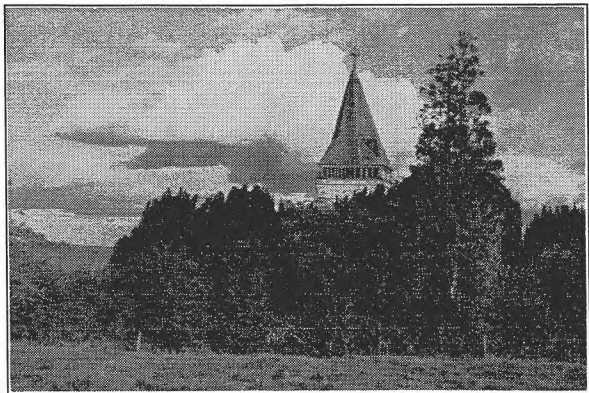


November/December 1993

IN TOUCH

The Newsletter of the North Bucks Branch
Of
The Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers.



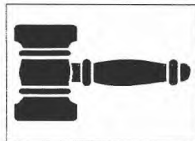
Special feature on Beachampton in this issue

Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

North Bucks Branch

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I am sorry to record the deaths of two of our longer-serving members, George Holland, who died on the 28th October, and Fred Mynard, who died on the 13th November. They will be particularly remembered by those who have known them over many years, inside and outside the Branch, and we shall miss their presence at the towers they have attended so loyally. Tributes to their long careers with us will appear in our next issue.

Since the previous issue, the holiday season and weddings have taken their toll, we seem to have had a quieter spell for the events reported this time. However, I look forward to maintaining the improved support we had earlier on, and have no hesitation in repeating my request for more towers to be actively represented at Branch events.

This issue includes two articles that should stimulate some thought. They are from Godfrey Foat, writing about the Branch Training Course (or mini-course), and Doug Hird, writing about ambition and practice in ringing. Now, the topics they discuss and others like them have been aired many times before, and will be again - so what is it that stops ringers from achieving the ideal? Perhaps we should stop looking inwards quite so much to what we do inside the tower as ringers, and consider a little more the effects we have outside the tower.

There is no more news yet about another attempt for the Double Peal at Emberton. We do have the Downs Barn Dedication in this issue, and a note of the first quarter on the bells. And we are maintaining the bi-monthly issue of the Newsletter as long as possible, so the next one will be for Jan/Feb 1994, with the expected closing date for copy around the end of the year. Starting with the current issue, we are trying out a new format for our cover page, where we will feature Branch towers and have a brief article about them in the same issue. Steve Crane and Doug Hird have arranged this.

I must make a plea for better observation of safety rules in the tower. In the course of the last year or so, whilst visiting towers in and out of the Branch, I have seen some potentially dangerous incidents. Non-ringers, of any age, must be properly controlled whilst in the tower. There is also a trend for learners not to be properly supervised whilst ringing, and even worse, for them to gain a false sense of their own competence because they have not been made aware of the dangers. I will not repeat what most of us should know about safety in the tower, except for the further point of always setting a good example to the younger or less-experienced ringers. What does need to be said is that we must have a more positive attitude towards safety, and not sit back thinking that accidents won't happen to us.....

That's all - have a good read!

Secretary's Scribblings

Diary

There are quite a few additions to the diary in this issue. Principally, the inclusion of practice towers for the first six months of 1994. To continue the education theme a special method has been nominated for each tower, either unusual or challenging, so don't forget to do some homework first. Having said that I'm sure there will still be opportunities to ring all the usual methods, so don't feel discouraged.

Some of you may be put-off by the inclusion of Cambridge as a special method, since this the only Surprise method to be attempted. This is the first Surprise method that I learned and knowledge of it has proved immensely useful as my ringing has progressed. So its worth making the effort! I'm intending to put together an article (hopefully for the next issue of the newsletter) on how I ring Cambridge, cheats and all!

December Quarterly Meeting

The next quarterly meeting will be held at Haslope. As usual afternoon ringing has been arranged, this time at Tyringham. If you haven't rung at Tyringham before this will be an interesting grab, being an anticlockwise five.

The format for the afternoon and evening is:

3:30 - 4:30	Ringing at Tyringham
4:30 - 5:00	Service ringing at Hanslope
5:00	Service at Hanslope
	Followed by Tea and Meeting
7:30 - 8:30	Evening ringing at Hanslope

If you're planning to stay for tea please let Jan Haseldine (0908 501895) know of your requirements by **Tuesday 30th November** at the latest.

Odd Bob

Many of you will have received the latest issue of Odd Bob (40) by now, but for those of you who haven't the remainder are being distributed with this issue of In Touch (see your Tower Correspondent).

