

Biographical Record

Daniel (Dan) SMITH (1897 – 1963)

Represented the Barnsley and District Society on the Central Council
from 1948 - 1951 and attended 0 meetings

Daniel Smith was born in the Forest of Dean, at Ruardean, Gloucestershire on 8th March 1897. He became a collier and in the early 1920s moved to Yorkshire, where he learnt to ring. When he joined the Felkirk band it was struggling to ring Plain Bob Minor but both he and the band made rapid progress and after 1929 he conducted many peals, mostly Treble Bob Minor.

He rang almost 200 peals, often on the tenor, of which he conducted over 100. He featured in the 'Great Conductors,' series in *The Ringing World*, and several times headed the Yorkshire Association yearly list of peal scorers. He rang several peals on handbells, a skill he acquired when the bells were silent during the war. Quite a few of his peals were Major, including Surprise but the bulk were Minor – his greatest love – with peals of up to 45 spliced. He emphatically and uncompromisingly had no time for open-lead Minor ringing.

He was secretary of the Barnsley and District Society for over 20 years and in the difficult war years was mainly responsible for keeping it going, by arranging meetings in spite of blackouts and transport difficulties. After the war he represented the Society on the Central Council from 1948 to 1951 but never attended any meetings. For many years he was also vice-president of the Southern District of the Yorkshire Association.

His final years were clouded by illness and he died on 12th February 1963, aged 66. Half-muffled ringing at his funeral included a well-struck course of Felkirk Treble Bob and his handbells were rung round his grave. Peals in his memory were rung at Barnsley on 18th February (Kent Treble Bob Major) and Cawthorne on 2nd March (14 Treble Bob Minor).

He was never afraid to speak his mind and was forthright and dogmatic almost to the point of obstinacy in support of the welfare of ringers or ringing but his gentle and cheerful disposition and his earnestness and sincerity endeared him to all he met.

A tribute appeared in The Ringing World 1963 on page 159