
Companion Document to:

Descriptive Framework

And

Requirements

For

Method Ringing

Version 6.6.1

September 27th 2015

This document is a companion to a main document that is a proposed replacement for sections D, E, F, G, I and J of the 2014 version of the Central Council's Decisions. It is intended to be read in conjunction with the main document, and it provides further explanation and background on the main document. This document and the main document are available at <https://goo.gl/JhLyMc>.

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Summary of the Ringing Theory discussion group informal polls

1. Introduction and explanation

The 2014 Central Council Meeting

At the May 2014 meeting of the Central Council, John Couperthwaite, in the Other Business part of the meeting, recalled the discussion earlier that day on Motion D that added non-method blocks to the Council's Decisions. John noted the strong groundswell of opinion, both inside and outside the Council, that it was time for a fundamental review of the relevant Decisions. John thought that it would be wrong to be prescriptive about exactly what should be done at this early stage and he formally proposed that:

The Methods Committee should begin work on consultation about, and on developing the principles and fundamental requirements of, a possible new or revised set of Decisions concerning Peal Ringing, Methods and Calls and, in the first instance, should report on progress to the Administrative Committee at its next regular meeting. That the Administrative Committee should then decide on the next steps to be taken and that a report on progress be made to the next Council meeting, either in the next Administrative Committee report to Council or in the next Methods Committee report to Council, as deemed appropriate.

Fred Bone seconded the proposal. Tony Smith stated that the proposal would cause a lot of work and result in very little change; the complexities of the Decisions were there for a purpose. John Harrison commented that the proposal did not go far enough and that a review should not be delegated to the Methods Committee.

The proposal was carried by majority.

The Ringing Theory email discussion group ("R-T")

For many years, R-T, a group of over 200 members, had discussed, among many other topics, the perceived shortcomings of the current Decisions and how they could be improved. In the aftermath of the May 2014 Central Council meeting, the level of discussion on the Decisions by R-T reached a new peak. A series of informal polls relating to the Decisions was conducted among R-T members between June 2014 and January 2015 to gauge opinion on various aspects of the current Decisions that had been controversial. The results of these polls are included in the appendix of this document.

R-T postings are publicly archived at: http://bellringers.net/pipermail/ringing-theory_bellringers.net

The Ringing Theory Rules Subgroup ("subgroup")

In late January 2015, a subgroup of R-T was formed for interested volunteers to collaborate on a proposed new set of Decisions. The idea was to channel the expertise, energy and interest of various R-T members into developing something concrete that might become a catalyst for change. It was recognised that the development of a proposal document would involve a large volume of emails that would not necessarily be of interest to all members of R-T. A subgroup was therefore formed to which all R-T members were invited to join. About 25 people joined the Subgroup, including, as word spread, some who were not members of R-T. Between January 2015 and

September 2015, over 500 emails were exchanged in the subgroup relating to the development and contents of the proposal document, and the document itself passed through over 20 iterations.

The subgroup postings are publicly archived at: <http://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/rt-rules-subgroup>

Goals of the subgroup

The main goal of the subgroup that emerged was to produce a proposed new set of Decisions that could be a full replacement for sections D, E, F, G, I and J of the 2014 version of the Central Council's Decisions. The goal was not that the proposal *should* become the new Decisions. Instead the intent was that the proposal would:

- Demonstrate that it's possible to produce a viable new set of Decisions from the ground up
- Show what a possible new set of Decisions might look like
- Be useful input to the Central Council's review of the Decisions

In developing the document, the intent was also to align the proposal with the results of the informal polls that were held on R-T, and also more generally to incorporate ideas and approaches that had emerged from R-T discussions on the Decisions over the years.

The subgroup did not start by formally establishing guiding principles. Rather, it anticipated that the major challenge in crafting new Decisions would be in the detail. It therefore sought to tackle the challenges associated with the detail, and as solutions to the detail were found, record when principles emerged. The principles that emerged (or which had emerged earlier on R-T) are outlined in Section 2 below. This approach was also influenced by a sense among some, but not all, subgroup members that the overall regime that supports the world of method ringing didn't need changing. Rather, the sense was that the existing regime's rules needed updating.

It is also worth noting that the work of the subgroup has always been intended to be a constructive contribution to the bigger debate and process around the review and possible update of the current Decisions.

Why is there a strong groundswell of opinion, both inside and outside the Council, that it is time for a fundamental review of the Decisions?

This question can be difficult to answer succinctly. One way to answer it is to refer the reader to Section 3 below, which tabulates what would change under the subgroup's proposal compared to the current Decisions. There are over 40 changes, giving an indication of the perceived large volume of shortcomings of the current Decisions.

But the question can also be answered by listing areas of the current Decisions that are viewed as problematic, with different members of the ringing community having greater or lesser concerns on the various different areas:

- They include arbitrary value judgements and constraints on what may be rung and/or how it may be described. For example, methods that are false in the plain course, but which can be used in true spliced compositions to great musical effect, are relegated to "non-method block" status.

- They only cover performances of peals, giving no recognition to quarter peals (the most commonly rung length in method ringing) or to other intermediate lengths such as date touches and half peals.
- They have been repeatedly 'patched' over many decades, leaving them messy and hard to follow. For example, see the handling of variable cover in Section (D)B.
- They contain sections that are viewed as outdated. Examples: Section (F) on compositions reads from another era (as indeed it is); the requirement for tower bell peals to be heard outside the tower is obsolete in an era of noise complaints, sound control and mini rings in private homes.
- They use many terms that are not defined. Examples: rounds, row and true.
- They over-classify methods with no clear benefit. For example, one method class (Slow Course) is based on whether the 2nd is a secondary hunt bell that makes 2nd's at the lead end.
- They provide insufficient detail in places to make clear what is intended. Section (G)B on method extension is an example of this.
- They are very stage-dependent. For example, different rules apply to peals at different stages under (D)B. This adds complexity for no clear benefit.

The subgroup's proposal aims to address all of these issues, together with other smaller problems, in a fully rigorous and consistent way. At the same time it aims to simplify things wherever possible, including by removing arbitrary restrictions and by applying the same requirements at all stages. The proposal also provides for innovations such as dynamic methods and jump changes. While some complexity remains, this comes from the complexity and richness of method ringing itself.

However it should also be noted that there is plenty in the current Decisions that is valuable and well thought out, and which works well. The subgroup has aimed to retain these elements in its proposal, and the subgroup also recognises that its proposal document builds on much that has gone before it in the crafting of Decisions.

2. Principles and boundaries used to develop the proposal

A. Principles

- (a) Informed by the Ringing Theory discussion group and its informal polls. This group includes many ringing experts who are well-versed in matters relating to the Decisions.
- (b) Description not prescription: avoidance of arbitrary rules and value judgements, while recognising that certain boundaries are required if method ringing is to maintain its current form and structure.
- (c) Simple, generic and consistent, while recognising that method ringing has inherent complexity resulting from both its mathematical foundation and its rich history developed over centuries, such that not all complexity can be eliminated.
- (d) Terms used should be clearly defined. However the proposal document doesn't try to define all ringing terms – just those needed in other parts of the document.
- (e) Inclusiveness and continuity: ringers at large generally should not be affected by these proposed changes. But ringers of lengths shorter than peals are given equal standing to peal ringers, such that, for example, they are able to name new methods under this proposal.
- (f) The concept of a “standard performance” (as defined in the proposal, and of which a peal, a half peal and a quarter peal are examples) should be retained / added. ‘Standard’ is considered a neutral word whose main connotation is as a reference point. Key reasons for defining standard performances, *inter alia*, are:
 - i. To provide a reference that helps to facilitate comparisons between performances and bands
 - ii. To provide historical continuity
 - iii. To facilitate the production of ringing statistics and analysis. Many ringers enjoy keeping statistics, and a variety of different types of ringing statistics are published across the ringing community. Without defined performance standards, these statistics become less meaningful.
 - iv. To maintain the mildly competitive nature of ringing, where bands seek to improve their skills so that they can ring the same things as other bands whose performances they see reported. Without defined performance standards, bands wouldn't know if their performances were comparable to those of other bands.