I've just been asked for my contribution to the next issue of Odd Bob so perhaps 41 will be out by Christmas.

On the subject of Odd Bob, and equally In Touch, I need to know how many copies towers require. Unless I'm given accurate figures I will have to work on the basis of one per four members (or part thereof) per tower. So, if for good reason you're not getting to see your tower's copy, or you would like an extra copy let me know (the sooner the better).

Secretaries' Meeting

Elsewhere in this issue is a report on the Secretaries' Meeting that I attended last month. I managed to find out what's (not) happening with the Annual Report, and there's some useful information for those of you considering entering teams into next years ringing competitions.

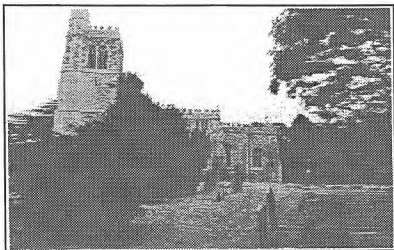
Tower List - Sunday and Practice Times

A few months ago one of our members rang to say that he was at a loose end and needed to know which towers practice on a particular night. This prompted the table in this issue showing practice and ringing times for all towers in the branch. The table is not complete, and I suspect no entirely accurate, but its a start. Perhaps you could let me know of any errors and I'll prepare an update for the next issue. Also, if you can think of anything else that may be worth recording please let me know.

And finally, finally...

Finally, this is probably the last time in the foreseeable future that I shall be writing on a regularly basis for In Touch. To be fair to everyone I've decided to stand down as Secretary at the end of this year, somewhat earlier than I'd expected. Since taking over as Secretary my employer has offered me the opportunity to return to University, something that I have been keen to undertake. However, I now realise that trying to balance this new challenge and all my other commitments is impossible, and that I must focus my efforts on that which is important to my future. (Incidentally, this may explain why I haven't been able to ring on a regular basis over the past few months.) Monty has been aware of my situation for some time and is making appropriate alternative arrangements. So, I don't expect any Branch business or arrangements to be adversely affected by my decision. Thank you, all, for your help and assistance.

* * * * *



Do you recognise this tower? There's a special feature on it in the next issue of In Touch.

Beachampton in the archives

In this, and future issues, I will be writing a short account of the history of our ringing towers. It seems most logical to approach this in alphabetical order, so we start with Beachampton.

Before 1912 there were three bells at Beachampton. The Treble was cast around 1460 by Johanna Sturdy, the second by an unknown founder during the fourteenth century and the tenor, a newer bell, was cast by Robert Atton of Buckingham in 1633. Their weights were recorded in 1912 as:

1	7	0	22
2	8	2	5
3	9	3	17

According to Church Bells of Buckinghamshire the bells were rehung during the 1870s and this probably prompted ringers to urge for a complete overhaul. The bells were hung "in a small turret, open at the sides" and suffered accordingly. In 1912, Gillett and Johnston had the opportunity to recast and rehang the bells at a cost of £186 16s 6d. The new bells all have the Gillett "Simpson tuned" profile (as have Newport bells, re-cast by them in 1911). The new steel frame was installed on top of the stone part of the tower, surrounded by the rather attractive small spire and supporting woodwork. This was built about 1680 on account of decay in the upper part of the tower.

The local ringers joined the Branch immediately and since then a total of 39 Guild members have come from Beachampton.

The first peal was rung by ringers from nearby parishes:

Oxford Diocesan Guild (N B B)
31st August 1912

A peal of 5040 Grandsire Doubles in 2h 43m.

1 H J Carter	4 W W Bonham
2 C A Valentine	5 D G Carter
3 L A Smith	

C A Valentine conductor

1st peal on the bells, which have been re-hung and two more added. The ringers of the Treble, 3rd and 5th were elected members of the Guild previous to starting.

H J Carter and D G Carter were members of the Leckhamptstead band, L A Smith was from Wicken and C A Valentine and W W Bonham were from Stony Stratford. The next peal was by a more representative local band, including C N Alderman who, at the age of 13, was the youngest Branch member to ring a peal. There have been eight peals rung at Beachampton: six by the O D G, one by the Towcester & District and one other (not yet traced).

Next issue: One of the first rings of eight in Bucks and a famous ringing family.

Doug

Dedication of the new ring of bells at the Cross and Stable, Milton Keynes

The project to mark the 450th anniversary of the Oxford Diocese saw the Rt. Rev'd Richard Harries, Bishop of Oxford, dedicating the eight bells of the ecumenical church of the Cross and Stable on Downs Barn in Milton Keynes. The ceremony was part of the normal Sunday morning worship on September 5th.

About 170 people attended from far and wide, from the three counties of the Oxford Diocese, and further afield including representatives from Kingstone in Herefordshire, the original home of the bells.

