

YACR

Leeds and District Branch

Annual General Meeting – St John the Baptist, Knaresborough – 6th June 2015

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

John Leech stood in for John Burnup as Chair. Apologies from the whole of the Ossett Band, John Burnup, John Crouch, Moya McNamara & Penny Thorley.

2. Election of new members

John Theaker & Debi Jovic, both Associates from East Ardsley were duly proposed and accepted. Andrew Paterson has re-registered as lapsed/rejoining under unattached.

3. Striking competition results

The striking competition was kindly judged by James Holdsworth. James' general comments were that it was quite difficult to judge given that 3 of the bands rang the back 6, and 2 of the bands rang the front 6. James also commented that the 6th seemed a bit slow. The overall fault total was divided down to something to allow contrast between the teams. The teams are listed below in the order they rang.

Team 1 – Leeds Minster - Oxford Minor (back 6). 1st (with 12 faults)

Overall very pleasant, some early minor errors soon disappeared.

Team 2 – Knaresborough - Grandsire Doubles (back 6). 2nd (with 17 faults).

Quicker than team 1, and in places slightly rushed with errors at handstroke but sorted out for later in the piece. Consistent ringing.

Team 3 – Leeds Cathedral – Bob Doubles (front 6). 5th (with 36 faults)

An unsettled start that could have benefitted from more rounds prior to starting. 2nd course better.

Team 4- Chapel Allerton – Bob Doubles (front 6). 3rd (with 20 faults)

More confident with a good pace of ringing from the tenor. Piece improved as progressed.

Team 5 – Scratch Band – Bob Minor (back 6). 4th (with 21 faults)

Front bells trying to ring faster than back.

Peter thanked James and presented him with 4 bottles of beer on the topic of ringing and his judging – Champion, First Call, Midnight Bell & Proper Job! In addition James' subs were donated for this year (saving the membership secretary a job in December).

4. Vote of thanks.

On behalf of everyone present Janine Jones thanked the team at Knaresborough for their organisation, and especially the tea ladies for such a lovely spread

5. Approval of minutes of AGM for 2014

These are available on the branch website – www.leedsyacr.org.uk. There was only 1 amendment of fact – under 8b – the Wakefield Eliminator was co-hosted by both Leeds and Wakefield.

6. Reports for the past year

a. Finance

On behalf of Penny Thorley, Peter Oldfield gave a brief update on the financial situation. The year 2014 started with a balance of £1889.72. Income was the YACR grant of £390. Expenditure was £397.01 – the most significant items being 4 places subsidised at the Harrogate & Storthes Hall courses at £50 per student, Outing donations £81, Christmas party £58.81 and website hosting of £50.24 – leaving a final balance of £1882.71 – a loss of £7.01 on the year. Thanks were expressed to Penny for a job well done.

b. YACR striking competition final

Wendy Bloom reported that Leeds Minster finished 1st in the 2014 competition held at West Tanfield. Well done to those who participated.

c. Inter-branch competition.

Peter Oldfield reported that the Leeds & District band finished 3rd in the 8 bell competition held recently at Market Weighton.

d. Ringing meetings and practices during the year

Since the last AGM - in 2014, and excluding the Outing, we helped out at the Leeds Waterfront Festival in June, manning the Wombel. In July we participated strongly in the ringing for the Tour De France – and also in July held an enjoyable walk between Swillington and Kippax (and back again), ringing at both towers. In September it was the quarter peal week – and I don't think many were attempted – something we're going to have to do better at this year. In November John Leech organised a learners day in Harrogate – starting at St Wildfrid's in the morning, with lunch and afternoon ringing at Hampthswaite. Thanks once again to Kathy Thorley for hosting the Christmas Party in December – if Kathy wasn't able to host this I don't know where we would go! Thanks go to Penny Thorley for again hosting the January handbell morning (with lots of home made soup, bread and cakes – just what you want on a cold winter's day). In February the Branch hosted the YACR meeting at Ossett with ringing at Ossett, Swillington and East Ardsley – thanks very much to David Pygott and the ringers from Ossett for organising and pulling together such a lovely and filling lunch. In March we had a training afternoon at Bramley which was very much appreciated by the learners that attended – thanks to Daryl for sorting this out. In April we helped out at the World Heritage Weekend at Saltaire by assisting with a ringing demonstration in the tower.

e. Outing

In 2014 we went again to Northern Derbyshire – this time ringing at Bolsover, Scarcliffe, Creswell, Clowne, Barlborough & Killamarsh. Thanks very much to Adam Cocker for organising this, especially as he was no longer living in Leeds! A retiring ringing master's gift!

f. Membership

Peter Oldfield reported that we currently have 272 members (up by 4 from 2013) 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 2014, £1790 YACR subs were collected (£16 late). So far in 2015, £1150.

7. Election of branch officers and committee

a. Chairman

John Leech commented that there are no names currently in the frame for the post, however there are some people we are looking to target for the future who may be able to bring something different to the position. Under these circumstances, John Burnup is happy to continue until a replacement is found. 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

Andrea Pygott agreed to stay on and there were no other nominations.

