



Oxford City Branch Hugh's News

Produced fortnightly by Paul, Jonathan and Hugh, plus contributions from other ringers.



Monday 13th May 2013

Branch Striking Competition on Saturday 11th May

Six teams met at North Hinksey to take part in the Branch Striking Competition, including several new faces who had not competed in a competition before. The format was simple - two minutes to practise and familiarise yourselves with the bells, then one minute of rounds followed by 120 changes of any method or an equivalent length of call changes. Our judges for the day, John and Cathy Hughes-D'Aeth, clearly had their work cut out and were very pleased they had chosen to judge from inside their car when the heavens opened during the fifth team's test piece! By the time they returned with the results, the tea had all but gone, and the teams were on tenterhooks. With a wide range of ringing abilities on show, it can be difficult to balance the comments fairly, but the judges gave some very constructive advice to the teams that had struggled with the bells, and gently chastised the experienced bands for opting to ring a simple doubles method rather than stretching their abilities. However, it was the striking that was being judged, and the bands were placed in the following order:

1. St Aldate's (A) 12 faults.
2. Oxford University Society 28 faults.
3. St Aldate's (B) 41 faults.
4. Kidlington 43 faults.
5. Headington 64 faults.
6. St Giles 65 faults.

The Branch will therefore be represented by St Aldate's in the Guild competition later in the year. It was great to see so many teams, especially the OUS, who were just there for the fun of taking part. Many thanks to North Hinksey for the use of their bells for the competition, and to John and Cathy for judging. *Jonathan Cresshull.*



Practice with the Cowley Ringers on Saturday 4th May

On the evening of Saturday 4th May, The Cowley ringers hosted a practice which drew in a large band of ringers with a wide range of abilities. As well as ringers from within the Oxford branch, we also welcomed ringers from Eynsham and Freeland. The enthusiasm of the experienced ringers to help those of us who are learning was inspiring. As a result of events like this, the relatively new band of ringers at Cowley are now moving from Call Changes to Plain Hunt, and are looking forward to the days when we can take on more challenging methods. Thank you to everyone who attended, and we hope to ring with you again soon. *Lindsay Powell*



A Quarter Peal of Bob Minor at Chilton (6) on Monday 6th May.

Having probably listed "Phew! What a scorcher!" as a bit hackneyed, the media banner-line for the Bank Holiday weekend was "a sizzler!", an "a" rather than a "the" probably due to trademark concerns. In the event there wouldn't have been many "burgers on the Barbie" in some areas as a fret enveloped the south coast. As usual there was no need to fret about ringing the mellifluous bells at Chilton, and the welcome was as warm as the balmy weather. *Hugh Deam*



Dates for your Diary

Full details from Hugh at: [hugh.deam at btinternet.com](mailto:hugh.deam@btinternet.com) or Jonathan at: [jonathan at cresshull.co.uk](mailto:jonathan@cresshull.co.uk)

Saturday 18th May Method Mini-Outing to Lower Heyford (6) (3.45pm) and Somerton (8) (5.15pm) (note time alterations) Grandsire, Plain Bob and Plain Hunting. (Could those intending to come, please email me in advance please?) *Hugh Deam*

Saturday 1st June Grandsire and Bob Doubles Practice at Yarnton (6) 22cwt, 4.00pm-5.00pm and Bletchington (6) 8cwt, 5.30pm-6.30pm (Could those intending to come, please email me in advance please?)

Saturday 29th June All day Summer Outing to East Hampshire in the Alton area. (Full details next time) Holybourne (8) 6cwt. Chawton (6) 6cwt. Lunch at The French Horn, Alton. Alton (6) 6cwt. Herriard (6) 7cwt.



Local Practice Nights

- Mondays:** St Aldates (6), Garsington (6) (No Practices at the moment).
Tuesdays: Headington (8), Kidlington (8), Horspath (6).
Wednesdays: Iffley (6).
Thursdays: Wolvercote (6), St Giles (8), Stanton St John (5), Cowley (6).
Fridays: Old Marston (6), Wheatley (6), North Hinksey (6) (6.30-7.30).

For more details go to the Oxford City Branch website: www.oxfordcitybranch.org.uk

Any information or photographs for inclusion in *Hugh's News* please email me: [paulclucas at hotmail.co.uk](mailto:paulclucas@hotmail.co.uk)