

Reports for November 2024 Business Meeting

Training Officer

Throughout 2024 training has been ongoing through the regular branch elementary, advanced and Saturday practices.

John Harrison ran a training questionnaire in May this year with the most popular requests for Listening, Leading up and down in peal, Raising and Lowering in peal, and simulator. John has run 6 simulator and 1 listening course since.

Four members of the Sonning Branch have attended an ART M1 Module course in April 24 for handling teacher training. Jane Mellor and Graham Slade are mentoring these teachers.

Two youth members attended their first ART M1 Module in August 2023.

Further to the ART M2 course in October 22 none of these teachers have become accredited within the 2 years. ART has an online refresher for each module, which can be taken once for a 1-year extension on accreditation. Jane Mellor will try to encourage this.

One 'firsts' quarter peal of Bob doubles was achieved in July with three firsts, trebling, tenoring and conducting.

My key aim is to increase the number of people who are competent teachers within the branch. A recent survey of towers informs the committee of the spread and capabilities of teaching within the branch and the level of ringers needing support. As this information still requires collation further planning of training is still to be decided.

Jane Mellor

Ringling Master

2024 Ringling Highlights

The Elementary practices have not been quite as well attended this year with a couple cancelled in the summer. The practice has also moved on to being more of an intermediate level, in ART terms M2C rather than M2F. At the business meeting it will be helpful to obtain feedback from the members as to what type of practices they would like to see next year? We have not seen as many new elementary ringers attend, is this because we don't have as many? Is there a need for a once a month specifically advertised intermediate practice or one focused on a particular method?

Our new DBRM, James Moynihan, has had the opportunity to run some of our branch practices which has particularly helped me as I have not been available for as many practices this year. We currently on average organise 5 practices a month and I am grateful to James and John Harrison and those others that have run practices when I am not available.

The ringling standard of those that have been attending the Elementary practices has continued to improve and for some of our members, quarter peals have been organised so that they can achieve their ART LtR Level 3.

The Advanced practice is still the least well attended and several practices this year have had to be cancelled. In October this year, I tried a new approach and rang (successfully) a quarter peal (Bristol Surprise Major) in place of the Advanced Practice. In November we are holding and running the Advanced practice at St. Paul's Wokingham regular weekly practice. Would our members welcome a similar approach and run our Advanced practice by joining a local tower practice, run by the branch in 2025?

Nigel Mellor