

VANCOUVER

Spring 2005

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The Vancouver tower band, with both patience and perseverance, has continued to practice and ring throughout the winter months. Much of the effort has been focused on improving the change ringing skills of newer band members. While there has been some turn-over in our newest learners, those who have remained are progressing well thanks to the efforts of Eve Munns and Alan Ellis who have been teaching the basics of bell handling. The benefit of having a skilled band to ring with has also been a boon to those learners who have advanced from Plain Hunt to Plain Bob Doubles and Plain Bob Minor. With gentle encouragement a few have taken on the challenge of ringing inside on Plain Bob Doubles with some success.

Those of us who are learning are most grateful to the skilled members of our band who are so understanding and accommodating. It is always a boost and something of a relief for the experienced members of the band when we have capable ringers visiting. Then our better ringers get a break from ringing the same simpler methods and can challenge their own skill levels. A pleasure it is, as well, for those of us who are learning, to hear clean even striking and watch the band in action and see them thoroughly enjoy themselves.

Our AGM was held on March 1 and all officers were re-elected by acclamation. The meeting went well and we enjoyed a good ring and some tasty treats in the tower afterwards. Alexander Holroyd, our Vice Tower Captain, has been down in Berkeley, California during the winter, (not Santa Barbara as previously reported) and we look forward to his return in the summer. In the meantime we are happy to see Alexander when he is able to make it north to Vancouver.

We recently acquired a new simulator which arrived from England and will be installed in the coming months. The task of setting it all up has fallen onto the shoulders of Alan Ellis. We are confident that the simulator will help us to improve our ringing skills and look forward to it being fully operational. Plans to install cameras in both the ringing chamber and the

belfry, so that people can view all the action on a monitor in the Cathedral entrance hall, are still alive. The plans will be carried out once we have the simulator up and running.

Our bells are located in the tower of the Roman Catholic Holy Rosary Cathedral and there were, therefore, requests that they be rung for a number of special services following the death of Pope John Paul II. A quarter peal of Plain Bob Minor was rung in his memory on Tuesday, April 5. On Thursday, April 7, the tenor (16 cwt) was tolled for forty minutes prior to a Memorial Mass. Later in the day the band rang prior to the Solemn Vespers for the Dead, which included inter-faith leaders of the community as special guests. The band also rang rounds and call changes on eight before the Memorial Mass for the Pope on Friday, April 8

The quarter peal rung in memory of the Pope was a memorable one for Dick Waterman as it was his 100th, an achievement for which he received congratulations from all. (See report elsewhere in this issue).

Preparations for the 2006 NAGCR AGM which we will be hosting are well underway. There is currently a contest among the band members to see who will come up with the best ideas for a slogan and logo to be used for the meeting. We hope that many of you will be able join us here on the beautiful west coast of Canada in 2006.