Importantly the intention is not to denigrate any type of performance that falls outside the definition of a standard performance. A non-standard performance may well be interesting, worthwhile and/or innovative. Distinguishing standard and non-standard performances is simply a way of categorizing performances for the purposes of comparison.

B. Boundaries used

For the purposes of the proposal document, the following boundaries were used in defining method ringing:

- (a) In method ringing, the same set of bells rings in every row, with each bell ringing exactly once in every row.

Not method ringing:	Not method ringing:	Not method ringing:
<u>123456</u>	<u>123456</u>	<u>123456</u>
<u>213546</u>	<u>213546</u>	213542
23156	23156 7	615324
32165	32165 7	165231
312645	312645	462513
132465	132465	642156
<u>123456</u>	<u>123456</u>	341265
		431624
		536142
		356413
		254631
		524365
		<u>123456</u>

- (b) In method ringing, each bell rings in a different place in the row to every other bell.

Not method ringing:

1	2	3	4	5	6
2	1	3	4	5	6
1	2	3/5		4/6	
1/3/5			2/4/6		

where ‘/’ indicates bells striking at the same time (i.e. a chord).

- (c) Standard method ringing performances are based on the requirement to ring a true round block.
- (d) Fixed cover places (as defined in the proposal) are excluded when determining truth, while variable cover places (as also defined in the proposal) are included.

C. A word about Method Classification

The subgroup’s proposal makes a relatively small number of modest changes to the Method Classification system (these changes are noted in the table in Section 3 below). Several members of the subgroup felt that the proposal document could have gone further in streamlining and simplifying the Classification system. It will be noted that Section G of the proposal document, at 3½ pages, is by far the longest individual section of the document. If the Central Council decided to go further than this document does in rationalising the Classification system, this would likely be supported by the subgroup.

Furthermore, a classification system for static methods with jump changes and for dynamic methods has not been included in the proposal. This is another area for further consideration.

3. Table of changes to the Decisions that would result from the proposal

The following table shows the differences between the Current Decisions and the proposal document.

Num	CC Decisions Reference	New Proposal Reference	Description of change
1	(D)A.1	K.1	A Peal starts and ends with the same Row, but this Row is not required to be Rounds.
2	(D)A.2	B.2 / B.1 / C.1 / F.1 / K.1	The Identity Change (which causes the same Row to be rung twice in succession) is permitted in Peals. (The requirement for Peals to be True remains but Identity Changes can be used when more than one Extent is rung.)
3	(D)A.6	n/a	The requirement for bells to be heard outside the tower is removed. This is considered obsolete.
4	(D)A.7	K.4	The restriction on providing assistance to ringers by those not ringing is limited to not providing any assistance with the ringing itself, or with conducting, etc. The current Decisions bar assistance of any kind. An assistant who switches on the lights, turns off the heater, or gives a ringer a bottle of water wouldn't be considered to be providing assistance.
5	(D)A.9 / (D)A.10	K.9	Correction of errors in calling or ringing is required 'as quickly as possible', as opposed to 'immediately'. This is viewed as more realistic.
6	n/a	K.9	A requirement is added that a band 'strives to maintain a high standard of ringing'. The current Decisions are silent on ringing quality, so this requirement makes the current general ethos explicit.
7	(D)A.12	n/a	The clause on raising objections to a Peal other than with respect to Truth is removed. This is considered obsolete.
8	(D)A.13 / (I)	n/a	Non-method blocks are removed as they are not needed.
9	(D)B.1	A.1 / F.1 / K.1	Peals of Minimus are recognized on handbells. However, single person performances such as a 4-in-hand Peal of Minimus require the presence of an umpire to corroborate that the Performance took place.
10	n/a	A.1 / F.1 / K.1	Peals at Stages 2 ("Two") and 3 ("Singles") are recognised (tower bells and handbells) for consistency across Stages.
11	(D)B.2	K.1	The requirement for Peals at Stage 7 or less to be rung in whole Extents, or in Round Blocks of two or more Extents, consisting of at least 5040 Changes is removed. Stage 7 and below is treated the same way as Stage 8 and above.

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12	(D)B.2 / (D)B.3	F.1 / K.1	When a Cover Bell is used, it is not limited to being the tenor bell, and there may be more than one Cover Bell. Cover Bells may also be used at the beginning of a Row, as well as at the end of a Row.
13	(D)B.4 / (D)B.5 / (D)B.6 / (D)B.7	F.1 / K.1	The various current requirements for Peals on different numbers of bells are removed, and replaced with a single requirement for Peals to be True Round Blocks. (Note that 'True' in the proposal document has a broader meaning than just 'no repeated rows', such as when ringing more than an extent, when ringing methods of more than one stages, and/or when ringing with variable cover bells.)
14	(D)B.6 / (D)B.7	F.1 / K.1	Peals may be rung that comprise Methods of more than two Stages, and also that comprise Methods of two Stages that are not adjacent.
15	(D)B.8	M.1	Reports of variable cover Peals do not state the number of Cover Bells used (but the current requirement to state the number of changes of bells in Variable Cover Places is not changed).
16	(D)C.1	n/a	The restriction on Spliced Peals only having changes of Methods at the half lead or lead end is removed, and the requirement that half-lead spliced only involves Methods that are symmetrical about the half lead is removed. This is considered obsolete.
17	(D)C.2	M.2	Peals comprising more than one True Round Block (e.g. 7 Extents of Minor) are considered to be spliced if any one of them comprises more than one Method. The current Decisions require all Round Blocks to be spliced for the Peal to be spliced.
18	(D)C.4	M.1	The requirement to separately report the number of changes of Method at lead end and half lead is removed. All changes of Method are counted, regardless of where they occur.
19	(D)C.4	M.1	The number of Changes rung of each Method in a multi-Method Peal is stated for all Stages. In the current Decisions this is only a requirement for Triples and higher.
20	n/a	M.3	Reports of Peals that use electronically-generated bell sounds state this.
21	(D)D §2	P.3	The Ringing World only refers claimed new Record Lengths to the Central Council's Peal Records Committee. Currently all Peals of 10,000 or more Changes are required to be referred.
22	(D)E	Q.1	The Central Council's annual analysis is extended to include all Performances published in The Ringing World, analysed by Standard and non-Standard Performances, and by the various Standard Performance Lengths. In the current Decisions, the analysis only covers Peals.
23	(E)A.1	B	The definition of Change is extended to include Jump Changes and Identity Changes, also enabling these types of Changes to be used in Peals. (In relation to Identity Changes, the requirement for Peals to be True remains.) The term Adjacent Change is also introduced for the more restrictive definition in the current Decisions.

