

YACR

Leeds and District Branch

Annual General Meeting – All Saints Batley – 10th June 2017

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

Barrie welcomed the 24 or so who attended. There were no apologies for absence.

2. Election of new members

Lynn Ogden & Val Russell from Goldsborough & Allan Heath from Knaresborough. All associates. All proposed/seconded by Matt Curl/John Leech.

3. Striking competition results

The striking competition was kindly judged by Peter Kirby – his comments follow. Peter scored zero for a clean row, half a point for a small error and full point for a bigger mistake. Peter thought that overall the ringing didn't jell particularly well, but when he rang later on thought that the tenors 'shouted' within the tower, and this may in part be the reason. It was pleasing to note that all the bands got through their test pieces. Peter asked if anyone was ringing in a competition for the first time – of which there was only Tracey Harrison from Seacroft – he congratulated her on taking part, and hoped that she would compete again in the future.

Team 1 – Chapel Allerton ringing Grandsire Doubles. Good rounds to start with but otherwise unsettled. Placed 5th with 23½ faults.

Team 2 – Leeds Cathedral & Far Headingley combined ringing Grandsire Doubles. Major issues in the 8/9th lead. Need to concentrate on leading. Placed 4th with 21½ faults.

Team 3 – 1st scratch band ringing Cambridge Minor. Major issues in 1st lead, but recovered. Placed 3rd with 19½ faults.

Team 4 – 2nd scratch band ringing Grandsire Doubles. Shaky test piece. Placed 6th with 25 faults.

Team 5 – Batley ringing Oxford Minor. Rhythmic cartwheel ringing – difficult to fault. Placed 1st with 8½ faults.

Team 6 – Leeds Minster ringing Oxford Minor. Plenty of fault free rows but couldn't agree on leading. Placed 2nd with 11 faults.

Overall then, the winners were Batley. Unfortunately they are not available to represent the branch at the YACR competition in September – and Leeds Minster accepted the challenge in their place. Peter was warmly thanked for his help, and also that of his daughter Rebecca who assisted, and was presented with 2 bottles of wine.

4. Vote of thanks.

On behalf of everyone present Jeff Ladd thanked all involved in the organisation and running of the day – especially Margaret & Sharon who baked the cakes (unfortunately a winner wasn't decided in this category).

5. Approval of minutes of AGM for 2016

The minutes were approved without amendment. These are available on the YACR website – www.yacr.org.uk (select Leeds pages).

6. Reports for the past year

a) Finance

Penny Thorley was unable to be present at the meeting, but submitted the financial accounts for 2016. The year started with a balance of £1560.95. Income was the YACR grant of £583 (equal to our expenditure in 2015 – following the introduction of new rules). Expenditure was £502.31 – the most significant items being £196.13 for hosting the meeting at Bramley Church Hall (and the

free books given to attendees), £84 for the outing, £60.73 on the branch website (which we won't have to pay again) & £82.05 towards the Christmas do/party – leaving a final balance of £1560.95 – an increase of £83.99. Thanks were expressed to Penny for the accounts, and to Bill Todd for auditing. The accounts were proposed by John Leech and seconded by Jon Tarry. All in favour.

b) YACR striking competition final

Unfortunately no one present, even from the Leeds Minster Band, could remember how they finished in the competition in September 2016 – other than they didn't win!

c) Inter-branch competition.

It was reported that the Leeds & District band finished 2nd in the 8 bell competition held recently at Birstwith, losing the cup we won last year. The challenge is to practice and win it back next year.

d) Ringing meetings and practices during the year (AGM to AGM)

Alan Futers, gave the report on meetings and practices during the year. Alan mentioned that since last June we had standardised on meetings being on the 2nd Saturday in the month – and this seems to have worked well – and it's hoped that meetings will be as well attended in the next year. Alan expressed thanks to all the towers and incumbents who had given permission for the meetings, and especially to those who attended. Alan said the branch was open to new ideas and suggestions – please contact a member of the committee.

In July there was a walk, led by Pete Oldfield, between Thorner and Barwick (and back again), ringing at both towers. In August an all standards 8 bell practice was held at Leeds Cathedral which was well attended. In September a few branch towers were open for the Heritage Open Weekend, with a particular push this year to have towers open and demonstrations given. Later in September we had a day of 6 bell ringing at Whixley and Kirk Deighton. On 1st October it was the Branch outing to Blackburn. In November we held a Quarter Peal weekend. With a bit more focus, this was more successful than previous years with 6 quarters being scored, with quite a number of firsts. We hope to be able to build on this success in the coming year. Finally the year ended in December with another new idea – a Christmas Service. This was kindly organised by Alan Futers, and generously hosted by Birstall who put on a lovely service with coffee and warm mince pies afterwards. Later that evening there was a Christmas party – thanks once again to Kathy Thorley for hosting.

