

*G & B Diocesan Association of
Church Bell Ringers
Cheltenham Branch Newsletter
May 2005*

Croome Trophy 2005 won by Charlton Kings

Since it started in 1968, the Association 6-bell striking competition for the Croome Trophy has taken place every year except 2000 (when it was postponed until the following year because of the petrol crisis). For the very first time, out of a total of ten competing bands, Cheltenham Branch came First. We were represented by Charlton Kings, being the winners of the Banner Trophy last year. Congratulations on your success, and thank you for showing us that it can be done.



Left to right, back row: Simon Ridley, Quentin Jackson, Richard Knight; front row: Hilda Ridley, John Ridley holding the Croome Trophy, David Greenaway

Charlton Kings have three Trophies to be proud of (below, from left to right): the Banner, the Croome and the Cleeve Trophy.



Recent firsts: well done

Anna Bayley, Cathy Heathcote: 1st QP 4-spliced S. Major
Max Drinkwater: 1st QP Bristol S. Major, 1st QP Rutland S. Major, 1st QP Spliced S. Major (4 methods)
Gillian Lloyd-Williams: 1st QP, Treble to Grandsire Doubles
Barbara Pettit: 1st QP Bristol S. Major

Other Recent Achievements

Hilda Ridley: 600th Peal on 29th January at Edgbaston, Birmingham.

Max Drinkwater: 50th Quarter Peal on 8th May.

Congratulations to Sue Henderson and Pete Millen who were married on 23rd April in Bromsgrove. We wish them every happiness in their future life together.

Penn and Best Kept Tower Trophies

The Association 8-Bell striking competition for the Penn Trophy had to be moved to Watermoor at the last minute and was won by Swindon Branch for the fifth successive year. Cheltenham Branch came fourth, but only half a mark behind third place.

In the Best Kept Tower competition Highly Commended certificates were awarded to (amongst others) St Mark's and Warden Hill. St Mark's was awarded one of the Chairman's Baldrics for special merit. (The minutes of the AGM say that this prize is "still under construction", so I can't show you a picture of it. If you're curious, you'll just have to go along and ring at St Mark's from time to time!) Congratulations to both towers.

Association AGM

The Association AGM was hosted by Cirencester Branch at Fairford and was well supported with over 150 people enjoying a wonderful "ringers' tea" and a display of the Association's trophies, shields, cups, handbells, chains of office etc.

Subscriptions and Affiliation Fees will remain unchanged for next year. The Chain of Office will be brought back into shared use by the Ringing Master and Chairman. The Handbells have been placed in the custody of a Steward (Liz Pearse of Cirencester Branch), and may be loaned for 3 months at a time, with certain conditions. Liz's address and telephone number can be found in the Annual Report as the South Cerney Tower Correspondent.

Steve Coleman urged members of the Association to pay their subscriptions under Gift Aid. One signature is all that is needed for both the past and the future, and if 80% of eligible members would sign, at least £1,500 extra could be obtained from the Taxman this year, and £600 extra for every year in the future. This would all go to belfry restoration. If you're a taxpayer and are not sure whether you've already gift-aided your subscription, please check with either Barbara Pettit or myself, from whom you can get the necessary form.

Next year's AGM will be hosted by Swindon Branch on Saturday 8 April 2006.

Please turn over

St Mark's

The Augmentation Ale announced in last month's newsletter is proving very popular – to enquire about it please contact Rev. Owen Barraclough on 01242 230855.

Jigsaws with an aerial photograph will shortly be going on sale. There are plans afoot for a barn dance, and I hope to be able to give you date and ticket details in the next newsletter.

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 11th June: The Branch 6-bell Striking Competition for the Banner and Cleeve Trophies will be held at Dumbleton from 4 pm, followed by a barbeque in Prestbury. The up-to-date rules can be found on the Branch website at:

<http://www.lynches.demon.co.uk/ringing/competition.htm#rules>

and a section on "Frequently Asked Questions" is at: <http://www.lynches.demon.co.uk/ringing/competition.htm#faq>

Last year Charlton Kings won the Banner Trophy and then went on to win the Croome Trophy this year. It would be wonderful if one of the Towers in our Branch could repeat that achievement next year.

Those of us whose Towers struggle to achieve such good striking should not think that there is no point in them entering this competition. On the contrary, the Cleeve Trophy may be awarded only to a team with two or fewer ringers who have proficiency certificates. Whether or not a team wins a trophy, the fact of ringing in the competition certainly concentrates the mind (and ears) of those taking part, which itself can show lasting benefits. It's also a very good way to meet lots of Branch members and have a jolly good chat while you're listening to the other teams.

This year it would be great to see some of the Towers who do not normally enter a team please?

Nearer the time I would like to ask the Tower Correspondents for some idea of how many ringers from their Tower would like to come to the barbeque afterwards, to give me an idea of how many to cater for.

Sunday 3rd July: At 12.30 pm we shall be gathering in the cloisters at Gloucester Cathedral for our annual picnic (bring your own), followed by Service Ringing from 1.30 pm to 2.50 pm. If you've never been before, the centre of the cloisters has a lovely grassy area and is a suntrap, so remember to bring your sunscreen and sunhat; if it's a rainy day the cloisters provide shelter. However if a picnic really doesn't appeal, then come along at about 1.15 pm – it takes a while for us all to climb all those steps!

Saturday 10th September: The Ringing Roadshow 2005 will take place from 10 am to 5 pm in the Grandstand and the Berkshire Stand of Newbury Racecourse. This show promises to interest ringers and non-ringers alike, with bell founders and hangers, mini-rings, seminars and handbell orchestras. For more details see the special website at: <http://www.ringingroadshow2005.org.uk/>

Saturday 8th October: The G&BDA Autumn Training Day will be based in Wotton-under-Edge. Wynne Holcombe has asked that experienced potential helpers as well as students keep the day free in their diaries for this popular event.

Badgeworth

Pat Hickey has asked me to pass on his thanks to those ringers who have been to Badgeworth recently to help. As with many towers, it's difficult to know how many ringers he can expect each week, but certainly one of his regular experienced visitors will be away for the next few weeks, so if you would like to go along on Fridays at 7.30 pm to provide support for his learners, and don't mind if you find the tower full after all, Pat will be pleased to see you.

Under 19's Striking Competition

Our Branch has had some setbacks on the way to entering a team but as I write, we are hoping that five of our Under 19's will be entering the Association competition for the Nibley Trophy on Saturday 21st May at Langley Burrell. We wish the team good striking and a very enjoyable time, and hope that being able to meet up with other younger ringers will encourage them in their ringing.

On behalf of the Branch I should like to thank all those who have been involved in this undertaking, both those ringing in the competition and those who have helped to make it happen.

Summer Evenings

Now that it's staying light later in the evening, isn't it nice to come out of a tower after practice and find it's still not too dark to see that tombstone you trip over in the winter. With evening classes etc drawing to a close until the autumn, now is the time to get out and try going to towers you don't normally visit. Many would welcome some additional visitors, especially Swindon Village (6, Monday), Bishop's Cleeve (8, Wednesday), Winchcombe (8, Wednesday), Woolstone (6, Wednesday) amongst others. In the case of Woolstone and the more rural towers you should first telephone the Tower Correspondent (contact details in your Annual Report) to make sure there will be a practice when you intend to visit.