

# **YACR**

## **Leeds and District Branch**

**Annual General Meeting – St Matthew’s Chapel Allerton – 11th June 2016**

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. Welcome and apologies**

Apologies were received from Andrew Aspland. Also from the Knaresborough ringers (other than John Leech) who were involved in the annual bed race. There were 20 present (at least until the competition results were given).

#### **2. Election of new members**

Robert J Cox, Catherine Z Cox, Hannah Carmichael & Heather Jamieson from Swillington. Ben Fell, Olivia Holmes from St Peter’s Harrogate. All Associate

#### **3. Striking competition results**

The striking competition was kindly judged by John Leech – his comments follow. The bells at Chapel Allerton are not easy to ring well. This is due to the way the front two bells want to ring more quickly than the others. It was very pleasing to note that all of the bands coped with this. There was some very nice ringing throughout the competition and all of the bands have to be thanked for making it a pleasant afternoon for not only the judge, but for the many people coming and going during the afternoon’s celebrations in the Church.

My approach to ‘scoring’ is not to mark each individual row or blow, but to get a feel of the overall effect, based on the rhythm – looking at the accuracy of leading, intervals, dodging and consistency. I find this works for me as, paradoxically, when the ringing is of high quality, I find it easier to find lots of trivial faults, although they are of no significance.

Hopefully any criticism will be taken in the spirit it is given – advice on how to improve for next time.

Team 1 – Chapel Allerton – Grandsire Doubles. 2<sup>nd</sup> (with 6 penalties)

Started with a lot of rounds which is good as it helps the band to settle down. The ringing in the method was generally good, but there were a few minor trips which caused the rhythm to be lost, although normal service was resumed quickly each time. Towards the end of the test piece, some of the leading became a bit slow. With a bit more concentration, this would have been avoided, giving a much tidier finish.

Team 2 – Barwick in Elmet – Rounds & Call Changes. 4<sup>th</sup> (with 15 penalties)

The ringing started a bit hesitatingly, with 2,3 and 4 not quite sure what speed to ring at, but over the test piece, this became less noticeable. There were good passages of ringing at times, usually where there were tunes, such as queens, which everyone recognised. Conversely, it took long to settle down after each change (this was a call-change band) and it would have been better if there had been fewer changes, allowing for more and longer periods of settled ringing. Some of the leading was a bit variable, which also disturbed the rhythm.

Team 3 – Leeds Minster – Grandsire Doubles. 1<sup>st</sup> (with 3 penalties)

There was a very confident start, with fairly quick handstroke leads, probably being the right pace for the bells, however this was not maintained throughout, and once or twice the one and two were not ringing at the same speed as the others. This was only a very minor issue, and was only noticeable as a result of the overall quality of the striking. There was a method mistake which upset the rhythm near the beginning, but this very quickly resolved. Later on there was another method mistake, but it did not affect the other ringers and the rhythm was maintained. This is the sign of an experienced band. Altogether a nice piece of ringing.

Team 4 – Burley – Plain Bob Doubles. 3<sup>rd</sup> (with 8 penalties)

The ringing was slower than that of the other bands, probably too slow for the bells as it led to a bit of conflict at times. The slow pace also caused some slow backstroke leads which adversely affected the overall rhythm, with at times towards the end being a ‘rush–gap–rush–gap–rush’ effect. However, all of the dodging was extremely clean and crisp, which demonstrated excellent bell control, and I believe that if the ringing had been slightly faster, then the performance would have been really good.

Team 5 – Kirk Deighton – Rounds & Call Changes. 5<sup>th</sup> (with 20 penalties)

There was a really sound framework for this band as the leading and covering were of the highest quality, maintain a consistent speed throughout. There were occasions when there was a Jazz influence, and some ghastly bits with three or four bells all being out at the same time. There were, however some good bits, and as with the other call-change band, these coincided with the ‘known tunes’. The number of calls was small – this allowed the band to settle down properly after each one, before going to the next one.

#### **4. Vote of thanks.**

On behalf of everyone present David Spaul thanked John Leech as judge and the team at St Matthew’s for their organisation, and especially the tea ladies for such a lovely spread. John Burnup presented John Leech with a case of beer as thanks for judging.

#### **5. Approval of minutes of AGM for 2015**

The minutes were approved without amendment. These are available on the branch website – [www.leedsyac.org.uk](http://www.leedsyac.org.uk), as will be the minutes of this meeting.

