4** - and leads full. The treble turns you from the lead so hunt out to 3-4 places (becoming 3rds place bell on the way). Make places - 4ths then 3rds (treble comes through the middle of these) - and hunt up to the back. You turn the treble from the back so cannot dodge but lie behind and then dodge 5-6 down and head for the front (becoming 4ths place bell). You pass the treble in 2-3 so on arriving at the front you are able to dodge 1-2, and then lead full. This is the pivot point so now you just repeat what you have done so far, only in reverse order. Start with a dodge in 1-2 up and hunt out to the back (becoming 5ths place bell). At the back you dodge 5-6 up and lie behind. The treble turns you from the back so you go down to do places in 3-4, 3rds then 4ths, and follow the treble down to the front (becoming 2nds place bell). You turn the treble from the lead so lead full and dodge 1-2 up. From here you go straight out to the back, dodge 5-6 up and the course comes to an end when you lie behind to become 6ths place bell.

Bobs and Singles

Bobs and Singles affect the bells at the back when the treble is leading. The back pair of bells dodge at a bob and then pick up their new place bell which starts with a dodge. The bell that was heading for the back to become 5ths place bell has to turn round in 4ths place below these two dodging bells. At a single, the bells in 5-6 both make places - this means that the bell becoming 6ths place bell is unaffected and the bell that has just dodged 5-6 down has to turn round in 5ths place and dodge 5-6 up.

1	2	3	4	5	6
2	1	4	3	6	5
2	4	1	3	5	6
4	2	3	1	6	5
2	4	3	6	1	5
4	2	6	3	5	1
4	6	2	5	3	1
6	4	5	2	1	3
4	6	5	1	2	3
6	4	1	5	3	2
6	1	4	5	2	3
1	6	5	4	3	2
1	5	6	3	4	2
5	1	3	6	2	4
5	3	1	6	4	2
3	5	6	1	2	4
5	3	6	2	1	4
3	5	2	6	4	1
3	2	5	4	6	1
2	3	4	5	1	6
3	2	4	1	5	6
2	3	1	4	6	5
2	1	3	4	5	6
1	2	4	3	6	5
1	4	2	6	3	5
4	1	6	2	5	3
4	6	1	2	3	5
6	4	2	1	5	3
4	6	2	5	1	3
6	4	5	2	3	1
6	5	4	3	2	1
5	6	3	4	1	2
6	5	3	1	4	2
5	6	1	3	2	4
5	1	6	3	4	2
1	5	3	6	2	4
1	3	5	2	6	4
3	1	2	5	4	6
3	2	1	5	6	4
2	3	5	1	4	6
3	2	5	4	1	6
2	3	4	5	6	1
2	4	3	6	5	1
4	2	6	3	1	5
2	4	6	1	3	5
4	2	1	6	5	3
4	1	2	6	3	5
1	4	6	2	5	3
1	6	4	5	2	3
6	1	5	4	3	2
6	5	1	4	2	3
5	6	4	1	3	2
6	5	4	3	1	2
5	6	3	4	2	1
5	3	6	2	4	1
3	5	2	6	1	4
5	3	2	1	6	4
3	5	1	2	4	6
3	1	5	2	6	4
1	3	2	5	4	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

North Bucks Branch

Calendar 1998

AUGUST

21st	7.30	Branch Practice Focus on Rounds & Call Changes	Lillingstone Lovell
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SEPTEMBER

5 th	3.30	Quarterly Meeting	Hanslope
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11-13 th		<i>Easthampstead Course</i>	<i>Easthampstead</i>
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18 th	7.30	Branch Practice Special Method = Stedman & Grandsire Doubles	North Crawley
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OCTOBER

2nd		<i>Branch Secretaries Meeting</i>	<i>Radley</i>
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3rd		<i>Guild Six Bell Striking Competition</i>	<i>Wendover</i>
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16 th	7.30	Branch Practice Special Method = Double Court Bob Minor	Whaddon
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NOVEMBER

20th	7.30	Branch Practice Special Method = St Simon's & St Martins Doubles	Fenny Stratford
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21st		<i>Autumn General Committee Meeting</i>	<i>Newbury Branch</i>
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DECEMBER

5 th	3.30	Quarterly Meeting	Bletchley
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18 th	*7.30	Branch Practice Focus on Rounds & Call Changes	Bradwell
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1999

JANUARY

15 th	7.30	Branch Practice Special Method = Little Bob Major	Stony Stratford
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FEBRUARY

19 th	*7.30	Branch Practice Special Method = Winchendon Place & St Nicholas Doubles	Thornborough
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MARCH

6 th	*3.30	Annual General Meeting	Downs Barn
19 th	*7.30	Branch Practice Focus on Rounds & Call Changes	Milton Keynes Village

Items marked * were unconfirmed as at 20 July 1998

Italicised events are Guild events