Amongst the hymns sung by the exuberant congregation and a special choir put together for the occasion, including many bell ringers, were "Unchanging God " and "Set them nobly in the steeple ".

The Bishop gave a short address on what bells mean to us, reminding us that bells are a Western tradition. After his sermon the Bishop was invited by the Rev'd Ros Parrett to dedicate the bells in full view of the congregation, from the ringing gallery. He was handed each bell rope in turn, alternately by Alan Berry from Taylor's Bellfoundry, and Brian White from White's of Appleton. Beginning with the Treble, the Bishop blessed each bell and handed the rope to an appropriate ringer who rang the bell up. The ringers, weights and inscriptions are as follows :

Treble -	Margaret A Foord 1908 - 1991 Eric C.J. Foord 1904 - 1985
Weight 1 - 3 - 14	Emberton, Bucks rung by Sheila Watts who had given the bell in memory of her parents
2nd	Donated by the ringers of the North Bucks Branch of the ODG 1992
Weight 2 - 0 - 0	rung by B. Douglas Hird, Branch Officer of the North Bucks Branch
3rd	Te Deum Laudamus Reginald Hereford Bird - Vicar
Weight 2 - 1 - 17	James Farr - Churchwarden 1902 (Inscription from the Treble of the ring of six bells from St Michael and All Angels, Kingstone from which the new eight bells were cast) rung by Reg Powell, Churchwarden and ringer from St Michael and All Angels
4th	Cantate Dominum (sic) Canticum Novium
Weight 2 - 2 - 27	rung by Brian Newman, a local ringer who had done much of the preparation work inside the tower

5th	Praise Him upon the loud cymbals rung by Fiona Maybrey, Church Officer of the Cross and Stable, and Tower Captain
Weight 3 - 0 - 8	
6th	A gift of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers to commemorate the 450th Anniversary of the Diocese rung by Bernard Stone, a member of the Guild who has contributed greatly towards the project
Weight 3 - 1 - 12	
7th	Church Ministers P. Green 1980 - 1991 R. Parrett 1991 -
Weight 4 - 2 - 11	Church Officers A. Head R. Cross rung by Alison Cross, daughter of R. Cross and local ringer
Tenor	Cast as the gift of Patricia Newton, Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild
Weight 6 - 0 - 10	rung by Patricia Newton

After dedicating the bells the Bishop returned downstairs where he un-veiled a plaque commemorating the occasion. This was greeted with applause which was taken up by the bells ringing rounds until the Bishop returned to his seat. The service continued with Holy Communion using the Lima Liturgy.

Following the service two appropriately decorated cakes were presented and cut by the present minister Ros Parrett, and the previous Minister, Peter Green. The cakes, along with wine, were then shared amongst the congregation whilst the first rounds were rung by local ringers, most of whom had only started to ring after the bells were installed in May. This ringing was acknowledged by applause. More experienced ringers were then allowed to ring and this continued for a further hour.

In celebration of the event the ringers were presented with a Ringers Jug, which holds six pints and will provide further encouragement and refreshment.

Fiona Maybrey

ODG 6 BELL STRIKING COMPETITION

It must have been one of the wettest Saturdays this year, when the Bradwell team ventured forth into the big wide world of the Striking Competition.

After the team racked their brains to remember if anyone of us had rung at Haddenham, the tower where the eliminating round was to take place, the venue was changed at the last minute to Hardwick. The other heat was taking place at Bierton.

Was this a relief or not? Several of the team had rung at the tower on a Guild Open Day, but none could recall the tower, only that it was situated near a wide green in the village.

On arriving at the tower and wading through the rivers running through the roads, we heard the bells in the distance. All of us with our various ideas and theories on speed, striking and handling.

When we entered, the first team were already into their rounds, our groans went up "Oh no, not long draft, and no rope guides, bet the ropes are stiff in the damp weather!" From where we were standing you could not see where the ropes disappeared.

We had been drawn in third position to ring, and after listening to the two previous contestants, went in hoping to achieve equally as well.

The winning formula was stuck to, Grandsire Doubles. Much to our relief it was not a long draft, and although one or two had quirks the bells rang well. We moved through the rounds into the method, working on the theory of letting the rhythm settle at its own pace. The ringing felt good, although we were all very aware of who the opposition might be. We were reaching the end of the piece when through tension, we went into a method fault. Recovering as quickly as possible, we managed to settle again. As we left the tower we were pleased we had rung as well as we had.

