



Technical & Taxonomy Workgroup

Annual Report For 2018

The Technical & Taxonomy Workgroup was established as part of the new organizational structure of the Central Council in anticipation of the change in rules adopted at the AGM in May 2018. Its remit is:

- To maintain and publish for the Council authoritative reference standards for change ringing.
- To ensure that authoritative records and analysis of published methods, published compositions and significant tower & handbell peals are available.
- Where requested to provide guidance on methods, compositions and aspects of ringing theory.
- To promote innovation and interest in the theory of ringing and the use of technology to support ringing.
- To develop and maintain technology platforms:
 - support the Council's work and the objectives of its other Workgroups and Stewards.
 - support individual ringers and ringing societies where this will deliver significant benefits to the ringing community.

This encompasses the activities that were formerly undertaken by the Methods Committee, the Compositions Committee, the ICT Committee and the Dove Stewards. It is also responsible for the Framework for Method Ringing.

The workgroup's services and current projects are:

	Methods	Compositions	Dove	ICT
Services	Methods Library	Composition Collections	Dove Website	Council Website
	Articles & Publications	Articles & Publications	Dove's Guide	Council IT Infrastructure
	Help & Advice	Help & Advice		Event Support
	Framework for Method Ringing			
Projects	Framework Version 1	The Ultimate Collection	11 th Edition	Ringing Remembers
	Framework Implementation	Doubles Variations and Calls Library	New Dove Database	New Website
			Dove iOS App	Office 365 Migration
	Review of Extension Processes			

not started
active
complete

The workgroup is comprised of teams based around this structure, with a core providing the services and project teams that bring together core members and additional specialists as required.

Workgroup Leader
 ttlead@cccbr.org.uk

Graham John (ODG)

SERVICES

Methods

methods@cccbr.org.uk

Tim Barnes - team leader; Adam Beer; Mark Davies (G&B), Graham John (ODG), Robin Woolley (SSY)

Compositions

compositions@cccbr.org.uk

Simon Bond - team leader; Graham John (ODG); Peter Hinton; Andrew Johnson (W&P); Richard Pullin; David Thomas; Cameron Waters

Dove

dove@cccbr.org.uk

Tim Jackson - dove steward & team leader; Tim Pett - dove steward (ODG); Doug Davis - dove steward (KCA); John Baldwin - dove master; Richard Smith - tech. lead

ICT

ict@cccbr.org.uk

Doug Davies - team leader (KCA); Andrew Hall (DDA); Dave Richards (CUG); Leigh Simpson (ASCY)

PROJECTS

Framework for Method Ringing (Version 1)

Core: Tim Barnes - project leader; Mark Davies (G&B); John Harrison (ODG); Graham John (ODG); Philip Saddleton
Reviewers: Philip Earis; Andrew Johnson (W&P); Don Morrison; Peter Scott; Leigh Simpson (ASCY); Richard Smith; Derek Williams (ANZ); Robin Woolley (SSY)

Ringing Remembers Website & Database

Andrew Hall (DDA)

Dove 11

Compilers: John Baldwin; Tim Jackson; Ron Johnston
Contributors: Nick Bowden; David Cawley; Philip Green (LDG); David Kelly (Life Member); Chris Pickford; Neil Skelton; Michael Williams

New Dove Database

Tech Lead: Richard Smith
Contributors: Peter Harrison (ANZ); Steve Nash (EA); Leigh Simpson (ASCY);
Dove Stewards: Doug Davies (KCA); Tim Jackson; Tim Pett (ODG)

Dove for iOS

Jeremy Knowles

New CCCBR Website

Doug Davies (KCA)

Office 365 Migration

Doug Davies (KCA)

Methods Library

The *CCCBR Methods Library* had been diligently maintained for many years by Tony Smith on behalf of the Methods Committee, and we thank Tony on behalf of all ringers for the huge amount of painstaking work involved over such a long period. This required inspecting all the performances reported in the Ringing World for new methods, checking that they comply with the Decisions on naming, classification and extension, liaising with conductors where issues arise, before recording them and the associated references in the collections. Tony had indicated that he did not wish to continue this work on behalf of the Council after the 2018 AGM, so the Technical and Taxonomy Workgroup has maintained the *Methods Library* since 29 May 2018.

