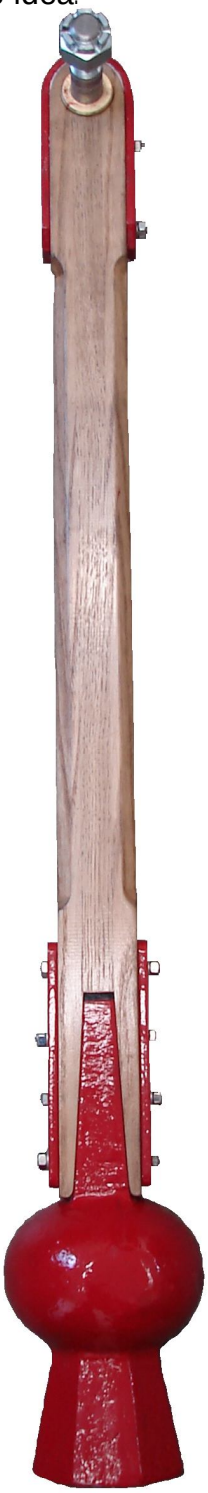
Taylors Eayre & Smith Ltd

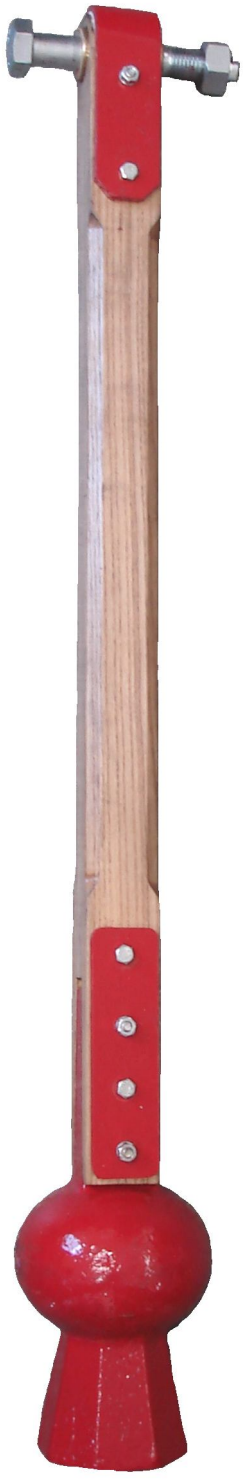
Taylor Wooden Shafted Clappers

Clappers in large bells have always had a tendency to break – a situation worsened by the demise of wrought iron as a practical material from which to make them. Taylors Eayre and Smith have been working with Jim Wheeler to perfect a modern viable alternative to spheroidal graphite cast iron clappers.

The idea came about after the failure of the tenor clapper at Worcester Cathedral and the need to make a replacement quickly. Jim had reasoned that if you didn't make sledge hammers with a metal shaft, why make clappers that way, the results proved this was indeed the case and we were sold on the idea.



Using Jim's design as a basis we have created the necessary patterns to cast new clapper balls with the traditional octagonal flight, suitable for splicing onto a laminated oak and ash shaft. This shaft is sealed so that it is stable in varying weather conditions. The pivot point can be made either with a phosphor bronze bush or for an additional charge a ball bearing unit can be fitted.



Wooden clappers have the following advantages over their cast counterparts:

- **Better Sound** – because the shaft does not transmit energy, the clapper bounces off the bell rather than resting on it and this allows the full tone of the bell to propagate.
- **Better Dynamics** – because there is little weight in the shaft, the clapper will have a better dynamic relationship with the bell, meaning that it will be significantly easier to ring the bell up "right side".
- **Less Inertia** – because the whole assembly is considerably lighter than a cast clapper, there is less weight acting on the bell which means the bell is easier to ring.

Prices start at £350.00 +VAT for bells up to 35cwt.
Add £42.00 for the ball bearing option.

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