

MASTER'S REPORT
to the
Annual General Meeting of the Society
on
19th March 2018

Service ringing

Firstly, I'd like to thank everyone for their continued support overall, and especially for Sunday service ringing. Average attendance is again up this year by 0.4 people. We're fortunate to always have plenty of ringers, this makes my job significant easier!

Sunday evensong ringing outside of term time is still kept alive by a small core of very dedicated attendees. Ringing on fewer numbers provides good opportunities for developing conducting skills, I'd like to encourage everyone to include this aspect in their ringing aspirations, it's challenging but rewarding.

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 thanks again to those who are there from the start week-in week-out.

Our method repertoire has been broadly unchanged over the past few years. Over the next year I hope we can introduce a couple of new methods – learning and ringing different things is an aspect of ringing I really enjoy and hope others do too. Any input on the methods we should ring is very welcome.

I still don't know how best to provide opportunities to explicitly practice striking. One option is to just ring what we normally ring and hope that this is sufficient, but I think there must be effective ways of doing this. Ringing facing outwards is an excellent albeit tricky example of this, and I think we should do this more to get more confident doing it.

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 (as National Rail say, “see-it, say-it, sort-it”). Likewise we should help those less experienced by having more experienced ringers standing behind them more frequently, this provides a friendly way of providing effective feedback.

We should also make more use of the simulator - this skill of striking accurately and consistently without ropesight is essential to getting sustained good ringing. I encourage everyone to have a go! We've had some fun short sessions providing opportunities to have a go in a friendly environment.

I'd like to thank David for continuing to transcribe our touches using Hawkear and sending us the results. Please do make the most of this, there's plenty of very useful, applicable information available.

National 12-bell

The Society entered the National 12 Bell last year, coming 3rd at Sheffield in the eliminator, and then coming 7th at Southwark. Some of the ringing in our practices has been very good, and we need to all work hard to reproduce this level of striking across our ringing more generally, to make the most of all of the practice time available.

The final, this year at Cambridge, is rapidly approaching and I'm looking forward to the day. Many thanks to all those who are working on the arrangements for it.

Other Events

Thanks to Dave Richards for organising the excellent dinner at Wolfson College last September, and also for procuring the etched vase we gave to John and Sue Binns as a token of our appreciation for all their contributions to Cambridge ringing.

Peals and Quarters

Overall we had some pleasing footnotes for various firsts, and I aim to continue the balance of: simple methods striving for excellent consistent striking, spliced or more complicated compositions, and also "development" peals.

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 14 peals in the past year - 11 on the bells here at GSM, and 3 handbell peals. There were 4 other tower bell peals here.

Date	Location	Performance	Society/notable footnotes	T/H
25/02/17	GSM	5040 Cambridge Surprise Maximus	Society; 30th birthday compliment today to Steve Croxall.	T
09/03/17	GSM	5152 Spliced Surprise Major (23 Methods)	Society; first tower bell peal as conductor, HJWP.	T
07/04/17	Lundy Island (Old Light)	5040 Spliced Treble Dodging Minor (120 Methods)	Society; 30th birthday compliments to Jennie Earis	H
15/07/17	GSM	5040 Stedman Cinques	Non Association; 40th birthday compliment to CECF.	T
22/07/17	Willingham (53 Covent Garden)	5040 Treble Dodging Minor (7m)	Society; To welcome Charlotte Grace Earis, born earlier today	H
03/08/17	GSM	5042 Lincolnshire Surprise Maximus	Around Ringers	T
10/08/17	GSM	5040 Stedman Caters	Society; First on ten, AGWP. A farewell to Sue and John Binns.	T

Date	Location	Performance	Society/notable footnotes	T/H
18/08/17	Godmanchester (The Old Post Office)	5056 Kent Treble Bob Major	Society	H
31/08/17	GSM	5075 Stedman Cinqes	Non Association; 1700th peal, MHDO'C	T
21/09/17	GSM	5042 Cambridge Surprise Maximus	Society; First on 12 (aged 12), AGWP	T
30/09/17	GSM	5088 Cambridge Surprise Maximus	Saint Paul's Cathedral Guild	T
12/10/17	GSM	5040 Bristol Surprise Maximus	Society; First Bristol Maximus (aged 12), AGWP.	T
28/10/17	GSM	5090 Cambridge Surprise Maximus	Society; 100th tower bell peal at GSM, PMO.	T
09/11/17	GSM	5016 Spliced Maximus (6m)	Society	T
18/11/17	GSM	5040 Spliced Royal (7m)	Society	T
25/01/18	GSM	5760 Spliced Surprise Minor (41m)	Society; First 6-bell tower bell peal rung in the tower	T
03/02/18	GSM	5088 Cambridge Surprise Maximus	Society; Congratulations to Helen and Dave on the birth of their daughter. Significant birthday compliment to David Pipe. First on 12, CCS.	T
17/03/18	GSM	5042 Cambridge Surprise Maximus	Society; In memory of Stewart Hall.	T

