

Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

Northern Branch

Newsletter – April 2011

Welcome to the April edition of the Northern Branch newsletter. The deadline for the next newsletter is July 16th so if you do anything between now and then and want it reported, please let Joy or Lorraine know. Also please let us know of anything being planned for the rest of the year.

Branch Officers

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GUILD AGM Saturday 30th April 2011, Lincoln

9:30am Ringing at Cathedral for communion service
10:00 am Holy Communion in the Ringers' Chapel at Lincoln Cathedral
11:00 am Annual Meeting followed by lunch at Bailgate Methodist Church, Lincoln
(Please send names for Lunch to Dot Mason 01522 796079 before 26th April)
2:00pm Ringing at Bardney (6)
3:00pm Ringing at Washingborough (8), tea and grand draw
4:30-5:30pm Evensong ringing at Cathedral
6:30-7:30pm Further ringing at Cathedral

Please try to go along to show your support. Apologies for absence will not be accepted from the floor of the meeting – they must be passed on to the Guild secretary Les Townsend in writing before the start of the meeting. Please look in the Ringing World / Guild Website for finalised details and we'll do our best to send them out on email.

On Saturday 8th January we had a very enjoyable social evening at Middle Rasen, There was ringing followed by a service, then we wandered across to the hall for a lovely faith supper and fun and games arranged by Andy and Jenny Bennett of Barton. Ringers from Middle Rasen, Market Rasen, Barton and Grimsby mainly supported this, and it was a night enjoyed by all with another similar event hoping to be arranged some time in the future. Thanks to all who arranged it and helped out.

On Saturday 22nd January we had our AGM at Tealby Village Hall, which was well attended and represented the branch towers well. This followed the usual procedure of ringing (up to Cambridge Surprise Minor), followed by the service, then across to the hall for the buffet lunch, for which Joy had done a splendid job in arranging and thanks to her and all who

helped on the day. The business meeting followed this. The branch officers remained the same, with the addition of Linda Patrick as a new committee member. First peal certificates were presented to George Thompson and Daniel Young, and first quarter peal certificates were presented to Alice and John McNeil, Kim Holland and Amy Dixon (none of whom were actually present!), and the Alan Hewitt Shield was awarded to Market Rasen, who last won it at the 2001 AGM. Harry Minns wrote a short piece as a tribute to Ted and Nan Colley (see later). There was a request to have a "lasting memorial" for them, and the idea of a peal board for the peal of Yorkshire Surprise Major, which was rung after the memorial service on 4th September last year, went down well with everybody. The committee is looking into it. Also there was a new award for the tower with the best attendance at branch events, and Barton won this. Well done to them. Something for everybody else to strive for!

At the AGM the Ringing Master mentioned in his report that he could not enter a team for last year's Guild 8-bell striking competition as there were not enough surprise major ringers in the branch. He intended to tackle this problem by holding special monthly practices devoted to surprise major, with a view to ringing the standard eight (Cambridge, Lincolnshire, Yorkshire, Rutland, Superlative, Pudsey, Bristol and London) and possibly more. There has already been some interest for this but more is still needed. Please let him know if you are interested so he can discuss it in more detail with you.

On Monday 24th January our Ringing Master was involved in a peal of Norman Smith's 5152 20-spliced Surprise Major at Welbourn, details of which are shown below. This was a great achievement demonstrating an amazing test of memory. Well done to him and the rest of the band. By the way the ringer of the 4th (and conductor) is not Elaine's husband!

WELBOURN, St. Chad (11-0-25)

Monday 24th January 2011 in 2h46m

5152 Spliced Surprise Major

(20m: 448 Cambridge, Lincolnshire, Rutland. 224 Ashted, Bristol, Cassiobury, Cornwall, Cray, Double Dublin, Glasgow, Ipswich, Lindum, London, Pudsey, Superlative, Tavistock, Uxbridge, Wembley, Whalley, Yorkshire. 153 com, atw)

