

YACR

Leeds and District Branch

Annual General Meeting – St Peter's Harrogate – 7th June 2014

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies from Jeff & Catherine Ladd, Matt Curl, Geoff Ward & John Henderson

2. Election of new members

Denise Gosling, Cole Gosling, Rev. Paul Knight, Becky Knight, Chris Knight, Glyn Kirby, Stephen Lister – all Associates from Birstall – and John Henderson of St Peter's Harrogate – Qualified lapsed rejoining.

3. Striking competition results

The competition was expertly judged by Andrew Slade from Richmond (and sometime tutor on the Harrogate Course). This year there were 2 competitions – the main competition – and one open to bands with novices, ringing rounds and call changes.

In general comments Andrew said North Rigton were a pretty little 6 – but in being light, could cause problems for the less experienced – especially when ringing at speed, small errors are magnified. Andrew explained that in judging he was looking for a clear row, rung at the general pace of the ringing. A row with clips, clashes or rung other than at the general pace would attract faults.

The teams below are listed in the order they rang.

Scratch Band. Ringing Plain Bob Doubles. Faults 63. Position 7th

No agreement as to basic rhythm, the speed however was ok and reasonably regular. There were a number of clashes. There was also a degree of syncopation – di dum, di dum, di dum.

Chapel Allerton. Ringing Plain Bob Doubles. Faults 54. Position 4th

Regular ringing with a better basic rhythm marred by a number of clashes and gaps between the tenor and other bells. This is common and can be caused by the tenor trying to maintain a steady pace whereas overall rhythm might be improved by compensating for an irregular row.

Burley. Ringing Rounds & Call Changes. Faults 45. Position 3rd

The band were well placed with the treble and tenor combined to give a steady and good pace and keep a good rhythm. The number of changes was quite small which allowed the band to settle between calls.

Knaresborough. Ringing Rounds & Call Changes. Faults 61. Position 6th

This was quite slow which tends to accentuate errors. The changes were brisk, perhaps to the point of there being too many too quickly. There was also a number of clashes and the overall piece could be improved with more accuracy and less 'in change' fluctuation.

Kirk Deighton. Ringing Stedman Doubles. Faults 56. Position 5th

This team should be given some credit for attempting Stedman, however as there was no agreement as to pace, it became choppy. I also felt that the band

was keeping the bells very 'reined in' and not letting them 'run'. This had the benefit of not having the bells run away but it was still 'stilted' which affected the overall rhythm in a number of rows.

Ossett 'A'. Ringing Rounds & Call Changes (Novice Band). Faults 56.

Position – winner Novice competition.

Again possibly too slow? In the 2nd & 3rd 'parts' there were a number of clashes which took quite a long time to resolve. However in the 4th 'part' they reached Queens and things picked up very quickly. The 4th & 5th 'parts' of the five were better than parts 1-3.

Ossett 'B'. Ringing Oxford TB Minor. Faults 35. Position 2nd

This was quite good with a number of rows with excellent rhythm and good speed. Well controlled and what faults there were could be eliminated by paying more attention to all hesitations. There was a degree of 'lead' clash with some bells, closing the handstroke & some opening them. This band had a similar number of faults in each of the 5 sections of the piece.

Leeds Minster. Ringing Oxford TB Minor. Faults 15. Position 1st

This band established three things very early – Pace, Rhythm & policy on leading. This led to a high degree of uniformity with which we could appreciate the flow of the ringing. They also kept a good consistency in ringing with the last section being very well controlled and well struck. Overall a confident and expert test piece.

The main competition winners therefore were Leeds Minster who will go on to represent Leeds & District Branch in the YACR 6 Sunday Service Band Striking Competition – to be held in Cleveland & North Yorks Branch on 20th September. Congratulations also to Ossett whose Rounds & Call change band won the new 'Novice' trophy (a glass bell and metal tag - to be inscribed)

4. Vote of thanks.

On behalf of everyone present Wendy Bloom thanked Andrew for judging the competition so well, and presented him with a gift of some wine. Wendy also thanked all those who helped in preparing such a lovely tea.

5. Approval of minutes of AGM for 2013

These are available on the branch website – www.leedsyacr.org.uk. No objections were noted.

In matters arising, John Burnup mentioned the new policy of subsidising branch ringers on ringing courses by paying the Tuition Fees, up to a maximum of £50 – there were 2 who received a reduction of £50 on the Harrogate Course, and 2 more to receive the reduction on the Storthes Hall Course in July. John also mentioned that, last year, the branch had a push on getting Life Members registered, and quite a few were.

6. Reports for the past year

a. Finance

On behalf of Penny Thorley, John Burnup gave a brief update on the financial situation. The year 2013 started with a balance of £1837.45. Income was £430 – with YACR grant of £390, and profit from events of £40. Expenditure was £377.63 (stationery, venue hire, Christmas do & tower donations, website & training DVD) – leaving a final balance of £1889.72.

b. YACR striking competition final

Adam Crocker reported that Leeds Parish Church finished 1st in the 2013 competition held in Selby Branch. Well done to those who participated.

c. Inter-branch competition.

