



A close-up of the bells in the loft of the Klockhuys, showing the substantial weights on the small bells

Tower in Utrecht. Since then it has been to Asten twice as there are chiming change ringers that have their ringing society at the church in Geldrop, which is not too far from the Museum. The first peal was rung on the bells in the ground floor chamber of Dordrecht's church tower, this being the first tower bell peal rung in Mainland Europe. More important for Paul it was his first peal on home turf, which took place at night between the hours of 11.30pm and 1.30am, due to losing the peal several times, as the mobile tower literally was mobile, walking across the floor! Amazingly the peal, when scored, only had one missed dodge in it; we were obviously all too brain dead to go wrong in Bob Minor by that time. Much interest was created at all these events, Paul and Boudewijn entertaining

all, recitals and more ringing, then the inevitable spread of food, and speeches.

With the amount of interest shown in the Country for full circle ringing, the impetus was now so strong in Paul's mind; he announced that he would like to install a small ring of bells somewhere. He actually had some bells lined up, but was not sure of the strength of ordinary buildings that could house such a ring. I and a few others said it would be a good idea to buy the bells anyway and worry about the location later, one of the suggested places was to hang them in his garage, if he were to extend the roof upwards! The other was the Klockhuys, the aforementioned carillon school house.

This was almost ideal and Paul managed to persuade all concerned that this project would

be successful and he would carry out all of the work required costing the Church or Local Council little money.

Paul then bought the bells from Simon Laudy a bellfounder based in Reiderland; a set of eight second-hand chime bells were acquired. The bells are not ideal in proportions or weight ratios to each other, but given the opportunity to test a man's skill and our company's knowledge of hanging small bells, I agreed that we could make a success of the installation, once we had worked out all the formulae required.

This is where Paul realised that all bellhanging companies have all their own data for hanging bells, of which there are big differences. Given Paul's wish that this peal of bells handle like a six-hundredweight eight, they would have to be hung considerably differently from any other set of bells of this weight, as the tenor of the chime was only one-and-a-half hundredweight, down to a rather small second, yes *second*, as the treble is quite a bit bigger than the second. This proved to be the first hurdle.

I have always held the view that the wheels on a small ring should be larger than most people use; they tend to put small wheels to the bells which keeps the inertia speed of the bell fast enough so the clapping of the bell is easier to achieve. Hence, although great fun for some, you do have the majority of ringers in this country opposed to ringing such bells and many experienced ringers incapable of handling them. Because of the small wheel and quick turning speed the handling is only carried out with one hand at backstroke and the other at handstroke. Before mini-rings it was scorned upon to ring like this in a tower. To be comfortable and ring traditional style we knew they had to have larger wheels and counterweights on the smaller bells.

Peter Hayward calculated a number of years ago that a bell of 1mm in diameter should have a wheel diameter of 810mm and therefore any ring with a wheel less than this is not correctly scaled, and should be called a mini-ring. Something I was aiming to bring to the Central Council's attention but never have, yet. These same calculations were used to give the correct size of wheel required for the bells.

Here at Hayward Mills Associates, thanks to Mike Semken's hard work, we have fortunately set up a programme that has all the relevant data for bell hangs, but there were many grey areas untested before; how to get the clappers to work correctly in such a slow turning peal of bells. We had the theory but as yet not put it to the test. As the bells are all weird sizes and thicknesses, Paul is expecting the 7th to fall in half at any time due to being so thin! Our only experience in proving it would work is the George Dawson mini-ring, which has larger wheels than any others of that size of ring of bells and the light three-hundredweight eight at Clifton Holy Trinity – the ex-chime from Smethwick, where the front four were deemed impossible by other bellfounders to hang for ringing successfully as a six or eight. In fact they have proved popular with all the visitors, handling well and sounding excellent; you would not realise the treble is only the size of a plant pot, except you feel very little weight on the end of the rope!



The new bells being rung from the ground floor of the Klockhuys carillon school

Paul came to my house to pick up a second hand set of wheels, ex-Giggleswick, so should their ringers want to ring on their old wheels; there is a nice weekend in Holland to be had! Only the spoke centres were of use, adapting them to the correct size using plastics for soling and shrouding. Once he had fabricated the frame and fittings for the bells and the associated counterweights to get the feel of the handling right, he set to work installing them. Starting with the frame and how to make it fit into the roof space and what to mount it on as it would need to rest on roof timbers, he did not want clapper knock to be heard through these, therefore he isolated the frame on rubber mountings.