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

Barrie Dove put himself forward for the vacant position and was duly elected

i. Committee members

Other members of the committee – Daryl Watkins and Jonathan Tarry agreed to stay on and there were no other nominations.

John Burnup left a message with John Leech to thank the committee for their hard work during the year.

8. Reports on YACR / National activities

a. Training events

Since the last AGM there has been the Storthes Hall weekend, the Harrogate Weekend – and an absolute multitude of various smaller training events.

Future events (please consider helping as well as being a pupil)
ITTS Module 1 Course – 25/7/15 at Bradford Cathedral. Contact Stuart Holtam (stuartholtam@mac.com – 01943 839938)

Handbell beginners change ringing – Thursday 30/7/15 at Clifton, York. Contact Stuart Holtam.

Ringing up and down in peal – 10/10/15 at St Lawrence, York - contact Gail Cater (gail@thecaters.org.uk – 01904 675547).

Tower Maintenance – 17/10/15 at Cawthorne. Contact Stuart Holtam

Handbell tune ringing course – 28/11/15 at Pickering. Contact Anne Deebank (anne.deebank@virgin.net – 01571 460274)

ITTS Module 2 Course – Autumn (date to be confirmed) at Leeds.

Contact Stuart Holton.

Conducting course – Autumn (date to be confirmed) at venue (to be confirmed). Contact Stuart Holtam

John Leech mentioned that 2 other courses were being looked at – Leading Up & Down – and Simple Calling – more details available later.

b. National 12 bell competition

Wendy Bloom reported that Leeds once again qualified for the final in 2014 – which was held in Oxford – but as the band was in a state of change, didn't do that well – however the band is now rebuilding and did very well to finish 3rd in the Wakefield Eliminator. We wish Yorkshire's only representative in the final this year – at St Peter's Mancroft, Norwich on June 27th - all the best.

c. Central Council

On May 25th the Central Council of Church Bellringers met at Hull for their Annual Meeting. Barrie Dove had attended on behalf of YACR and was asked by John Leech for any comments. Barrie said that there had been some hype ahead of the meeting over something potentially contentious - but in the event diplomacy won through, albeit with a delay in finding a consensus and resolving. Barrie also mentioned the Ringing World AGM – as everyone knows, this journal is in financial trouble and various actions are being looked at to alleviate this situation.

9. Future Events (more ideas welcome)

- a. 27/28th June - Leeds Waterfront Festival. If anyone is able to help with ringing activities, please contact Elaine Scott (elaine@homescott.free-online.co.uk) – or come along and support (there's lots to see and do)
- b. 25th July - 8 bell practice at Far Headingley from 9:45 – 11:45am. All standards catered for but with emphasis on intermediate ringing e.g. Bob Triples through to Cambridge Surprise Major.
- c. 5th September - White Rose 12 bell striking competition at Ossett. This is as much a social event as for the ringing, with food and drink available

- d. 12-18th (ish) September – Branch Quarter Peal Week. This year the exercise is targeting first pealers, and we can aim to target firsts for quarter peals
- e. 3rd October – Branch Outing to Humberside – ringing at Hedon(8), Burstwick(6), Roos(8), Patrington(8) & Hessle(8 – tbc). Thanks to Daryl for organising.
- f. 17th October – the Snowdon Dinner is this year to be held at the York House Hotel Wakefield. There will be the usual speeches and a ceilidh. The cost is expected to be a very reasonable ‘low twenties’ cost.
- g. 31st October – Surprise Major Practice – Venue and time to be confirmed.
- h. 21st November – Leeds University Society of Change Ringers Annual Dinner and Grab – all are invited – more details nearer the time.
- i. 4th December - Christmas party with ringing before.

10. Chapel Allerton Project

As some are aware, there has been a project under discussion for at least a year to put in a dumb bell at Chapel Allerton – to aid teaching learners – for the benefit of all within the Branch. Kathy Thorley, Ringing Master at Chapel Allerton, was asked to talk to the meeting. In the last 6 months there has been significant progress. Initially the YACR Education Committee gave a grant of £250 towards the fitting of a Saxsim ‘Wombel’ – with an additional £250 towards the computer and screen/projector/tv to allow for a virtual ringing environment. This was followed by a grant from the Leeds Branch for £500 – and a significant personal gift from John Burnup. Since then the ‘Wombel’ has been purchased and is awaiting pickup and fitting. Kathy explained that, when fitted, the device was to be used to train a number of new ringers – and, once proved, opened out to other towers/ringers within the branch, subject only to availability of key holder. Kathy hopes to have an open day later this year or next year, along with cream tea – when hopefully the full virtual environment will be ready. It is later hoped to be able to link up existing bells to the simulator and be able to ring Triples!

11. AOB

- a. It was mentioned that Hannah Beck had tea with the Queen – for Hannah’s work with the homeless in Harrogate. It was requested that congratulations were passed to Hannah.