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24	(E)A.2	F.4	Methods with a single Lead in the Plain Course are not excluded from being called Methods.
25	(E)A.2	F.4	Methods that are not True in the Plain Course are not excluded from being called Methods. (The requirement for Peals to be True remains.)
26	(E)A.5(a)	G.2.2	Hunters are renamed Hunt Methods on the view that Hunt Method would be more widely understood.
27	(E)A.5(c)	G.2.3	Differentials are renamed as Differential Principles. This gives symmetry with the naming of Differential Hunt Methods
28	(E)A.5(d)	G.2.4	Differential Hunters are renamed Differential Hunt Methods.
29	(E)A.5(c) / (E)A.5(d)	G.2.3 / G.2.4	Methods where all bells first return to their starting Places after the same number of Plain Leads, but where this number of Plain Leads is less than the number of Working Bells (i.e. short course Methods) are not classified as Differential. A Differential Method requires different Working Bells to first return to their starting places after different numbers of Plain Leads.
30	(E)A.6	n/a	There is not a restriction on the number of consecutive blows in the same Place that a Method may produce
31	(E)B.2(g)	G.3.4	An Alliance method is not required to have symmetry across the Hunt Bell making a Place. An Alliance Method's Hunt Bell may have symmetry across a point, or across the making of Places for an odd number of Rows (e.g. Good Hybrid Minor and Evil Hybrid Minor become Alliance methods).
32	(E)C.1 / (E)C.2(a)	n/a	The Slow Course Method Classification is retired on the view that classification based on a secondary Hunt Bell Path is excessive. See Section 4, Transitional arrangements, below for a proposal on how existing Slow Course methods could be renamed. Since Slow Course classification is the only use for the distinction between 'principal hunts' and 'secondary hunts', these two terms are not used.
33	(E)D.2(e)	n/a	The requirement for certain Plain Methods to have "Double" or "Single" incorporated into their Method Names has been dropped. Existing Methods that have these terms in their names will keep them.
34	(E)D.2(f)	n/a	The requirement for certain Principles and Differential Principles to have "Reverse" incorporated into their Method Names has been dropped. Existing Methods that have these terms in their names will keep them.
35	(E)D.4	N.1	The lesser of an Extent and a Quarter Peal is sufficient to name a new Method. If a Method is being named through a Quarter Peal or longer, there is no minimum Length of the new Method that needs to be rung in the Quarter Peal, just that it is included.
36	(F)	n/a	The current Decision on Compositions is deleted. It is considered to be obsolete.
37	(G)	O	The detail on techniques for Method Extension and Contraction are removed from the Decisions and are placed into a separate Central Council document. While the techniques become advisory, there remains an expectation that

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			Methods at different Stages that are given the same name are demonstrably related. Safeguards are included to deal with any misuse of Method naming.
38	(J)A.2	E.1	Calls may add Changes, as well as omitting them or altering them.
39	(J)A.4	R.4	The concept of standard calls is not needed. However, Doubles Variations are retained in the Exceptions section, since they are Stage-specific
40	n/a	C.3	Dynamic Methods such as Dixon’s Bob Minor are covered in the proposal document and can be used in Peals.
41	n/a	H.3 – H.9	Standard Performance Lengths are defined in the proposal document, including Quarter Peals, Half Peals and Date Touches.
42	n/a	K.7	Peals on simulators may be rung, but note that for a Standard Performance, the sound generated by a simulator must still be triggered by tower bell-like or handbell-like inputs. Pressing a key on a keyboard doesn’t qualify. Also note that the simulator can’t “ring” any of the bells – they must all be “rung” by humans (K.3).
43	n/a	M.6	When Performance reports are submitted electronically, inclusion of the Composition is encouraged (and inclusion of the Composition remains a requirement for Record Lengths, regardless of the means of submission).
44	n/a	Q.5	The Central Council’s Methods Committee is formally given a role in advising on suitable Extensions and Contractions for existing Methods to different Stages.
45	n/a	Q.6	Peals recognized under these proposed new Decisions that were not previously recognized may be retroactively recognized.

4. Transitional arrangements

The proposal document makes three changes to method classification that would result in changes to the method titles of certain methods. This could result in some method naming conflicts. The procedures below are suggestions for how these conflicts could be resolved:

- (a) The classification “slow course” has been eliminated. It is proposed that the word “Slow” is added to the method name for all existing slow course methods.
- (b) Short course methods (i.e. methods whose working bells all first return to their starting places after the same number of plain leads, but this number of plain leads is less than the number of working bells) are not classified as differential methods. If any method title conflicts arise as a result of this change, it is proposed that either (a) the band that first rang the method is contacted to see if they have a proposed new name to use for the method, or (b), if this is not practicable, the words “No. [n]” are added to the method name, where [n] is replaced with the lowest positive integer that enables the method title to be unique under its new classification.
- (c) The hunt bell path(s) for plain, treble dodging, treble place and alliance methods are not required to be symmetrical about a place being made. They may also be symmetrical about a point, or about 3 or more successive blows in the same place. In practice, the requirement that the hunt bell(s) of plain, treble dodging and treble place methods ring the same number of times in each place in a plain lead will necessarily result in these methods having hunt bells whose paths are symmetrical about a place. But certain methods that today are classified as hybrid methods would become alliance methods under the proposed document. Examples are Good Hybrid Minor and Evil Hybrid Minor. If any method title conflicts arise as a result of this change, the same renaming approach as in (b) above is suggested.

5. Notes and examples supporting the main document

The following table provides additional information on the corresponding sections of the main document. When reading the main document, if the meaning of a section is unclear, it is hoped that the table below will provide clarity. Note that this section is intended to provide guidance – it is not intended to be part of the proposed new Decisions.

Where there is no entry in the left-hand column below, the table is introducing a new term or concept that assists in overall understanding, but whose inclusion in the main document wasn't considered necessary.

A	Rows	
A.1	Row	<p>Bells are numbered in descending order of note (i.e. frequency), and are referred to using ordinal numbers (e.g. 'the 2nd'). Where it is helpful to write bell numbers in single characters, '0', 'E', 'T', 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D', etc, are used for 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, etc, respectively.</p> <p>531246 is an example of a Row of 6 bells (or a 6-bell Row). Bell number 1 has the highest note and bell number 6 has the lowest note. Bell number 3 is referred to as 'the 3rd'.</p> <p>13579EAC24680TBD is an example of the written representation of a 16-bell Row. Note that the single-character representation for the 10th is the number zero, not the letter oh.</p> <p>Bell number 1 in a Row is normally referred to as the Treble as opposed to the 1st. The bell with the lowest note in a Row is normally referred to as the Tenor as opposed to the corresponding ordinal number. Example: When 10 bells are ringing, the Tenor is the 10th</p>
A.2	Rounds	Example: 12345678 is Rounds when 8 bells are ringing.
A.3	Place	<p>Places are referred to using ordinal numbers in the possessive form, such as "2nd's Place". Each bell in a Row rings in a different Place to all other bells in that Row. Example: In the Row 142536, the 2nd is in 3rd's Place. "3rd's Place" is a reference to the Place the 3rd bell is in when ringing Rounds.</p> <p>The bell in 1st's Place is said to be Leading. The bell in the last Place is said to be Lying. Examples: In the Row 142536, the Treble is Leading. In the Row 2143658709, the 9th is Lying.</p>

B	Changes	
B.1	Change	A Change defines the transposition of all bells in a Row to their Places in the resulting Row, and a Change does not transpose two or more bells into the same Place in the resulting Row. Example: A Change might transpose the bells from the Row 214365 to the Row 241356.