The isolation was not totally successful and Paul did something unique making up isolated bearing housings, which has worked, but the whole installation moves like a jelly when you ring, but it is not enough to be felt by the ringer.

The choice was then to install pulleys above the wheels as on some mini-rings or the standard position. Well both were tried, and it was concluded that 'standard' did indeed work best.

The slider stay arrangement is unique; similar to the design which Michael Brown put to his Dumb Bell at his home, Harecroft Farm, near Sapcote. It produces no sound and if I am correct in thinking, John Turney has done something similar with the Fire Ring having seen this invention of Michael's.

What size gauge ropes and length of sally was needed? He spoke to Phil at Ellis Ropes, his advice was followed and it must be said they are just the right weight and size for the bells.

Paul then spent the next few months perfecting the ring, no doubt spending more time there than with the two ladies in his life, I say that because I guess his son, Harm-Jan, probably spent a lot of time with his Dad helping him with the work.

Then came 'the day' Friday 21st June, when the first group of ringers arrived from England to help put the bells to the test. Those of you with computers and know *You Tube* can type in 't Klockhuys Dordrecht; there is a clip of the first ringing on the bells, and more of the other events over the weekend.

A wonderfully successful start, all went well and Michael Brown being the first person to call a quarter peal on the first proper fixed (two-handed) English style ring of bells in Mainland Europe, Harm-Jan's first quarter on eight, plus various other 'firsts'.

More of us arrived on Saturday for the all important peal attempt, everyone gathered from planes, trains and automobiles. We set off into changes, attempting to ring a peal involving three new methods. A three part composition, we had got to near the end of the second part of which most of it was good ringing, when there was a loud bang from above and the seventh stopped dead, however hard it was pulled! Although Paul did not appear too upset you could tell he was not happy, the inspection upstairs revealed that the loop that is meant to catch on a T-shaped bar actually flipped past the end and caught the wrong side of the T-bar, rendering the bell impossible to pull off ...

There was now not enough time to start again before visitors arrived for demonstrations in the art of bellringing and a Carillon recital by Boudweijn, but enough time to mull over the problem and try to solve it. The stay loop was stiffened. All seemed okay until the second lead of eight spliced when it happened again – not once but twice. Incidentally the eight-spliced clip on *You Tube* was the successful third attempt! The loop was then shortened, fine for ten minutes, then it happened again in Bob Major, so Paul stayed up in the bells to watch what happened. We thought it may be frame movement not helping it. Could it move more on certain changes than others? While Paul watched we repeated the offending leads, to no avail. In fact once shortened further it did not happen again that day.

The rest of the day was taken up with entertaining visiting locals and Paul and Boudweijn entertaining us! Both are amazing in different ways, Paul keen and eager and striving perfection in all he does, Boudweijn just second to none in his field. Those of you who came to the Ringing Roadshow will have witnessed what a great man Boudweijn is; excellent entertainer and carillonneur. His and Paul's achievements created a wonderful roller coaster weekend, never to be forgotten by anyone present. After a wonderful spread of food for the second night running, Boudweijn made yet another off the cuff speech to all us visiting Brits. Thanking us for coming over to assist, presenting each of us with a large paperback carillon book, and for some, several CDs for those cheeky enough to enquire about them. The thing is he would not accept any money for them, such a great guy who appears to thrive on entertaining, and boy did we enjoy it! Then Michael Brown had us all crying with a very sentimental speech, also off the cuff, reminding us of why it was worth while all those years ago helping Paul to be a quality bellringer, culminating in this magical installation that he has carried out 99% on his own, with a little help from his family, and with typical Dutch spirit, it had to be, and is 100% successful, except the stay of the

seventh! The proof of how good they are is evident when you watch every *You Tube* clip of the ringing of the bells over that weekend, good ringing with mixed bands, a true testament to Paul's effort. So a toast was given to Paul and Family.

