

Letters

Hereford ringing course - oversubscription

Readers will find a report of this year's Course on other pages in this issue: over 100 students attended.

However, we were very disappointed last February when places were being allocated, that we were unable to accept some 60 applicants for the Course, and we realise just how disappointing it must be for those who had hoped to come.

There are of course various restrictions which have to be applied to the total number of students and to the number of different groups - availability of reasonably distanced towers, number of helpers (we work on a one-to-one student to helper ratio), number of beds, space in the dining hall are some of them. An imbalance in these numbers would be unfair to students, and in addition a Course can get too big and unmanageable.

Over the last few years the number of applicants we have been unable to accept has been growing. We hate having to say no place is available, but there is clearly a demand for residential (chiefly) two to three day Courses, which is not satisfied by the half dozen or so which are being run at the moment. We could suggest that Guilds and Associations run their own, as at least two do now, or that they run more one day courses. The longer two or three day course, which is nationally, internationally oriented, seems to be specially attractive however, particularly at Easter time.

We would welcome suggestions through these columns or directly to one of us, which might help solve this growing problem in the exercise.

8 Salters Acres,
Winchester, Hants.

ROBERT CATER

6 Bar Lane,
Wakefield, Yorks.

WILFRID F. MORETON

Suit-able dress

I read with interest K. R. Holtom's letter about the dress of the Croydon Ringers in the old photograph and, like him, regret the sartorial inelegance of today. However, as Burns said, "... the rank is but the guinea stamp".

A year or so ago a young ringing friend, sitting opposite me in a pub suddenly said, "Bill, I've known you a long time and have never seen you dressed in anything but a suit. Do you ever wear anything else?"

"Of course."

"What?"

"Pyjamas."

Newport.

WM. THOMPSETT

Method named

On St. George's Day, at St. George, Didbrook, Gloucestershire, a quarter peal was rung of CC 122q. If not yet named we would like to call it St. George Doubles.

Gloucester Cathedral

ANDREW WOOD

Beckenham damage

Angela Clark writes (RW p. 433 May 6) about wartime damage. I had intended to send a warm note of appreciation of Dudley Buxton's article on Croydon and Beckenham a few weeks ago but alas did not get round to it. Lovely to hear of him after all these years. Does he remember his first peal of Cambridge at St. George-in-the-Borough 24/2/38 and Double Norwich St. Mary Staines 11/3/38?

One very minor point about Croydon - Sunday morning broadcasts of service and bells was monthly not weekly. Later when Bishop Woods, a quite outstanding preacher, was translated to Lichfield, Croydon alternated with Lichfield. F. A. Iremonger, Director of Religious Broadcasting at the BBC, became Dean of Lichfield. Jobs for the boys no doubt and a jolly good thing too! Dean Iremonger was still at Lichfield when the superb new ten were installed. I was present at the dedication, as I had been at the dedication at Croydon. I was disappointed not to take part in the 50th anniversary celebrations at Croydon or the 40th at Lichfield - c'est la vie!

Back to Beckenham. Dudley is mistaken. The new trebles in 1934 were given by the Oddfellows of which Bill Rawlings was secretary. They were not his personal gift.

Sadly Bill fell out with the Rector, Canon Francis Boyd, and stopped ringing at Beckenham himself, although his wife and daughter continued to do so.

Thus it fell to me to keep the flag flying after the ban on ringing was lifted in 1943. This was only possible on spasmodic visits home to London. We rang a peal of Cambridge Royal on June 3rd 1944 and a few days afterwards the church was completely devastated by a flying bomb with only the walls standing.

Towards the end of the renovation and rebuilding of the church Canon Boyd asked me what needed doing to the bells. I have sheaves of correspondence between the Rector and myself, the Rector and Gillett & Johnston and myself and Gillett & Johnston. Anyway, between us all we got the bells re-hung and the louvres boarded up. Re-reading the letters I was amused that I had evidently written to the Rector asking for a district meeting and had given him instructions about the service. In his reply he says yes to all the requests and notes "not a word about bells . . ."

I am amazed that Angela's friends should have been unaware of the vast damage to St. George's. As she lives at Tonbridge she can certainly have sight of the correspondence to which I have referred. The present ringers at Beckenham might also like to see it sometime.

P. A. CORBY

Puckeden,
Chiddingstone Hoath,
Edenbridge, Kent

P.S. J. A. Trollope, Editor of *the Ringing World*, was in the peal of Cambridge Royal to which I refer.

P.P.S. May 23 will be 50th anniversary of a peal of Bob Minor with four "firsts" at Penge. I could do a yarn about St. John's Penge but it is difficult to know whether too much about an individual church and ringers is of general interest to other readers of the R.W. I know how irritated I am about 'in' jokes!

Another Servers' Peal

As organiser of the first and as yet the only peal rung by a band of altar servers I wish John Hawes success in raising a band of servers capable of ringing a peal of Surprise Royal (letter p. 345 April 8).

Changes in the pattern of worship over the past fifty years with the Parish Communion Service largely superseding choral matins have resulted in many more churches involving servers and of course female servers were undreamed of in 1932 when the first servers' peal was rung.

I had the utmost difficulty in raising a band for Grandsire Triples and members came from as far afield as Coventry and Long Eaton and represented eight dioceses and with an unsuccessful attempt earlier in the year had travelled an estimated 2300 miles. As no two of us were members of any one Association it seemed appropriate to credit the peal to the Servers' Guild, the Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary.

Digressing from the subject it is just sixty years this month since I moved to Croydon hopefully to make my fortune in the bell-founding industry so the photograph of the Croydon Parish Church Ringers on p. 294 (March 25) was of particular interest to me. I feel sure I will not have been the only one to remark how smart the band look but it came as something of a shock to learn that not a single one, even those of my age group who rang at St. John's in 1928 is still living. I remember Roydon Davies coming to Croydon about a year later.

Although I was not a member of the Parish Church band - for some reason employees and staff of Gillett & Johnston gravitated to St. Peter's, South Croydon - Don Cooper forewent his Tuesday practice on two occasions to sponsor me a member of the Society, at a College Youths' practice at St. Paul's Cathedral. Beyond that I rang one of the middle bells to Cinques and that having Don at my elbow inspired confidence, I can recall little else of the occasions except that I have always considered that to be allowed to ring at St. Paul's all those years ago to be the acme of my ringing career.

RON DOVE

CP is significant

John Mayne makes some interesting points concerning spheroidal graphite cast iron clappers (page 410). May I contribute a few random observations.

The method given for locating the centre of percussion (CP) of a clapper involves timing the swings of the clapper and performing a calculation. There is another way which works well in practice and which does not involve any measurement or calculation. The position of the C.P. of a compound pendulum is based on the length of a simple pendulum with the same period. The simple pendulum has the mythical point mass and weightless string often quoted by mathematicians. A real life close approximation can be made with a lead ball about half an inch diameter and a length of sewing cotton. If this is held alongside the clapper suspended from a point level with the centre of the clapper pin and its length adjusted so that