

# EA CR

## NEWSLETTER

No 16

August, 1993

### TOWER :

As you know at this years AGM Paul Cammiade and Ann Chapman stood down as Association Master and Secretary. I think you'll agree that they served the Association well. Paul was Master for six years and Ann put in a mammoth ten years. A check of the past Officers listed in the Annual Report will show that the 'long service club' is an exclusive one. Ann, I know, enjoyed her time as Secretary, although, as I am finding out, it can be hard, but rewarding work. The Masters job would seem, on the surface, a simple one, but anyone who has chaired meetings knows how meetings can go! The Master must not only keep a meeting in order but speak at the Annual Dinner & Dance and represent the Association at other functions.

At the end of the meeting Frank Lufkin, on behalf of the members, presented Paul with a pair of beautifully engraved glass goblets and a bottle of something to put in them. To Ann he presented a similarly engraved fruit bowl and a bouquet of flowers. It is my and David Sparlings good fortune that the Association had been put on a firm footing with a well-organised infrastructure. My hope is that we, together with all the other Officers, can continue this work. Of course this can only happen with the support of the members, who are of course the very reason for the Associations existence.

# *The Annual Dinner & Dance*

This year we are returning to the Rivenhall Resort Hotel for our Annual Dinner and Dance. As usual it takes place on the second Saturday in **October - the 9th**. Our speakers will be The Right Rev'd. John Waine, Lord Bishop of Chelmsford and David Thorne, editor of *The Ringing World*. Despite last years prediction the price, for the fourth year running, has been kept at £18, but it is getting harder to find a venue that offers an acceptable evening at an acceptable price. In Decembers Newsletter Ann said that thought must be given to the future of the Dinner. It really comes down to what you, the members, want. Perhaps you could discuss this at your next district meeting and invite your district officers to bring your thoughts to the October meeting. There is a choice of a vegetarian main course, so please let me know when ordering your tickets. As we are limited to 120, a system of first come first served will operate, but if this is to be a worthwhile occasion 100-plus are required. For those concerned with drinking and driving the hotel is offering Bed & Breakfast at a reduced rate. Please contact the hotel for further information and if booking a room be sure to mention that you are attending the dinner & dance in order to benefit from this discount. Tickets are available now from the Secretary (address at the end of this Newsletter); please include cash with order plus SAE, all orders before 25th September.

## **The P.R.O.**

We have been without an effective PRO for some time now and it looked as if that was the way it would stay. Well I have great news - Janet Edwards from the South-Eastern District has volunteered and at a Masters meeting held at the striking competition finals Janet was co-opted onto the committee. Hopefully this will be ratified at the October meeting of the Executive Committee. It didn't take Janet long to get to work; she managed to get the striking competition some coverage on a BBC ESSEX programme, 'Sunday Supplement'.

# Association Training Day

This year the Training Day will be held on Saturday 25th September at Brentwood.

The topics to be covered are as follows:-

- Plain Hunt and ringing the treble to Bob Doubles & Minor.
- Plain Bob Minor inside.
- Grandsire Doubles.
- Kent Treble Bob Minor.
- Introduction to Double Norwich Court Bob Major.

The day will start with registration at 09.30. Theory lectures in groups will follow at 10.00 after which there will be practical ringing for about 1¼ hours. Lunch will be between 12.30 and 14.00 - please make your own arrangements for this. Tea and light refreshments will be available at Brentwood between 16.00 and 16.30 and this will be followed by an open discussion on the theme of "How can Ringing Instruction be Improved?" It is hoped that this will be a lively and interesting session with many contributing.

The cost will be £1.50 for Association Members and £2.00 for Non-Members.

For further details and booking arrangements please send SAE to A.G. Semken, 117a Tilkey Road, Coggeshall, Colchester, Essex. CO6 1QN.

