



## District Training Day Report

The morning of the 8th May saw the return of another Training Day for the Portsmouth District. On this rainy Saturday, learners and helpers alike turned up at Botley ready to achieve; this time the focus was on Cambridge Surprise Minor.

I arrived to find Ian Hunt sat with the seven learners around a table, with loads of exciting diagrams and helpful hints and tips explaining how to tackle the mysteries of Cambridge easily and affectively. Ian did a brilliant job at breaking down the line into smaller, more manageable chunks. This must have helped a lot, as I'm well aware that learning new lines can be a pretty daunting task if you're not quite sure how to tackle it!

After having the basics of Cambridge explained, everyone went up the tower and the learners had a go, with helpers providing encouragement and support from within the band, and by standing behind. I recall seeing a *lot* of nervous and uncertain faces when getting thrown into the deep end, but I think that the first half of Ian's talk was beginning to pay off, as 'big, scary Cambridge' was beginning to seem much easier. Botley was a brilliant choice of tower for this Training Day, as the little bells meant that everyone could ring pretty much anywhere, as the back bells were very manageable. With everyone having a good go at the method, getting the opportunity to ring several times, Ian took everyone back down stairs for refreshments, before starting the second half of his talk.



explanations, "I managed to follow the first couple of leads" of Cambridge Maximus when stood behind another ringer.

Finally, we all went back up the tower again to tackle a touch. Many of the learners, who had previously been worried about ringing just a Plain Course, now found themselves doing a superb job during a Bob Course. Everyone who attended the Training Day made a remarkable improvement, and I hope they returned to their own towers feeling much more confident about their abilities. I'd like to thank Ian for his talks and explanations, the helpers for providing assistance, through steady ringing and reassurance throughout the morning, and thank you Botley for your hospitality!

Keep your eyes and ears out for details of the next District Training Day!

Lizzie Hough - Your Friendly District Publicity Person

If you have a story you'd like to tell the District, please email the Publicity Officer at:  
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