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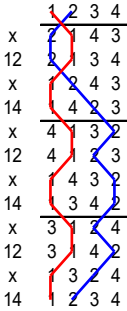

B.2	Identity Change	Example: The Change that transposes the bells from Row 54321 to Row 54321 is an Identity Change.
B.3	Adjacent Change	Example: The Change that transposes the bells from Row 21436587 to the Row 12346857 is an Adjacent Change.
B.4	Jump Change	Example: The Change that transposes the bells from Row 12345678 to Row 23415678 is a Jump Change because the Treble moves further than an adjacent Place
	Place Notation	<p>A notation used to describe an Adjacent Change or an Identity Change, or a sequence of such Changes. It is formed by writing the Places of bells that remain in the same Place from one Row to the next Row, working from beginning to end in the Row.</p> <p>For example, in Minimus, the Adjacent Change that swaps the bells in 2nd's and 3rd's Places is denoted '14', since the bells in 1st's and 4th's Places remain in the same Place across the two Rows.</p> <p>Single character representations of bells are used for Places above 9th's Place. The symbols 'x', 'X' or '-' are used to denote an Adjacent Change on an even number of bells where no bell stays in the same Place. Dots are used to delineate between consecutive Changes where at least one bell remains in the same Place in both Changes (e.g. 14.58). "14.58" (when referring, for example, to Major Changes) can optionally be represented as "4.5" since the "1" and "8" can be implied.</p>
	Change Ringing	The practice of ringing Rows without interval, where the progression between Rows is defined by Changes. Note that Called Changes (or 'Call Changes') is a form of Change Ringing. 'Without interval' means no stopping during the ringing; each subsequent Row is rung immediately following the preceding Row.

C	Methods	
C.1	Method	[Intentionally left blank]
C.2	Static Method	x16x14x16x12 is an example of a Static Method on 6 bells, represented here using Place Notation. This place notation is fixed as well as finite.
C.3	Dynamic Method	A Dynamic Method might specify that Rows are generated by successively applying the pair of Changes x16 except (a) if the Treble is Leading after an x Change, replace the next 16 Change with a 12 Change, and (b) if the 2nd or 4th is Leading after an x Change, replace the next 16 Change with a 14 Change. In this example, the sequence of Changes varies depending on the Rows generated. In other words, the sequence is Changes is not fixed.
C.4	Stage	[Intentionally left blank]
C.5	Stage Name	[Intentionally left blank]
	Method Ringing	The practice of ringing Rows without interval, where the progression between Rows is defined primarily by Methods, secondarily by Calls, with Rows optionally also including one or more Cover Bells.

D	Cover Bells	
D.1	Cover Bell	A Row might have the form MMMMMMMC, where C is a Cover Bell, and M are bells that are ringing a Method.

E	Calls	
E.1	Call	<p>A Method might have the Changes x16x14x16x12. A Call might alter the 12 Change at the end to become a 14 Change.</p> <p>When a Call adds Changes, the additional Changes are added to the related Method's total number of Changes rung for Performance Reporting purposes.</p> <p>When a single Call affects the Changes or more than one Method (i.e. in spliced), the Composition should make clear how the Change count of each Method is affected so that the Performance can be accurately reported.</p> <p>For example in spliced, a complex Call might remove the last two Changes of the Lead from Method A, and also remove the first Change of the next Lead from Method B. These might be replaced by three Changes that are part of Method A and three Changes that are part of Method B.</p> <p>This would add one net Change to the number of Changes rung of Method A, and would add two net Changes to the number of Changes rung of Method B.</p>

F	Blocks	
F.1	Block	<p>All Rows generated by a Block involve the same set of bells, and therefore all Rows have the same number of bells. An individual bell does not, for example, take part in some Rows, then stop for a period while other Rows are rung without it, and then join in again. When ringing a 6-bell Block at a tower with, for example, 10 bells, the same 6 bells ring in all Rows of the Block, such that the other 4 bells in the tower do not ring at any point in the Block.</p> <p>Note also that there is no requirement to use whole multiples of a Method's Changes - any portion of a Method's Changes can be used in the generation of a Block.</p> <p>The purpose of the second sentence is as follows: if, for example, Maximus is rung that comprises London S Minor on the front 6 and Cambridge S Minor on the back 6, this would be named as a Maximus method since two separate Methods may not be used in the same row. Furthermore, Cambridge S Minor may not be rung simultaneously on the front 6 and the back 6 as this would be two instances of the same Method – again this would be named as a Maximus method.</p> <p>The subgroup considered the possibility of ringing Changes created by combining Methods rung simultaneously. For example, if Maximus is rung by combining London S Minor on the front 6 with Cambridge S Minor on the back 6. More complicated cases might also arise where three or more Methods are combined and also where the Methods are not started at exactly the same Change and/or</p>

		<p>Cover Bells separate the Methods. Describing precisely what was rung in these cases can become very convoluted, potentially requiring the use of multiple Methods with Stage Names which don't relate to the actual number of bells being rung, as well as having to define both the Row and first Place that each Method operates on. While in some cases this could be a simpler description, it has been proposed that naming a new Method at the encompassing Stage to represent the combination of the constituent Methods would provide the simplest generic mechanism to define, prove and record what was rung. Applying this logic, any Row is only ever generated by applying a single Method's Places (or a Call's Places) to the preceding Row.</p> <p>Also, there are no Rows in a Block that consist solely of Cover Bells. A single Method is used in the generation of each Row of a Block.</p>
F.2	Round Block	[Intentionally left blank]
F.3	Plain Lead	<p>The place notation for Stedman Doubles in the CC Method Library is 3.1.5.3.1.3.1.3.5.1.3.1. When these changes are applied once to a starting row, the result, by definition, is one plain lead. Note that if a method has palindromic symmetry, it may be recorded in shorthand in a Method Library in a form such as &x16x14,12. The '&' indicates that the portion before the comma must also be reversed, before then adding the portion after the comma. In full this method's place notation is therefore x16x14x16x12, and this is the place notation that defines one plain lead.</p>
F.4	Plain Course	 <p>The place notation for Bastow Little Bob Minimus is x12x14. This place notation produces one plain lead, bringing up the row 1423 as shown in the diagram (the first underlined row after the underlined rounds at the top). If this place notation is applied twice more, rounds is produced.</p> <p>Bastow Little Bob Minimus therefore has 3 plain leads in its plain course.</p>
F.5	Composition	[Intentionally left blank]
F.6	Length	 <p>Length is measured in number of changes instead of number of rows to avoid the question of whether the opening or closing rounds, or neither or both, are included in the count.</p> <p>In this example block, it can be seen there are a total of 9 rows, including both the initial rounds and the final rounds. However, 8 changes (as represented by place notations on the left) are used to produce this block. The block therefore has a length of 8 changes.</p>
F.7	Fixed Cover Place	<p>Example: Assume Plain Bob Doubles is being rung on the front 5 of a ring of 8, and Cover Bells are ringing in 6th's, 7th's and 8th's Places.</p> <p>Also assume that Calls are used in the Composition such that (a) occasionally the bells in 5th's and 6th's Places are called to swap, and (b) occasionally, at other times to (a), the bells in 6th's and 7th's Places are called to swap.</p>