As with any ringing training of this nature **helpers are required** to provide support at the practical sessions - it is not essential to spend the entire day helping although it is hoped that most helpers will be able to join in with the lectures and discussions at Brentwood. If you are interested in helping please ring ☎ 0376 561183.

# STRIKING COMPETITIONS

The Saturday following the AGM the Association entered a team for the Ridgman Trophy, a ten-bell competition, held at St. Neot's. Maurice Downs organised the team again this year but unfortunately they came 4th out of 7. As this is the last year that Maurice is to organise our team we must thank him for his efforts over the years in getting the bands together.

The Association's Annual Striking Competition Finals are held on the first Saturday in July. This year it was the turn of the Northern District to host it. The Six-bell was held at Gosfield on a hot and sunny afternoon where 11 teams entered. The Eight-bell was held at Coggeshall where unfortunately only four district teams entered. The judges for both events were Amanda Whiting, Master of the Suffolk Guild, and Simon Rudd also from Suffolk and ex-Master of the EACR North-Eastern District. The results were as follows :-

## **SIX-BELL.**

1st. Dagenham (69 faults); 2nd. Danbury (78 faults); 3rd. Kirby-le-Soken (79 faults); 4th. Coggeshall; 5th. Chelmsford Cathedral; 6th. Braintree; 7th. Hornchurch; 8th. North Ockendon; 9th. Downham; 10th. Great Holland; 11th Stanstead.

## **EIGHT-BELL. (*Test piece Yorkshire Surprise*)**

1st. Northern District (108 faults); 2nd. South-Eastern District (110 faults); 3rd. South-Western District (131 faults); 4th. North-Eastern District. (153 faults).

Congratulations to all those teams who entered, especially those in the six-bell who got through their district heats in order to enter the finals, and of course to the winners of both events. Thanks must go to those members of the Northern District who supplied the tea and refreshments.

# Around the Districts

**Northern:** enjoyed a district dinner in June at The Sun Inn, Feering, thoroughly recommended and on 24th July held a barbecue at the home of Pat & Paul Clarry. Although the weather was not as kind as on previous years a good time was had by all and £115 was raised for the BRF.

**North-Eastern:** Steve Ward and Adrian Hargreaves (Gt. Holland) are planning a Bungee Jump from the end of Clacton Pier on 15th August. They are looking for sponsorship in aid of the BRF. Sponsorship forms are with your District Secretary.

**South-Eastern:** held their annual quarter peal week which lasted 9 days! The highlight was a barbecue in Pat Saltmarsh's garden on 26th June, which made £200 for the BRF. 22 quarters were successfully rung with several firsts. One in particular was rung at Purleigh where John Marden at the age of 73 rung the covering tenor to Plain Bob Doubles. A full report will be (or has, depending on when you read this) published in The Ringing World. Thanks go to Phil Stephens (Writtle) for organizing the week.

**Southern:** are having a Plain Triples Training Day on 13th November. On offer are five options and sessions, from covering tenor to the theory of conducting and coursing orders. Also planned for later in November is an educational session with a ringing simulator. Thanks to the Rayleigh band who kindly offered the use of their 'Bagley' simulator an introduction to this useful aid has been made possible. Gordon Lucas, Southern District Training Officer, is at pains to point out that this will be a learning experience for all including those running the session.

**North-Western:** Alan Barber writes:- "Just to prove we have some energy left over after ringing the bells, the St. Mary's Bellringers of Stansted and Farnham entered a float in the Stansted Carnival on 26th June 1993.

The theme of our float was "Ding Dong Bell, Pussy's in the well". The handbell ringers from Farnham recorded the tune of the nursery rhyme to be played on a 'ghetto-blaster' from the back of the float.

The Stansted ringers made and decorated the float - a model of St. Mary's (Stansted) tower, and a wishing well, complete with a pussy in it, lots of greenery (the garden is looking a little less dense) and paper flowers in shades of pink, blue and white completed "the look". The ringers themselves dressed up as schoolchildren with the "boys" in long shorts, school ties and caps, and the "girls" in navy pleated skirts, white blouses with ties and, of course, the school hat!

