

This year's Kimpton Cup was hosted by the St Albans district and held at Welwyn. Again we were blessed with a bright sunny day; this allowed the Judges to sit outside. Steve Stanford and Sarah-Louise Ward had kindly agreed to judge the contest. As with previous years, the draw was held the week before, and bands informed of their time slot. Coffee and tea were available in the church, so the bands could come along and socialise.

Unfortunately there were only 4 bands entering this year, this is the lowest entry so far for this contest. All bands elected to ring methods and successfully completed their test pieces.

First to ring were Tewin who rang Plain Bob Minor,



Julie Grimwade, David Rawlins, Kevyn Hopkins-Hall, David Hall, Mark Hopkins-Hall, Graham Lay

2nd were Little Hadham who rang Plain Bob Doubles,



Anne Sloan, Claire May, Rod Sayers, Robert Friskney, Tracey Coley, Andrew Westwood

after a short break, Apsley End rang Grandsire Doubles



Sue Gill, Geoff Fielding, Deirdre Watson, Penny Watson, Nick Gill, Brian Watson

and finally last year's winners Hemel Hempstead rang Plain Bob Minor.



Nicky Smith, Jo Ainsworth, Carolyn Crawley, Brian Crawley, Stephen Crawley, Tom Mack

This year due to some wishing to get away early, the results were read in the church straight after the contest. The judges were introduced to the assembled ringers by the President and gave their comments on the days ringing. These were as follows:

General

We enjoyed judging in the Churchyard on a warm sunny day.

All the ringing was a creditable standard and we enjoyed listening to it – a good overall effort by all bands

The bells are very audible and clear inside the tower – perhaps too much!

They ring reasonably well as a 6 although the 5th appeared slightly slower turning and that tended to result in the front and back bells separating out.

In some of the ringing there was a tendency for the smaller bells to lead a little too quickly.

We had some fun calculating the peal speeds as by judging the starting and finishing rounds bands ring different lengths so my standard formula for a 240 didn't work!

Team A

A confident piece of ringing that was an improvement over the practice.

Quite long sections of good almost faultless ringing

Where there were hesitations or errors it took several changes to recover and this is where faults tended to be picked up

There was a difficult patch towards the end of the first 120 that also attracted quite a few faults

A number of quick h/s leads, especially the smaller bells, leaving a gap in the middle of the change, but the overall compass was maintained

Overall nice piece of ringing

Team B

This was clearly a somewhat less experienced band than the first team

However the ringing improved from the practice and as the test piece progressed There were quite a few quick hand stroke leads – especially the smaller bells – and this tended to disrupt the rhythm and caused fluctuations in speed.

The final 60 or so changes were markedly better than the earlier ringing and we feel the band would have benefited from more ringing time and greater familiarity with the bells.

It seemed the band were enjoying themselves and didn't want to stop at the end as the trebles attempted to continue into more changes!

A little hesitant / nervous perhaps but with good potential and an encouraging effort.

Team C

Overall this was a nice piece of ringing.

This ringing suffered from some variations in the h/s leads – some quick and some slow.

The ringing took a couple of leads to settle, but throughout the remainder of the piece there were a number of leads with very few faults.

The tenor was consistent and this helped to maintain a good overall compass with the changes of similar length.

There was a trip 3 leads from the end that it took some time to recover from, and this resulted in quite a few of the faults.

Team D

Initially this seemed quite slow and ponderous, and it seemed the band struggled to find the right speed and rhythm.

However they used the rounds at the beginning usefully and did settle on a comfortable speed and rhythm, albeit a little slower than some other teams

There was a turning point after the 3rd lead end after which the ringing was fault free for quite long periods.

This was only interrupted and upset by a trip about 60 changes from the end, although the band recovered well

Overall it was a good piece of ringing and pleasant to listen to

Band A, 2hrs 38 mins, 71% Plain Bob Minor

Band B, 2hrs 50 mins, 56% Plain Bob Doubles

Band C, 2hrs 37 mins, 77%, Grandsire Doubles

Band D, 2hrs 46 mins, 83%, Plain Bob Minor

So Hemel Hempstead were declared the winners and presented with the Kimpton Cup

After the results, the ringers headed to the Wellington pub for a celebratory or commiserative lunch