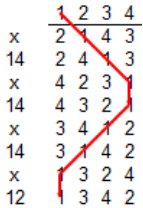
		In this ringing, the bell ringing in 8th's Place is always the same bell because it is not ringing a Method and it is never affected by a Call. 8th's Place is therefore a Fixed Cover Place in this example.
F.8	Variable Cover Place	In the example for F.7 above, 6th's and 7th's Places are Variable Cover Places because they contain Cover Bells for at least one of the Rows (and in fact for this example, for all of the Rows), but they are not Fixed Cover Places because the same Cover Bell is not ringing in each of 6th's and 7th's Places all the time.
F.9	Extent	The number of Rows in an extent is the factorial of the Stage of the Row. E.g. at Stage Minimus, the Extent has 4! Rows = $1 * 2 * 3 * 4 = 24$ Rows.
F.10	Effective Stage	In the example for F.7 above, the Effective Stage would be 7 (i.e. Triples) because only 8th's Place is a Fixed Cover Place.
F.11	True	<p>When the number of Rows in a Block is less than or equal to the number of Rows in the Extent of the Block's Effective Stage, the definition of True simplifies to "a Block that has no repeated Rows". However, the definition of True becomes more involved when a Block has more Rows than the number of Rows in the Extent of the Block's Effective Stage. Following are examples of three different scenarios:</p> <p><u>Example 1:</u></p> <pre> 1234567 2135467 2315647 3216547 3126457 1324657 1234567 </pre> <p>In the Block in Example 1, a Minor Method is being rung on the front 6 with a Cover Bell in 7th's Place. The bell in 7th's Place (the 7th) is never affected by a Call. 7th's place is therefore a Fixed Cover Place and is excluded when determining truth:</p> <pre> 123456 213546 231564 321654 312645 132465 123456 </pre> <p>There are 6 remaining Places, so the Effective Stage of the Block is 6 (i.e. Minor). The Extent of Minor has $6! = 720$ Rows.</p> <p>6 of the Rows in the Extent of the Block's Effective Stage appear in the above Block once. 714 of the Rows in the Extent of the Block's Effective Stage appear in the above Block zero times.</p> <p>Since Rows in the Extent of the Block's Effective Stage appear in the Block either once or zero times, the requirement that each Row in the Extent of the Block's Effective Stage occurs within the Block at most one more time than every other Row in the Extent of the Block's Effective Stage is met, and so the Block is True.</p> <p><u>Example 2:</u></p> <pre> 12345678 </pre>

		<p>12435678 12453678 12543678 12534678 12354678 12534678 12354678 <u>12345678</u></p> <p>In the Block in Example 2, 1st's, 2nd's, 6th's, 7th's and 8th's Places are Fixed Cover Places, so these are excluded when determining truth:</p> <p><u>345</u> 435 453 543 534 354 534 354 <u>345</u></p> <p>There are 3 remaining Places, so the Effective Stage of the Block is 3 (i.e. Singles).</p> <p>The Extent of Singles has $3! = 6$ Rows.</p> <p>2 of the Rows in the Effective Extent appear twice each in the Block (534 and 354).</p> <p>Since all Rows of the Effective Extent appear either once or twice, the "at most one more time" requirement is met and the Block is True.</p> <p><u>Example 3:</u></p> <p><u>1234</u> 2134 2314 3214 3124 1324 1234 2143 2413 4231 4321 3412 3142 1324 <u>1234</u></p> <p>In the Block in Example 3, a Singles Method is rung on the front 3 for the first 6 Changes, together with a Cover Bell in 4th's Place. Then there is a switch to a Minimus Method for the remaining 8 Changes of the Block.</p> <p>There are no Fixed Cover Places in this Block – 4th's Place is a Variable Cover Place because Methods at both Stages 3 and 4 are used. So there are no Places to exclude when determining truth.</p> <p>The Effective Stage of the Block is therefore 4 (i.e. Minimus).</p> <p>The Extent of Minimus has $4! = 24$ Rows.</p>
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		<p>2 of these 24 Rows appear twice, 10 of these 24 Rows appear once, and 12 of these 24 Rows appear zero times.</p> <p>Since all Rows of the Effective Extent appear zero times, once or twice in the Block, the “at most one more time” requirement is not met and the Block is False.</p>
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G	Method Classification
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G.1	Method Classification Terms	
G.1.1	Method Class	At present, a classification system is only in place for Static Methods that only use Adjacent Changes and/or Identity Changes. A classification system for Dynamic Methods and for Static Methods that use Jump Changes has not yet been developed. Note that Cover Bells are excluded when classifying methods.
G.1.2	Hunt Bell	 <p>The place notation recorded in the Central Council’s Method Library for Plain Bob Minimus is x14x14x14x12. This place notation produces one Plain Lead when applied once to an initial Row. Using an initial row of 1234 (Rounds), the Plain Lead shown in the diagram is produced. To identify which are the Hunt Bell(s), look at the final Row produced (in this example it is 1342). The Hunt Bell(s) are the bells that are in the same Places in the final Row as they were in the initial Row. In Plain Bob Minimus, the treble is therefore the only Hunt Bell.</p>
G.1.3	Working Bell	Using the example in G.1.2 above, 2, 3 and 4 are Working Bells because at the final Row of a Plain Lead they haven’t returned to the same Places they were in at the initial Row.
G.1.4	Path	A Path is often represented by drawing a line through a bell as it progresses through the Rows of a Block. The treble’s Path is shown this way using a red line in the example in G.1.2 above.
G.1.5	Plain Hunting	In the diagram in G.1.2 above, the treble Plain Hunts up for 3 Changes, then it Makes 4th's, then it Plain Hunts down for 3 Changes, and then it Leads for 1 Change.
G.1.6	Place-Making	See example of Place-Making in G.3.1.1 below.
G.1.7	Make a Place	For example, Make 4th's means to ring 2 consecutive blows in 4th's Place, as shown in the example for G.1.2 above.
G.1.8	Make an Internal Place	See examples of Making an Internal Place in G.3.2.2 and G.3.2.3 below.
G.1.9	Dodging Places	For example in Minor, the Dodging Places are 1-2, 3-4 and 5-6.

