

Coburn Trophy 2019

This year's Coburn Trophy was held at Hemel Hempstead, at the invitation of the Western District. The contest fell on what was to turn out as the hottest day of the year so far. It also clashed with the armed forces celebration day, so all bands were advised to turn up early. Tea and cakes were provided by the local ringers.

A total of 8 teams entered the contest, including one from Young at Herts. As in previous years, the draw was held the week before, and bands advised of their ringing slot. This year's judge was Tom Lawrence, who was positioned in the shade next to the rectory.

The bands rang in the following order,

- 1 Young at Herts.
- 2 Eastern Promise
- 3 Bishops Stortford
- 4 Northern Lights
- 5 Northern Stars
- 6 St Albans
- 7 Western
- 8 Watford

The contest started slightly early, at 9.40, to accommodate ringers who needed to get away early. All the bands were on time and the changeover of each went smoothly. Once all the ringing had been completed, the bands moved over to the The Old Kings Arms, in the High St, for lunch and results.

Once the Judge had finished his deliberations, the results were announced. He started by saying he liked a nice comfortable position to judge, and good weather, both of which were met, he also liked one band to be much better than the rest, this was not the case as the top 4 teams were very close, and made judging difficult. He had however reached a decision; the resulting scores were as a percentage of good ringing, and were in reverse order as follows:

8 Y@H rang 270 call changes - This was mostly steady but there were a few clips. They changed into queens, whittingtons and back to queens. They did not manage to get fully the measure of the bells, and perhaps needed more momentum in the rounds. 56%

7 Northern Stars rang Plain bob triples - The ringing started very stately but once going there was no stopping them, possibly too quick. There were problems with leading. In general it was a good solid performance. Peal speed 2:53. 59%



6 Watford rang Plain bob triples - This band struggled at the start, they got into the rhythm but was not a solid performance. Peal speed 3.14. 62%



5 Eastern Promise rang Grandsire triples - This band set a good speed, about right for the bells. There were inconsistencies throughout and 1 trip. They had an excellent finish. Peal speed 3:10. 67%



4 Bishops Stortford rang Grandsire Triples - This band got off to a scrappy start, but after 3 leads, settled down. Ringing was generally steady but with slight hesitations. Peal speed 3:16. 71%



3 St Albans rang 243 Stedman Triples - This was excellent ringing, it started with an exotic single, very competent although there were slight inconsistencies throughout, some of the backstroke leads were slow. Peal speed 3:10. 73%



2 Northern Lights rang Stedman Triples - This was very purposeful ringing, tenor was excellent, possibly the best of the day. The leading was good although there was 1 trip, the end was splendid. Peal speed 3:05. 74%



1 Western rang Grandsire Triple - This ringing was slightly slower, but everyone was locked into the rhythm. There were some gaps and some wide leads. This band had the longest stretches of near perfect ringing. Very beautiful. Peal speed 3.13. 75%



The winning band from L to R

Susan Gambling, Nicky Smith, Deirdre Watson, Penny Watson, Ben Edwards, Brian Watson, Brian Crawley, David Gambling