Comp: N. Smith

1 Graham J N Colborne

2 Christopher C P Woodcock

3 Ruth Curtis

4 Christopher P Turner (C)

5 Matthew B Jeffery

6 Martin F Mitchell

7 Michael Maughan

8 Paul F Curtis

Most spliced surprise major: 2, 5

Most spliced surprise major all the work: 6 and as conductor

February Guild Committee meeting report

Christmas cards need to be ready for September to allow time for distribution. For the guild insurance, we are the same broker, but we have changed insurer this year which although the public liability has gone up, the overall insurance is now a little lower. Members are still insured until they are 85. The guild are looking at having a page in the guild report to record significant events of the year such as striking competition winners, as it is felt that the report is a record, yet some events are not always well recorded. It will be recommended that there will be no change in subs and peal fees for 2012, but

it will be recommended that the quotas do change. General fund from 40% to 45%, BRF from 45% to 40% and Branch quota remaining at 15%. The AGM will follow the usual format, with the service at 9:30 am. In the afternoon Washingborough will be the tower for tea and the other tower will be Bardney, see above for details. Sue Faulk as part of the central council training team and a Pip Penny course tutor is keen to run a course on 9th April at Wragby for on trainee teacher from each branch. Each Training will need a mentor and on completion of the course both tutor and trainee will receive an teaching accreditation.

February branch committee meeting

The committee allocated the following posts:

Guild fund raising committee representative: Dorothy Robinson

Bell restoration fund: Roger Lord, Dorothy Robinson and we will ask Linda Patrick.

Simulator committee: Joy Lord

Northern Branch Guild web committee: Lorraine Jeffery.

We discussed Ted and Nan's peal board and agreed that the Caistor incumbent and ringers should have the final say for the peal board size. As the wood and labor for the peal board will be donated, the branch will be paying for any additional materials and the writing. The estimated cost of this is £60.

To give Simon a well-earned break Matt would like to arrange a tour to the Huddersfield area. Arrangements are now under way and it is hoped to visit the towers of Marsden (10), Meltham (6), Armitage Bridge (6), Almondbury (8) and Kirkheaton (8). This would be followed by tea at a Brewers Fayre. At the AGM the date of 30th July, was not very popular, so the committee have decided to bring the date forward to Saturday 23rd July.

Central branch had asked Lorraine about possibility of organizing a joint event at Dorothy's Barn, with a raffle for the BRF possible food and may be a "character" theme. This could be from a film or TV programme, or a pop star or whatever people can think of. There will also be music on Dorothy's organs/pianos played by our talented musical members. This will be on Saturday 11th June at 6-10pm. It promises to be a brilliant night.

Claxby practice report :

On Saturday 19th March there were insufficient members to do anything constructive. There were nine people there who did their best. Andrew Lord acted as Ringing Master.

Ringing World Centenary- London

Written by George Thompson & Daniel Young



We think it's safe to say, that it was an early start for everyone- we got up at 5:30 in the morning, some of us even earlier!!

Initially we weren't nervous, but when we arrived at Newark Northgate, the looming competition started to make even the calmest of us slightly nervous. After a trouble free run on the train (for a change!), we arrived in London Kings Cross at around 10am and we were all ready to hotfoot it to our first stop of the day, the superb Whitechapel Bell Foundry. Luckily for us, being in the competition allowed us to skip the seemingly endless queue and gain entrance to the bell foundry early which was truly a sight to behold; the Foundry was an awe inspiring place, with full sized church bells dotted around the place, large bell moulds packed into corners and the many various tools used in the casting process scattered around. Unfortunately, we could not stay too long as we had a mad dash ahead of us so we could get to St. Saviour's church in Pimlico on time.

After a short bus journey to Aldgate underground we took a packed tube train to Victoria and another packed tube train (talk about sardines in a can) to Pimlico Station. On arrival at Pimlico everyone was very nervous even those who weren't ringing in the competition! After a relaxing walk to the Church, the sound of the other teams ringing significantly boosted our confidence. Rounding the corner on the approach to the church we were greeted by a very welcoming sight indeed; 5 yellow shirts! We joined our team, The Lincolnshire Poachers, which the 5 yellow shirts belonged to. They were all specially made for each individual, as we all had the logo on the front and we each had a number representing our bell on the back. After a brief handshake and a friendly "Hello!" the Lincolnshire Poachers were ready to roll. We all found it rather nice that our other Lincolnshire team (Market Deep-Grantham) had been selected to ring before us. Their ringing was super, and inspired our confidence further, but when they stood their bells at the end of their test piece, that newly gained confidence just seemed to flood away. We were led into the base of the tower, where our steward welcomed us and promptly led us up to the ringing chamber. This was it...Crunch Time!!