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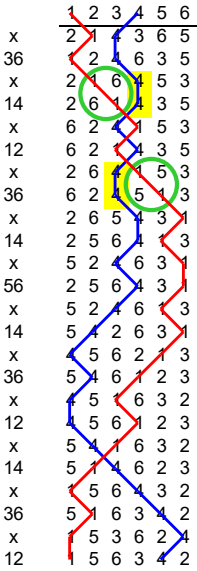
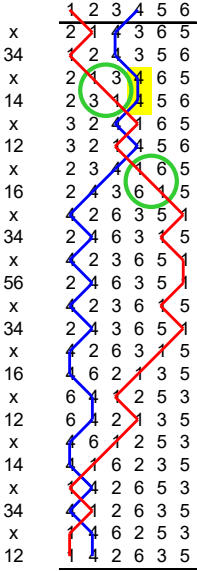
G.1.10	Cross Section	For example in Minor, the Cross Sections are the Changes that cause the Hunt Bell to (1) move from 2nd's Place to 3rd's Place, and (2) move from 4th's Place to 5th's Place. See the examples in G.3.2.1 and G.3.2.2 below.
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G.2	Classification of Static Methods that do not use Jump Changes	
G.2.1	Principle	<div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="margin-right: 20px;"> $\begin{array}{r} 1\ 2\ 3\ 4 \\ 34\ \underline{2\ 1\ 3\ 4} \\ x\ 1\ 2\ 4\ 3 \\ 34\ \underline{2\ 1\ 4\ 3} \\ 14\ 2\ 4\ 1\ 3 \\ 12\ \underline{2\ 4\ 3\ 1} \\ 14\ \underline{2\ 3\ 4\ 1} \\ -\ - \\ 14\ \underline{3\ 4\ 1\ 2} \\ -\ - \\ 14\ \underline{4\ 1\ 2\ 3} \\ -\ - \\ 14\ \underline{1\ 2\ 3\ 4} \end{array}$ </div> <div> <p>A Plain Lead of the Method 34x34.14.12.14, starting from Rounds, ends with the Row 2341, as shown in the diagram. It will be seen that no bell has returned to the Place it was in at the initial Row (1234), hence this method has no Hunt Bells.</p> <p>Continuing to apply the place notation successively produces the end of lead Rows shown, such that after 4 Plain Leads, Rounds is produced. This is the Method's Plain Course.</p> <p>Since (1) this Method has no Hunt Bells and (2) all Working Bells (which in this case is all bells because there are no Hunt Bells) first return to their starting Places after the same number of Plain Leads (in this case 4 Plain Leads), this is a Principle. Contrast this with a Differential Principle, as shown in G.2.3 below.</p> <p>This Method is entitled Stanton Minimus.</p> </div> </div>
G.2.2	Hunt Method	Plain Bob Minimus as shown in the example for G.1.2 above, is a Hunt Method because it has at least one Hunt Bell.
G.2.3	Differential Principle	<div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="margin-right: 20px;"> $\begin{array}{r} 1\ 2\ 3\ 4\ 5 \\ 5\ \underline{2\ 1\ 4\ 3\ 5} \\ 1\ 2\ 4\ 1\ 5\ 3 \\ 5\ \underline{4\ 2\ 5\ 1\ 3} \\ 1\ 4\ 5\ 2\ 3\ 1 \\ 5\ \underline{5\ 4\ 3\ 2\ 1} \\ 1\ 5\ 3\ 4\ 1\ 2 \\ 5\ \underline{3\ 5\ 1\ 4\ 2} \\ 1\ 3\ 1\ 5\ 2\ 4 \\ 5\ \underline{1\ 3\ 2\ 5\ 4} \\ 345\ \underline{3\ 1\ 2\ 5\ 4} \\ -\ -\ - \\ 345\ \underline{2\ 3\ 1\ 4\ 5} \\ -\ -\ - \\ 345\ \underline{1\ 2\ 3\ 5\ 4} \\ -\ -\ - \\ 345\ \underline{3\ 1\ 2\ 4\ 5} \\ -\ -\ - \\ 345\ \underline{2\ 3\ 1\ 5\ 4} \\ -\ -\ - \\ 345\ \underline{1\ 2\ 3\ 4\ 5} \end{array}$ </div> <div> <p>A Plain Lead of the Method 5.1.5.1.5.1.5.345, starting from rounds, ends with the Row 31254, as shown in the diagram. It will be seen that at the end of one Plain Lead, no bell has returned to the Place it was in at the initial Row (12345), hence this Method has no Hunt Bells.</p> <p>Continuing to apply the place notation successively produces the end of lead Rows shown, such that after 6 Plain Leads, Rounds is produced. This is the Method's Plain Course.</p> <p>It will be seen that bells 4 and 5 return to their starting Places at the end of the 2nd, 4th and 6th leads, whereas bells 1, 2 and 3 return to their starting Places at the end of the 3rd and 6th leads. Because the Working Bells don't all first return to their starting Places after the same number of Plain Leads, this Method is a Differential. Because it also has no Hunt Bells, it is a Differential Principle.</p> <p>This method is entitled Christ Church Dublin Differential Doubles.</p> </div> </div>

G.2.4	Differential Hunt Method	<pre> 1 2 3 4 5 6 x 2 1 4 3 6 5 16 2 4 1 6 3 5 x 4 2 6 1 5 3 16 4 6 2 5 1 3 x 6 4 5 2 3 1 36 4 6 5 3 2 1 x 6 4 3 5 1 2 16 6 3 4 1 5 2 x 3 6 1 4 2 5 16 3 1 6 2 4 5 x 1 3 2 6 5 4 1234 1 3 2 6 4 5 - - - - 1234 1 2 3 5 6 4 - - - - 1234 1 3 2 4 5 6 - - - - 1234 1 2 3 6 4 5 - - - - 1234 1 3 2 5 6 4 - - - - 1234 1 2 3 4 5 6 </pre>	<p>The method with place notation x16x16x36x16x16x1234 is an example of a Differential Hunt Method. At the end of one Plain Lead, the treble has returned to its starting Place, making it a Hunt Bell. The remaining bells are Working Bells since none of them has returned to its starting Place after one Plain Lead.</p> <p>Of the 5 Working Bells, 2 and 3 return to their starting Places after leads 2, 4 and 6. Bells 4, 5 and 6 return to their starting Places after leads 3 and 6.</p> <p>Since (1) this Method has at least one Hunt Bell and (2) all Working Bells do not first return to their starting Places after the same number of Plain Leads, this Method is a Differential Hunt Method.</p> <p>This Method is entitled Deferential Differential Bob Minor.</p>
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G.3		Classification of Hunt Methods and Differential Hunt Methods with One Hunt Bell			
G.3.1	Plain Method	<pre> 1 2 3 4 5 6 x 2 1 4 3 6 5 16 2 4 1 6 3 5 x 4 2 6 1 5 3 16 4 6 2 5 1 3 x 6 4 5 2 3 1 16 6 5 4 3 2 1 x 5 6 3 4 2 1 16 5 3 6 1 4 2 x 3 5 1 6 2 4 16 3 1 5 2 6 4 x 1 3 2 5 4 6 12 1 3 5 2 6 4 </pre>	<p>This is an example of a Plain Method. It will be seen that the treble (the only Hunt Bell) rings two times in each Place in a Plain Lead, and that the treble (when considered over multiple, consecutive Plain Leads) has the same Path if rung forwards or backwards.</p> <p>This Method is entitled Plain Bob Minor.</p>		
		G.3.1.1	Place Method	<pre> 1 2 3 4 5 6 3456 2 1 3 4 5 6 16 2 3 1 5 4 6 x 3 2 5 1 6 4 1236 3 2 5 6 4 1 12 3 2 6 5 4 1 36 2 3 6 4 5 1 12 2 3 4 6 2 5 1236 2 3 4 1 6 5 x 3 2 1 4 5 6 16 3 1 2 5 4 6 3456 1 3 2 5 4 6 12 1 3 5 2 6 4 </pre>	<p>This is an example of a Place Method, a subset of Plain Methods. It will be seen that changes in the direction of Hunting by Working Bells are always separated by the Making of at least one Place.</p> <p>This Method is entitled Foti Place Minor.</p>
				G.3.1.2	Bob Method