The following is a union of the quarter peals rung at GSM and those rung by the Society, which includes 31 tower bell quarters and 9 handbell quarters:

Date	Location	Performance	Notable footnotes	T/H
05/03/2017	GSM	1344 Bristol Surprise Maximus	First Quarter Peal of Bristol Maximus, Catriona, Jonathan Spencer.	T
12/03/2017	GSM	1298 Avon Delight Maximus		T
18/03/2017	GSM	1260 Plain Bob Doubles	First quarter, Martha.	T
18/03/2017	GSM	1260 Plain Bob Doubles	First quarter, James.	T
18/03/2017	GSM	1320 Cambridge Surprise Royal		T
26/03/2017	GSM	1344 Bristol Surprise Maximus	First Quarter Peal of Bristol Maximus, Billy.	T
04/04/2017	Lundy Island	1280 Bristol Surprise Royal		T
05/04/2017	Lundy Island	1360 London No.3 Surprise Royal		T
06/04/2017	Lundy Island	1277 Stedman Caters	A 30th birthday compliment to Jennie Earis.	T

07/04/2017	Lundy Island	1696 Yorkshire Surprise Major	First Surprise Major in hand: 7-8, AGWP.	H
22/04/2017	GSM	1260 Plain Bob Doubles		T
23/04/2017	GSM	1282 Yorkshire Surprise Royal		T
25/05/2017	GSM	1440 Spliced Surprise Minor (12m)		T
04/06/2017	GSM	1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor		H
04/06/2017	GSM	1280 Bristol Surprise Royal		T
21/06/2017	GSM	1264 St Clement's College Bob Major	Remembering Rev CH Schooling, member of the Cambridge University Guild and handbell ringer, who died from wounds on 21 June 1917.	H
28/06/2017	GSM	1400 Kent Treble Bob Royal		H
02/07/2017	GSM	1282 Cambridge Surprise Royal	Celebrating 40 years since the ordination of the Rev'd John Binns as priest. First as conductor on 10, DCWR.	T
12/07/2017	GSM	1260 Plain Bob Minor	First in hand, Alistair.	H
19/07/2017	GSM	1312 Kent Treble Bob Major		H
31/07/2017	GSM	1312 Kent Treble Bob Major	Remembering Capt A R Milne (Hertfordshire Regiment) who died, aged 21, on the first day of the battle of Passchendaele, 31st July 1917.	H
01/08/2017	GSM	1280 Cambridge Surprise Major	First surprise major inside, James.	T
01/08/2017	GSM	1260 Plain Bob Minor	First inside, Alistair. First as conductor in hand, OPB.	H
05/08/2017	GSM	1298 Bristol Surprise Maximus		T
12/08/2017	GSM	1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor		T
30/08/2017	Glen Strathfarrar	1600 Spliced Surprise Major (8m)		H
03/09/2017	GSM	1280 Spliced Surprise Major (4 Methods)		T
14/09/2017	GSM	1346 Cambridge Surprise Maximus		T
24/09/2017	GSM	1346 Cambridge Surprise Maximus		T
15/10/2017	GSM	1280 Bristol Surprise Royal		T
12/11/2017	GSM	1275 Stedman Triples		T
19/11/2017	GSM	1472 Yorkshire Surprise Major		T

12/12/2017	GSM	1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major	Rung prior to the funeral of Chris McDouall.	T
28/01/2018	GSM	1260 Stedman Triples	First Stedman, Andy Croxall.	T
15/02/2018	GSM	1320 Grandsire Cinques	First on 12, Melissa, and as conductor (Oli).	T
18/02/2018	GSM	1264 Plain Bob Major	First quarter at first attempt: William, Alessandra.	T
02/03/2018	GSM	1287 Stedman Caters		T
04/03/2018	GSM	1344 Spliced Surprise Major (4m)	First spliced, Melissa. First of spliced major, Sam, Rebecca, John.	T
11/03/2018	GSM	1280 Spliced Surprise Major (4m)		T
12/03/2018	GSM	1260 Plain Bob Doubles	First quarter, Mary. First inside, William. First of doubles, Alessandra. First as cover, Akiko.	T

Looking Forward

I hope we can continue to both produce good quality ringing and also provide opportunities for extension. As I said last year, we're extremely lucky enough to ring on a super set of bells so regularly – let's make sure we always do them justice.

We should also all continue doing 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 ongoing support.

Jonathan Agg

Master, Society of Cambridge Youths