#### **6. Reports for the past year**

##### **a. Finance**

Penny Thorley gave a brief update on the financial situation. The year 2015 started with a balance of £1882.71. Income was the YACR grant of £397.01 (equal to our expenditure in 2014). Expenditure was £802.76 – the most significant items being £500 grant to the Branch Wombel based at Chapel Allerton, £100 as payment towards student places on courses, £72 for the outing, £59.73 on the branch website & £35 towards the Christmas – leaving a final balance of £1476.96 – a loss of £405.75 – however with higher spending, we will be getting a bigger grant in 2016 (£562), which will help re-fill the coffers. Thanks were expressed to Penny for the accounts, and to Bill Todd for auditing.

**b. YACR striking competition final**

It was reported that Leeds Minster finished a creditable 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 2015 competition held at Sheffield Branch. Well done to those who participated.

**c. Inter-branch competition.**

It was reported that the Leeds & District band finished 1<sup>st</sup> in the 8 bell competition held recently at Campsall. This is the first time that Leeds have won the competition since its re-introduction and a fantastic achievement.

**d. Ringing meetings and practices during the year**

The first event after the AGM In July an 8-bell practice was held at Far Headingley – thanks to Alan Futers for organising. Again this was a practice based around a requirement from the local band and all those who attended benefitted. Unfortunately there wasn't a lot of participation in the Quarter Peal weekend in September and maybe only 3 quarters were rung. If any bands have aspirations for ringing quarters, and require help, please again contact a member of the committee. Later in October a Surprise Major Practice was arranged at Burley – with ringing from Cambridge to 8-Spliced – very useful for the 'learners' – and thanks especially to the advanced ringers who supported. The year was rounded off in December with a different look Christmas event, this time a meal in a local pub, preceded with ringing at Chapel Allerton. Thanks to Western Branch for the quiz! 2016 started again with a handbell morning at Penny's – thanks especially to Penny & Deborah for the lovely homemade soup, bread and cakes! In February the branch helped with a joint tower and hand bell event in Leeds, with tower bell ringing at the 2 Headingley towers and Burley. In March we held a session on the new simulator at Chapel Allerton – more of this later. In April again the branch took a significant part in the Harrogate Course (now renamed the Spring Course), which is likely to be the last time it's held at this location for a while. Also in April there was a surprise minor practice at Kirk Deighton.

**e. Outing**

As always, the highlight of the year is the Branch outing – and thanks to Daryl for organising some lovely towers & bells in Humberside in October – Hedon, Burstwick, Roos, Patrington & Hessle. Patrington was especially interesting due to its entrance to the tower – not for the nervous!

**f. Membership**

Peter Oldfield reported that we currently have 272 members (identical to the same number at last year's AGM) 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 2015, £2250 YACR subs were collected. So far in 2016, £440.

**7. Election of branch officers and committee**

**a. Chairman**

John Burnup indicated that he would be stepping down as Chair after a number of year, although will be staying on the committee. John was thanked for his efforts over the years in steering the branch. Luckily, there is a

nomination for the post going forwards – Barrie Dove – who was elected in abstentia (being on holiday). 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**

Unfortunately, due to other commitments (including 6<sup>th</sup> form studying), Andrea Pygott was unable to take part in any branch activities in the last year – and with going to university is stepping down. In discussion with Barrie, there are 2 nominations – James Holdsworth as Ringing Master and Alan Futers as Deputy Ringing Master. Both were elected unopposed.

**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 as webmaster, at least until YACR introduce their new website, which it is hoped will have individual sections for each of the branches and means that we no longer will need our own. Although Chris is staying on as webmaster, he has asked not to be part of the committee. There were no other nominations.

**h. BRF representative**

Barrie Dove agreed to stay on and there were no other nominations – however it should be noted that this post is no longer deemed to be one voted on by branch membership, as it is an appointment centrally.

**i. Committee members**

Other members of the committee – John Burnup and Jonathan Tarry agreed to stay on. Maria Kulas was proposed and accepted as new member. Daryl Watkins asked to come off the committee for personal reasons – and was warmly thanked for his work over the last 2 years, especially organising the outing in 2015.

**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. Up coming ...

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> July. YACR Summer Course at Storthes Hall. Rounds & Call changes to Stedman Triples and Surprise major. Contact [jeandoman@outlook.com](mailto:jeandoman@outlook.com).