<p>G.3.2</p>	<p>Treble Dodging Method</p>		<p>This is an example of a Treble Dodging Method. It will be seen that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The treble (which is the only Hunt Bell) has the same Path if rung forwards or backwards. (2) The treble rings more than two times but the same number of times in each Place in a Plain Lead – in this case the treble rings four times in each Place in a Plain Lead. (3) The treble Makes a Place exactly twice in a Plain Lead – in this case once in 1st's place and once in 6th's place. <p>This Method is entitled Kent Treble Bob Minor.</p>
<p>G.3.2.1</p>	<p>Treble Bob Method</p>		<p>This is an example of a Treble Bob Method, a subset of Treble Dodging Methods. It will be seen that at the two Cross Sections, which are circled in green, there are no Internal Places made. The Places Made at both Cross Sections are 1st's and 6th's, which are external Places.</p> <p>This Method is entitled Oxford Treble Bob Minor.</p>

<p>G.3.2.2</p>	<p>Surprise Method</p>	 <p>The diagram shows a treble path (red line) moving through six positions (1-6) over 36 rows. Two cross-sections are circled in green: one at row 14 (treble moves from 2nd to 3rd place) and one at row 36 (treble moves from 4th to 5th place). Internal places are marked with yellow boxes at these cross-sections.</p>	<p>This is an example of a Surprise Method, a subset of Treble Dodging Methods. It will be seen that Internal Places are Made at both Cross Sections, which are circled in green.</p> <p>At the first Cross Section, which is when the treble moves from 2nd's Place to 3rd's Place, 4th's Place is Made, which is an Internal Place.</p> <p>At the second Cross Section, when the treble moves from 4th's Place to 5th's Place, 3rd's Place is Made, which is also an Internal Place.</p> <p>This Method is entitled Cambridge Surprise Minor.</p>
<p>G.3.2.3</p>	<p>Delight Method</p>	 <p>The diagram shows a treble path (red line) moving through six positions (1-6) over 34 rows. Two cross-sections are circled in green: one at row 14 (treble moves from 2nd to 3rd place) and one at row 34 (treble moves from 4th to 5th place). Internal places are marked with yellow boxes at these cross-sections.</p>	<p>This is an example of a Delight Method, a subset of Treble Dodging Methods. It will be seen that Internal Places are Made at some Cross Sections, but not at all Cross Sections. The Cross Sections are circled in green.</p> <p>At the first Cross Section, which is when the treble moves from 2nd's Place to 3rd's Place, 4th's Place is Made, which is an Internal Place.</p> <p>But at the second Cross Section, when the treble moves from 4th's Place to 5th's Place, only external Places are Made (1st's and 6th's).</p> <p>This Method is entitled College Bob IV Delight Minor.</p>

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<p>G.3.3</p>	<p>Treble Place Method</p>		<p>This is an example of a Treble Place Method. It will be seen that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The treble (which is the only Hunt Bell) has the same Path if rung forwards or backwards. (2) The treble rings the same number of times in each Place in a Plain Lead – in this case the treble rings four times in each Place in a Plain Lead. (3) The treble Makes a Place more than twice in a Plain Lead – in this case Places are Made four times, once in 1st's Place, once in 6th's Place and twice in 5th's place. <p>This Method is entitled College Exercise Treble Place Minor.</p>
<p>G.3.4</p>	<p>Alliance Method</p>		<p>This is an example of an Alliance Method. It will be seen that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The treble (which is the only Hunt Bell) has the same Path if rung forwards or backwards. (2) The treble does not ring the same number of times in each Place in a Plain Lead. In this case the treble rings twice in each of 1st's to 4th's Places, but four times in 5th's and 6th's Places. <p>This Method is entitled Alperton Alliance Minor.</p>
<p>G.3.5</p>	<p>Hybrid Method</p>		<p>This is an example of a Hybrid Method. It will be seen that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The treble (which is the only Hunt Bell) does not have the same Path when rung backwards as it does when rung forwards. <p>This Method is entitled Seavington St Mary Hybrid Minor.</p>

G.4	Classification of Little Methods with One Hunt Bell	
G.4.1	Little Method	<p>This is an example of a Little Method. It will be seen that:</p> <p>(1) The Path of the treble (which is the only Hunt Bell) is restricted to Places 1 to 4, which is less than the Stage of the Method which is 6 (i.e. Minor).</p> <p>This Method is entitled Little Bob Minor.</p>

G.5	Classification of Hunt Methods and Differential Hunt Methods with More than One Hunt Bell	
G.5.1	For example, if a Hunt Method has one Hunt Bell that is Little Treble Place, a second Hunt Bell that is Treble Place, and a third Hunt Bell that is Hybrid, then the classification for that Method is Treble Place.	

G.6	Methods that are Currently Unclassified	
	[Intentionally left blank]	

G.7	Construction of Class Name	
G.7.1	Class Name	For example a Class Name might be "Differential Little Bob". A Principle does not have a Class Name, whereas the Class Name for a Differential Principle is "Differential".

H	Performances	
H.1	Performance	More fully, this term would be "Method Ringing Performance". It is generally distinguished from "Method Ringing Practice" by the intent for the ringing to be heard by members of the public, and/or for the ringing to be reported to the ringing community if the ringing was of one of the Standard Lengths. "Method Ringing Practice", by contrast, is often for the purpose of teaching and developing ringers.
H.2	Standard Performance	In broad terms, Standard Performances are akin to Peals in the current Decisions, although with different requirements. However under the proposal document, shorter Lengths such as Quarter Peals and Half Peals are also considered Standard Performances if they are rung under the same conditions required for Peals. Non-Standard Performances such as a Peal-length rung in relay, or a Quarter Peal-length conducted from outside the circle, would respectively be a Non-Standard Peal or a Non-Standard Quarter Peal, rather than a miscellaneous performance as currently.
H.3	Short Touch	[Intentionally left blank]
H.4	Quarter Peal	[Intentionally left blank]

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H.5	Half Peal	[Intentionally left blank]
H.6	Peal	There is a strong historical connection between the Length of a Peal and the Length of the Extent of Triples (5040 Changes). While the proposal document applies a 5000 Change minimum Length requirement to Peals at all Stages, it is anticipated that many Peals of Triples would continue to comprise a single Extent.
H.7	Long Length	Long Lengths are also Peals – they are a subset thereof.
H.8	Date Touch	The year being commemorated in a Date Touch is often the year in which it is rung. A Date Touch commemorating the year 2015 would have 2015 Changes and would also be a Quarter Peal.
H.9	Record Length	Record Lengths are also Long Lengths – they are a subset thereof.
H.10	Performance Report	[Intentionally left blank]

I	Method Naming	
I.1	Named Method	[Intentionally left blank]
I.2	Central Council Method Library	[Intentionally left blank]
I.3	Method Name	[Intentionally left blank]
I.4	Rotation	x16x12x16x14 is a Rotation of x16x14x16x12 because it is the same cycle of Changes started from a different point.
I.5	Method Title	Plain Bob Doubles and Cambridge Surprise Major are examples of Method Titles.

