



*G & B Diocesan Association of
Church Bell Ringers
Cheltenham Branch Newsletter
February 2004*



RECENT FIRSTS...well done to the following ringers (alphabetically):

Emma Abbey: Bristol Surprise Major, 150th QP.

Bob Bennett: 1st QP of Cambridge Surprise Major.

Ron Dryburgh: 1st QP on 8, ringing the tenor to Grandsire Triples.
100th QP, Plain Bob Minor and to celebrate a special birthday.

Jo Elvey: 1st QPs of Cambridge, Rutland, Bristol, Pudsey & London Surprise Major.
1st QP of Surprise Royal on the treble.

Hugh Evans: 1st QP of Lincolnshire Surprise Royal.

Liz Evans: 1st QPs of Rutland & Pudsey Surprise Major.
Bristol Surprise Major for 18th Birthday compliments
1st QP of Surprise Royal on the treble.

David Greenaway: 1st Superlative Surprise Major.

Jeremy Hitchings: 1st QP inside, Plain Bob Doubles.

David and Mary Lynch: 1st QP of Lincolnshire Surprise Royal.

Joan Surman: 1st QP on the treble to Plain Bob Doubles (first away from the tenor).

The one that got away

A quarter peal that was rung for last year's peal and quarter festival was omitted from the last newsletter.

Leckhampton 1260 Frodsham Delight Minor, 1 Helen Taylor, 2 Barbara Pettit, 3 Jacqui Hyde, 4 Cathy Heathcote, 5 Huw Davies, 6 Terry Jones (C). First in method for all.

Under 19s striking competition

The next practice will be at Swindon Village on Saturday 28th Feb from 9:30am to 11:00am. Ring Liz Evans on 01242 241678 if you need any more details.

March Training Day

The training day this year is on Saturday 27th March, based at Tewkesbury and Cirencester. Your tower correspondent should have received details of the courses on offer, which include Handling, Plain Hunt, Plain Hunt to methods, Plain courses and touches of Plain bob doubles and Grandsire doubles. Get hold of a booking form and send off quickly to avoid disappointment! Demand for this excellent event is always huge, so get your form in early. This event the largest church bell training event in the country, so we are really lucky to have it on our doorstep – make the most of it.

Helpers required for the training day please

This event would not happen if it were not for the many experienced ringers who give their time freely to come and help. As always, the ringing masters will be trawling the towers for likely candidates, so if you would like to help out, please contact our ringing masters or let your tower captain know.

Notes from the ringing masters

Steve Coleman came to Leckhampton on 31st January and gave an excellent presentation on "STRIKING AND LEADING". There is an article overleaf which echos much of what Steve said. Do take note of it's content, because good striking makes it far easier to ring the more complicated methods that we all aspire to.

This poem is particularly relevant to Steve's talk:

I've got the hang of saying "go"
with the method name uttered close behind,

I've got the hang of "bob" and "single"
with the composition, more or less, in mind.

But what I do not understand,
when the ringing is rough
even though its tough
Why can't I say "stand"?

By A J Barnfield

Ringling by Rope-sight versus Rhythm

Rope-sight is a useful part of learning to ring, without it we cannot see what is going on. It enables us to determine who to follow next and therefore ring more challenging methods. However, reliance on rope sight alone does not always lead to good ringing, unless you have the support of a band that can ring by rhythm.

Two errors that we all make, some more frequently than others depending on our bell control, are 'clips' and 'gaps'. A clip being the most easily identified and noticed error as two bells sound in too close a succession and ricochet off the local buildings outside. A 'gap' being less easily identified as most likely the person listening to their bell is too busy mentally to listen to the whole change.

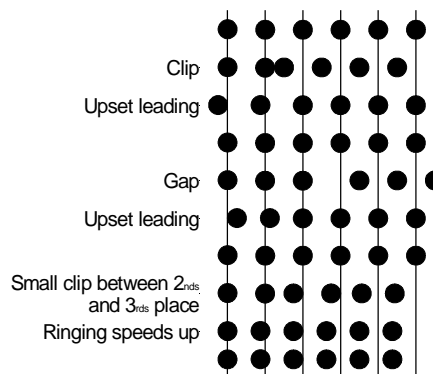


Figure 1 - Ringling by Rope-sight.

