

Essex Association of Change Ringers

6-bell and 8-bell Striking Competitions

For the second year running, the weather for the EACR 6 and 8 Bell Striking Competitions was hot and sunny. Perfect in fact, for sitting listening to that quintessentially English sound of bells pealing across the churchyard and drifting over nearby fields and woods.



This year's hosting district was the Northern District and the 6 bell competition was held at Colne Engaine. Ten teams entered and the striking ranged from very good to excellent ringing of doubles and minor methods. After an epic tea at the nearby church hall the judges, Cherril and Jeremy Spiller gave their scores:

The top three teams were: Kirby-le-Soken, Sawbridgeworth and Langdon Hills respectively.

The 8 Bell competition followed after tea and the tower selected was the fairly awful Earl's Colne. Not particularly pleasant to ring and extremely hard to hear in the ringing

chamber, this tested the ability of all the teams, with no team mistake free in spite of some excellent ringers in the bands.

In general, there was reasonable-ish ringing from all 5 teams with mistakes and clips. But this was a competition in which the challenging bells took centre stage and not the quality of the ringing. Observers in the churchyard could see the teams emerging looking decidedly unhappy, but one band stood out as having less errors and actually managing a rhythm. After ringing down the judges then gave their verdicts: In joint 3rd place – North-Eastern and Southern Districts. In 2nd place Northern District. In 1st place, overturning North-Eastern's dominance in recent years, South Eastern District.



Congratulations to Kirby-le-Soken for their continued triumph in the 6 Bell and to South-Eastern District on winning the 8 Bell

Thank you to all the Northern District officers, members and friends who helped organise it all and provided such a good tea. Thanks go to the Association Master, John Harpole for presiding and a special thank you to our two judges.

Emily Ashton

Pics – Clare Culham receiving the trophy for Kirby-le-Soken; Christina Brewster accepting the 8 Bell trophy from Jeremy Spiller and John Harpole.