

Penn Trophy G&B Striking Competition 2024

By Catherine White-Horne, Thornbury.

13th April. Unlucky for some perhaps but not for these eight ringers from around the Branch who had assembled in the sunny churchyard at All Saint's Bisley to represent Bristol Rural in the Penn Trophy G&B striking competition.



The team called to order, treble to tenor, clockwise from front right: Catherine White-Horne, Linda Pick, Elaine Scudamore, Geoff Pick, Marcus Booth, Matt Johnson, Alistair White-Horne and Russell Scudamore.

Eight teams took part from across the G&B with four branches not represented. We rang 224 changes of plain bob major for our test piece conducted by Russell Scudamore. All the while the sun was shining and, as it turns out, the judge was being offered a rock cake.

The judge in question was Robin Walker and here's how he placed the teams with their corresponding number of faults:

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| 1. Swindon | 19 |
| 2. Tewkesbury | 21 |
| 3. Stroud | 24 |
| 4. Cirencester | 25 |
| 5. Bristol Rural | 28 |
| 6. Chippenham | 32 |
| 7. Cheltenham | 43 |
| 8. Wotton-under-Edge | 59 |

Robin had encouraging words for all the teams as well as the necessary constructive criticisms. For our team he offered the following gems: "The tenor set a good rhythm. There were some quick blows at the beginning of the piece which diminished as the ringing continued and settled down well." (I managed to take notes on my very small piece of paper

with my rather blunt and chewed pencil whilst admiring the range of cakes on offer, so this is not verbatim.)

We are very pleased with our result and feel that we've earned a place amongst the ringing grown-ups within the G&B (although tie-dye and lucky garments will continue to be featured so rest assured; we're not planning to be toooooo grown-up in the foreseeable future).

With a view to improving our scores this year we organised and rang more than ten quarter peals together with our reserves during the preceding 12 months. This has enabled us to improve our striking more consistently as a band which I think has resulted in our promotion to 5th from around 8th (aka last) place in previous years.

If anyone would like to join our merry band next year as we strive to maintain and (hopefully!) improve on our performance this year, please do get in touch with Bill Liebow at secbrisrural@btinternet.com who will be glad to forward your details.

Onwards and upwards!