

Letters

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SURPRISED!

Dear Sir,—I am surprised to read that a joint committee, presumably of the Central Council, have chosen to invite teams of call-change ringers to London in connection with the C.C.'s visit at Whitsun.

Those who have made this decision are obviously unaware of the deep-rooted animosity which has existed between certain members of the Devon Association and method ringers.—Yours, etc.,

N. MALLETT.

Elburton, Plymouth.

CAREY SURPRISE

Dear Sir,—With reference to the peal of Carey Surprise Major rung at Moulton on February 8, 1972 (R.W., page 201). According to my records this method was first rung at Gressenhall on September 27, 1968, and named Colegate. Could someone either confirm this or give the correct place notation for Carey.—Yours, etc.,

D. J. BENNETT.

Newton-le-Willows, Lancs.

"GREAT PAUL"

Dear Sir,—May I be permitted to make a correction to the latter part of my account of the story of "Great Paul" which appeared recently, as I have since come across some further information which may, I think, be of interest to your readers.

Towards the end of 1891 the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's came to the conclusion that a new clock would have to be provided for the south-west tower. The original clock had been made in 1709 and it was now worn out. Once again the Cathedral authorities turned for advice to Lord Grimthorpe, who was an expert on clocks and watches as well as on bells (and perhaps more successful in that sphere—the Westminster clock is his design). Lord Grimthorpe drew up specifications and tenders were invited from the leading clock-makers. Eventually the contract was awarded to John Smith and Son, of Derby, who began work on January 1, 1892, and by autumn of that year had the clock ready for fixing.

Now, however, a major difficulty arose through a misunderstanding. It had been Lord Grimthorpe's idea that the new clock should strike the hours on Great Paul, and he had decided to have the bell removed from its original position, which seems to have been in what is now the clock-chamber, presumably almost immediately behind the clock faces and therefore on a corresponding level to the bells in the north-west tower. (I had misunderstood what was written about its original position; placed where it was, it is not so surprising that it did not sound very loud outside.) Lord Grimthorpe wanted Great Paul to be placed in the upper lantern and hung "dead", with a swinging clapper for tolling and the clock hammer to strike in the usual way.

However, the Cathedral authorities were under the impression that Great Paul would continue to swing as formerly and evidently they insisted on this arrangement being continued. As a result, Lord Grimthorpe's plans had to be very considerably modified, as it was not considered safe to have so large a bell swinging in the upper lantern—indeed, one shudders to think what the effect of such an arrangement would be!

Eventually Great Paul was lifted 16 feet to its present position and rehung in its present stock (not in 1883 as I suggested). At the same time, the hour bell and the quarter bells were raised into their present position in the lantern and fitted with heavier hammers. This meant that the new clock had to be altered and readapted to strike the hours and quarters on these bells. The works of the clock were then installed behind the clock faces, where Great Paul had been. All this took time and the work was not completed until December, 1893.—Yours, etc.,

W. T. COOK.

Sidcup, Kent.

NOT DOUBLE-HANDED

Dear Sir,—I should like to point out that in the quarter peal rung at Gt. Baddow on January 13 (R.W., page 205), my son, Dr. P. J. Spencer-Phillips, did **not** ring both the third and the fourth bell, but that I, Dr. P. T. Spencer-Phillips, being in my 90th year, rang the fourth bell.—Yours, etc.,

P. T. SPENCER-PHILLIPS.

Gt. Baddow, Chelmsford.

[Our mistake, no doubt! Our congratulations to you, sir, and may you long continue to ring and enjoy quarter peals.—Ed.]

TREBLE PLACE DOUBLES

Dear Sir,—Mr. E. R. Tyndale-Biscoe, in his excellent letter (page 198) on Treble Place Doubles, supports the wisdom of the Central Council in banning such a method as Saturn on the ground that it has a "false plain course". Mr. Tyndale-Biscoe is known as a shrewd detector of highly cacophonous, albeit legitimate, methods and he is probably right in suspecting that Treble Place could give rise to similar horrors unless properly safeguarded. Surely, though, it should be possible to devise such safeguards on more sensible grounds than the so-called "falsity" of the plain course. The logical basis of 240s is that each change is repeated; the falsity lies in any line that is **not** repeated. It is an entirely new conception that certain otherwise proper changes should be considered false solely because they happen to occur in the plain course.

I admit to a strong bias in favour of Saturn because, in a 5-bell tower with no cover, the rhythm of the Slow Hunt bell can lead to better striking than in any other Doubles method; and I feel it would be a splendid thing if the experts could devise a means of banning a Treble Place Winchendon while allowing Saturn to go free, instead of throwing the baby out with the bath water.

An extent of Saturn consists of an equal number of plain and bob leads. Others have probably noted that it is possible to get what I believe is a legitimate three-lead plain course by calling three consecutive bobs. If this were now registered as the official Saturn method then we can ring extents and peals with the approval of the Council, **identical in every respect** with the extents which are now forbidden. Surely such an unworthy and illogical solution cannot be right.—Yours, etc.,

WILLIAM DEVLIN.

Taunton, Som.

TREBLE BOB TRIPLES

Dear Sir,—The recent correspondence on early peals of Treble Bob Triples prompts me to send you the following report from Berrow's Worcester Journal of Thursday, 29 May, 1788:

"On Wednesday last was rung at Wakefield, by the ringers of that place, a new composed peal of triple bob triples, called Wakefield's delight, consisting of 5040 changes, in eight courses complete. The same set of ringers, without changing a man or setting a bell, began another peal of Oxford single triples, consisting of 5040 changes, and called Wakefield's surprise. Both these peals, consisting of 10,080 changes, were performed, including the raising and setting of the bells, in seven hours and one minute, and were rung with great exactness and the nicest distinction—an instance never before done in this kingdom. What adds to the singularity of the performance, there were two fathers, five sons, five brothers, four cousins, one uncle, one nephew, yet not more than eight persons, and with only two names."

Puzzle addicts may like to work out the band from the last sentence!—Yours, etc.,

CYRIL A. WRATTEN.

Cheltenham, Glos.

Sussex County Association

NINETEEN NEW MEMBERS

The Eastern Divisional annual meeting was held at All Saints', Eastbourne, and St. Mary's, Eastbourne, on February 26. Ringing commenced at All Saints' at 3 p.m. and continued until 4.30 p.m., followed by a service conducted by the curate (Rev. S. Moffatt). Tea was enjoyed in the Church Hall. There were 29 members present at the business meeting and the chairman was Mr. R. Percy. The meeting stood in respect for Mr. F. Dallaway, who died last year.

The accounts and the secretary's report were accepted and 19 new members and one non-resident life member were elected. Mrs. C. Baldock was elected secretary and Mr. C. Nicholson ringing master, replacing Mr. A. Baldock who had held the post for nine years. Mr. C. Barrett was re-elected auditor and Mr. C. Brettell and Mr. J. M. Swift were elected to the committee. Miss J. Percy was elected Central Council representative.

Further ringing took place at St. Mary's until 8.30 p.m.