



*G & B Diocesan Association of
Church Bell Ringers
Cheltenham Branch Newsletter
May 2004*



*RECENT FIRSTS...well done to the
following ringers (alphabetically):*

Jo Elvey: 1st QP of Major as conductor (Cambridge).
1st QP Lincolnshire Surprise Major.

Liz Evans: 1st QP Lincolnshire & London Surprise Major.

Sue Henderson: 1st Peal ever (Plain Bob Major).

Maureen McBane: 1st QP on the treble, to plain bob
doubles.

Janice Sweetman: 1st QP of surprise major on the
treble. 1st Peal inside (Plain Bob Major).

Jonathan Sweetman: 1st QP Yorkshire & Rutland
Surprise Major.

*CHAIRMAN'S HALF YEAR REPORT
CHELTENHAM BRANCH*

It has been an interesting few months since our AGM and this report is to bring you up to date on some of the things that have been happening within the branch.

Association Annual General Meeting

On the 24th of April we hosted the Association Annual General Meeting at St. Christopher's, Warden Hill. The Croome trophy and Penn trophy striking competitions were also held on the same day at Badgeworth and Leckhampton.

Overall the day was a success with no major calamities. (Except three stays at St. Christopher's and one rope at Childswickham.) I would like to thank the many people within the Branch who made a contribution to the success of the day. I have tried to acknowledge all contributions personally. If I have missed anybody out then I apologise; this is due to a failure of my intelligence network. Please let me know and I will add your name to my list for inclusion on the minutes of our next AGM.

Contributions from people outside the Association included the Venerable Hedley Ringrose, Archdeacon of Cheltenham, who gave the address at the service: the Reverend Malcom Ingham the Minister at St. Christopher's who led the service: Mrs. Pauline White, organist at St. Christopher's who played for the service and the ladies of the St. Christopher's Mothers Union who made all the cakes and sweet items at the tea and served all the drinks. Our thanks are also due to them.

Electronic Notices

Since the AGM we have tried to notify tower correspondents of Branch events by "e" mail wherever possible. This seems to be working well but with minor glitches, particularly when we started "zipping" files. Please bear with us while we iron out the problems with the system. Please give your comments and suggestions about the system to Philip Abbey who is acting as our IT consultant for this project.

Under 19s Striking Competition

Elizabeth Evans has been organising special practices for the under 19s striking competition band. She and the band have been working very hard together for success so please give them all the encouragement and support you can. If we do not win, it will not be for want of effort!

St. Marks

Simon Ridley has been doing a great job at St. Marks. There are now regular practices and Sunday Service ringing. Although the bells are ringable, the bearings and clappers are badly worn and there are serious cracks in two of the headstocks. Major repair work will soon be needed and so Simon has managed to persuade the PCC to support a major re-hang of the bells. This will involve lowering the bells to the level of the current ringing chamber and making a new ringing gallery, open to the church, lower in the tower. The current five bells need to be slightly retuned and three new trebles will be added.

When completed this project will give the Branch a superb new 16cwt eight. This will be a magnificent legacy for the future. All the support you can give, whether financial, practical or moral will be gratefully received. Please let Simon know what you can do and leave the rest to him.

P.S. There are even rumours of a special St. Marks strong ale in the pipeline!

Comments and Suggestions

Comments and suggestions, including some negative ones, about what we are doing have been directed to Jo Elvey, our Branch Secretary. Jo not only has a very busy personal life but also works very hard for the Branch to make things run smoothly. Of all the Branch Officers she probably has the hardest job. If you have any comments or suggestions, especially the negative ones, about what we are doing within the Branch please give them to me and I will deal with them, either personally or with the committee. Compliments or praise can go directly to Jo.

Conclusion

It has been an exciting few months with several challenges, which I hope we are meeting. I have enjoyed working with and appreciate the strong support I have had from the committee, particularly Jo, Barbara and John who have helped to maintain the continuity from the previous committee. With the Association AGM now over I hope to get round the branch to meet more of you.

Thank you all for your support. Enjoy your ringing.

Bob.
7 May, 2004

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Any items for the newsletter will be welcomed. Please forward them to the Secretary, Jo Elvey.
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