



ASSOCIATION & GUILD NEWS

Yorkshire Association AGM

Some reduced subscriptions abolished

The bells all eight churches in the centre of York pealed out over the City for the Association AGM on Saturday, 7th May, with over 100 members and friends ringing throughout the day. And it was also the day the Inter-Branch striking competition was held at a City church.

The first ringing of the day was perhaps the most unusual in that the six bells were available at The Parish – a night club converted from The Arts Centre, itself converted many years ago from St John's Church in Ousebridge. The bar is in the middle of the ringing circle and was stacked high with the multiplicity of bottles containing the kind of spirits and liqueurs which seem to be needed these days to make the exotic cocktails required by younger people. When ringing myself, I feared how much it was going to cost me if my rope snagged the display!

All the Association's nine Branches entered a team to win the coveted Inter-Branch striking contest silver cup which returned to Yorkshire a couple of years ago. The test piece was a course of Lincolnshire SM at St Lawrence's Church judged by Peter Wilkinson of Cheshire.

Tea was a magnificent repast provided by the York ladies. They put in a lot of hard work to cater for over 100 people, including Christine Potter being at the church hall for over 12 hours plus several hours the night before assembling tables.

The meeting itself was a 'conventional' one, with Barrie Dove being elected unopposed as Association President for a final three-year term and Simon Reading as Peal Secretary. We stood in memory of recently departed members – Andrew Dunn (Bishopthorpe), John Lloyd (Cawthorne), Harry Winter (Ripon), Albert Wood (Saddleworth) and Pat Lord (Batley).

The only surprising departure from 'convention' was that when a proposal was put



Left to right: Peter Wilkinson (Contest judge), James Blackburn (Beverley), Barrie Dove (Association President)

to increase the annual subscription, it emerged that some 60% of the Association's 1,800 members now pay half price, being under 18, full-time students or at least 60 years old. This percentage was shown to have steadily increased over the years, particularly as the membership has grown older. An amendment was then proposed and carried which abolished the reduced rate for older members and kept the subscription at the present level of £8.

The results of the contest were eagerly awaited and in commenting on the striking. Peter Wilkinson showed his possession of a keen ear and his consistency of approach. The winners were the band representing the East Riding Branch, with the Western Branch and York Branch closely in second and third places.

To close off the day, we complimented Dinah Rhymer and Neil Donovan on their forthcoming marriage.

ROBERT CATER

SCACR celebrates with 100 peals



2010 saw the 125th anniversary of the Sussex County Association of Change Ringers. The association was founded in January 1885 with 25 Sussex towers, 7 more towers were affiliated in March and a further 7 in May 1885. The intention was to ring peals in as many of the founder towers as possible and to include other association towers, where available, as there are now 138 towers with peals of at least 3 bells. After a vast quantity of phone calls, emails and spreadsheets the results & statistics are as follows;

- 116 ringers took part
- 101 different methods within 51 different compositions
- 100 peals (98 on tower bells in 90 different towers, 2 on hand bells in different locations)
- 54 peals were rung by the leading peal ringer, Ian Hastilow (Stephen Beckingham & Jonathan Franklin rang 40 each, Alan Baldock rang 31 and Gareth Higgs and Peter Wilkinson rang 30)
- 41 spliced Surprise Minor on handbells
- 33 of the original 39 founder towers scored peals
- 14 different conductors including Stephen Beckingham (24), Jonathan Franklin (15), Alan Baldock (10) and David Smith (10)
- 11 first peelers
- 6 towers had more than 1 peal

- 4 new methods were named – Chiddingly, Ovingdean and Waldron Surprise Major and Charlie Delight Major

Peals were rung the length and breadth of the association from Aldingbourne to Worth and Westbourne to Rye with a number of towers making rare appearances in the peals columns – those with absences of 10 years or more being Aldrington, Alfriston, Amberley, Billingshurst, Bolney, Brede, Burgess Hill, Danehill, Eastbourne (All Saints), East Hoathly, Ewhurst Green, Fletching, Graffham, Kirdford, Little Horsted, Lymminster, Maresfield, Newick, Pagham, Rudgwick, Sedlescombe, South Harting, Stedham and Walberton. There were also 3 peals that were not included in the 100 peals, these being a peal of Yorkshire Surprise Major on the Wickham Dumb Bell Ring in Hurstpierpoint a peal of Sussex Delight by the Bristol University Society at Bristol Cathedral and a peal at Fairwarp rung by the Cumberland Youths. All towers received a framed certificate, copies of which will also be in the association library.

It has been a great achievement for all involved, whether it is ringing their first peal, learning new methods or ringing 2 peals in a day! These peals also raised a large amount for the funds at the 90 different towers throughout the association.

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who rang and helped in any way.

IAN & ANGIE HASTILOW
and ALAN BALDOCK

College Youths tryout Cornhill



Bristol Maximus in progress at the Cornhill tryout on May 27th – (l-r): Alan Frost (8), Roy Le Marechal (9), Roddy Horton (10), Paul Carless (11), Andrew Wilby (tenor), Enid Lawson (1) and the arms of Becky Sugden (2)

An hour's first tryout of the new 32cwt Taylor twelve at Cornhill took place on Friday evening, May 27th, with Cambridge, Bristol and Stedman successfully rung. There is still quite a bit of detailed work to finish off, including the sound control, but it was clear to all that we have an excellent and joyous new ring of bells. Service ringing is resuming at 12 noon every Sunday, and a full account of the project will appear soon.

TONY KENCH