In order not to knock our confidence, we moved on to the tea and Final venue at Dinton. After a superb tea, the results of the two heats were read out:

HARDWICK

1. Tilehurst	15 faults
2. Finchampton	47 faults
3. St Giles,	
Oxford City	48 faults
4. Bradwell	53 faults
5. Chinnor	72 faults

BIERTON

Aston Clinton	34 faults
Quainton	36 faults
Appleton	37 faults
High Wycombe	44 faults
Thatcham	94 faults

Unfortunately, we had incurred 9 faults for our method problem. Still, not a bad show from ringers at a little village church. We thoroughly enjoyed the taking part (and the tea!)

We might not have been sporting, but the team decided not to wait for the final results, we presumed Tilehurst would need a catastrophe to unseat them as champions - could anyone confirm please?

Christine Abbott Treble, Becky Fawcett 2, Andy King (C) 3,
Samantha Hayes-Bradley 4, Martin Petchey 5 and Gordon Abbott Tenor.

Christine Abbott.

Branch Course - 1st and 2nd October

I know that there are mixed feelings within the branch about the effectiveness of organised ringing courses, but having had a rest for a few years wondered what interest there might be. Perhaps aiming for a 'mini Easthampstead' was too ambitious, but my experiences there have shown how well some ringers can advance with concentrated practice. That three of the students on this weekend had previously been to Easthampstead or the Central Council course indicates that some feel them worthwhile.

The actual response of five students and a few more helpers suggests that it is not worth attempting to organise a similar event again. Nevertheless, I believe that the reduced timetable was still worthwhile.

On Friday we drove through the heavy rain to Clifton Reynes for a gentle 'practice' to get to know each other and to determine the needs for Saturday. Saturday morning was spent at Emberton with an introduction to method construction and place notation, followed by ringing of plain hunt and plain bob and little bob minor. Saturday afternoon ringing was at Woughton and Simpson. Continuing advances for the plain bob ringers and a step to St Clements Minor. A discussion on place bells and the order of ringing was included.

For most it is possible to learn method ringing at home and at the towers that you visit, but that does not work for everyone. The chances to tap the knowledge of more experienced ringers should always be taken, and we tried here to share some of the more technical aspects of ringing. Maybe not all points were immediately relevant, but they add to a more rounded understanding of the art.

Our thanks to all incumbents for the use of their bells and special thanks to Sheila Watts and Brian Baldwin for their assistance with the arrangements.

There is no easy way to learn the art of ringing. It may come easier to some than others, but never ignore the opportunity to learn from listening to others or from watching and listening others ringing. Perhaps most important, if you want to know more - ASK.

We have had a number of requests for help in certain areas. Single towers have special needs but one subject that keeps cropping up is RAISING and LOWERING. I understand that the branch officers are considering this as a future event.

Robbing Fort

Fancy a peal of Belfast with Barry?

In the pub after a recent Woburn practice the conversation turned to the problem of finding ringers who, at a few hours notice, could drop everything to ring a peal of Belfast with "Guess who." We decided that it would still be difficult with a month's notice. Now everyone seems to be teaching learners so what has happened to them?

What seems most clear is that many really are not making any progress. Why? It seems to me that the problem lies in two areas, ambition and practice.

Ambition

Are you in charge of the ringing at your tower? If so what are your ambitions for the band? Do you have any idea what you want your band to be doing in one year's time? Do you intend that your own ringing will be any better in a year's time? If your learners perceive that the band is not going anywhere, why should they make any effort to improve?

Look at the bands in this Branch which are making progress. You will notice that the person in charge is also making personal progress. If you are satisfied with what you have got then don't complain when your learners leave.

Practice

In a recent letter to The Ringing World it was suggested that, at every opportunity, learners should learn something new. This is also a common requirement in secondary education based on the belief that students need a constant supply of new and exciting ideas to keep them interested. The end result is clear for all to see. Too many ringers try to ring methods before they have really mastered bell control and ropesight. I would urge teachers to remember the saying "practice makes perfect." During this repetitive process, experienced ringers should offer positive advice to reinforce correct actions or to correct incorrect actions.

A bellringing practice is not an opportunity to perform advanced methods for the edification of learners. It offers an opportunity for learners at all levels to go over what they have already learned with the intention of making their actions as near automatic and perfect as humanly possible. There is, of course, a place for demonstration ringing to show how something should be done but too often learners are not encouraged to listen and learn.

New challenges will also need to be introduced and this will depend on the ambition of the learner and the Ringing Master.

Perhaps we need a National Curriculum or BS 5750 for bellringing!

Doug

Results of the wedding survey

Firstly, I would like to thank all of the people who replied with the details of the wedding fees at their home tower(s) - enough replied to make it well worth analysing. The process is not meant to withstand detailed scrutiny, but it has provided some useful figures that should guide you in reconsidering your fees. Where a tower didn't know the revision date of the fees, I assumed this to be several years ago. All fees were indexed upwards using the RPI and an estimate of the figure for the beginning of 1994 was made. All of the analyses were then based on this index linked amount.

