



Sat 7 Oct 17 – Guild 8-Bell Inter Branch Striking Contest

The Guild's annual eight-bell inter branch striking contest for the Denis Frith Shield was held on Saturday 7 Oct 17. This year the event was hosted by the Northern Branch and held at St Thomas' Church, Market Rasen. The bells are a light and fairly easy-going ring but can be a little tricky to place well and are best rung fast.

The Eastern Branch had entered a team together with four of the other five branches, the Northern Branch entering a second team comprising mainly Grimsby Minster ringers. So, six teams; and with extras, about 60 people in all began arriving at the church from about 4.30 pm. The church hall was in the grounds next to the lynch gate and most people met here before the start of the contest.

The ringing order had been decided beforehand and the event kicked off with Northern ringing first shortly after 5 pm. They were followed by Central, Eastern and Northern [2]. West Lindsey were not ready to ring fifth because of a missing ringer so, without penalty they were allowed to ring last, Southern taking their place.

Tea, a superb array of savouries, sandwiches, cream cakes and exotic fruits was taken throughout the ringing. When the last team finished shortly after 7pm those gathered were welcomed and thanked by Helen Brotherton the Guild Hon Sec, standing in for the Master, junketing [working ?] in the US of A! Helen also thanked the incumbent for the use of the bells and church hall and the local ringers and helpers for providing the tea. The judges arrived after their efforts but said that they would "collect their thoughts" in the pub for a short while before addressing the company. There was a bit of a hiatus for twenty minutes or so until their return.

Helen introduced the judges, David Wilson and Kate Lacey from the Nottingham area. Firstly David commented how pleased he and Kate were to be judges and that six teams indicated a healthy state of affairs for the Guild. He then explained the marking system used – basically a maximum of one fault per row – before passing comments on the performances of the six teams. He was positive and encouraging but thought that faster teams had produced the better ringing; team six over-ran their practice piece but were not penalized; method mistakes, scoring a whole fault each were few. Kate then delivered the faults scored by the teams and these are shown below with other details:

Team	Faults	Performance	Position
1 Northern	81	62.5%	Fifth
2 Central	34	84.8%	Third
3 Eastern	32	85.7%	Second
4 Northern [2]	126	45.8%	Sixth
5 Southern	34 ½	84.6%	Fourth
6 West Lindsey	19	91.5%	First

David commented that teams six and three both rang at a peal speed of 2hr 47min.

So, a deserved and convincing win for West Lindsey; Janet Clarke accepted the trophy on behalf of the band. Not a bad result for us too but Central and Southern were very close behind. As a consolation, we scored fewest method mistakes! The judges were thanked for attending the event and presented with gifts for their efforts and the meeting closed.

Bill Brotherton