

AUGUST '89

IN TOUCH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH BUCKS BRANCH
OF
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS



A Word (or three) from the Secretary.

Well here I am again sitting in front of the trusty W.P. and creating some more choice spelling mistakes for all you clever lot, and Godfrey to put wright. Just because you got 'o' level english !

One day I'll buy a spell checker then see where you'll be.

It's been a busy and eventful time since last I wrote what with Bradwell seeing us all off at the six bell contest, the Guild Festival being again successful and Great Brickhill celebrating Bells 200 in great style.

Somewhere in the middle of all this activity the ODG AGM happened and what a happening it was too.

The Holders of the posts of General Secretary (Tony Pullan) and Guild Master (Ron Thorne) had both indicated their intention to resign from office as they were both moving to pastures new outside the Guild. This clearly meant that at least two posts would be up for re-election and as there were no nominations for them made at the March General Committee meeting things were going to be, at the very least, interesting.

However the appathy of old did not rule, and after a smart bit of proposing and seconding the final picture looked as follows:-

MASTER	Mrs. Pat Newton	STEWARDS	Len Porter
DEPUTY MASTER	Mrs. Anne Carpenter		John Harris
SECRETARY	Alex Sharpe		John White
TREASURER	Brian Gatward		Ron Christopher
REPORT EDITOR	John Wells	CC. REPS	John Harris
PEAL SEC	Kath Firman		Tim Pett
ODD BOB EDIT	Marrie Cross		Bill Butler
			? Horard Eglestone.

And finally just one ammendment to the Diary of Events for October, the Practice on 6th which should have been at Drayton Parslow is cancelled. However for your entertainment and in aid of the Downs Barn appeal the Yetties will be 'in concert' at the Stantonbury Theatre. More details and tickets are available from Brian Newman of Bradwell.

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At home or at work,
the editor would like to hear from you.....

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O.D.G.C.B.R.
EIGHT BELL STRIKING COMPETITION

(OR)

WE WAS ROBBED - AGAIN

Yes, it happened again this year!

Our intrepid North Bucks band set out on Monday 1st May for the Guild Eight Bell Striking Competition at St. Mary's, Amersham. A rather nice 19 cwt eight - surely nothing could be more daunting than Long Crendon's anti-clockwise bells last year? This year the test piece was 210 changes of Erin Triples. Practices had been held at Buckingham and Wicken - Buckingham being notable for the fact that the practice Quarter Peal fired out near the end when someone below switched the lights out!

North Bucks was drawn to ring third out of the seven bands, at 5.20 p.m. Not a bad position to ring in, and we concluded as we listened to the first two bands that North Bucks would not come last, unless something drastic happened! Our team was:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Christine E. Murphy | 5. Bill Yates |
| 2. Godfrey L. Foat | 6. George Holland |
| 3. Andrew King | 7. Tim Davis (C) |
| 4. B. Doug Hird | 8. Alan Marchbank |

I think it is fair to say that nobody looked particularly happy when they came down from the tower, but nothing went very wrong either. An excellent tea was then provided before the results were announced in the church. Ron Thorne, Guild Master, introduced the Judge - David Thorne, Editor of The Ringing World. He did not have a lot to say about any team, but the comment on North Bucks was "A nice bit of ringing, spoiled occasionally by slow leading". The final results were:

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------------------|------------------|
| 1st | High Wycombe | 15 faults |
| 2nd | East Berks & South Bucks Branch | 17 faults |
| 3rd | Tilehurst | 23 faults |
| 4th | North Bucks Branch | 27 faults |
| 5th | St. Mary & St. Laurence, Reading | 28 faults |
| 6th | Abingdon | 55 faults |
| 7th | Chiltern Branch | 57 faults |

So - congratulations to our band (or commiseration, depending on your viewpoint) - and better luck next year!

Incidentally, I found it worthwhile joining in the Oxford Ringing Day that goes on around the Striking Competition. There was little queuing at towers this year, and some enjoyable ringing took place at a variety of interesting towers.

RELATIONS WITH THE CLERGY

A recent survey by The Ringing World suggests there is considerable indifference to bellringing by the clergy. However, in the early 19th century relations were very much worse, as shown by these extracts from the journal of John Skinner, Rector of Camerton in Somerset.

Friday 19th July, 1822 Returning from the glebe, Stephens, the under-gardener to Mrs. Jarrett, came to me in the field facing my house saying he had a favour to ask, which was to let the ringers give a peal, it being the King's Coronation day (the first anniversary of George IV's coronation) and the people at Paulton and Midsomer Norton had been ringing the whole morning. I said I was as much attached to the King as any man in the country, yet could not see how His Majesty derived any good from people leaving their work to make noise with the bells; with respect to the ringers, they certainly did themselves much injury by frequenting the Ale Houses in the manner they had done last week, and then returning home and beating their wives to a jelly. I said, as the parish seemed so desirous of having them rung (Mr. Gooch had given them a guinea, and Weeks, the Churchwarden, 5s for the purpose) I would not oppose it; but I recommended their not going to the Public House spending the money they had gained in folly, which might be much better spent on their families. They accordingly commenced their ringing, and I walked in the village to avoid the jingling of the bells.