So just the minor detail of the peal, shall we ring it later tonight or first thing in the morning? Some did not want to ring a peal at all! A lot of travelling and socialising for 12 hours had made us very tired. Eventually it was agreed to go for it Sunday morning, into changes by 7am. All looking like death and some feeling close to it, we got into changes by 7.10am. At this point I was not expecting to ring for long, as one member did not think he could manage a peal but would give it a go! There were a lot more trips occurring too, which makes the pressure greater. We got to the second part end; Mike Dew turned around and enquired if that was the first part end! The reply that it was in fact the second obviously woke him up bringing a smile to his face. Having scored the peal the published photo (*overleaf*) proves what we were absolutely shattered, but ecstatic at what we all had been part of.

In conclusion, it is a massive 'well done' to Paul! I know he will have many visiting ringers, as it is a great country to visit, with now an added attraction for ringers, you will love their welcome! Allow plenty of time to take a few days to see this lovely country and sample its goods and bells!

I know next on Paul's wish list is to install a ringing peal in a Dutch tower, but we can wait a while Paul. Have a well earned rest!

The last big thank you must go to Wilhelmina who rang very little over the weekend, for she was running around behind the scenes sorting out the necessary things while we enjoyed ourselves. As the long suffering wife to this project, she must have wondered if she had a husband at times, I hope you have seen a lot more of him since the peal, and the family fully re-united!

ANDREW MILLS

Change-ringing, carillons and 't Klockhuys – the official opening of the Dordrecht bells, 26th-28th September 2008

by Robert Criddle and Ellen Dew

It is very rare that 'helping out at another tower' involves ringers travelling from across the UK using transport ranging from 16-hour ferry crossings to flights and buses, trains and cars, yet this is what a group of British ringers found themselves doing at the end of September in order to help out at the official opening of 't Klockhuys bells in Dordrecht.

The weekend – essentially celebrating all things bells – began on the Friday afternoon with a quick quarter of Cambridge Surprise Major, a first on the continent for most of the band. Since Dordrecht's Grote Kirk is home to the largest carillon in Europe (67 bells, with the bass bell weighing in at almost 10 tons), the evening kicked off with a recital by Trevor

Workman, a carillonneur from Bourneville. The selection of pieces by English composers Elgar and Ketèlbey was very well-received by the scores of people who lined the banks of the canals around the church. Following this, the tower's resident carillonneur, Boudewijn Zwart, along with Trevor on piano, gave a performance on his amazing mobile concert carillon (as seen at the Ringing Roadshow) in the huge space that made up the porch at the bottom of the tower.

The official opening of 't Klockhuys bells followed. Trevor Workman gave a short speech to the 40-or-so ringers, guests and locals who had assembled in the small building, before dramatically releasing the ropes and allowing

The right paint

SIR, – In answer to Peter Woollam's questions about paint (*RW* p.1108), we recommend Hammerite! At St John the Baptist in Knaresborough in 2001, the foot and mouth outbreak put a stop to our spring outing. We therefore took the opportunity to clean up the belfry and paint the frame.

It took two long Saturdays to wire brush the frame (no fancy shot blasters), and when we had finished, no-one would say the result was gleaming metal – there was just less rust. Our steeple-keeper had thought long and hard about the paint. It was the thought of having to spend hours painting it (it holds an 18cwt ring of 8) and then having to go back and give it a second coat that swung the argument. If you give it a generous coat of Hammerite, there is no need for a second coat. In addition it seems to like a bit of rust to help it bind. It is more expensive than conventional paint but the thought of only having to give it one coat made it seem like a good investment.

In terms of durability, it still looks like new, seven years later. We recommend it.

MATT CURL

Knaresborough, North Yorkshire

The wrong paint

SIR, – I saw Peter Woollam's letter in this week's *Ringing World* seeking advice about paint. When not steeple-keeping I am active in railway preservation and have wide practical experience of protecting metal with various paints. Here is my advice to him.

Hammerite is a "one coat wonder" type of paint. It is not compatible with other paints and will cause your primer to lift off, creating a sticky mess which you will have to clean off and start from bare metal again. Also, unless you intend to strip to bare metal again, you will have to use Hammerite for all future painting.

As you have already primed your frame, I would recommend an undercoat and top gloss coat using the best quality paint you can afford.

It may help you if I tell you about our procedure here in St Comgall, Bangor.