A new approach was needed to maintain the *Methods Library* and generate the various list formats provided to ringers. The *Composition Library* website and its associated database was ideal for the purpose, given that it already had most of the functionality required to support maintenance of the methods, and was already being kept up to date with new methods. Leading up to the May 2018 Council meeting, its software was enhanced to help the workgroup's methods curator quickly identify *BellBoard* performances containing new methods, perform checks against existing place notations, names and candidate extensions, and provide the correct classification, identifying any potential issues for further investigation. Once accepted, new methods are made public on the *Composition Library* website with a reference link back to the source performance on *BellBoard*. This website provides much greater accessibility to the *CCCBR Methods Library* for ringers, as it has a comprehensive search using a wide variety of criteria,

displays the blue line and other method properties, lists suitable compositions, and ringers can use it to validate new methods for themselves.

Additional software was written to generate the various lists of methods by place notation, similar to those previously provided. A text format is provided for browsing and downloading into spreadsheets, an XML format is provided for PC and mobile phone applications, and now the *MicroSiril* format, used by a number of older applications, is also generated automatically. All these files are available from the Council website at methods.cccbr.org.uk and every version is automatically archived in the Council's *GitHub* repository. This means that a full history is maintained of changes and, once the lists have been generated, there is no dependency on *Composition Library*.

New methods published on *BellBoard* that meet the naming requirements defined in the Council Decisions have been added to the *Methods Library* in weekly updates, and as at 31 December 2018, it held 20,703 methods. Notification of recent additions have been provided on the CCCBR website, optionally by email to registered users of *Composition Library* and via a posting to members of the *Ringling Methods Facebook Group*. 494 methods were added in 2018, equivalent to just over 40 methods each month. Of these 355 were rung in peals, 26 in extents, and 113 in quarter peals; the latter demonstrating a popular step forward in making the Council's services more relevant to "grass roots" ringing following the changes to the Decisions in 2016 and 2017. However, it has still been the case that non-method blocks and new methods rung in spliced can only be named if rung in a peal. This is addressed by the *Method Ringing Framework* which is effective from June 2019.

The workgroup's methods panel has answered a number of questions received via email at methods@cccbr.org.uk and its members have also responded directly to questions posed on ringing email lists and social media.

Framework for Method Ringing

The new *Framework for Method Ringing* was drafted and reviewed during 2017/18 and implemented by the CC Executive on 24 February 2019, with an effective date of 1 June 2019. At the same time, all existing Decisions of the Council were retired, effective from the same date.

The framework is a 'standard' in the Council's rulebook, which is a type of policy as defined in Council rule 10.4. It will be maintained by the T&T workgroup under the supervision of the Executive.

The framework transitions us from the rules-based approach of the Decisions to a descriptive approach. Ringers and bands decide what they'd like to ring, and the framework provides standard terminology for describing what was rung in a consistent way. This removes the Council from its previous role of arbiter of what is and isn't considered a peal and a method, and leaves it to ringers to decide what they think of published performances. The framework also provides detailed definitions, explanations and examples for any terminology used.

The framework is available at <https://framework.cccbr.org.uk> and development of the framework was documented in five RW articles. These articles are available in appendix G of the framework.

The working draft of the framework has been publicly available on the Internet since October 2017, and two ringing community consultations were widely publicized, including in the *Ringling World*, on ringers' email lists, on Facebook and Twitter, on the CC website, and by communication to all CC members and to all CC-affiliated societies. Over 40 ringers participated, raising over 130 points between them, and the

feedback resulted in many improvements to the framework. The consultation submissions and our responses are in appendix H.

