

Thorley Win Richard Atkins Competition for Fourth Year Running

Little Hadham • Saturday 19 September 2026



The winning Thorley band with their trophy.

Thorley ringers made it four in a row on Saturday, taking first place in this year's Bishop's Stortford District Richard Atkins Competition at Little Hadham with just 49 faults. Six bands rang in the striking competition, which was judged by Chris and Julia Forster.

Thorley's winning piece impressed the judges with a good, confident start, good ringing through Queens and Whittington's, a good pace throughout and a good finish. Chris Forster, who knows the Little Hadham bells well, noted that some of them are oddly struck, which makes accurate ringing tricky. He congratulated every band for being brave enough to take part in a striking competition, which he described as a nerve-racking experience, and liked that the draw took place just before the ringing began. With all the bands present from the start, the day became a social occasion where ringers could mingle and enjoy visiting a new tower.

In their summing up, the judges said they had been made very comfortable and that it was a pleasure to be invited to judge. They felt the standard of ringing was generally good, gave a special well done to the first-timers, and reminded ringers not to rush to get it over with. Congratulations go to Thorley on their fourth consecutive win, and thanks to all six bands for taking part.



Thorley | 1st



Much Hadham | 2nd



Sawbridgeworth | 3rd



Bishop's Stortford | 4th



Standon | 5th



Pelham Panthers | 6th

The six bands at Little Hadham, in finishing order.