Thursday 15th July, 1830 We had scarcely finished dinner when I heard a peal from the church strike out. This rather surprised me, as no one had asked for the key of the church, and I had told the ringers they should not have it without my leave, since a pack of the collier lads got together to ring only for the sake of drinking afterwards. On going to the church, they said they rang for the King and had no occasion to ask my leave: that other churches were ringing and they did not see why they should not do as the rest did. I said that if they had asked me properly for the key to toll for the King (George IV), who was to be buried this evening, I should have let them have it; but they had got it without my leave. They said it was false, they had not gotten the key: they found the church open and had gone in.

(Taken from Journal of a Somerset Rector 1803-1834 by John Skinner, published by Oxford University Press, 1984, and pinched from the Witney & Woodstock Branch Newsletter!) by Sheila!

The heavy clangour shoulders through the louvres of the tower
Slicing through the mist that softly wreathes around the graves:
Ignores the throaty challenge from the rooks' leafless bower,
Passes over crop-rich fields, now ploughed to earthen waves,
Bursts upon the rooftops of the people far and wide
Calling them with iron voice that will not be denied.

Anon

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NORTH BUCKS BRANCH 6 BELL STRIKING CONTEST

SATURDAY JUNE 10th.

The event took place this year in the lovely church of St. Edmund, Maids Moreton. The weather was kind so those waiting to ring could be outside. The judges found an ideal spot but were slightly hampered at one point by 4 heavy earth moving vehicles going past - at least the ice cream van did not return with its musical chimes! Five teams took part and after the draw ringing quickly began.

Approximately an hour and a half later the chairman introduced the judges -
Andrew Keech - All Saints, Kempston.
Nick Brett - All Saints, Leighton Buzzard.

Andrew gave general comments, stressing that the standard had been good, an asset for Sunday ringing or practice night. They had marked on faults not clean changes and after marking independently had then compared and luckily agreed!

- Nick commented on each team in the order of ringing.
1. Plain Bob Doubles. Good rhythm, occasional clipping at lead ends. Excellent leading.
 2. Plain Bob Doubles. Lacking in rhythm but a good effort.
 3. Cambridge Minor. Not a bad pace with the tenor forcing it a little. Some clipping, otherwise good.
 4. Grandsire Doubles. Brisk pace but a couple of crunches!
 5. Plain hunt Doubles. Leading a little poor. Tired towards the end!

Rounds before were marked and often provided a lot of the faults.
Rounds after were not marked.

1st. place	Bradwell	40 faults
2nd. place	Maids Moreton	42 faults
3rd. place	Buckingham	46 faults
4th. place	Emberton	56 faults
5th. place	Great Linford	37 faults

The Chairman continued by thanking the judges and presenting the Branch Shield to Bradwell and the coveted Broken Stay to Gt. Linford. The St. Lawrence, Bradwell and St. Andrew, Gt. Linford Challenge Shield, traditionally presented to the highest placed team of the two, was therefore won by Bradwell. The winners of the branch shield go forward to the Guild Six Bell Contest on 7th. October in the Bicester Branch.

The Chairman concluded by thanking the Judges for their constructive comments and Maids Moreton ringers for hosting the event. £13-75 was collected and donated to the tower.

Most ringers then retired to the local hostelry.....

Shild Ware.



Ted Fawcett, Bradwell, recieves the trophy



Bradwell

BRADWELL

- . Christine Abbott
- . Becky Fawcett
- . T. Fawcett
- . Jenny Brookman
- . M. Petchey
- . G. Abbott



Buckingham

BUCKINGHAM

- 1. P. Nickolson
- 2. A. Roberts
- 3. T. Lewis
- 4. R. Stanworth
- 5. W. Yates
- 6. G. Holland



EMBERTON

1. Sheila Watts
2. Sheila Ware
3. Celia Lewis
4. Justina Bendelow
5. Christine Murphy
6. L. Bendelow

Emberton



GREAT LINFORD

1. S. Jones
2. Rae Weatherall
3. T. Gibson
4. J. Randall
5. A. Marchbank
6. Ros Tyrrell

Gt Linford



- #### MAIDS MORETON no photo!
1. B. Winstanley
 2. T. Lewis
 3. G. Holland
 4. G. Orchard
 5. W. Yates
 6. T. Davis

Tine Marchbank recieves the Broken Stay.....

DIARY OF EVENTS 1989

AUGUST

FRIDAY	4th	BRANCH PRACTICE	Gt. LINFORD
FRIDAY	18th	BRANCH PRACTICE	GREAT BRICKHILL

SEPTEMBER

SATURDAY	2nd	BRANCH QUARTERLY STRIKING CONTEST vs. TOWCESTER BRANCH	BUCKINGHAM WICKEN
FRIDAY	15th	BRANCH PRACTICE	WAVENDON
FRIDAY	29th	EASTHAMPSTEAD RINGING COURSE	

OCTOBER

FRIDAY	6th	BRANCH PRACTICE	DRAYTON PARSLOW
FRIDAY	6th	ODG SECRETARIES MEETING	
SATURDAY	7th	ODG 6 BELL STRIKING COMPETITION FINAL	BICESTER BRANCH
FRIDAY	20th	BRANCH PRACTICE	CALVERTON

NOVEMBER

FRIDAY	3rd	BRANCH PRACTICE	FENNY STRAITFORD
SATURDAY	4th	ODG GENERAL COMMITTEE MTG	
FRIDAY	17th	BRANCH PRACTICE	NEWPORT PAGNELL

DECEMBER

SATURDAY	2nd	BRANCH QUARTERLY	OLD WOLVERTON
FRIDAY	15th	BRANCH PRACTICE	LECKHAMPSTEAD