We all grabbed our ropes and began our practice piece. We practiced 4 Plain Hunts to which we set the speed of the bells and got used to the feel of them. Once we had stopped, a few rope adjustments were made to the 6th bell and after a brief discussion on how to improve was made, our time had come.

To show the judges we were ready, the trebles (1 and 2) had to ring on their own bell twice. We had to get this right, since at the last practice, the Second bell forgot to follow!! But they got it right this time. All of us were ready, nervous, but ready. We set a nice speed in rounds and when everyone was ready, the conductor started the method. Overall, the ringing was excellent; there were few clashes, but no **major** mistakes. There was one heart stopping moment however, when the 3rd bell seemed slightly unsure of itself, but this was soon overcome, and didn't set us back much. After what seemed like an eternity, the bells were brought to a stand. Everyone one of us had a smile on our face and we all heartily congratulated one another. It was over! We raced out of the tower and into the cool London air, where other teams and supporters who joined from Lincolnshire cheered us on! According to most people, our ringing had sounded lovely, which really did make us feel proud.

Lunch and a long walk around London dominated much of the afternoon. At one point we even came across the TUC rallies, first at Pall Mall and then again at Whitehall. Eventually, we were back at Westminster, and what a relief that was! To be honest, the adults in our group coped better with the walk than us young ones did!

We were admitted to the Methodist Central Hall (the place that the Ringing World Grand Reception was to be held in) at about 4pm. We were one of the first ones in, since the reception wasn't for another hour. After meeting up with our fellow Lincolnshire Poachers and everyone else that had accompanied us, the hour was up, and we were about to find out the results of the striking contest.

The suspense was awful. Listening to the judges give their views on each team was the most nerve wrecking thing we've ever been through. When they finally reached our team, the heartbeat of every Lincolnshire ringer seemed to have stopped, but thankfully we got very good feedback and the last 3 words for our team was "Definitely in Contention." We were ecstatic!

A historical first touch on 24 handbells then followed, separating the judges verdicts from the actual results. Once that was over however, this was it; we were about to find out how we did. They gave the scores like School grades, which was somewhat confusing. No team was given an F, E or D though! They started from the bottom, giving out the C's first, reading out the teams in the order of which they rang. Our team was not called out. They then read out the B's in the same way. Once again, our team was not called out. Then came the A's. This time our team was called out; we had come **Joint 4th** out of 12 teams. Our reward was 8 gleaming silver Centenary medals, one for each of us. All of our supporters and ourselves were proud.

After the reception had come to a close, we had our tea in a local McDonald's, before finding out that our train had been brought forward, and was leaving in 10 minutes! Luckily we were only a few yards away from Kings Cross. One slow, crowded train journey later, we were back at our starting point; Newark Northgate. Our train pulled away towards the north, and that was it, our day was over.

We will never forget this experience, and would like to thank everyone who made it possible, without them, this could never have happened.



All the young ringers, The Lincolnshire Poachers in yellow and the MDG band from South Lincolnshire in blue.



Front Row- Left to right sitting in order of bells rung: Bridget Jones-Crabtree (Washingborough), George Thompson (Barton on Humber), Daniel Young (Barton on Humber), Philip Scarf (Scotter) Back Row - Daniel Meyer (Alford), Rae Todd (Messingham), Ben Meyer (Alford), Joe Waters (Langton-by-Spilsby).

Finally, a word from Joy. We were so proud of them all and were all nervous wrecks listening them ring! The other highlight of the day for Roger, Andrew and myself was the ringer's service in Westminster Abbey. About 2,000 of us; and ringers can definitely sing! Especially the Ringers Hymn! They raised the roof. The choir and organist were fantastic and the Dean of Westminster was brilliant. He even made the usual remark that he had never seen so many ringers stay for the service. It is something that we will never have the chance to do again in our lifetime. I am sure we shall think about being there when we are watching the Royal Wedding. Even though we never got a chance to ring we all had a brilliant day.

