

MASTER'S REPORT
to the
Annual General Meeting of the Society
on
20th February 2017

Service ringing

Firstly, I'd like to thank everyone for their support for Sunday ringing. Average attendance is up by 0.7 people which is encouraging. I particularly enjoy the Sunday mornings when we can start ringing on 12 at 8:30, so additional thanks to those who are always there from the start; it does make running the ringing easier. I've tried to negotiate the tightrope of method complexity versus striking accuracy fairly conservatively on Sunday mornings, generally focusing on the latter. I feel this has worked out OK, but I'm glad we've still been able to ring spliced on several occasions, mostly to a good standard.

Philip Hensman continues his unflinching attendance, with the consecutive total well past 500.

Sunday evensong ringing outside of term time is kept alive by a small core of very dedicated attendees. Given the competition for rope-time in the other ringing sessions we have, I feel we could make better use of this time. A few ideas for improving attendance were discussed at the AGM last year. However, until there is a more concrete suggestion, I propose we continue in the current setup, and instead each try to attend more often where possible. Even if this is very occasional, it will still make a difference.

Practice night ringing

The teaching session before the practice has continued under the guidance of Jonathan, Oli and Megan, with good progress being made. The transition to the main practice seems to work well, and being able to provide the tutees opportunities for ringing on 10 and 12 from 7pm makes a big difference, so (continuing on a theme) thanks again to those who are there from the start week-in week-out.

In terms of the methods we ring, I've been trying out alternatives for bridging the gap between plain hunt on 12 and Cambridge Maximus. None of them has been terribly successful, but thanks for indulging me in this ongoing search. If anyone has any other ideas, please do suggest them.

I really feel that practicing accurate striking needs to be done separately from ringing new or more complex methods in order for it to be effective.

Previous master's reports have said how method mistakes were somehow endemic to our ringing; my gut feel is that as a band we've improved on this. Mistake-free touches are essential for really accurate striking, so this is good to see.

We've also been able to continue ringing Spliced Maximus regularly, and several members of the band have made good leaps forward learning new methods in this area. Providing these opportunities is an important role for us to play in the wider ringing community, and I hope that our practice continues to allow progress to be made at this level.

I want to make sure conductors feel mandated to provide useful comments about striking when they're able to during a touch.

As a band we can also help each other out more while ringing— please do wave/wink at someone if they miss a dodge with you and you spot it. It feels to me like most of the touches which fire out start from a

small mistake that spreads and spreads. By catching the mistake sooner, I hope we can reduce the frequency of this kind of fire-out (to just leave the spectacular ones, which we can then work on!).

Thanks to Oli's efforts, we now have a much improved simulator which is compatible with Abel. This gets used during the teaching sessions here at GSM, and is much more flexible than the previous system. It also allows the exciting possibility of many ringers simultaneously ringing tied bells independently of each other, and having multiple versions of Abel each ringing the other bells piped to headphones. This skill of striking accurately without ropesight is something I think we should all practise, as it should significantly help our listening skills, and I'd like to try and squeeze this into our schedule where possible.

Continuing the theme of AI takeover, I'd like to thank David for transcribing our touches using Hawkear and sending us the results. Please do make the most of this!

Finally, whilst I don't always enjoy running the practice, the time spent in the pub afterwards is unerringly fun, and I'm very thankful for the friendship and band spirit it builds.

National 12-bell

The Society entered the National 12 Bell last year, just beating Exeter into 2nd place at Amersham in the eliminator, and then coming 7th at Aston. Some of the ringing in our practices has been excellent, reaching scores of ninety-plus percent. Unfortunately, these touches are very rare at the moment, and solely consigned to Sunday lunchtime practices. With the 12-bell final coming to Cambridge in 2018, I'm keen that we all really aim and work hard to reproduce this level of striking across our ringing more generally, to make the most of all of the practice time available.

Relatedly, we all need to improve at building and maintaining a framework when there's a different band, and always strive to ring at this same level. If we start doing this regularly as a wider band at practice night and really focus on every blow of every change, we'll reap the benefits.

Based on this, I challenge us to achieve a:

BHAG¹ 1: Top two position in 2018 12-bell final

More generally, with the final coming to Cambridge, we'll need a huge amount of help and support from the Society, Ely Diocesan Association and other friends. The workload looks very daunting at this point, but I'm confident we can pull together to host a memorable event in a spectacular location.