January 2016 started with an Intermediate 8 bell practice at Leeds Cathedral. This was very well attended, and gave an indication on where training help was required. In February there was a Surprise Major practice at Armley, a good opportunity for those new to Surprise Major to have a go and those more experienced to advance. In March there was a joint meeting at Bramham and Collingham, primarily to help the local ringers – with a very nice pub lunch between the towers. In April, there was another Intermediate 8 bell practice – this time at Burley. In May the Branch hosted the YACR AGM at Birstwith – thanks to all those who helped what was such a successful day. Later in May, an open practice was held at Leeds Cathedral.

e) Outing

As always, the highlight of the year is the Branch outing – and thanks to Penny for organising some lovely towers & bells in and around Blackburn. The towers rung at were – Padiham, Ribchester, Blackburn (St Silas, Cathedral & St Jude's). The towers on this trip were varied – from 6 to 10 bells and tenors from 6 to 25 cwt – with the undoubted highlight of the 10 at Blackburn Cathedral.

f) Membership

Peter Oldfield reported that we currently have 256 members. This is 14 down on the same time last year – in part due to Ossett moving to Central Branch. On the plus side, a band has been formed at Seacroft, which we hope will flourish. There are 42 ringable towers (only Hunsingore unringable – although Roundhay is unavailable due to the state of the building and on-going

work). In 2016, £2113 YACR subs were collected. So far in 2017, £1132 (nb the amounts not being divisible by 5 are a consequence of one tower only paying £8 per member in 2016, but they have now caught up ☺). The final membership fee for 2016 was received in the meeting.

7. Election of branch officers and committee

Barrie started with an introduction to this section stating that he would like to bring the Branch in line with YACR and have officers elected for a 3 year period – but with a staggered start – such that officers are divided into 3 groups (Chair, Assistant Ringing Master & Membership Secretary, Branch Secretary, Education Rep & Webmaster, Ringing Master, Treasurer & committee member) and initially one of these groups would serve one year before re-election, another group two years and another three years. It was thought that this arrangement would bring stability to the committee such that there would only be a maximum turnover of 3 positions per year. Barrie proposed this and, with some abstentions, this was accepted.

a) Chairman

Barrie Dove was proposed/seconded by Wendy Bloom/Jeff Ladd and was duly elected as there were no other nominations.

b) Secretary

Janine Jones was proposed/seconded by Graham/Wendy Bloom and was duly elected as there were no other nominations.

c) Treasurer

Penny Thorley was proposed/seconded by John Leech/David Spaul and was duly elected as there were no other nominations.

d) Ringing master

Alan Futers was proposed/seconded by Janine Jones/Kathy Thorley and was duly elected as there were no other nominations.

e) Membership secretary

Peter Oldfield was proposed/seconded by Tracy Harrison/Alan Futers and was duly elected as there were no other nominations.

f) Deputy Ringing Master

Paul Brook was proposed/seconded by Wendy Bloom/Jeff Ladd and was duly elected as there were no other nominations.

g) Web master

James Holdsworth was proposed/seconded by Paul Brook/Graham Bloom and was duly elected as there were no other nominations. It should be noted that this now refers to updating the branch pages on the new YACR website (www.yacr.org.uk).

h) Education committee representative

John Leech was proposed/seconded by David Spaul/Judith Coleman and was duly elected as there were no other nominations.

i) Committee members

John Burnup was proposed/seconded by Bill Todd/John Leech and was duly elected as there were no other nominations.

* See addendum.

8. Reports on YACR / National activities

a) Training events

Unfortunately, at least for now, the Spring & Summer residential courses have been suspended, partly due to lack of attendees and the heavy commitment from many volunteers to support. Up coming courses are:-

Saturday 8th July. An introduction to conducting (Bob Doubles/Minor).

Saturday 28th October. Belfry and Rope Maintenance. Venue Cawthorne.

Saturday 11th November. Handbells for Beginners: Tune Ringing. Venue Pickering.

Available on Request – Saying ‘Go’ with confidence, and Handbells for beginners: Change Ringing. Details are on the Leeds pages of the YACR website.

b) National 12 bell competition

Leeds did not enter a band this year – hopefully next year!

9. Update on Simulator at Chapel Allerton

Since installation, there have been a number of uses for the simulator – most notably training a number of ringers from Bramham which meant learning on tower bells was greatly speeded up. If anyone wishes to use this facility, please contact the Chapel Allerton ringers for access and demonstration etc.

10. Future Events (more ideas welcome)

As there have been quite a few changes to the committee, there are currently very few events on the calendar. These will be added to.

a) Saturday 8th July - walk between Thornhill and Horbury with ringing at both towers.

b) Saturday 12th August – event to be determined.

c) 9th-10th 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. It was noted that both Chapel Allerton and Leeds Minster are taking part. Peter Oldfield requested that towers that are opening should let him know so that the event can be publicised.

As this is also the 2nd Saturday in the Month, the branch will be holding an event somewhere.

d) Saturday 16th September – YACR General Meeting in East Riding Branch. Including 6 Bell Sunday Service Striking Competition.

e) 14th October - Branch outing to somewhere. More details later.

f) Saturday 11th November – event to be determined.

g) Saturday 9th December – Christmas Service followed by Christmas Party at Kathy Thorley’s.

11. AOB

Following a request from John Leech for feedback about the recent Central Council meeting, Janine Jones gave a brief resume of the Central Council weekend and referred anyone who wanted more details to the Central Council website which had recordings of all the meetings, and the Ringing World which had a more detailed report.

The meeting was closed by Barrie at 6.50pm. All present were invited to go to ring at Cleckheaton.

* Addendum Following the meeting, after inadvertently omitting to do this during the meeting, Barrie wrote to express, on behalf of the current committee, thanks to James Holdsworth (who was Ringing Master for the last year), Chris Sparks (who was webmaster for many years and indeed who developed the branch website), Pete Oldfield (who is no longer Branch Secretary, again after many years), Jon Tarry (who was a committee member for a number of years) and Maria Kulas (who was a committee member in the last year) – and finally, Alan Futers (who was Deputy Ringing Master in the last year).