

The Kimpton Cup for 2023 was hosted by Western District, and held at Apsley End. This was a late change due to unforeseen circumstances with the original proposed tower Kings Langley. It was a bright sunny day and the bands all arrived on time except the last band to ring Bishops Stortford who had one ringer caught up in traffic on the M25. Tea and coffee were provided by the locals in the church hall. The draw was held the week before, so each of the bands knew when to turn up. This year we had 5 bands representing 3 districts, still down on previous years but slightly better than last year. Four bands rang a method and one rang call changes. The Judges, Lucy and David Woodward were placed in the vestry.

First band to ring were Tewin, who elected to ring Cambridge surprise minor, this was completed without any mishaps.



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

Next band were Redbourn who rang Plain bob doubles, this again passed without incident.



Pauline Ridgewell, Rebecca Edwards, Mary Hughes, Liz Middleton, Ben Edwards, Malcolm Symon.

The third band to ring was last year's winners Hemel Hempstead, who rang Plain bob minor.



Nicky Smith, Carolyn Crawley, James Coleman, Brian Crawley, Steven Crawley, Tom Mack.

A short break for the judges was followed by band 4 Standon who rang call changes



Anne Brolly, Angela Coster, Sally Freeman, Tracy Coley, Steve Lee, Oliver Lee

The final band to ring were Bishops Stortford/Much Hadham



Anne Sloan, Tracy Coley, Jack Sambridge, Claire May, Stephen Bailey, Anne Brolly

After the contest most of the ringers moved onto the Kings Lodge for lunch. After an excellent meal, the judges were introduced to the assembled cast.

Lucy thanked the association for asking them to judge, and also to the locals particularly Susan who kept them supplied with tea and cakes. She commented there was some very good ringing on an excellent ring of bells and they were impressed with the quality of the ringing at all levels. She said they would go through each of the bands with a short comment on each.

Band 1 Had a very very good start; faults were mostly from quick or slow blows

Band 2 Practice ringing was quick; the test piece was a good steady ring although this lapsed towards the end. Faults were picked up from quick blows.

Band 3 The ringing was a little bit brisk and faults were mostly accrued at hand stroke

Band 4 Rang over 240 rows, the practice was unsteady but improved in the test piece, faults were gained at hand stroke and they felt that more attention needed with the hand stroke gap.

Band 5. Most faults were made at hand stroke, small faults were picked up throughout the changes

The results were read out in reverse order

5th Standon with 38%

4th Bishops Stortford with 51%

3rd Redbourn with 66%

2nd Hemel Hempstead with 69%

1st Tewin with 75%

And so Tewin were presented with the Kimpton Cup

Stuart Brant thanked the judges and presented them each with a gift.