Results table from the Ringing World

Call Changes Category:

Place	Team	Grade (%)
1st	Team 4: Hertfordshire	A* (78%)
2nd	Team 12: Kids.Ring.Out	A* (76%)
3rd	Team 1: Sussex Young Ringers	A
4th	Team 5: Essex S.E. District	B
5th=	Team 2: Bedfordshire	C
	Team 6: Derby D.A.	C
	Team 7: Market Deep-Grantham	C
	Team 10: Devon Young Ringers	C
	Team 11: Leicester Rising Ringers	C

Method Category:

Place	Team	Grade (%)
1st	Team 3: Oxford D.G.	A (71%)
2nd	Team 8: Lincolnshire Poachers	A
3rd	Team 9: Cheshire Cats	B

Treasure Hunt etc. At Barton on 2/4/11

The Treasure hunt started just after 2-0 pm from the Church Hall with strict instructions from Geoff Bryant, who had organised it, to be back at 3-0 pm to hand their sheets in. This had teams of two / three scurrying round the Church and the neighbouring streets identifying various features / objects from the clues on their sheets, some easy some not; even for those who live locally!!! Then there was ringing for those who wanted to and also in the hall was a "Guess the Lincolnshire Church's" from photos and clues which Joy had spent considerable time on; it was quite surprising how many you don't recognise.

Then there was a lovely buffet tea, which Joy had organised, helped by several ladies from the Barton Tower and this was followed by a quiz on "county towns" run by Andy Bennett.

There was also a raffle and "guess the rabbit's name" to win a large Easter egg & rabbit in a basket. These were running all afternoon and looked after by Roe Bryant.

The event was considered a huge success and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. We made a much-needed total of £163.30 for the Northern Branch BRF and we must thank everyone who contributed to the success in any way. There were 37 people who came, of which a large contingent was from the West Lindsey Branch, making up for the shortfall from the Northern Branch.

Obituaries

Finally we will finish with the unedited obituaries for Ted and Nan Colley, Jack Parker and Henry Conyers.

EDWARD W. COLLEY, late of Caistor, Lincolnshire died at Greenacres nursing home on Sunday 4th July 2010, where he was residing whilst Nan, his wife was recuperating in Grimsby Hospital following major surgery.

He was born on the 12th July 1931 and spent his youth on a dairy smallholding in Worthen, Shropshire from which a lifelong love of the countryside and rural pursuits particularly in ornithology and apiary ensued.

Learning to ring at Worthen with a group of like-minded teenagers including his cousins Leonard and John, he rang his first peal on the 4th of September 1948 at Cound, a peal of Grandsire Doubles conducted by Leslie Evans.

Serving a full apprenticeship in Carpentry and Joinery with Shrewsbury Builders whilst attending Shrewsbury Technical College provided training that would benefit and influence his activities and decisions in later life.

As was customary for the period, Ted served two years in the Army as a National Serviceman. Not a particularly happy period for him, the discipline and routine of the army not sitting well with an independent and sometimes rebellious nature. He did however excel as a rifleman and it did allow his ringing to progress with ringing in and around Worcester.

After his National Service, he was admitted into the Ancient Society of College Youths in 1953, and met his future wife Nancie Swann whilst ringing in and around Reading, ringing, with Nan, his first Peal of Surprise Major, Cambridge, at Aldermaston on the 6th March 1954.

Married on the 14th August 1954 at St Giles Lincoln, they set up home in a caravan at Market Drayton, both having teaching positions at Market Drayton Grammar and subsequently at Brooklyn Tech.

Living near to Birmingham with an ambitious and progressive ringing community allowed peal ringing in particular to progress both in complexity and in quantity, peal being rung almost weekly from 1962 to 1967 despite the arrival of two sons, John and Stephen.

The opportunity arose to take up the post of Head of Construction at Eastleigh Technical College and the family moved to in Hampshire, adopting Bishops Waltham as their home tower and church. There followed a period where his skill as a teacher allowed many young ringers to progress, many, far exceeding the skills of the teacher.

A churchman with strong beliefs but a reticence to outward displays, he became a chorister and one of the Churchwardens at Bishops Waltham where he was involved with the project to recast the 3rd bell and the cracked 5th bell, raising funds by chiming only the cracked bell for Sunday service until sufficient funds were available for the work to be completed by the Whitechapel Bell foundry. This was the start of an interest in, and involvement with, bell restoration projects.