The charge made for ringing on 6 bells varied from £25 to £63 and averaged just under £49. The figures for 8 bells ranged from £44 to £82 with an average of just under £64. The fee (if any) paid to each ringer averaged £5:30 regardless of how many bells were rung. If any money was put into ringers funds it averaged £14 and the few that put money into other funds (such as PCC) averaged £18. Those that rang before (just under half of the weddings) averaged just under 15 minutes ringing, every tower rang afterwards for an average of just over 15 minutes. There was no indication that towers ringing before charged very differently or rang for more or less time afterwards. I find this surprising as before and after can take 2 hours out of your Saturday.

Some of the comments were common to most towers, others quite original. I hope that the following extracts are helpful - Quarter Peals or "free" weddings were usually only offered (if at all) to ringers and their families. Late brides were usually still rung in but tend to have time taken off the end to compensate. Most bands needed to borrow at least some of the time, but usually rang most of the bells. Only a few weddings were cancelled due to cost. At least one tower presents the couple with a small card signed by all of the ringers telling them what methods were rung. I am not aware of any band who ask (at a later date) for any helpful comments that could give us valuable feedback from our "customers", perhaps we should?

A number of bands put all of the ringers fees into their funds, either for dividing up later in the year or to spend on a dinner or outing. An interesting modern trend is to double all fees for weddings that are videoed - the argument being that the bells, organ, choir and clergy are all then part of a public performance. It was not clear whether this was only for professional video shoots or included the usual gaggle of camcorders, but it is certainly worth considering!

Based on these findings I would suggest that a typical set of fees and payments for 1994 weddings would be about £50 for 6 bells or £65 for 8 bells with the ringers paid £5:50. Please don't all set this as a matter of course - use it to consider your fees and perhaps help you to argue your point if challenged.

Given that most bands do find it hard to get enough ringers to ring all of their bells all of the time, I would suggest that we might charge and pay a little more than at present. If the high charge reduces demand slightly then that could be helpful, and if you do need outside help then the higher payments might just make it easier to tempt someone to come. As a balance I would like to see a few more weddings rung for free when the wedding has strong links with the local Church. I have no qualms about (over)charging strangers who want to hire us and our Churches to add gloss to their big day, but would love to support a loyal parishioner by making a gift of our ringing on their special day. **Write to the editor with your thoughts please.**

Why is that man shouting numbers at me?

Once you have got the hang of ringing rounds you might wonder if you can follow any bell and not just the one next to you. You don't have to follow only one bell. You could follow others, but if we all followed each other it would soon get very noisy. Someone, a conductor has to tell us who to follow.

Call Changes

You have already worked out that each bell has a number and that when we ring rounds they are in this order

1 2 3 4 5 6

Let's imagine that the conductor wants to change the order to

1 2 4 3 5 6

Two bells have been "swopped over." 4 is now in third's place and 3 is now in fourth's place. The conductor will call:

Three to Four

This means that Three must move to follow Four.

This is quite easy for 3 (the bell that is moving "up"). It just does as it is told.

But 4 has to work out who to follow. Before the conductor calls anything, the ringer of the 4th should look for the bell which is in front of the bell they are following. To do this you just look to see which rope the 3rd's ringer is looking at. This is the 2nd. So when 3 moves up to take your place, you move down to their place and follow the bell they were previously following, the 2nd.

The ringer of the 5th doesn't have to change place but does have to follow a new bell. It was following the 4th but the 3rd is now following that bell so the 5th just follows the 3rd instead.

Quaint variations

At some towers you might have to work a little harder when the conductor calls something else but still hopes for three and four to swap over. Either

Three and Four

or

Three, Four

also mean that 3 and 4 should swap and are quite easy to understand.

The habit of calling bells down

Four to Two

is only used by conductors who intend to confuse their learners into believing that call changes are difficult to ring and therefore need great skill to call them, or by those who aim to slow down their learners' progress to a rate that they (the conductor) can cope with. When confronted with such calls it is good fun to swap over 2 and 3. This just about complies with the requirements of the call but completely confuses the conductor.

Doug

The Historic Churches Trust

- Sponsored Bicycle Ride 11th September

For the third successive year the ringers from Newport Pagnell set out on a team sponsored ride, raising £135 for our own church and the Trust. We had a wedding to ring for in the afternoon so the route was planned to fit between raising the bells and getting back for the wedding.

The bells were raised by 9.45 so we set off slightly early in a westward direction. The route covered 24 churches (25 for the two strapping lads!) and followed the redway system as much as possible. The railway walk through to New Bradwell, then around Wolverton to Stony Stratford, with lunch on the green.