J	Method Extension and Contraction	
J.1	Method Extension and Contraction	[Intentionally left blank]

K	Standard Performances	
K.1	[Intentionally left blank]	
K.2	[Intentionally left blank]	

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K.3	[Intentionally left blank]
K.4	[Intentionally left blank]
K.5	[Intentionally left blank]
K.6	[Intentionally left blank]
K.7	[Intentionally left blank]
K.8	The purpose of the umpire in a single person Performance is to provide the ability to corroborate that the Performance occurred as reported.
K.9	[Intentionally left blank]

L	Record Lengths
	[Intentionally left blank]

M	Performance Reporting
	[Intentionally left blank]

N	Method Naming
	[Intentionally left blank]

O	Method Extension and Contraction
	<p>Considerable effort over many decades has been applied in the search for consistent rules that reliably produce equivalent Methods at higher or lower Stages from a given existing Method. However, while some valuable and effective techniques and formulas have been developed in this area, it is acknowledged that no consistent set of rules for extending or contracting existing Methods to different Stages can work in all cases. This is especially true as ringing evolves to include such innovations as Dynamic Methods and Jump Changes.</p>
O	<p>The proposal document therefore modifies the Method Extension and Contraction techniques to become advisory, and moves the detail of the techniques into a separate Central Council document. While the techniques become advisory, there is still an expectation that Methods at different Stages that are given the same name are demonstrably related. O.4 is a safeguard to deal with any wilfully inappropriate Method naming.</p> <p>Also note the proposed advisory service to be provided by the Central Council on Method Extension and Contraction under Section Q.5.</p>

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P	Related Ringing World Roles
	[Intentionally left blank]

Q	Related Central Council Roles
	[Intentionally left blank]

R	Exceptions	
R.1	Class Name	[Intentionally left blank]
R.2	Method Name	[Intentionally left blank]
R.3	Peals of Doubles and Minor, etc	[Intentionally left blank]
R.4	Doubles Variations	[Intentionally left blank]

Appendix: Summary of the Ringing Theory discussion group informal polls

These informal polls were conducted by the Ringing Theory Discussion Group between June 2014 and January 2015, and were used to inform the development of the proposal document.

Poll #1: False Plain Courses and Non-Method Blocks: Jun 10th 2014

Question (a): "Methods false in the plain course aren't a problem:"

The results were:

Agree	80.00%	40
Disagree	10.00%	5
No Opinion/Don't Care	2.00%	1
Undecided	8.00%	4
Total		50

Question (b): "The current 'blocks' definition is a load of nonsense:" (Politically appropriate wording wasn't a priority in the heated debate following the May 2014 CC meeting.)

The results were:

Agree	76.00%	38
Disagree	6.00%	3
No Opinion/Don't Care	2.00%	1
Undecided	16.00%	8
Total		50

Consensus: Methods should not be required to be true in the plain course, and blocks should not be a separate category of methods.

Poll #2a: Non-Divisible Leads: Jul 15th 2014

Question: "Do you think a lead should always be the minimum non-divisible block?"

The results were:

Yes	12	37.50%
No	15	46.88%
No opinion / don't understand	1	3.13%
Undecided	4	12.50%
Total	32	

Poll #2b: Non-Divisible Leads: Sep 11th 2014

The question had the following options:

- A: Methods with place notations that are multiples or fractions of other methods can each be separately named.
- B: A method can't be named as a new method if its place notation is a multiple or a fraction of a previously named method.
- C: When a new method is rung, the Methods Committee decides what should be the appropriate multiple or fraction of the place notation that defines a lead of the method.
- D: None of the above. Methods may not have divisible place notations.
- E: Methods are defined by the shortest non-repeating sequence of changes. Differentials where Hunter classes (other than Hybrid) can apply if the Plain Course is considered in its entirety shall be classified as Hunters and entitled accordingly.
- F: In this, a method has a canonical definition (which might be the shortest place notation or the first rung) and name. However, it is perfectly acceptable for a method to have other names for replications or rotations - possibly called variations.

Each option above was ranked on a scale of: Strongly Agree, Agree, Neither Disagree Nor Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree. These were assigned values from 5 for Strongly Agree down to 1 for Strongly Disagree to allow average ratings to be calculated.

The results were:

	SA	A	NDNA	D	SD	Total	Average
A:	9 = 47.37%	1 = 5.26%	2 = 10.53%	3 = 15.79%	4 = 21.05%	19	3.42
B:	4 = 21.05%	3 = 15.79%	2 = 10.53%	5 = 26.32%	5 = 26.32%	19	2.79
C:	0 = 0.00%	0 = 0.00%	1 = 5.26%	3 = 15.79%	15 = 78.95%	19	1.26
D:	1 = 5.26%	3 = 15.79%	3 = 15.79%	4 = 21.05%	8 = 42.11%	19	2.21
E:	0 = 0.00%	5 = 27.78%	2 = 11.11%	6 = 33.33%	5 = 27.78%	18	2.39
F:	3 = 15.79%	8 = 42.11%	3 = 15.79%	5 = 26.32%	0 = 0.00%	19	3.47

Consensus: Since “No” attracted the most votes in Poll #2a, and Options A and F received the highest rankings in Poll #2b, we concluded that there should not be a restriction that leads must not be divisible.

Poll #3: One-lead courses: Oct 5th 2014

The question was: “Should methods with a one-lead course be allowed?”

The results were:

Yes	80.00%	28
No	20.00%	7
Total		35

Consensus: Methods with a one-lead course should be permitted.

Poll #4: Naming of Rotations: Oct 25th 2014

The question options were:

- 1) Rotations should continue to be considered the same method and so have the same name.
- 2) Rotations should be permitted (but not forced) to be separately named.
- 3) The current restriction should be modified, such that certain types of rotations may be separately named, but others may not. This modification is still to be debated / developed.

Respondents ranked the above in their order of preference. The rankings were converted into points: 3 points for 1st, 2 points for 2nd and 1 point for 3rd.

The results were:

	1st	2nd	3rd	Average Score
Opt. 1	14 = 42.42%	12 = 36.36%	7 = 21.21%	2.21
Opt. 2	14 = 42.42%	8 = 24.24%	11 = 33.33%	2.09
Opt. 3	5 = 15.15%	13 = 39.39%	15 = 45.45%	1.70

Total 33

Consensus: Inconclusive. The restriction that rotations are not given separate names was retained in the proposal document as there was no clear consensus for change.

Poll #5: Number of Consecutive Blows: Jan 4th 2015

The question was: "In a method, what should be the restriction on the number of consecutive blows in the same position? (Select one answer)"

- A: A maximum of 4 blows for all stages except Minimus. This is the status quo (Decision (E) A 6)
- B: A finite number greater than 4 (such as 6 or 8), with the actual number to be determined if this option proves popular
- C: No bell can make the same place consecutively for all of a method's changes (so for a method with n changes, the limit would be n-1)
- D: There should be no restriction on the number of consecutive blows in the same position

The results were:

A:	4
B:	0
C:	9
D:	17

Total 30

Consensus: There should be no restriction on the number of consecutive blows in the same position.

Poll #6: The Null Change: Jan 6th 2015

Question: "Should the null change be allowed in a beta-method?"

The results were:

A: Yes: 14

B: No: 9

Total: 23

Consensus: Null changes (now referred to as identity changes in the proposal document) should be permitted in methods. The term 'beta-method' was being floated at the time as a possible term for what are now referred to as static methods in the proposal document.

Poll #7: Change Ringing vs. Method Ringing: Jan 14th 2015

The question was: "The term 'change ringing': (select one answer)"

A: is effectively synonymous with 'method ringing' (whatever 'method' might be)

B: includes ringing that is not part of 'method ringing', such as rounds and call changes

The results were:

A: 5

B: 17

Total: 22

Consensus: Method ringing is a subset of change ringing, where the latter includes ringing that is not considered part of method ringing, such as ringing rounds and call changes.