In keeping with today's environmentally caring attitude the float was towed by a diesel-less bicycle (we used re-cycled cardboard, of course).

Much to our surprise we won the Carnival Cup!"

## From Foreign Parts

The Kent County Association are holding an open day on Saturday 18th September in the Maidstone District where 32 towers will be open. Donations of 50p per tower or £5 for a day ticket will help towards the restoration of Staplehursts bells. Further information will be published in the Ringing World.

In Suffolk the bellringers of St. Mary's, Dalham (near Newmarket) are holding an Open 8-Bell Striking Competition in aid of their newly restored & augmented ring. The competition which is to be held on 18th September is for a specially commissioned ringers 'Gotch' (Jug) and will help pay for the completed work. A Tower, District or Guild can enter at £8 per team. See your District Secretary for the entry form and further information.

## Bell Restoration Video

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers has produced a video about some of the important points that should be considered when contemplating a restoration project. The Association has been given a complimentary copy and further copies are available at £10.00 each. The video is available for loan to anyone who is considering a major bell restoration and is accompanied by supplementary information in note form. Should anyone need to borrow our copy please contact the General Secretary but as we only have the one I would ask that only genuine requests be made.

## W A N T E D

Ray Newton of Arksden has written asking if anyone has any handbells that he could have on long term loan or for sale. He is looking for 12 bells for tune ringing. If you can help please contact him on ☎ 0799 550609 or write The Post Office, Arksden, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB11 4 EX.

## Annual Report Update

**Tollesbury:** The Tower Correspondent is now :-

Mrs. Nan Gibson, 10, Church Street, Tollesbury, CM9 8QJ. ☎ 0621 869381

## Association Registers

### **In Memoriam**

It is with sadness that we report the death of Bob Leavett of Tollesbury on 6th July. His funeral took place at Tollesbury on 16th July.

### **Births**

Congratulations to Hazel and John Steed on the birth of Rebecca Alice, a sister for Benjamin, on 11th June.

# Calendar Update

## August

13th	District Practice	Stansted Mountfitchet	NW
27th	Learner Practice	Littlebury	NW
28th	District Practice	Great Tey	NE

## September

4th	Meeting	Danbury	SE
4th	Meeting	Wickham St.Paul & Long Melford	N
10th	District Practice	Stansted Mountfitchet	NW
11th	Training Evening	Ilford	SW
18th	Meeting	Shenfield	S
18th	District Practice	Thorington	NE
18th	Essex Trophy Striking Competition (Rickmansworth, Herts.)		
24th	Learner Practice	Matching	NW
25th	EACR Training Day	Brentwood	

## October

8th	District Practice	Stansted Mountfitchet	NW
9th	Association Dinner & Dance (Rivenhall Resort Hotel)		
16th	Meeting	Walthamstow, St. Mary	SW
16th	12-bell Practice	Saffron Walden (NW)	N
16th	District Practice	Bocking (N)	NE
22nd	District Learner Practice	Manuden	NW
23rd	Meeting	Shrub End (Colchester)	NE

## November

12th	District Practice	Stansted Mountfitchet	NW
13th	Meeting	Feering/Witham	N
13th	District Training Day		
13th	Call Change Competition		SE
13th	Evening Ringing	Leytonstone	SW
20th	Meeting	Rochford (tbc)	S
20th	District Practice	Wormingford	NE
26th	District Learner Practice	Braintree	N
26th	District Learner Practice	Littlebury	NW
27th	Education Session	Rayleigh	S
27th	Meeting	Helions Bumpstead/Radwinter (tbc)	NW

The next issue of the NEWSLETTER is planned for December. Contributions please to M. A. Bishop, 56, Edinburgh Gardens, Braintree, Essex CM7 6LH ☎ 0376 325281 by 13th November.