The return route was longer with fewer churches but full of interest. We viewed the progress on the ringing loft at Bradwell, called in at the busy Christ the Cornerstone and were disappointed to have to rush away from Downs Barn without a ring. The rush was not actually necessary as we returned to Newport early enough to include Lathbury before the wedding, rather than afterwards as planned.

We had a great day out, no ringing on the route this year but next year is already being planned. We recommend this day to other bands, have an enjoyable day and raise money for your church.

The 1993 Secretaries' Meeting

This year's meeting, on Friday 1st October, was held at Radley just south of Oxford. Those of you who have been out on a evening tower grab with dark stormy clouds heavy, black and pendulous gathering overhead, will appreciate the fun I had trying to find the tower, and the adjacent meeting rooms where we gathered. A total of twelve Secretaries attended representing most parts of the Guild. The meeting was chaired by John Wells, the Guild Secretary.

Subscriptions

A proposal is to be put forward to raise the annual subscription. The justification for this is the increase in postal charges due this year (Nov. 93) and the expected rise in the cost of insurance. The proposal is to increase the fee from £4.75 to £5.00. The increase would be divided between the nominating branch and the Guild such that a greater proportion goes to the branch (15p/10p)

On the subject of insurance, it was felt that many members do not fully understand the insurance available and that the benefit should be more widely publicised. It was agreed that details would be published at least once each year in Odd Bob.

Striking Competitions

After a lengthy discussion on the methods for next year's striking competition the following conclusions were reached:

8-Bell Striking Competition

Method: Cambridge Major.

The intention with this competition is to alternate between triples and major. The method this year was Stedman. Previous years have seen Little Bob, Plain Bob, Double Norwich, Kent and Yorkshire.

10-Bell Striking Competition

Method: Little Bob Royal.

The rules for the 10-Bell competition are a little less well specified. In general the method has alternated between caters and royal and [if I understood correctly] false touches have been allowed [in the Grandsire Caters]. The rules will be discussed further at the Autumn Committee meeting.

The date of the competition was discussed at some length. The traditional date in May was felt to be unpopular with many and several alternatives were considered. The Guild calendar is very busy and it proved difficult to select another, but the last Saturday in November seemed possible. [The diary in this issue of In Touch still shows the May date, so be prepared for a change probably to 26 th Nov 94.]

Downs Barn

A report on the position of the project was presented and discussed. The total amount outstanding is £9,000. This is currently being met by loans from the Bell Fund and (substantially) an individual loan. This needs to be repaid quickly (end 93) and not later than September 94.

The offer to hold the 1994 Guild AGM and Downs Barn was accepted.

Training

Easthampstead will continue to be run in 1994, as will Cuddesdon. A lengthy discussion continued on whether Cuddesdon was the best location. [Anyone who has served as Secretary for many years will probably understand this one, and I haven't!. But it seems that Cuddesdon was a 'compromise location'.] No alternative was suggested, so no change.

Data Protection Act (DPA)

There is growing concern within the branches whether those secretaries who keep details of members on computer should register with the DPA. It was felt that this was a matter for the Guild to consider and would be raised at the General Committee Meeting.

Health & Safety

Towers are starting to be looked at under the Health and Safety Act. Two particular concerns are:

Fire Escapes - the provision of. [This should be interesting for all the non-ground-floor rings!], and

Bells being rung down after ringing - The concern is that emergency services will be in danger if the bells are left up, as will anyone who breaks in[!]. In principle, towers must comply with the requirements of their insurance cover and if necessary the bells should be rung down. [Apparently 90% of towers are covered by the same policy which stipulates that the bells should be rung down when not required - so no more resting between touches on a practice night!.]

Guild Library

The search continues for an alternative location for the Guild's collection of books. The main requirements are for :

Easy access - The collection is currently housed in Bill Butler's garage which is proving OK but we need to think to the future.

Controlled environment - The collection is growing and is quite valuable, and if not looked after carefully will start to deteriorate

A number of offers have been received, including a couple for Oxford libraries. All seem to fall short on one or both criteria. [If any members have ideas for the library please let me know].

Guild Officers

There is a proposal to increase the number of Guild Officers in order to improve communications within the Guild. The two new positions proposed are:

Guild Membership Secretary - to manage all issues concerning members (certificates etc.). This would be a good position for someone who is keen to get involved in Guild matters but does not feel able to take on the responsibility/commitment of one of the existing posts.

[There has been a delay in printing members' certificates but they should be coming soon.]

5th Steward - to represent the Master when not available.

Guild Report

[A-Ha! I hear you say!]

