

THE HULL HANDBELL PROJECT

Promoting double-handed change ringing throughout East Yorkshire

Newsletter Number 16, February 2018.

News Roundup.

Recorded lengths.

We started the year in fine style:

On Wednesday 3rd January, 2018

1272 Plain Bob Minor

1-2 Christine M Church

3-4 Gwynneth C Moffat

5-6 Peter Church (C)

Out and about.

Older but no wiser in Hull

At our first session of the new year we had **Lesley Davies** back in action, though she claimed she was rusty, it didn't show very much. Amongst much Plain Bob Minor we also managed two courses of Plain Bob Major.

Some of the Tuesday sessions were very busy and the confidence levels are improving as folks gather more experience, and it was good to have **John Atkinson** ringing changes on handbells once more.

Market Weighton / South Cave

Karen Lane from Market Weighton, and **Bill Lennox** from North Cave were joined by **Chris** and **Pete Church** for a practise session, it included much respectable Plain Bob Minor with calls galore, Little Bob, Bastow, Kent Little, and Kent T.B.

Sutton

For our first session with **Gwynneth Moffat**, we put a good quarter of Plain Bob Minor into the records, relaxed, and rang a course and a touch of Kent TB Minor.

And our last session of the month was also with **Gwynneth**. We had a productive session, **Chris Church** confidently calling a 180 of Plain Bob Minor, and then after a couple of false starts we rang a 72 followed by a 144 of Kent TB Minor. These are thought to be the first

touches of Kent T.B. in East Yorkshire since CY 2,000.

Rawcliffe

Ron Barclay's progress to full use of limbs is slow but sure. At last we are starting to see **Hilary** out and about at handbell sessions once more.

Churchy's challenge.

Rebecca Legowski is coming along very well on towerbells under **Ros Baxter's** tutelage. **Rebecca's** lack of eyesight equally has not stopped her learning the basics of handbell ringing.

Using Handbell Manager and Abel on Peter's netbook Rebecca has managed plain hunting on 1 bell on 4, 6 and 8, and Plain Hunting on 1-2 and 3-4 to Original Minimus in a first lesson, and then going on to 2-3 to Original Minimus, 1-2 and 5-6 as coursing pairs on 6 bells, and a successful shot, after some persistence was necessary with hitting 5ths place to 3-4 pattern hunting.

There will be many challenges along the road but they will be overcome.

Regional Handbells Day No 6.

On the last Saturday of January 33 Westbourne reverberated to the sounds of ringing taking place, and at one point taking place in three separate rooms.

The day started with an introduction to change ringing on handbells for **Zena Robertson** from Barrow / Goxhill. **Zena** worked through the exercises we used in October 2016 at our first workshop. By the time that we got to lunchtime **Zena** was up to plain hunting on a coursing pair having been aided and abetted by **Lesley Davies**, **Pat Donnelley** and **Chris Church**. We were then joined by **Karen Lane**, and **Chris Munday**.

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Peter had planned veggie soup, savoury cake and salad for lunch, with the promise of cake for “puddings”. The cakes came in generous quantities!

Ros Baxter and **Hilary Barclay** swelled the numbers during lunch and we then turned to serious Plain Bob Major.

Neil Donovan and **Gwynneth Moffatt** completed the numbers a little later and at one point Kent TB Minor was being rung in the front room whilst Plain Bob Major was coming from the living room, and Abel was being used in the Breakfast room.

Karen’s bells proved a real treat.

A course of spliced Plain and Little Bob Royal was rung at the first attempt.

In summary, 2 ringers working on Plain Hunting and Plain Bob Minor, 6 working on Plain Bob Major of which 3 were also working on Kent TB Minor. The above 8 were helped along by three handbell ringers with more experience.

ART Ltr – Handbells

Pat Donneley was the first person in the area to sign up for the scheme shortly followed by **Ros Baxter**. The structure is much akin to towerbell ringing and a personal progress logbook is available from ART.

If anyone else adopts the scheme I would be delighted to be of assistance with their progress.

Learning Point

“Aim for 30 minutes every day on handbell manager / Abel, and at least an hour each week with real bells and real people.”

That sounds like good advice from last month’s newsletter, but it set me wondering if it is possible for the simulator to do any harm to a learner’s progress. My conclusion is that

if you use the simulator too slowly, and for sufficient time for it to become the dominant pattern, it will prevent you getting to autopilot stage. Like learning to drive, if you only ever drove at 15 miles per hour (like I did on my first lesson), you would never relax into the skill and pass your test.

What’s a good speed to start with? If you have only just learned the method, and it’s hard for you, (doesn’t matter whether it’s Bob Minor, or Carlisle Surprise, it’s what’s hard for you), start at over 3 hours speed, get you striking up to 9.0 for both hands, and then progressively take off 5 minutes every time, keeping your striking up in the 9.0+. Eventually you need to get the speed up to 2hrs 15 minutes or faster for 6 bell ringing.

News from afar

Proverbs 25:25. **Simon Humphrey** has regained his eyesight and hence his driving licence, so we’re planning to see him with a pair of bells before too long.

2018:

Meetings are now organised via e-mail rather than through the website. If this causes any issues please let me know.

Saturday April 28th:

Regional Handbells day No 7.

The current plan is to ring some quarter peals as well as have some “on the edge of ability” general practice ringing. Some people have already got their names down for quarter peals, if you would like to take part, please drop me a note.

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