



HEADSTOCK

The Newsletter of the
Bedford District of the
Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers

April 2016

Web Version

This version of Headstock has photographs with reduced quality.

It also has contact details of people removed.
Personal contact details can be found in your Tower's copy of
Headstock, or in the latest Annual Report.

From the Chairman

Some of you will be aware that the position of BRF (Bell Restoration Fund) Treasurer was left vacant at the Annual District Meeting, with Andrew Dennison continuing his stewardship until a replacement could be identified. I am pleased to say that Martin Goodwin has agreed to take on the role and also to serve as our R J Sharp Bell Fund Representative and Association Bell Fund District Representative.

The R J Sharp Bell Fund is an Association fund that was established from a bequest some years ago. Whilst it can provide loans to churches for bell work, latterly it has mainly been used to fund training and educational work. The Code of Practice can be found in the Annual Report. The Association Bell Fund is of course recently established and yet to make a grant, but there is every chance an application for assistance with a project will be forthcoming this year.

Our own District BRF made no grants last year or even the year before. There is a very simple explanation why – there were no applications for grants. If you do have some bell work that you think the BRF may be able to help with the cost of, information of what can be covered and an application form are available from Bob Jones, the District Secretary. The District Committee studies any applications that are received and then makes a recommendation that goes to a vote at the next District business meeting.

Alex Nash
District Chairman

Subscriptions

Subscriptions are now due for payment, which has to be made before the Association Annual General Meeting on 21 May. The subscription for resident ringing members over the age of 19 is £10 per year, the rate for under-19s is £2.50. If you are a UK taxpayer and pay the full £10 annual subscription, please consider signing a "Gift Aid Declaration" so that the Association can claim back the tax on it. A form for doing this can be downloaded from the Association website www.bacr.co.uk.

Bedford District Programme of Meetings and Events 2016

This is a provisional programme, for confirmation see The Ringing World or phone the Secretary, Bob Jones.

2 Apr 2016:	Kempston Quarterly District Meeting Afternoon Ringing, Service, Tea, 6.00 pm Business Meeting Evening Ringing	4.00 – 8.30 pm
7 May 2016:	District Outing Bury St Edmund's area	All Day
21 May 2016:	Bedford St Paul's Association Annual General Meeting	3.30 – 9.00 pm
4 June 2016:	Oakley District Striking Contest	5.00 pm
2 July 2016:	Harrold Quarterly District Meeting Afternoon Ringing, Picnic Tea, 6.00 pm Business Meeting	4.30 – 6.30 pm
	Odell Evening Ringing	4.00 – 9.00 pm

Future Events

4 June 2016:	Ridgman Trophy at Daventry	
17 Sept 2016:	Association Striking Contests Eaton Bray (Luton District)	3.30 pm/5.00 pm

Young Ringers' Events

2 July 2016:	Ringing World National Youth Contest, London	
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For details of eligibility and practices being held in the run-up to this event, see the Association website www.bacr.co.uk or contact Sue Silver president@bacr.co.uk.

District Quarter Peal Week 5-13 March 2016

These QPs have been collated from The Ringing World's website BellBoard because they mention QP week and/or the Conductor has agreed to them being included.

Bedford, Bedfordshire, St Paul
Sunday, 6 March 2016 (28–3–6 in D)

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Christopher Wagstaff, 2 Mark Spurgeon, 3 Scott Ayers,
4 James Saunders (C), 5 Matthew Bareham, 6 George Saunders
First on treble
Rung on the back six before the Divine Service.

Elstow, Bedfordshire, Abbey Church of SS Mary and Helena
Sunday, 6 March 2016 (9 cwt)

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1 Mary Hartley, 2 Ann Desics, 3 Anna R Townsend,
4 Christopher Hartley, 5 Stephen H Stanford (C), 6 Richard J Hillson
First of Grandsire 1 and 4
Rung for Mothering Sunday Evensong, and during Bedford District QP week.

Bromham, Bedfordshire, St Owen
Saturday, 12 March 2016 (22–3–18 in D)

1260 Grandsire Triples

1 Barbara J Woplin, 2 Jonathan Nash, 3 Robert W Jones,
4 Derek A Hammond, 5 Simon Sweeney, 6 Pat J S Albon,
7 Alexander J Nash (C), 8 James Saunders
First Triples: 2, First Grandsire Triples as Conductor: 7
Rung for Bedford District Quarter Peal Week.

Oakley, Bedfordshire
Saturday, 12 March 2016

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1 David Sellars, 2 Tom Abbott, 3 Robert W Jones,
4 Derek A Hammond, 5 Martin Heaslip (C), 6 Bill Sellars
First Quarter (1) and (2). Rung for Beds QP week.

Bromham, Bedfordshire, St Owen
Sunday, 13 March 2016 (22–3–18 in D)

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1 E A Boyle, 2 D A Hammond, 3 R Gornall,
4 S R Hare, 5 M A Heaslip (C), 6 R W Jones
Before Morning Service, in Bedford District QP Week.

Report of Annual Bedford District Meeting on 16 January 2016

District Chairman Alex Nash opened the meeting at Biddenham by thanking the Biddenham catering team for the fine tea as well as those who had provided cakes and other items. He went on to thank Revd Stephen Huckle for conducting the Service and the use of the Church facilities, and Derek Hammond for playing the organ.

No deceased members were reported for this quarter.

The Minutes of the 2015 Annual District Meeting at Cardington were read, accepted and signed.



Presentation of C Edward Jeffries Memorial Trophy: the Committee had decided that Melissa Nash had progressed well during the last year, ringing her first peal, several quarter peals including one of Grandsire Caters, and was now exploring cinques and maximus. Alex proudly presented her with the silver plate.