While there will never be a version of the framework that all ringers fully agree with, we believe we've created a framework that will be acceptable to a large majority of ringers, and which satisfies, to the extent possible, our mandate of simple, permissive and descriptive while maintaining historical continuity.

The implemented framework is version 1. The framework team intentionally left some things to consider in subsequent versions, since trying to do everything in one go would have taken too long. In particular, the framework's method extension requirements largely follow those in the Decisions, but this is an area where more analysis may lead to improvements and simplification. Timing for a second version of the framework has not yet been determined, but will likely follow between 6 and 12 months after version 1.

Finally, a big thankyou to everyone who helped in the development of the first version of the framework – those in the core team and the review group, those who sent in consultation submissions, and everyone else who otherwise gave suggestions and feedback along the way. This was very much a team effort.

Compositions

Since *Composition Library* has provided the ability for composers and others to self-publish compositions on the internet, and searchable online collections have reduced the demand for printed publications, the need for a number of the services historically provided by the Compositions Committee has declined. This has given the new workgroup compositions team the opportunity to rethink what ringers now need with regard to composition, while embracing new technology to improve the composition resources available to conductors, composers and researchers.

The initial focus has been on capturing compositions used when methods are first rung, to quickly disseminate innovative and noteworthy compositions that have been rung recently, and ultimately to capture compositions from all printed and online collections to provide a single comprehensive reference resource for compositions – a prerequisite to solving longstanding issues around originality and ‘reinventing the wheel’ in composition. Workgroup team members have added over 500 compositions to *Composition Library* in 2018 and over 600 from January to March 2019. It is growing rapidly and now holds around 29,000 compositions including 900 short touches; 5,000 quarters and date touches; 23,000 peals; and 200 long lengths – more than any other single collection.

Those interested in composition have been well-served by *The Ringing World* during 2018. The team prepared and published a collection of Date Touches for 2019 in the Christmas edition. There have also been a number of excellent independent articles recently on Composition published such as An Extent of Royal (Richard Pullin), Scientific Triples – Solving John Carter’s Puzzle (Colin Wyld), Binning the Bob (Glenn Taylor), Norman Smith’s Composition of 23-spliced Surprise Major Recognised (John Fielden), Project Pickled Egg (Simon Linford), and Compositions for the Ringing World’s Diary Method of the Month (David Hull).

For 2019, Richard Pullin is writing a series of articles on ‘Notable Composers of the Past’ for publication in *The Ringing World*, and in due course it is the intention to also provide these articles and those written by others as a permanent online resource.

Many of the Council’s publications for composition, while out of print, are still available from the Council’s website, where they can be downloaded for free.

Stewards of the Dove Database

During 2018 we made 1064 updates to the information that we show against a 'Dove entry', and 917 updates to the information held in the prototype-National Bell Register (pNBR), the former representing an 20% increase on the number of changes made during 2017.

The number of *Dove* entries, and the changes that occurred during this period, are summarised as follows.

	Rings			Unringable		
	<i>As at 1 Jan</i>	<i>As at 31 Dec</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>As at 1 Jan</i>	<i>As at 31 Dec</i>	<i>Change</i>
16s	3	3	0	0	0	0
15s	1	1	0	0	0	0
14s	1	1	0	0	0	0
12s	138	139	+1	0	0	0
10s	283	285	+2	2	2	0
8s	1896	1896	0	39	46	+7
6s	2933	2948	+15	85	102	+17
5s	600	593	-7	133	131	-2
4s	317	310	-7	152	147	-5
3s	974	969	-5	573	576	+3
Total	7146	7145	-1	984	1004	+20

We list three rings for the first time (namely **Ingleburn**, Australia; **Kilmood**, Ireland; and **Moresby**, Cumbria) but no longer list seven others (namely **Bolton Percy**, N Yorks; **Carlton Scroop**, Lincs; **Foxholes**, N Yorks; **Newton St Petrock**, Devon; **Paisley**, Scotland; **Sancton**, ER Yorks; and **Sigglethorpe**: ER Yorks). In addition, in the light of new information received, we re-list three rings previously de-listed (namely **Little Wilbraham**, Cambs; **Theddlethorpe All Saints**, Lincs; and **Thurlby** (SK96), Lincs). We have been notified of 16 augmentations, nine rings that are no longer unringable, and 32 rings that are now unringable. In addition, following a policy change, we now take into account all the bells in a ring even if one bell has been re-hung for chiming only and, as a consequence, we now list ten rings with one bell more than we did at the end of 2017.