The restricted opportunities in secondary education available for his sons in Hampshire at the time forced a move in 1976 to Lincolnshire where the Grammar school system was still in place. Ringing in North Lincolnshire at that time was at somewhat of a low ebb, proficient bands had aged and little recruitment and teaching had been done.

Taking the initiative in teaching new ringers at Caistor and establishing new bands at Bigby, Elsham and Grasby, he served as ringing master for the Northern Branch of the Lincoln Guild for many years, conducting meetings with brevity and an aversion to straying from the

agenda (It would delay tea!). Closely involved in the parish community, Ted served as a parish councillor for several years and was a governor of Grasby primary school overseeing the appointment of staff and the construction of new classrooms. It is part of his legacy that that small school has thrived and prospered in times of declining roles in rural schools.

Disillusionment with the trends in further education and, in his opinion, the denial of adequate training to apprentices from the short courses offered at the time lead to early retirement in 1986. Setting up his own joinery business specializing in bell wheels and items of church furniture, he made the majority of the bell wheels supplied by Eayre & Smith Ltd between the years 1986 and 2006 and several churches have peal boards and rope spiders fashioned in his workshop. His last wheels were made for the four treble bells to augment Barrow upon Humber to twelve.

Leading from experiences gained at Bishops Waltham, Ted was instrumental in the rehangng the six bells and subsequent augmentation to eight at Caistor, the new steel bell frame being built in his workshop, and the rehangng and augmentation to six at Grasby. A difficult four that had not been regularly rung before his arrival were rehung on new fittings, augmented first to five and then to six using second hand bells and an additional frame above the existing timber bell frame.

A serious stroke in 2004 curtailed his ringing for a while but, typically, he rallied and learnt to ring again and rang his last peal for the Barrow and District Society at Caistor in December 2004. Further heart problems and strokes resulted in him not being physically able to ring peals. He remained, however tower captain at Caistor, ringing for service and at practice for as long as he was able.

In all Ted rang 1161 peals ranging from Doubles to Surprise Maximus and would ring with anyone and arranged a great many ringers first peals and quarters. Peal ringing, however, was but part of his ringing activities. Over the years he taught and inspired many ringers, adapting his teaching style to match the personality and temperament of his pupil, at times forceful and abrupt, at others tactful and patient, always however with a somewhat esoteric sense of humour.

The day prior to his death, he attended the Northern Branch meeting at Legbourne and, although unable to ring, took great delight in meeting many friends.

He was buried, according to his wishes, at Grasby cemetery surrounded by the countryside he loved.

He will be missed by many.

NANCIE E. COLLEY, widow of Ted Colley of Caistor, died peacefully in Lincoln County Hospital. She was 82 years old, and survived her husband by less than six weeks.

She was born in Scunthorpe on 23rd June 1928, the eldest of three sisters, and the family then lived in the parish of St Giles, Lincoln. She attended Manchester University to read Maths and then went on to Cambridge to do her teacher training at a time when it was not common for girls to attend University and graduate. Nan became a teacher and taught at various schools about the country. It was while teaching in Boston that Nan learned to ring, and it was through bell ringing that she met Ted and when they were married fifty four years ago they lived at Reading in a caravan.

Nan was extremely well versed in her strong Christian faith and was very much part of the church. As well as being an active member of Grasby and Caistor ringing teams until only a few weeks before she died, she had been Church Warden at Grasby, a member of Caistor PCC, the Deanery Synod and Deanery Planning group. She regularly reminded them that if we don't ground our church life in prayer we are wasting our time'. As well as in her faith she was very knowledgeable about a whole range of things. She was a skilled gardener, cook and needleworker, and along with Ted she was no mean carpenter and joiner either, working with him in the production of bell wheels and stays in the workshop at Caistor. She was also associated with the Girl Guide movement all her life, finally serving as the local District Commissioner.

Her ringing career was one of quiet service rather than one of prominence. She was a standard method ringer who did not aspire to advanced Surprise or ringing on higher numbers. Nan always believed that the priority was having the bells rung on Sundays. Service to her family and to others was Nan's watchword. She was an active member of the Guild and during her thirty five years in Lincolnshire served in all kinds of Branch posts, particularly as Branch Treasurer, where her mathematical skills stood her in good stead - using them also to good use as Church Treasurer and managing the Guides accounts. She did not ring many peals, but she liked quarter peal ringing, mostly to help learners at all levels, or for very special occasions. She was tireless in helping others, and was a strong supporter of the monthly Lincolnshire lady's group, where new ringers are encouraged.