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August. Handbells (change ringing) for beginners. Venue Clifton, York. Contact [stuartholtam@mac.com](mailto:stuartholtam@mac.com)  
Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September (Check). Say "Go" With Confidence. Venue Ranmoor, Sheffield. Contact [johnsleech@sky.com](mailto:johnsleech@sky.com)  
Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September. ITTS Module 1: Teaching Bell Handling. Venue Bradford Cathedral. Contact [stuartholtam@mac.com](mailto:stuartholtam@mac.com)  
Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September. Tower Maintenance. Venue Cawthorne. Contact [stuartholtam@mac.com](mailto:stuartholtam@mac.com)  
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October. Rope Maintenance. Venue Cawthorne. Contact [stuartholtam@mac.com](mailto:stuartholtam@mac.com)  
Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November. ITTS Module 2c: Teaching Elementary Change Ringing. Venue Walkley, Sheffield. Contact [stuartholtam@mac.com](mailto:stuartholtam@mac.com)  
Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November. ITTS Module 2F: Teaching from Rounds to Plain Hunt. Venue Ripon Cathedral. Contact [stuartholtam@mac.com](mailto:stuartholtam@mac.com)  
Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November. Handbells for Beginners: Tune Ringing. Venue Pickering. Contact [anne.deebank@gmail.com](mailto:anne.deebank@gmail.com)

**b. National 12 bell competition**

It was reported that Leeds qualified for the final at Norwich in 2015, and finished 9<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately Leeds have not qualified for the final in 2016, but did finish a creditable 4<sup>th</sup> in their eliminator in Reading, missing out on 3<sup>rd</sup> place by only 2%. It is great to have such a band within the branch, as a way of bringing on others to the very highest standards – and we wish Leeds well next year.

**c. Central Council**

There was no one present from the Central Council available to give an update on their work.

**9. Project at Chapel Allerton**

In November the simulator at Chapel Allerton became fully operational. This consists of a bell simulator (a Wombel - for ease of teaching learners) – connected to a computer & projector (utilising the latest Abel software) so that the ringer of the Wombel can ring any method they choose, with the other ringers appearing on a screen. This facility is suitable for learners of all levels – from bell handling up to practicing surprise maximus (with 11 other ringers on screen ringing perfectly!). Thanks for this facility go to the Branch, YACR Education Committee and John Burnup for the majority of the funding – and to the Chapel Allerton ringers also for funding, but as well the drive and effort to set this up – in particular Kathy Thorley whose idea it was and who has been involved at every stage. If anyone wishes to use this facility, please contact the Chapel Allerton ringers for access and demonstration etc.

**10. Branch Discussion Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> May**

All towers in the branch were invited to send a representative to this meeting to discuss the future activities of the branch. Barrie Dove chaired the meeting, and those attending were asked to write down on post-it notes, what they wanted for their towers. The following is a list in order of the number of votes for each suggestion (min to max)

Fund raising for BRF (1)

Use of Skype (1)

Outings (1)

More awareness of local tower needs (1)  
Get more people involved / New committee members (1)  
Separate to training - Help with bell maintenance (1)  
Social Events (1)  
Fixed days of month e.g. 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday for Branch Events (1)  
QPs (2)  
Publicity/help with recruitment (3)  
Help with practice at struggling towers (4)  
Inter-tower support (4)  
Help with learners (5)  
Regular training sessions – not at home tower (16)

## **11. Future Events (more ideas welcome)**

As there have been quite a few changes to the committee, and the results of the Bramley meeting have yet to be factored in, there are currently very few events on the calendar currently. These will be added to.

- a. Saturday/Sunday 25/26<sup>th</sup> June. Leeds Waterfront Festival. As in previous years the YACR wombel will be stationed at Thwaite Mills for the public to have a go. Help is especially needed in setting up the wombel on Saturday morning, and taking down on Sunday afternoon. Please contact [johnsleech@sky.com](mailto:johnsleech@sky.com) for further information.
- b. Saturday 23rd July - walk between Thorner and Barwick - with ringing at both towers. Meet at Thorner 10.15am for ringing until 11am. Then walk to Barwick for a pub lunch. Ringing afterwards at Barwick from 1.45-2.30pm before walking back to Thorner. It's about a 5 mile walk in total. A couple of years ago we did a similar event between Swillington and Kippax and it was a great day - and should be again - please come along and join us.
- c. 8th-11th September - Heritage Open Days. During this period, quite a few churches will be open in their own right - and it has been suggested that bell towers open. This is a great opportunity to engage with your congregation and people from the wider area - and do a bit of recruitment. There will be lots of publicity for this event, and our ringing will get top billing! If it's something that interests - find out if there is anything going on at your church - and see if you can open your tower and have some ringing at the same time. If you arrange anything, please let Peter Oldfield know so he can make sure that this is widely publicised.
- d. Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September – YACR General Meeting in Western Branch. Including 6 Bell Sunday Service Striking Competition.
- e. 1st October - Branch outing to Lancashire. More details later.
- f. 15th October - Snowdon Event (in Leeds). This will be at the Lamb & Flag pub in Leeds and a room has been booked for our use. More details later.
- g. Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – ringing followed by Christmas Party (now back at Kathy Thorley's following move).

## **12. AOB**

There was no AOB and the meeting was closed by John Burnup at 6pm