Other Events

Thanks to Will Bosworth for organising this year's informal dinner at Anatolia, and pre-emptively to Dave Richards for organising this year's dinner at Wolfson College in September.

The annual punt outing took place in June, which was enjoyable for all (though other users of the Cam were perhaps having more fun).

Peals and Quarters

My peal organisation took a long time to get going for which I apologise, but we had a good run of peals during the autumn. Overall we had some pleasing footnotes for various firsts, and I aim to continue the

¹ If you're fortunate enough to have avoided this term until now, a BHAG is a Big Hairy Audacious Goal.

balance of: simple methods striving for excellent consistent striking, spliced or more complicated compositions, and also “development” peals.

The quarter peal slots are very popular, and I’d like to thank Dave for coordinating all the attempts and also all those who’ve organized quarters. There are even more encouraging footnotes here, and I hope we continue progressing and ringing new methods in the next year.

Overall as a band though, I’d like us to make even better use of the quarter peals to consolidate the methods we ring on a practice night and will endeavour to organise quarter peals covering the range of methods we ring on Mondays.

The Society rang 15 peals in the past year, including 4 on the bells here at GSM, 1 at Histon and 10 handbell peals. There were 7 other tower bell peals and 1 handbell peal here. Although the number of tower-bell peals scored is modest, we’ve had quite a few other unfortunate losses and last-minute DNSs so these numbers could have been significantly larger!

Date	Location	Performance	Society/notable footnotes	T/H
08/03/2016	Mawson Rd, Cambridge	5040 Cambridge Surprise Royal	Society	Hand
12/03/2016	GSM	5040 Bristol Surprise Maximus	Guild of St Benedict	Tower
20/03/2016	GSM	5056 Spliced Surprise Major (8 Methods)	Society	Hand
19/04/2016	Mawson Rd, Cambridge	5056 Spliced Surprise Major (8 Methods)	Society	Hand
14/06/2016	GSM	5040 Cambridge Surprise Royal	EDA	Hand
02/07/2016	GSM	5024 Spliced Surprise Major (8m)	Society; to celebrate 40 year of ministry by Rev'd Canon John Binns	Tower
15/07/2016	GSM	5090 Bristol Surprise Maximus	ASCY	Tower
24/07/2016	Bradley, North Yorkshire	5152 Spliced Surprise Major (23 Methods)	Society	Hand
30/07/2016	GSM	5040 Yorkshire Surprise Maximus	Oxford Diocesan Guild	Tower
02/08/2016	Histon	5056 Bristol Surprise Major	Society; first tower-bell peal, Alfie Pipe	Tower
03/08/2016	Willingham	5040 Plain Bob Minimus	Society	Hand
15/09/2016	GSM	5009 Stedman Cinques	Society	Tower
24/09/2016	GSM	5042 Yorkshire Surprise Maximus	Lincoln Diocesan Guild	Tower
20/10/2016	GSM	5088 Cambridge Surprise Maximus	Mostly Society; first Maximus, David Richards	Tower
28/10/2016	GSM	5042 Cambridge Surprise Maximus	ASCY	Tower

Date	Location	Performance	Society/notable footnotes	T/H
10/11/2016	GSM	5043 Stedman Caters	Society	Tower
20/11/2016	Willingham	5040 Treble Dodging Minor (7 Methods)	Society	Hand
23/11/2016	Willingham	5040 Treble Dodging Minor (120 Methods)	Society	Hand
03/12/2016	GSM	5088 Bristol Surprise Maximus	Society; first of Bristol Maximus, Ben Ricketts	Tower
11/12/2016	GSM	5040 Bristol Surprise Royal	Society	Hand
08/01/2017	GSM	5024 Kent Treble Bob Major	Society	Hand
12/01/2017	Orwell	5040 Bristol Surprise Maximus	Society; first Bristol Maximus in hand for Henry Pipe (aged 13)	Hand
14/01/2017	GSM	5042 Cambridge Surprise Maximus	EDA, rung in memory of Brian D Threlfall	Tower

The following is a union of the quarter peals rung at GSM and those rung by the Society, which includes 32 tower bell quarters and 7 handbell quarters:

Date	Location	Performance	Society/notable footnotes	T/H
21/02/2016	GSM	2016 Yorkshire Surprise Major		Tower
28/02/2016	GSM	1346 Cambridge Surprise Maximus	First Quarter Peal of Maximus for Ian Davies and Jonathan Spencer	Tower
06/03/2016	GSM	1280 Plain Bob Major		Tower
20/03/2016	GSM	1346 Cambridge Surprise Maximus	First Quarter Peal of Surprise Maximus, Megan	Tower
03/04/2016	Magdalene College	1260 Stedman Doubles		Hand
03/04/2016	GSM	1312 Bristol Surprise Major	To celebrate the marriage of Camilla Haggett and Jonathan Rhodes	Tower
11/06/2016	GSM	1272 Spliced Surprise Minor (41 Methods)	Celebrating the official 90th birthday of the Queen	Tower
12/06/2016	GSM	1296 Plain Bob Caters	First on 10, Imogen Diver and Joe Wakeling	Tower
16/06/2016	GSM	2016 Stedman Triples		Tower
26/06/2016	GSM	1536 Spliced Major (2m)	First performance of AEH's Frog and Toad	Tower
03/07/2016	GSM	1346 Cambridge Surprise Maximus	First Quarter Peal of Surprise Maximus inside, Miriam Franklin	Tower

Date	Location	Performance	Society/notable footnotes	T/H
17/07/2016	GSM	1275 Stedman Caters		Tower
31/07/2016	GSM	1254 Grandsire Cinques	Wedding compliment to Stephen and Katherine Croxall	Tower
01/08/2016	GSM	1260 Plain Bob Minor	Wedding compliment to Stephen and Katherine Croxall	Hand
11/08/2016	Ullapool	1344 Bristol Surprise Maximus		Hand
12/08/2016	Ullapool	1320 Stedman Cinques		Hand
28/08/2016	GSM	1344 Double Norwich Court Bob Major	First in method for Sue	Tower
11/09/2016	GSM	1346 Cambridge Surprise Maximus	Engagement compliment to Oli Bardsley and Megan Corless	Tower
25/09/2016	GSM	1282 Cambridge Surprise Royal	First royal, Greg Pearce	Tower
02/10/2016	St Mary le Bow, Cheapside	1280 Bristol Surprise Royal		Tower
02/10/2016	GSM	1280 Cambridge Surprise Major		Tower
09/10/2016	GSM	1388 Spliced Maximus		Tower
16/10/2016	GSM	1260 Plain Bob Doubles	First quarter, Imogen Smith	Tower
23/10/2016	GSM	1250 Lincolnshire Surprise Major	First in method, JoAnne Rutter	Tower
30/10/2016	GSM	1280 Bristol Surprise Royal	First in the method for Catriona, Sue and Nick Elks.	Tower
05/11/2016	GSM	1346 Cambridge Surprise Maximus	Rung before the memorial service for Professor Christopher N L Brooke	Tower
06/11/2016	GSM	1388 Spliced Maximus (7 Methods)	First spliced Maximus for Henry	Tower
12/11/2016	Willingham	1440 Treble Dodging Minor (2m)		Hand
12/11/2016	GSM	1296 Plain Bob Caters	First on 10 for JoAnne Rutter and Jackie Latham	Tower
21/11/2016	GSM	1344 Plain Bob Major		Hand
27/11/2016	GSM	1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor	First of surprise, James Ellison	Tower
04/12/2016	GSM	1301 Stedman Cinques		Tower
18/12/2016	GSM	1280 Cambridge Surprise Major		Tower

Date	Location	Performance	Society/notable footnotes	T/H
31/12/2016	GSM	1296 London Surprise Minor	Rung to celebrate the end of 2016	Tower
15/01/2017	GSM	1280 Bristol Surprise Royal	First in method for Oli, Ben	Tower
26/01/2017	GSM	1260 Plain Bob Minor		Hand
29/01/2017	GSM	1346 Cambridge Surprise Maximus	First surprise maximus for Simon Wilmot and Carole Kendall	Tower
04/02/2017	GSM	1280 Cambridge Surprise Major	Rung prior to the memorial service for Professor Sir Patrick Sissons	Tower
05/02/2017	GSM	1296 Surprise Minor		Tower

Looking Forward

The future looks pretty bright overall to me and I'm looking forward to the next year (something I didn't think I'd be saying last February!). I hope we can continue to both produce good quality ringing and also provide opportunities for extension. We're lucky enough to ring on a super set of bells very regularly – let's make sure we always do them justice.

We should also all consider how we can do our bit recruiting, training, mentoring and encouraging the next batch of ringers.

Finally, I'd like to thank the other officers for all their help and hard work during the past year, all those who have run the ringing in my absence, and also to the members of the Society for their support.

Jonathan Agg

Master, Society of Cambridge Youths