

Ridgman competition at St Albans - 16 June 2018.

St Peter's Church in St Albans proved an excellent venue hosted by the Hertford County Association. Seven teams took part with ringing from 1-00 to 4-30, a return to the afternoon format after starting in the morning last year.

We were privileged to have Dickon Love and Emma Cundiff as judges, working from the choir vestry, simply listening to and scoring the precision and effectiveness of the ringing. They remarked that these are an easy modern ten, just over a ton, and perfectly suited for the occasion. The trebles may be a little indistinct in the ringing chamber, and there may be minor instances of odd-struckness, but all bells were very clear outside. There had been a good range of ringing with a clear winner.

Many thanks to all those whose efforts created a pleasant day. We are particularly indebted to the Revd Canon Mark Dearnley and the PCC of St Peter's church for the use of the bells and for their support in using the church hall as the main venue for the day, to the Hertford County Association and the local band for planning and running the day itself, to all who supplied cakes and tea, to the judges for their thoughtful and constructive comments, finally to all who travelled and made the day worthwhile. Cheers!

Hertford County Association were clear winners and Richard Sales received the Ridgman Trophy from Revered Dearnley.

In 2019 the Suffolk County Association hope to arrange the competition, possibly at the Norman Tower in Bury St Edmunds, on June 15th, ringing Cambridge Royal.

ATW

Results and Judges' comments (Alan Winter's notes)

Winners: Hertford ringing 6th, peal speed 3h12, 41 faults. Team F had attacked the bells with confidence and at speed. Their test piece had been a pleasure to hear except for the final few changes when thoughts may have strayed towards the tearoom.

Essex ringing 1st, peal speed 3h11, 115 faults. Team A had made an excellent start. There had been some difficulties in the middle of the test piece but these had been sorted out and the late stages of the test piece had again been excellent.

Suffolk ringing 2nd, peal speed 3h06, 114 faults. Team B had rung quickly, pushed along by the tenor, especially in their practice, rather less so in the test piece. There had been some uncertainties which had been sorted out quickly.

Ely ringing 3rd, peal speed 3h32, 61 faults. Team C, in marked contrast to B, had rung slowly with the speed controlled again by a strong tenor. Accuracy improved steadily throughout but there were always a few dropped blows and possibly the working bells had been uncomfortable with the slow speed.

Cambridge University ringing 4th, peal speed 3h19, 119 faults. Team D rang at a

very natural speed for the bells and achieved a good clean positive finish.

Bedfordshire ringing 5th, peal speed 3h18, 65 faults. Team E had a difficult practice but then improved markedly into and throughout their test piece.

Lincoln, ringing 7th. Team G, well, took part in the competition. Every ringer taking part in the today's ringing can empathise with losing a test piece, many share the experience. We are very glad to have Lincoln represented in the competition.