Six years ago, Martin and I took over as steeple-keepers. The Irish Association has a scheme which, for a small annual fee, provides a triennial inspection by a professional bellhanger. The report at that time specified painting the frame as well as repairs to clappers and other fittings. It transpired that in fifty years, only some minimal painting had been done. As we are in a seaside town, the salty atmosphere had done some damage which had been previously repaired.

We arranged for the bellhangers to come and remove the clappers and also to dismantle the wheels, pulleys and any other removeable fittings. Then over a period of two months we wire brushed, chipped and cleaned all exposed metalwork and brush painted with red oxide primer. We then

manhandled a small air compressor up the stairs and spray painted 1 undercoat and 1 gloss coat using coach quality paint which I "acquired" through my railway contacts. The bellhangers then came and refitted the clappers, etc.

This summer, after five years, Martin and I spent four hours cleaning and priming any rust spots that had appeared and have now spent another three hours spraying almost half the frame with gloss paint. We estimate another three hours will finish the job. As the frame is not in public view, we have changed colour so we can see where we have painted. This time our local coach paint supplier had a batch of "off-spec" paint (ie he had mixed wrongly) which he sold at half-price so our total outlay is approximately £100. Experience suggests that five years is a good interval in that the main paintwork is in good order and that any rusting is minor and easily controlled.

By the way, our frame is on two levels which makes for a lot of awkward climbing, a frame on one level could probably be sprayed in one afternoon.

Hope this is of help to you.

Ireland

COLIN HOLLIDAY

Hanging light rings

SIR, – I have great respect for Andrew Mills' achievements both as a ringer and as a bell-hanger, but I cannot allow his assertions on the hanging of small bells (*RW* p.1128, quotations from that article appear in **bold**) to go unchallenged. My opinions are based on experience and evidence gathered from my involvement in the hanging and ringing of two rings of comparable size to the Klockhuys ring.

'Peter Hayward calculated that a bell of 1mm in diameter should have a wheel diameter of 810mm and therefore any ring with a wheel less than this is not correctly scaled, and should be called a mini-ring.'

If I still went to work, I would be using the first part of this statement as an example of inappropriate extrapolation! My approach to hanging the original six (tenor 103lb) at Keele (Woodlands) and the 76lb six of the Lichfield Diocesan Mobile Belfry was not based on any elaborate calculations. It did not need to be – the basic proportions had already been established by three centuries of evolution and experience by generations of bell-hangers. The fittings of these two rings are exactly to scale in all respects (e.g. tenor wheel diameter of 790mm) except two: the clappers are counterbalanced, and the garter holes are moved down the wheels to give a longer rope travel when the sally bounces. These are not huge departures from full-size practice, and indeed both can be found on full-size rings. Augmentation of the Woodlands ring to eight followed the same principles, with a minimal amount of hanging-out of the trebles. We also set the ropes so that the sallies are lower than full-size, to take account of the shorter

rope-travel which makes pulling from full stretch relatively uncomfortable. Ringing with the forearms only, with no elbow movement, provides good control and a comfortable, relaxed style.

'because of the small wheel and quick turning speed the handling is only carried out with one hand at backstroke and the other at handstroke ... to be comfortable and ring traditional style we knew they had to have larger wheels and counterweights on the smaller bells.'

I have lost count of the number of times ringers coming to Woodlands or the mobile belfry have been told by those who know about mini-rings (which these bells are not) that they should ring with one hand on each stroke, and then found handling and control difficult if not impossible. When it is pointed out to them that these are real bells and should be handled like real bells, they are astonished that it works. In over two-hundred peals at Woodlands, only a very few ringers have rung with one hand on each stroke, and there has often been a loss of precision in these cases. Those who come again always progress to two-handed ringing, with benefits both to them and the quality of the striking. As is the case with heavier bells, two-handed ringing not only gives better control, but is also less risky – there is a much lower probability of missing the sally if it is being caught from two sides. Of course, those ringers, of whom Andrew is one, who are experienced at ringing a bell with each hand have no difficulty in ringing our bells one-handed.