The person tasked with assembling and printing the report has unfortunately been frustrated by a number of personal commitment. At the time of the meeting the assemble job is not yet complete. It is hoped that this will finished in the next couple of weeks and that the report will be available by the Committee Meeting. The printing has already been paid for (in advance to avoid a perceived VAT increase). One delay was caused by the inclusion of OS references for each tower. Although there is a list detailing all towers is available, this information is currently copyright, so we had to start from scratch [don't remind me!].

Clearly, the arrangements for the production of next year's report need to be reviewed.

Unsolicited Mail

Several Secretaries have received unsolicited mail, usually raffle tickets or requests to contribute to tower/bell funds, and have asked for advice on how to respond. The issue is that the particular Branch will incur some cost (if only postage) if they do anything. After discussion it was agreed that the Guild would not enforce any guidelines and would allow individuals to act as they preferred. If they felt that the bin was the best filing place then so be it!

The meeting lasted for about 2hr 30 min and ended at 10:30 (ish). Refreshments followed and I can report that the tea and cakes were in order (having sampled each type at least twice, especially the ones with the little cherries on top!).

Secretary

THE FOLLOWING HAVE BEEN RUNG IN MEMORY OF GEORGE HOLLAND

28th October 1993 at Woburn.

1250 Cambridge Surprise Major

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Ruth Stokes | 5. Raymond Watkin |
| 2. Michael Lowndes | 6. Robert Churchill |
| 3. Justin Baker | 7. Christopher Stokes |
| 4. Richard Haseldine | 8. Barry Eglesfield (C) |
-

30th October 1993 at Great Linford.

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. David Joyce | 4. Ronald Snack (C) |
| 2. Alan Marchbank | 5. Malcolm Hooton |
| 3. Jill Joyce | 6. Godfrey Foat |
-

30th October 1993 at Chewton Mendip.

1280 8-Spliced Surprise Major

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. W.A.Yates | 5. C.Bulleid |
| 2. Margaret Bulleid | 6. G.E.Green |
| 3. R.W.Yates (C) | 7. G.N.Williams |
| 4. R.S.Stanworth | 8. B.R.Eglesfield |
-

3rd November 1993 at Maids Moreton. Rung Half-muffled.

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Helen Stanworth | 4. A.J.E. Lloyd |
| 2. T.H.O Lewis | 5. W.A. Yates (C) |
| 3. L. Gibson | 6. D.Goodger |
-

4th November 1993 at Maids Moreton. Rung Half-muffled.

1260 Stedman Doubles

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. R.W.Yates (C) | 4. D.Goodger |
| 2. R.A.Vickers | 5. R.S.Stanworth |
| 3. W.A.Yates | 6. P. Nicholson |
-

4th November 1993 at Leckhampsted.

1260 Doubles (Stedman, Plain Bob, Grandsire)

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. D. Goodger | 3. W.A.Yates |
| 2. R.A.Vickers | 4. R.W.Yates (C) |
| 5. J.P.Humbert | |
-

6th November 1993 at Buckingham

A Peal of 5040 Stedman Triples

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. L. Ruth Stokes | 2. Rev John Nixon | 3. Richard S. Stanforth |
| 4. William A. Yates | 5. Chris C Stokes | 6. George E.Green |
| 7. Richard W. Yates (C) | 8. Barry R. Eglesfield | |

Composition: Dexter's No. 2

OTHER QUARTERS

31st July 1993 at Downs Barn.

The first quarter on the bells, rung after the first wedding for which the bells were rung.

1260 Plain Bob Triples

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Nicki King | 5. Douglas Hird |
| 2. Fiona Maybrey | 6. David Maybrey |
| 3. Denby Murduck | 7. David Joyce (C) |
| 4. Jill Joyce | 8. Brian Newman |
-

12th September at Downs Barn. Rung for the baptism at St Lawrence of Nathan Joss.

1264 Plain Bob Major

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. Sheila Watts | 5. Barry Eglesfield |
| 2. Nicki King | 6. Martin Petchey |
| 3. Jill Joyce | 7. Douglas Hird |
| 4. Ted Fawcett | 8. David Joyce (C) |
-

18th September at Beachampton.

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Ann Gilbert | 3. Jo Nevill |
| 2. Arthur Harrison | 4. Derek Stainsby |
| 5. Monty Gilbert (C) | |
-

10th October 1993 at Downs Barn. Rung for Harvest Songs of Praise and Supper.

1280 8-Spliced Surprise Major

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Fiona Maybrey | 5. Ali Smith |
| 2. Ruth Stokes | 6. Jill Joyce |
| 3. Douglas Hird | 7. David Maybrey |
| 4. Richard Horne | 8. Barry Eglesfield (C) |
-

16th October 1993 at Beachampton.

