

## **CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING - DERBY 2010**

### **'New boy's' first impressions**

I could say that I was cool, calm and collected at my first CCCBR meeting, I have to confess it was a bit daunting. However, it was good to see so many of the great and good, at least the ones I knew. The rest were a complete mass of humanity. The first thing that struck me was the number of people. The council is made up of representatives of all the societies from around the world, literally. There were reps from Australia and New Zealand as well as the New World. There were over 200 of us in the room, and it looked it. I thought, how on earth can this number of people ever make a decision. Well the answer to that question is, they don't. Most of the real work of the Central Council is done during the year in the groups.

It seemed that most of the early part of the meeting was taken up with people praising other people. All very jolly I hear you say, but there was a serious side to all of this. This was confirmed a bit later when we started going through the committee reports. It was then that I realised the incredible amount of work that happens during the year 'behind the scenes'. There are 16 committees that make up the Council. These range from administration, education, public relations, methods, publications etc. Most of these reports were taken as read, except a few where questions were asked. I felt sorry for Beryl Norris who is/was chair of the Ringing Trends committee. She got what is usually termed 'a bit of a grilling'. Not her fault really. It was mentioned that it may be time to close this group down as they seem to have done their work. After a slightly protracted discussion we keep the Ringing Trends committee.

On finishing the morning session, with lunch, we returned to the AGM of the Ringing World. Now I am sure that you all take the 'Comic'. Well you should. Do what someone suggested and buy a tower copy. The Ringing World needs YOUR support. OK it is still going strong at the moment but things do not look rosy, so don't delay, buy today and keep the only journal for ringers alive. They are starting an e-subscription soon so that people can buy the paper 'on line' Wow, I hear you say. Personally I still buy mine from 'Smiths' and have done for over 30 years, old habits die hard. Or you could club together in the tower and buy a tower copy.

After the Ringing World AGM we went back to the committee reports, yes a little weird, but that's life. Having finished with those we had a little comfort stop for tea. You try getting over 200 people to take tea in under 30 mins.

After the tea was finally consumed, it was onto the AGM of the Ringing Foundation. After a bit of a blast from the chairman all was sweetness and light for the rest of the meeting. Well, how did I do! I'm really not sure, it was all a bit overwhelming. I have yet to get myself on one of the committees. The one I fancied was somewhat over-subscribed, but there is always next year. It's Hereford in 2011, part of my old stamping ground so I am looking forward to that. I promise I will get on a committee next year. I might even try the Ringing Trends group!

**MIKE HANSFORD**