'you do have the majority of ringers in this country opposed to ringing such bells and many experienced ringers incapable of handling them'

This is interesting. Recently we had an Association training afternoon after which most of the participants came to Woodlands for tea. Most of the learners had not rung the bells before, but following a short demonstration and minimal individual practice, five very inexperienced (less than a year for three of them) ringers rang together in some very steady rounds on eight, using both hands on each stroke. When I showed them that the bells can be handled in the same way as larger bells, they were entirely happy to do it that way. On many occasions, recent learners have shown themselves to be much better at taking advice than their more experienced counterparts.

Andrew mentions the use of counterweights to slow bells down. In contrast to many rings of similar weight, the two rings I have been involved with have relatively heavy headstocks made of a scale-size piece of elm with steel stiffeners at top and bottom. Most of the other rings have headstocks made of fairly small cross-section steel box, which has plenty of strength but much less inertia than the ones I have used. I think it is no coincidence that my hanging produces manageable turning speeds. As any model-builder will tell you, speed is a difficult concept to scale. The bells I have

hung are half the size and therefore (because a bell is a three-dimensional object) one-eighth of the weight of the full-size version, but we do not ring at twice the full-scale speed. Most of our six-bell peals take within five minutes either side of two hours, not a great deal faster than many bands would ring a full-scale 7cwt six. Similar comparisons apply on eight.

I agree with Andrew that it would be useful to have a workable definition of a mini-ring, but I am not sure that the Central Council would be the best body to produce one. I have already suggested in previous letters that I think we could benefit from using aircraft terminology. There are aircraft, light aircraft (smaller but otherwise similar in construction and control), and micro-light aircraft which are fundamentally different. In my view, a good dividing line between light and micro-light would be a tenor weight of 10Kg, not least because very few rings currently in existence contain bells on both sides of this threshold. The upper limit to the *light* category is harder to define and, as I have shown above, less relevant, but probably lies somewhere around a tenor weight of 3-4cwt, depending on hanging style.

PHIL GAY

Keele, Staffordshire

Improving ropesight

SIR, – Some time ago someone wrote in asking for help with ropesight. I had hoped that someone wiser would have put pen to paper by now but in that absence may I put forward the following thoughts.

One of the best ways to help with ropesight, I have found, is to stand behind someone who knows what they are doing, even better if they can tell you who they are following.

Alternatively have someone else stand next to you while you are watching to tell you who the bell you are watching is following. So when not ringing, do not bury your head in *The Ringing World* or otherwise ignore the ringing. Pick a bell and try to follow what the ringer is doing. If the method being rung is way out of your league then watch the tenor (odd bell methods) or treble. In odd bell methods the tenor will always be last so the bells will come out to her. If watching the treble then the chances are that it will be either plain hunting or treble bobbing. If you are not up to dodges yet try and watch and listen for the treble lead and pick up the bell which the takes the treble from the lead. If you have the chance, stand behind someone who is ringing what you are trying to learn and ask them to talk you through what they are doing. If you think that you could not possibly stand behind someone, then sit where you can see all the ropes and again follow a bell. Your eyes should be constantly moving round the circle to try and see which order the ropes are falling in.

I hope that this is of some help, as with everything the best thing is to practise.

RHODA WILLSON

Tonbridge, Kent

Tyre silencers

SIR, – Many thanks to Peter Dale for his informative article on making tyre silencers and to your goodselves for printing it.



May I make two suggestions to make the job easier. After cutting through the bead wires the rest of the tyre can be cut with a handsaw. And, if the section of tyre is then opened out and clamped to the workbench, this frees both hands and keeps fingers out of the danger zone whilst cutting. Also, with the tyres stretched, the cuts open out which makes the cutting easier.

PETER WENHAM

Braunston, Northamptonshire

Grandpont and Jonah

SIR, – Referring to Brian Mountjoy's letter on p.1132, I can confirm that the composition used for the peal of Grandpont at Hailsham was as assumed by him and I must therefore withdraw the peal with my apologies to the band for having used a false composition.

It would appear that I have, for many years, been labouring under the misapprehension that, if two similar methods of the same group are said to have the same falseness (in this case BDO), then a composition that is true to one must also be true to the other. Since, in this case (and, I now understand, many others also), this is not so, why are both methods said to have the same falseness when, logically, they do not? If there is a reason for this, should there not be some way of revising the system of defining falseness so that others do not fall into the same trap?