In memory of Trudi Harrison, wife of Beachampton ringer Arthur Harrison.

1260 Doubles (Grandsire and Plain Bob)

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Jo Nevill | 3. Ted Lambert |
| 2. Frank Daniels | 4. Raymond Watkin |
| 5. Derek Stainsby (C) | |
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North Bucks Branch Towers - Sunday and Practice Times

Tower	Sunday	Practice
Beachampton	10:30(1) 9:00(2,3)	
Bletchley	9:15 5:15	Mon 7:30
Bow Brickhill		
Bradwell	9:30-10:15(With exceptions) 5:45- 6:30(Summer) 3:45-4:30(Winter)	Wed 7:30-9:00
Broughton		
Buckingham	9:30	Last Thu 7:30
Calverton	5:30 (Alt)	Wed 7:30-9:00
Chicheley	5:30	Thu 7:30 (Alt: North Crawley)
Clifton Reynes	5:30(4)	
Downs Barn	9:45-10:30	Tue 7:30-9:00(2,3,4,5)
Drayton Parslow	5:30(2,4)	Thu 7:30
Emberton	9:15 5:30(3)	Tue 7:45
Fenny Stratford	9:00	Thu 8:00
Great Brickhill	10:30(1) 5:30(2) 9:00(4)	Wed 7:30
Great Linford	10:00(1) 10:15(2,3,4,5)	Tue 7:30-9:00
Hanslope	10:15-11:00	Thu 7:30-9:00
Haversham	10:30 (2,4)	
Lathbury		
Lavendon	10:30(3)	Wed 7:30
Leckhampstead		
Lillingstone Lovell	9:00-9:30	Thu 7:30-9:00 (Alternate only)
Loughton	10:30	Mon 7:30 (Alt: Shenley)
Maids Moreton	9:15(1,3) 5:30(2) 10:45(4)	Wed 7:15
Milton Keynes Village	10:30(1)	Tue 8:00
Moulsoe		
Newport Pagnell	8:45 5:15	Wed 7:30
Newton Longville	9:30	Wed 7:30
North Crawley	5:30(2,3,4)	Mon Time? (Alt: Chicheley)
Old Wolverton	10:00	Tue 7:30
Olney	9:30(1) 5:30(Exc 3)	Thu 7:30
Shalstone		
Shenley		Mon Time? (Alt: Loughton)
Sherington		
Simpson		Thu 8:00(1,3) (Alt: Woughton)
Stoke Goldington	9:15-10:00(2)	Fri 7:30-9:00(2,4)
Stony Stratford	9:00	Mon 7:30
Stowe		Thu 7:30 (Term time only)
Thornborough	5:30(1,3) 10:30(2,4)	Thu 7:30
Tingewick		
Twyford		
Tyringham		
Wavendon	9:15	Mon 7:30
Weston Underwood	Specials only	Fri 7:30-9:00(Check first)
Whaddon		
Woughton on the Green	9:30	Thu 8:00(2,4) (Alt: Simpson)

Date: 7-Nov-93

North Bucks Branch Diary

Nov 93

Fri 19	*Branch Practice Method: Erin Triples	Newton Longville
Sat 27	ODG Autumn General Committee Meeting	Steeple Aston

Dec 93

Sat 4	*Quarterly Meeting Early afternoon ringing at Tyringham	Hanslope
Fri 17	*Branch Practice Method: Stedman Doubles	Drayton Parslow

Jan 94

Fri 21	*Branch Practice Method: Grandsire Minor	Gt Linford
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Feb 94

Fri 18	Branch Practice Method: Single Oxford & Double Court	Loughhton
Sat 26	*Annual Branch Dinner Provisional date - details to follow	Venue: tba

Mar 94

Sat 5	*Branch AGM Early afternoon ringing at Thornborough	Buckingham
Sat 5	Cuddesdon Training Day	Cuddesdon
Sat 12	ODG Spring General Committee Meeting	Tilehurst
Fri 18	*Branch Practice Method: Oxford Treble Bob	Emberton

Apr 94

Fri 15	Junior Ringing Weekend (15-17)	Dorney
Fri 15	*Branch Practice Method: Double Norwich	Bletchley

May 94

Mon 2	ODG Ringing Day & 8 Bell Competition	Banbury Branch
Fri 20	*Branch Practice Method: Winchendon & St Nicholas	Tingewick
Sat 21	10-Bell Competition	NOT NB Branch!
Sat 21	Guild AGM	Downs Barn

Jun 94

Sat 4	*Quarterly Meeting & 6-Bell Competition Note: This year both event on same day	Bradwell
Fri 17	*Branch Practice Method: Little Bob Minor & Cambridge	Chicheley