

# Coburn Trophy 2023

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This year's Coburn trophy was held at Stevenage on Saturday 3 June, by invitation of the Northern district. This year there was a slight improvement in the number of entries, rising to 5 this year compared to 4 last year, although 2 districts could still not raise a team. From a cloudy start, it turned into a fine sunny day. Tea and cakes were available in the parish room situated in the church, provided by members of the Northern district. The draw was held the week before, to allow the bands to turn up near to their slot. The judges were Adrian Sweeting and Lucy Chandhial, who were seated in the church yard where the bells could be heard clearly.

The first band to ring were Bishops Stortford district, the band were Ro Kelsell, Tracey Coley, Andrew Westwood, Claire May, Robert Friskney, Gary Howard, Nick Hughes, Oliver Lee.



Band 2 were the Northern Larks, the band were Rosemary Pateman, Margaret Horritt, Elizabeth Cranfield, Ben Daley, Margaret Triste, Bob Weedon, Peter Cranfield, Phil Barron. Unfortunately three of the band had left before the photo was taken.



Band 3 were Eastern Promise, comprising Roger Pascoe, John Rank, Mike Franklin, Julie Grimwade, Kevyn Hopkins-Hall, Daniel Gregory, Mark Hopkins-Hall, David Hall

No photo

Band 4 were Northern Owls, with Richard Edgar, Geoff Horritt, Carole Kendall, Trevor Groom, Charlie Curtis, David Kemp, John Peverett, Owen Davis.



Fifth and final band to ring were Western District, the band were Su Gambling, Liz Middleton, Nicky Smith, Deirdre Watson, Ben Edwards, Brian Watson, Brian Crawley, David Gambling.



Lunch followed at the Bucks Head, Little Wymondley where the results were delivered. The judges thanked the association for the invite to judge. They commented that they could clearly hear the bells. They marked the rounds start and finish, but these did not affect the positions. They also noted the trebles seemed to be tricky to strike well.

Band 1 ringing PBT and a peal speed of 3.18. This never settled, there were no method mistakes but the light and heavy bells did not work well together, the heavy bells ringing quicker than the light ones.

Band 2 rang PBT at a peal speed of 3.07. The practice was unsettled and there was a speed difference between the front and rear bells, the heavy bells ringing quicker. The ringing did settle later.

Band 3 rang PBT. They had a good practice and the ringing was good until it ended after a mistake could not be corrected, and so did not finish the test piece.

Band 4 rang GT with a peal speed of 3.03. There were good roll ups and the tenor was consistent, back strokes were sometimes late and there were clips in 5/6.

Band 5 rang GT with a peal speed of 3.13. This had a slow start and faster end, there was clean ringing throughout with no faults, and became more even as it progressed.

The results in reverse order were

5<sup>th</sup> Band 3 (Eastern) did not finish

4<sup>th</sup> Band 1 Bishops Stortford with 54 faults

3<sup>rd</sup> Band 2 Northern Larks with 52 faults

2<sup>nd</sup> Band 4 Northern Owls with 27 faults

1<sup>st</sup> Band 5 Western district with 20 faults.

So Western were declared the winners and presented with the trophy.

Thank you to the judges for judging our contest, to the vicar for allowing us to hold our contest, the Stevenage ringers and the Northern district for hosting the event