ALAN R. BALDOCK

Magham Down, Sussex

Another petition

SIR, – We live in a time when local customs are being thrown out of the window or put to one side.

Sadly we have taken 'political correctness' to the extreme; people not being able to do the things that have always taken place because of "Health and Safety", or some other reason that is thrown into the workings.

Yes, I am sure the readers out there and not just ringers know what I am talking about. During the last few years we have seen an increase in people complaining about bells ringing out, yet the same people probably go to London to hear the bells of St Stephen's tower chime in the new year!

Whenever bells ring for quarters, peals, etc. or practice we can always be assured that someone somewhere will be phoning the council and putting in a complaint to the Noise Pollution officer.

So what can be done to save our future of bells ringing out, getting people more involved and seeing new peals put in or bells restored?

One of the areas that I am looking at is making bells exempt from noise pollution, I have recently written to 10 Downing Street asking for this to take place and there is now a web petition for people to sign.

The petition is called **Let Bells Ring** and you can sign this petition by going to **Number10.gov.uk**

The more people who sign this petition then the more likelihood bell ringing will not come under attack.

We also know only too well how hard it is to raise money for our churches and bells in this country and if you are a registered charity it can sometimes be harder to get the help that is needed.

Registered charities such as my Community find it a struggle when it comes to paying for heating, etc. and even though some things are exempt you still have to find money to pay the VAT, therefore in a second petition I have asked the Government that all Registered Charities be made VAT exempt so that the difference can go back into the purpose of the charity.

If you would like to sign this petition as well than please go to **Number10.gov.uk** and put in VAT exempt.

Fr JAMIE MacLEOD

Community of the King of Love,
Whaley Hall, Whaley Bridge,
High Peak, Derbyshire

Irrelevant titles?

SIR, – Why do members of the clergy feel the need to distinguish themselves with titles in the peal columns? They may have a 'higher calling' than most of us, but do we really need to be reminded of this at every possible turn?

London WC1

(Mr) GILES FIELD

E-MAILED LETTERS

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Hanging light rings

SIR, – I have read with interest Andrew Mills' and Phil Gay's comments on the hanging of light rings.

When I started to build Dewbys Bells I had the advantage of comprehensive ignorance of the hanging of church bells so resorted to using first principles of physics plus some simple experiments to get a feel for the problem.

The graph showing the relationship between the distance the centre of gravity of a bell is from its headstock and its time of ring is J shaped.

Initially, as the bell is moved out from the headstock, the time of rotation decreases, the bell rings faster, until such time as the bell swings at its fastest speed after which any further increase in distance between the centre of gravity of the bell and the headstock causes the bell to ring slower.

With a mini ring, the bells are on the side of the curve where moving a bell further out from the headstock makes it ring quicker. Church bells are that much bigger and are on the other side of curve and hanging them out further and further makes them ring slower and slower, hence Peter Hayward's basis for wheel diameters.

We did not want the Dewbys Bells to be flighty and we needed them to have a definite positive feel, a high rotational inertia. This was achieved by hanging the bells out as far from the headstocks as the wheels permitted to give the fastest ringing times and then slowing the times of ring to that required by moving counter balance weights up and down the wheels above the bells. In the case of Dewbys Bells, the times of ringing were adjusted as follows – trebles about 0.9 seconds gradually increasing through the ring to 1.2 seconds for the tenors.

As Phil Gay states, the position of the garter hole is critical. If it is in the wrong place,

catching the sally is like trying to "hit the rat" at the fair ground. We have found that the preferred position for the garter hole is when the height of the sally is the same with the bell either down or at balance at handstroke.

For those intending to build a mini ring it is worth mentioning that the hardest part is to make the bells clapper properly. After hours of frustration this is my approach.

The clapper needs to be counter balanced so that the clapper is just slightly heavier at the ball end. The clapper should hang in the centre of the bell and ring on both sides. If the clapper is too light it will ring slow at both hand and back. If this happens, the weight of the clapper ball needs to be increased slightly until such time as the bell just does not double clapper; any further increase in clapper weight will tie you in knots.

To take care of odd striking, we fix a horizontal M6 stud through the clapper counter balance at right angles to and just below the clapper pin. Nyloc nuts are screwed in or out on this studding until the clapper hangs in the middle of the bell and strikes evenly on both sides all the way from up to down.