Adam Crocker reported that the Leeds & District band finished 4th in the 8 bell competition held recently at Guiseley.

d. Ringing meetings and practices during the year

Since the last AGM - in 2013, and excluding the Outing, we held a 10/12/14 bell practice at Ossett, a Quarter Peal week and had a training morning at St Wilfrid's Harrogate in November which was very well received by the local band. Finally a Christmas Party in December (thanks again to Kathy Thorley for hosting). In 2014 we started with a handbell training session (thanks again to Penny Thorley for hosting). In March we had another training morning – this time at Bramham & Collingham – which almost became victim of its own success when not everyone was able to fit into the tower! In April there again was a double header training morning – this time at Cleckheaton and Birstall – the latter being particularly pleasing where the whole band was there to join in – and on the strength of this elected 7 new associate members today – surely proof of the success of these locally based training mornings. John Burnup added that as well as Leeds Branch Events, there were those organised by YACR and would encourage Leeds Branch Members to attend these also.

e. Outing

In 2013 we went to Northern Derbyshire where we rang at Bamford, Hope, Castleton, Hayfield, New Mills, Chapel-en-le-Frith and Eyam – quite a full day. A significant feature of the day was how welcome we were made at all the towers – thanks very much to the representatives of those towers for making such a pleasant day out.

f. Membership

Peter Oldfield reported that we currently have 268 members (exactly the same number as 2012) spread across the 42 ringable towers (only Hunsingore unringable – although Roundhay is unavailable due to the state of the building and on-going work). In 2013, £1916 YACR subs were collected (£132 late). So far in 2014, £988.

7. Election of branch officers and committee

a. Chairman

John Burnup agreed to stay on and there were no other nominations.

b. Secretary

Peter Oldfield agreed to stay on and there were no other nominations

c. Treasurer

Penny Thorley agreed to stay on and there were no other nominations.

d. Membership secretary

Peter Oldfield agreed to stay on and there were no other nominations

e. Ringing master

Adam Crocker said that after completing 5 years, it was time to give someone else a go. Adam Crocker was warmly thanked for his enthusiasm and efforts on behalf of the Branch. Adam proposed Andrea Pygott as new ringing master, which she kindly accepted. Surely the youngest branch ringing master in Yorkshire and likely far beyond.

f. Education committee representative

John Leech agreed to stay on and there were no other nominations.

g. Web master

Chris Sparks agreed to stay on and there were no other nominations.

h. BRF representative

David Pygott agreed to stay on and there were no other nominations

i. Committee members

John Crouch asked to come off the committee. In his absence he was thanked for the help he has given over the years. There were no nominations for further members (although the door is always open).

8. Reports on YACR / National activities

a. Training events

Since the last AGM there has been the Storthes Hall weekend, the Harrogate Weekend – and various smaller training events like the ringing up and down course and a Towers Maintenance Day.
Future events

2 handbell change ringing courses – Saturday 2nd August (Bob Minor and above – at Silsden) – Wednesday 27th August (beginners – at Clifton, York). For both events contact Stuart Raggett (sraggett@sraggett.plus.com).

1 handbell tune ringing course – Saturday 29th November at Pickering.
Contact Anne Deebank (anne.deebank@virgin.net)

ITTS Module 1 Course – Saturday 13th September at Tadcaster.
Contact Stuart Holton (stuartholtam@mac.com)

Ringing up and down course – Saturday 1st November at St Lawrence, York - contact Stuart Raggett (sraggett@sraggett.plus.com). Nb this course is already fully booked but names can be given as reserves.

Conducting course – Saturday 29th November. Venue to be decided.
Contact Adrian Moreton (adrian_moreton@hotmail.com)

b. National 12 bell competition

Wendy Bloom reported that Leeds finished a creditable 5th in the final last year at Ripon – and also finished 3rd in the Waltham Abbey ‘semi-final’ this year. The final is at Oxford on June 28th and all are welcome to come along and support. Next year a ‘semi-final’ – hosted by Leeds,

will be held at Wakefield Cathedral. Wendy also mentioned the National Youth Striking competition last year which had a band from Yorkshire (including Andrea Pygott and Emily Bloom from this Branch). The Yorkshire Band, which had the youngest average age, practiced very hard, and were one of the few bands to ring a method. The band are competing again this year and those at the meeting wished them well for the competition.

9. Future Events (more ideas welcome)

- a. 5-6th July – ringing for Tour de France. Various Peals and Quarters. Open ringing at Chapel Allerton from 10am. Note – Chapel Allerton on Bells on Sunday on 29th June.
- b. 28-29th June – not strictly a branch event but we will be helping out at the Leeds Waterfront Festival and hope to have the Wombel at Thwaite Mill, LS10 1RP. There are lots of activities to do here including free boat rides.
- c. 12th July – joint event with Selby Branch - ringing at Swillington (10-11am) followed by walk to Kippax for lunch and ringing (2.30-3.30pm) before walking back to Swillington. As an additional incentive, there is a coffee morning at Swillington and a Flower and Craft Fayre at Kippax
- d. 18-20th July – Storthes Hall Course. For more details contact john.leech@this.nhs.uk. Note - £50 subsidy for branch members attending. Only a few places left.
- e. 13-19th September – Branch Quarter Peal Week
- f. 11th October – Branch Outing to Derbyshire
- g. 1st November – Northern Tour – ringing at various towers in the Harrogate area – in support of their bands.
- h. 5th December - Christmas party with ringing before.

10. AOB

- a. £23.51 was collected for the bell repair fund. Peter will ensure that this is submitted using the new gift aid submission for cash collections (along with the £12.10 he forgot to pass on last year!)
- b. Kathy Thorley submitted a costing for a dumb bell to be fitted at Chapel Allerton – with a view to Chapel Allerton to become a training centre. There was a discussion re simulators and tied ringing – but this wasn't the same – the dumb bell is a safer way to teach handling etc. This idea is to be passed to the committee to discuss.
- c. Jonathan Wilson mentioned that it was the 100th anniversary of Harrogate St Wilfrid's – and on Wednesday 11th June at 6pm there is open ringing for the 7pm Festival Mass.