

Penn Trophy G&B Striking Competition 2025

By Catherine White-Horne, Thornbury.

Another sunny Saturday in April found our eight ringers assembled at Barnwood in Gloucester to represent Bristol Rural in the Penn Trophy G&B striking competition.



The team called to order, left to right: Catherine White-Horne, Elaine Scudamore, Geoff Pick, Alison Holliday, Jodie Hill, Russell Scudamore with Lando, Linda Pick and Matt Johnson.

Six teams took part from across the G&B with four branches not represented. We rang 168 changes of Grandsire Triples for our test piece conducted by Russell Scudamore. All the while Lando was running rings around anyone who would stand still long enough, and quite a few who wouldn't, in the sunshine outside.

The judge this time was Daniel Watson, a sixth former from the Oxford area, ably supported by his parents Cheryl and Julian. Here's how they placed the teams with their corresponding number of faults:

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|-------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Tewkesbury | 22 |
| 2. Cirencester | 25 |
| 3. Bristol Rural | 29 |
| 4. Cheltenham | 33 |
| 5. Wotton-under-Edge | 35.5 |
| 6. Stroud | 81 |

The ringers' tea was being laid up out of sight behind the meeting so, without the distraction of cake, I was able to make a recording of the judge's comments which were read out by the chairman as the Watson family had returned to their home territory to help run a quiz. Busy people indeed!

The general comments were very positive saying that the standard of ringing by all the teams was very good. Bristol Rural received no negative comments as such; Daniel used the words "excellent ringing" to describe our test piece and said that he particularly enjoyed the reverse rounds.

We are very pleased with our result which puts us in the top half this year, a further improvement on last year's performance. We have an eye on one of the trophies now which would mean coming second at least. Let's see what we can do!

Once again, we rang a quarter peal per month or so during the preceding year in order to improve our striking more consistently as a band. This level of practice is the key to Bristol Rural's promotion up the results table.

If anyone would like to join our merry band next year as we strive to maintain and (hopefully!) improve on our performance this year, please do get in touch with Bill Liebow at secbrisrural@btinternet.com who will be glad to forward your details.

Onwards and upwards!