The District Report read by Alex Nash mentioned that in 2015 five members had succeeded in ringing their first peal: Melissa Nash, Jonathan Nash, Ian Townsend, George Saunders and Lisa Adams. The BRF report by Andrew Dennison and the Membership

report by Jenny Thompson were also presented and accepted. The programme up to May 2017 was circulated and approved.

The election of District Officers was as follows:

Chairman: Alex Nash;

Secretary: Bob Jones;

Treasurer: Jenny Thompson;

BRF Treasurer:

Andrew Dennison thanked Richard Hillson for examining the accounts, but had last year stated this was to be his last as Treasurer, and he wished to resign. No nominations were forthcoming. Eventually it was proposed that the Committee be empowered to co-opt a suitable member as BRF Treasurer as soon as possible, providing Andrew would act in a caretaker role in the interim.

R J Sharp Bell Fund Rep and Central Bell Fund District Rep:

Andrew had also held these posts. As no nominations were received, Alex proposed that the Committee would select someone to attend in the event that a meeting was called for either of these funds. This was approved.

Ringling Master: James Saunders;

BRF Independent Examiner: Richard Hillson;

District Accts Independent Examiner: Tim Blunt;

Four Committee Members:

Adrienne Sharp and Jim Framp wished to stand down. Alex thanked them for the contribution they had made over many years.

The new committee was elected as:

Ann Desics, Barbara Woplin, Anna Townsend, Sarah Ward;

Striking Contest Organiser: Anna Townsend and Sarah Ward;

District Outing Organiser: Adrienne Sharp;

Two Association Committee Reps to be appointed by the Committee.

Association President Sue Silver, Secretary Terry Brown and Treasurer Barbara Fraser were welcomed by Alex and gave updates on various Association matters including the Association striking contests, meetings of the General Committee, the 2015 Annual Report and the website. The young ringers' practices, Gift Aid on subscriptions which can be paid by standing order, and the Ringing World Survey were mentioned. The Biggleswade project is going ahead, with the casting of two new trebles, and the bells are expected to be ringing again sometime in April.

Under Any Other Business, Stephen Stanford said it was now 10 years since Eddie Jeffries had died, and a peal board for the peal rung to commemorate his ringing achievements was finally being organised. Any donations towards the cost would be gratefully received.

Tailenders' Programme for 2nd Quarter of 2016

Tuesday 12 April

Barton-le-Clay

11.00 am – 12 noon, The Church of St Nicholas
8 bells, 16-1-14 cwt in F

Lunch at The Cross Keys, Pulloxhill

Arranged by Dorothy Kirby
Ringing Master: Martin Barratt

Tuesday 10 May

Tempsford

11.00 am – 12 noon, The Church of St Peter
6 bells, 9-1-0 in *Ab*

Lunch at The Wheatsheaf, Tempsford

Arranged by Humphrey Chetwynd-Talbot
Ringing Master: Barbara Woplin

Tuesday 14 June

Old Warden

11.00 am – 12 noon, The Church of St Leonard
6 bells, 9-0-22 in G

Lunch at The Crown, Northill

Arranged by Felicity Evans
Ringing Master: Richard Entwistle

If you have previously indicated that you will attend a monthly meeting and find that you are unable to do so, please let the organiser know.

Tailenders' Report 2016



Our February meeting was at **St Andrew's, Bedford**. Due to a variety of circumstances we only had 13 ringers so everyone was able to ring several times. We started by ringing up the back six fairly competently. The lighter bells were then rung up separately. Because they are such a light eight, several ringers preferred to only ring the heavier bells.

We had two sets of call changes on the eight but the striking was not the best. We also rang Grandsire doubles and Plain Bob doubles on the back six and Grandsire triples and Plain Bob major but again there was no really good striking although there were few trips. In each case, the ringing improved as we went along. If we had spent all day there we might have managed some good ringing. The ringing down on all eight was reasonable.

Lunch was at The Pheasant, further along Kimbolton Road. We all ordered from the seniors' menu which was very good value at £6.95 for two courses and the portions were ample. The food was tasty and everyone appeared to enjoy their lunch.

Many thanks go to Ann Boyle for organising everything under difficult circumstances.



Our March meeting was on a chilly, wet, grey day. Luckily **Oakley** church was being heated for a coffee morning so we were able to share the benefit. The non-ringers were also able to support the bring-and-buy and raffle that were taking place in the main body of the church.

The six bells go easily and there was some well struck ringing. We rang two touches each of Grandsire and Plain Bob doubles, a plain course of St Martin's doubles and one of Cambridge minor and we finished with a touch of Stedman doubles and down.

Lunch was at The Prince of Wales in Bromham. The food there is good, the welcome warm and at two main meals for £10.50 there were no complaints about value for money.

Many thanks to Barbara Woplin for organising this month's programme so well.

From the Editor

If in any article the only contact details are a website or email address, and you do not have internet access, then in case of difficulty making contact please ask the Editor to make an initial contact on your behalf.

Views expressed in an article are those of its author. Articles may be edited.

Thanks go to the 'regular' contributors, to Alex Nash for his Chairman's report, and to Bob Jones for his continued help with various items.

The next Headstock will be distributed at the Quarterly District Meeting taking place on 2 July 2016 at Harrold.

Please send your articles, announcements etc by 23 June 2016. Your input is what makes Headstock what it is.

Maureen Hall

Email: maureensgpost@gmail.com

Headstock

Headstock is issued quarterly and is available to all towers in the Bedford District at a cost of £1 per calendar year as a contribution towards printing costs, payable in January each year. The money is not being collected at present but contributions may be given to the District Bell Restoration Fund. Headstock is also available on the website of the Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers www.bacr.co.uk but the web version has all personal contact details as well as surnames of young ringers removed. If your tower does not currently receive Headstock then please contact the Editor at the address above.