Nan never got irate about anything. She was a firm believer that if you don't have anything good to say about someone, then don't say anything. On many occasions a quiet word from her would resolve a matter more quickly than any puffing about.

Many people have cause to be grateful to her, and she will be greatly missed.

May she rest in peace.

HENRY CONYERS, an Honorary Life Member of the Diocesan Guild , died on 1st. September 2010, aged 92, only a matter of weeks after attending a Northern Branch quarterly meeting at Legbourne.

Henry, fondly known as "Henry, the hearing aid" by some ringers in the Louth area in the 70's, was born in 1917, and learnt his craft at Theddlethorpe, St. Helens, before it closed, and on moving to Louth, where he ultimately became sub-postmaster at Trinity, he rang regularly at Louth and Legbourne, only giving up when he was unable to manage the long climb up to the ringing chamber at St. James'. His 50th. year of ringing at St. James' was memorably marked in September 1991 by Yorkshire Television who featured him in a "Calendar" programme recorded in the ringing chamber at St. James', Louth.

His 90th. Birthday was celebrated at St. James' with a ringing session for him to hear, followed by a small party under the tower at St. James'.

Henry will be remembered as an easy going personality with a smile on his face and devoted to St. James' and its bells, which he himself had long maintained, so much so that he left a substantial bequest which he hoped would maintain its role long after he and many of his fellow ringers themselves had fallen silent.

JOHN "JACK" PARKER of Grimsby was born in 1921 died in June 2010 aged 89 years . Jack rang the tenor to many of his peal attempts he could be relied on to set a good rhythm. Of his total of 214, peals 185 were for the LDG, he conducted 7 of them. He was very proud of his membership of the College Youths ringing 4 peals with that Society.

Lincoln Guild Clothing

You may have seen a few branch members wearing their Lincoln Guild Bellringers tops. You too can have one of your own. The range includes Polo shirts £15, Sweat shirts £16, Rugby shirts £22.50 and Hooded tops in various colours and sizes. And a small donations goes to the Guild Bell repair fund. If you are interest in finding out more/placing an order, please contact Sue Faull sue.faul@btopenworld.com

Northern Branch Programme 2011

Date	Location	Event
Sat 19 th March	Claxby (5)	3:00 - 4:00pm branch practice (faith supper - bring food)
Sat 2 nd April	Barton upon Humber	2pm Treasure Hunt Quiz, Refreshments Ringing
Sat 30 th April	Lincoln afternoon Towers - Washingborough	Guild AGM
Sat 14 th May	Walesby (8)	4pm open churches
Sun 19 th June	Walesby (8)	2pm ringing for the ramblers Trinity Sunday service.
Fri 24 th June	Tealby (6)	6:00 - 9:00 pm branch striking competition
Sat 2 nd July	Great Carlton (5)	From 3:00pm ringing and $\frac{1}{2}$ year meeting
Sat 23 rd July	Huddersfield Tour	
Sun 21 st Aug	Lincoln Cathedral (12)	meet at 2:15pm , ringing to Evensong
Saturday 10 th Sept	West Lindsey (6)	Guild 6 Bell Striking Competition
Saturday 24 th September	Barton Upon Humber (8)	3pm - 4:30pm ringing.
Sat 15 th Oct.	Market Rasen (8)	Guild 8-bell Striking Competition 5pm - 7pm ringing, tea and results
Sat 10 th Dec	Walesby (8)	6:00pm candlelit carol service at 7:30pm

2012

Sat 7 th Jan		Christmas Social
Sat 28 th Jan	Caistor TBC	Branch AGM Ringing 2-3:30pm 3:45 -4:15 service, tea 5pm business meeting.
Saturday 24 th March		3:00 - 4:00pm branch practice

1 st Wed of month	Ladies Practice	1.30 – 3.00pm. Contact Dorothy Robinson 01673 843400 for details of locations
2 nd Wed of Month	Simulator Practice at Wragby	10.30am – 12.00pm. Contact Jim Sutherland 01673 858492
Last Fri of Month	Simulator Practice at Louth	10.30am – 12.00pm by arrangement only contract Mick Day 01507 603998