We have found no solution to odd-struck ringers.

I note the suggestion that a good dividing line between light and micro-light rings would be a tenor weight of 10kg. Being awkward, Dewbys Bells have a 10kg tenor.

Hooe, E. Sussex

ALAN J. COLLINGS

SIR, – With reference to the comment "Speed is a difficult concept to scale", (Hanging Light Rings – Nov 7th); the correct relationship for scaling time is the square root of the linear scaling factor. This follows from consideration of a swinging pendulum, where the period is proportional to the square root of the length of the pendulum. Thus a peal rung on a true to scale 'half size' set of bells should take approximately 70% as long to ring as on a full size set.

Fleet, Hampshire

VERNON BEDFORD

FROM THE E-LISTS

A round-up from the internet compiled by John Camp

For some ringers, record-keeping seems at least as important as ringing. The **nabbers** worried about the durability of electronic media. Format change was an even bigger problem, declared Rod Bickerton: early records stored on 8-inch floppies could no longer be read. Print your records off and give them to your association library, he advised. Alan Birney fretted about 'grossly inaccurate' estimates of weights in *Dove*. There were complaints, not for the first time, about poor 'netiquette', resulting in confusion about who had written what. How soon could you reasonably expect a reply to an e-mail requesting

permission to ring? asked Sue Marsden, on **change-ringers**. Malcolm Murphy said that e-mail could be unreliable. His PC was down for days at a time. If an e-mail address is given, countered Sue, it should be usable. Peter Whisker wondered about the relationship of Bastow with Cloister. Hayden Charles cited the relevant CC decision. You could ring some trivial stuff and call it a new method, observed Ben Willetts, but it would be difficult to remove all the loopholes and still allow everything that was currently acceptable.

Nag-talk and **NAGCR** (indistinguishable as usual) carried news from Madeleine Cheesman. On 14th November, a fire had broken out in Toronto Cathedral, near the access to the spiral staircase and the ringing room. A chapel altar had been destroyed, but otherwise there was only smoke damage. Pamela Pohling-Brown's quarter-peal attempt had to be cancelled. Alan Buswell told the **bell historians** that in Clipston, Northants, in the eighteenth century, a piece of ground known as 'Bellropes' had formed part of the remuneration of the parish clerk, on condition that he provided ropes for the bells. Areas of land with that name were quite common, added Brian Meldon. Ringing at Guisborough for the departure of Father Christmas was announced by YACR.

The NRT list debated the best way of tying a bell. A tyre didn't produce complete silencing, but learners should be able to hear their bell, albeit faintly. Robin Hall disclosed to **ringing-chat** that his sister had been in Liverpool during the peal on the back eight at the Cathedral but had heard nothing. Not audible outside the tower? What a shame! It couldn't be counted. But Margaret Callinan sought advice on ear-muffs to blot out unwanted sounds. An American, Carleton MacDonald, was amazed to see photos of the Liverpool ringing chamber and the extra tail on the tenor rope. Laura Dickerson needed to know what an Antelope bob was – or was it a single? Mark Davies, though disagreeing with everyone else, warned against confusion. He dissed those who ring Bristol by the blue line and went on to contemplate spiders in space. Other correspondents considered that reproducing the *RW's* masthead on the non-leather diary had been a bad idea.

The newly-constructed steam-engine *Tornado* had passed through Northallerton station, bringing tears to Jennie Town's eyes. Mike Chester posed a mathematical puzzle, starting 'A goat was tethered in a field'. Mo Turner, a practical farmer, observed that the goat would eat through the rope. Stephen ('Percy') Penney was annoyed by the unnecessary addition of 'at all' to questions ('Do you have a Boots card at all?') Roadside shrines also generated irritation. *Strictly Come Dancing* was, inevitably, discussed. Mo Turner thought that it had 'controversial judging, glamour and skill'. 'Just like the 12-bell competition', commented Jim Clatworthy. **FODS** noted that the 12-bell final at St Paul's coincided with London Pride 2009.

If you want to know more about ringers' e-mail lists and how to join them, send a blank e-mail to ringinglists@bellringers.org. This address should not be used for messages.