

Biographical Record

RICHARD FRANCIS BENTINCK SPEED (1926 – 2007)

Represented the Middlesex County Association on the Central Council
from 1954 - 1957, Honorary member from 1958 - 1978,
Represented the Peterborough Diocesan Guild from 1978 - 1981,
Honorary member from 1981 - 1987,
Representative of the Worcester and Districts Association 1990 - 2004
and attended 39 meetings

Richard Francis Bentinck Speed was born in Surbiton on 31st July 1926.

He learned to ring in 1943 at Radley, being taught by Marie Cross.

He rang his first peal, Grandsire Triples, at Christ Church Epsom on 30th June 1945.

He rang 3-4 in what was then the longest length of Plain Bob Royal and of Royal on handbells: 10,080 Plain Bob Royal on 2nd May 1948.

He rang 732 peals, calling many of them . He was also a prolific composer at a time when computers were not available to check for falseness.

He was Master of the Cambridge University Guild 1946-1947.

He was a member of the following Central Council committees:

Beginner's Handbook 1956-1959 and 1962-1963.	Peals Collection 1960-1975
Peals Composition 1957-1975.	Methods 1969-1975
The Ringing World 1968-1981 (chairman 1978-1981)	
Standing Committee / Administrative 1966-1982.	

From 1958-1966 he was Assistant Librarian to the Central Council, being in charge of sales of publications.

By profession he was an electronics expert, spending much of his working life with G.E.C., but in later life he retired to Clifton on Teme in Worcestershire, where he ran The Lion public house.

He died on 22nd November 2007.

