



# Training Times

## Welcome to Adelaide!

Adelaide is the latest Ringing Centre to gain Central Council recognition through the Ringing Centres Committee and follows that of the new centre in Bradford in 2012. Both are significant and welcome additions to the Ringing Centre fraternity.



The Adelaide Centre is modelled very much on the facilities of the Worcester Teaching Centre. Indeed the two organisations are working in partnership using a video conferencing link. Like Worcester, Adelaide has eight dumbbells which were designed and produced locally. They are each permanently linked to dedicated touchscreens programmed with Abel software and headphones attached. A training room and library along with a separate coffee lounge have also been set up.

The Centre supports ringers in all five Adelaide towers and across the ANZAB community. There are plans to work with local schools and a training curriculum is being developed along with a scheme to license the design and use of the dumbbells in other locations.

An article on the Adelaide R.C. was published in *The Ringing World*, No.5300 [23 November 2012] and more information can be found at:

<http://twitter.com/AdelaideBells>

Information about Bradford R.C. is available at:

<http://www.bradfordringingcentre.org.uk>

*Les Boyce*

## The ITTS really takes off!

In 2010 a total of 8 Integrated Teacher Training Scheme (ITTS) courses were held, in 2011 the number rose to 11, in 2012 the requests for new courses just kept coming in and kept coming in – a total of 35 were run in the year. The ITTS needed to respond quickly. As teachers started to gain accreditation, the Ringing Foundation encouraged the establishment of the Association of Ringing Teachers (A.R.T.). A Management Committee held an inaugural meeting in Oxford, in March 2012 and

a Constitution was agreed, officers appointed and discussions on the way forward began in earnest.

A grant from the Ringing Foundation allowed A.R.T. to employ a part-time administrative assistant, while six more tutors held courses for the first time in 2012 and two in the USA joined the scheme.

A logo for ART was designed, a website created, a newsletter established (ARTWorks), an A.R.T. members' area was set up on the ITTS Moodle site. A code of practice, a safeguarding policy, public liability insurance for those over eighteen years old, and a universal (transferable) CRB check system were all established for A.R.T. members. A first very successful A.G.M. and Conference was held in March 2013.

A.R.T. has also made a DVD on teaching bell handling using the evidence based methods employed by the ITTS. It is now available to buy – details on our website.

We look forward to another busy and successful year in 2013. So far we have delivered 18 courses with 12 more already planned and more to come. Our plans include developing a schemes for teaching more advanced change ringing called "Beyond Learning the Ropes" and for endorsing those ringing centres which adopt the ITTS. For more information about the ITTS and A.R.T. go to: <http://www.ringingteachers.co.uk>.

*Pip Penney, Chairman of A.R.T.*

## Star-rating – an update

The star-rating system for Ringing Centres described in previous issues is now being field-tested at a number of centres. Results will be collated shortly and more information made sent out to centres soon.

The Committee see the system as very much a tool for self-assessment. Centres will be able to judge themselves on how what they are doing measures up to a national standard. Any thought of trying to be an "OFSTED for ringing" is very far from our minds!

## Clusters – the way forward?

Many tower captains will know the frustration of trying to maintain single-handedly their learners'

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momentum and prevent drop-out. A.R.T. is heavily promoting the use of tower “clusters” where teaching is pooled and trainers work in teams. Here are just some of the advantages:

- Pooling of resources – helpers and equipment
- More structured approach for the learner
- A positive learning environment where teachers get support and learners are motivated by being with their peers
- A professional approach to recruitment and theory teaching
- Social side developed as part of a group

The R.C. Committee very much supports this approach. It therefore is proposing to Council that its Terms of Reference are changed to allow it to give advice and support to any groupings engaged in ringing teaching and training, while still encouraging active teaching centres to becoming “fully-fledged” ringing centres.

### **Regional Seminars**

The Committee had been planning a series of regional seminars over the next 18 months, but we have now been asked to support the work of the Recruitment and Training Forum which is also planning a series of such events.

The Forum is tasked with following up the issues raised at the Wellesbourne Conference held in November 2011. This committee is joining with the Education and P.R. Committees, the Ringing Foundation and A.R.T. to help run these regional meetings. It is hoped, nevertheless, to have a strand in which ringing centre reps can get to together to discuss the issues facing centres and share good practice.

### **Members of the Ringing Centres Committee**

Chairman: Norman Mattingley

Members: Phil Bailey, Alan Bentley, Roger Booth, Les Boyce, Peter Dale, Pip Penney. Mike Clements resigned from the Committee in March and Peter Dale steps down at this Central Council meeting. We thank them for their contributions to its work. As a result we have three vacancies and anyone interested in joining is invited to contact Norman Mattingley ([normanmattingley@gmail.com](mailto:normanmattingley@gmail.com)).

### **A First for Scotland - Tulloch Ringing Centre**

Scotland now has its first ringing centre! In a bold and imaginative project Peter and Helen Bevis have converted a barn on their farm in Tulloch into a teaching centre, built holiday cottages and finally

added a purpose-built bell tower and a 7½ cwt ring of 12. With support from the Scottish Association six Gillet & Johnston bells were supplied by the Keltek Trust, while six new bells were specially designed and cast in Germany to match. The overall project was designed and implemented by Matthew Higby.



*The new ring in situ at Tulloch*

Situated in magnificent highland country near Fort William, the project is a solution to the problem of having to drive 90 minutes to either Inverness, Dunkeld or Inveraray to get to the nearest ringing tower. Peter and Helen now plan to build a local band with several experienced ringers in the Fort William area. The facility will also be used for peals and ringing holidays, while the first training courses have also been arranged.

More information about the Tulloch project was published in the *R.W.* 29 March 2013 or is available at: [www.tullochbells.com](http://www.tullochbells.com) .

### **St Agatha's, Portsmouth**

A new ringing centre focusing on the training of young people is planned for St. Agatha's in Portsmouth following the installation of a 3 cwt ring of 8. Five of the bells were obtained from the Keltek Trust, the other three being supplied by Higby and Bowditch.

St Agatha's is unusual in being a church of the Ordinate of Our Lady of Walsingham, part of the Roman Catholic Church established by former members of the Church of England but retaining parts of the Anglican rite.

For more information go to: [www.stagathas.net](http://www.stagathas.net) or the *R.W.* 8 Feb 2013.

Comments or items for inclusion in the next *Training Times* should be sent to: Les Boyce, 75 Belmont Rd., Tiverton, Devon, EX16 6EQ. Email: [lesboyce@gmail.com](mailto:lesboyce@gmail.com). The next edition is due out in the autumn.