

YOUNG RINGER OF THE YEAR Competition Report 2010 – 2011

The cream of our Association's young ringers have surpassed themselves this year. All of the top four would have won this competition on any previous occasion with their score this year, and the other competitors were not far behind them.

It very obviously takes a tremendous amount of sheer hard work backed by dedication, determination and bags of energy to take part in this competition. It is not for the faint-hearted, and it is not only the competitors themselves who will need these qualities but also all the people who support them in their quest. These are many, the ringing tutor/s, the ringers at their tower and other towers where they ring, their ringing friends, their family, etc, and the myriads of others who encourage them along the way. Neither is it for the short term as pace must be maintained throughout the year.

This year's winner, Tobias Dando, amassed an amazing 1241 points - two and a half times more than anyone else has ever scored. This is an outstanding performance for which he deserves great credit, and it is a score which will only be beaten by another exceptional person. To obtain this score, during the year, Tobias rang 71 different methods, 39 of them to touches, rang at 90 different towers, rang 25 quarter peals and 9 peals, attended 46 practice nights and rang for 78 services.

2010 - 2011 Results

Position	Name	Points	Tower	Branch
1st	Tobias Dando	1241	North Cheriton	Cary
2nd	Krystyna Masny	478	Shipham	Axbridge
3rd	Saffron Dharma-Prior	368	North Cheriton	Cary
4th	Kevin Spratling	343	Pitcombe	Cary
5th	Jono Chapman	287	South Petherton	Ilchester
6th	Ashley Tutcher	172	Batheaston	Bath
7th	Linnet Tutcher	159	Batheaston	Bath
8th	Nathan Bartin	136	Limington	Ilchester

How do young ringers progress through this competition? Well, the less experienced ringers, when they begin to take part, will amass most of their points by ringing regularly on their own practice night and for Sunday Service at their own tower. Both of which the Association is keen to promote. In order to achieve a higher total our young ringer must always continue to do this, and, add a new dimension to their ringing for extra points.

Therefore, as our young ringer becomes more experienced, ringing at other towers helps the total along together with beginning to attend branch/association events. Thus our young ringer is encouraged to move away from the security of their own tower and discover some of the great traditions of ringing. The chance to visit other churches and places, the chance to meet other people, and the chance to ring on different bells, to mention but a few.

At the same time our young ringer is progressing from call changes and kaleidoscope ringing to plain hunt. As they progress to learning their first methods this helps the total along together with a greater number of towers visited as 'outings' become a part of their ringing lives. The first Quarter Peal and following quarters then add to their point's total. So the quest for more points encourages our young ringer to delve deeper into the life of a keen bell ringer.

At this point they are in a position to compete for the top spot in our competition and in order to win they are encouraged to learn new methods, ring more quarter peals, visit more towers and for those so inclined the first Peal and subsequent peals do not go amiss. Thus our young ringer has been encouraged to discover the world of ringing and not only the great enjoyment that it brings but also why we ring and the commitment to our own churches that is so important.

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