We thank all who have notified us of changes. Once again, the majority were provided by a small number of contributors, with over 90% of pNBR updates being supplied by fewer than 20 people. We are grateful to those who keep us informed of changes within their own locality.

We sincerely thank John Baldwin for his continued active participation as *DoveMaster*.

We are delighted to report that the *Dove 11* project has been completed. We achieved a publication date of 31 December 2018 with the book going on sale via CCCBR Publications on 4 February 2019. We would like to express our gratitude to Ron Johnston, for his invaluable contribution in assisting John Baldwin and Tim Jackson to compile this latest edition, to David Cawley, for authoring eleven of the appendices, to Philip Green, for his guidance in turning the manuscript into a real book, and to everyone else who helped to bring this project to a successful conclusion.

The popular *Dove* iOS app, written by John Baldwin's son Sid, has not been available for some time because it no longer runs under current versions of iOS and has become incompatible with some of the

external services on which it depends. As Sid is no longer able to maintain the app following his stroke, we are pleased to report that Jeremy Knowles, a ringer from Yorkshire, is working on a replacement.

We apologise for a slight hiccup in October when a change in policy by the provider resulted in a short outage (of less than one day) in the Google Maps capability of the *Dove* website. Although Google now charge for the use of Google Maps, the usage to date on the *Dove* website remains below the threshold at which costs are incurred.

We attended the DAC Bells Advisors' Conference, held at Loughborough in June, at which Church Care outlined their progress in compiling an independent database of bells and bell frames. We have suggested to Church Care that the two parties should consider the sharing of data, to eliminate inconsistencies between the two data sets and to avoid duplication of effort, but we have heard nothing since.

Richard Smith and his team continue to make good progress in developing a replacement solution for *Dove* using up-to-date technology. Key achievements during 2018 are as follows:

- Migrated *Dove* to the same server as *BellBoard* (March)
- Upgraded that server to Debian 9, running MariaDB 10.1 (March)
- Deployed new User Management and Authentication subsystem, this being the first bit of database-driven functionality on the *Dove* site (June)
- Deployed a versioning system, so that all previous versions of any data item are retained, and a complete audit log, so that all changes to any data item are recorded; converted the News Bulletin subsystem to use them (November)
- Currently developing a hierarchical system of regions (countries, counties, dioceses, and territorial associations)
- Currently planning an API for *Dove*.

ICT

The ICT team's focus during 2018 has been to continue to provide support for the Council's IT infrastructure while helping the newly established Executive and Workgroups with planning in a number of areas.

As part of the Ringing Remembers campaign a website and associated database to record participants was built by Andrew Hall and maintained through the project.

Support has been provided for a number of events including recording and live streaming sessions at the AGM.

As well as ongoing maintenance, a number of interim changes have been made to the CC website to introduce the new organizational structure, add the new rules and decisions, and make other updates as requested by the executive and workgroup leaders. As the website had become rather large and unwieldy over time, joint workshops with the Communications & Marketing Workgroup considered how it can be made more appealing as well as easy to navigate from the particular perspective of different audiences. Work started on a new version intended to go live in mid 2019. Following discussion with the *Ringing World* it has been agreed to set up automated news feeds in both directions between the respective websites.

We have been working on plans to migrate the Council's email services to Office 365, which is provided free by Microsoft as part of its commitment to charities and non-profit organizations. In due course it will enable the officers and workgroups to have individual @cccbr.org.uk email addresses and provide them with access to the collaboration tools and workspaces that come with an Office 365 subscription.