

The Council's role:

Council serves the worldwide ringing community. Its members are elected by affiliated ringing societies, and represent a cross section of ringers in the UK and abroad. The fact that they came to be elected in the first place means they are probably not 'average' ringers, but they still represent a range of interests and opinion. Some care passionately about grass roots ringers, some about peals and methods, some about ringing traditions, some about towers and bells, and so on. It is through the richness of its members' experiences, skills and understanding that the Council is able to achieve its objectives.

The Council's aims:

The Council of which you are now a part sets itself comprehensive aims. Formally stated:

To promote and foster the ringing of bells for Christian prayer, worship and celebration and in furtherance thereof, to:-

- Promote awareness of and educate the general public in the ringing of church bells and the art of change ringing;
- Make available advice, assistance and information to church authorities, ringers and ringing societies and to promote good practice on all matters concerned with bells and bell ringing;
- Encourage development of the art of ringing through innovation;
- Bring together ringers to discuss matters of common interest and to represent ringers both nationally and internationally;
- Encourage high standards of performance in ringing;
- Recommend technical standards in change ringing and maintain such records as may be necessary to uphold these standards;
- Assist in the provision, restoration, maintenance and transfer of church bells.

Sister organisations:

The Ringing World Ltd and *The Ringing Foundation Ltd* (which supports training and public awareness) are separate companies, limited by guarantee, that have a special relationship with the Council.

All Council members are eligible to become members of the Companies, and they agree to do so when they sign in before the Council meeting. The boards of directors are ultimately responsible to the members.

The Companies' annual general meetings are held on the same day as the Council meeting.

Charitable funds:

CC Bell Restoration Fund:

(Supports bell restoration)

Fred E Dukes International Bell Fund:

(Supports bell restoration outside the British Isles)

Rescue Fund for Redundant Bells:

(Rescues bells from redundant churches for reuse)

Useful contacts:

You will find contact details for the Council officers and committee chairmen in the current *Ringing World Diary*. Details of Council members and committees are also on the Central Council website:

www.cccbr.org.uk

Rules and Decisions of the Council:

The rules define in detail how the Council operates, including terms of reference for committees. The decisions include recommendations about installation and preservation of bells, the conduct of ringing societies, and the considerable mass of technical detail relating to what the Council recognises as legitimate methods, peals, etc.



Welcome to the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers

Registered Charity Number 270036



A brief guide to the Council and its workings

An introduction to the opportunities, benefits and responsibilities of membership

How the Council works

The full Council meets each year on the UK Spring Bank Holiday weekend to report to the whole membership on the year's work. During the rest of the year its business is conducted by its officers, committees, stewards and other members. Details of the committees and their terms of reference can be found on the Council's website at www.cccbr.org.uk/committees/

The website also contains a lot of other information about the Council and its work and it is worth having a good look at it before you come to your first meeting.

There is an opportunity at each annual meeting for new members to be elected to committees. You don't need to wait to start, although new members sometimes feel they would rather just watch to see how things work for the first meeting.

How can I contribute?

You might have joined the Council with a specific aim in mind, but if you are like most newly-elected Council members you may be rather vague about exactly what the Council does and how you will be able to contribute. The only way the Council can achieve or do anything is by its members doing the work. So you will have the opportunity to put your knowledge, skills and experiences within and outside the world of ringing to work for the Council's benefit. You will also have the opportunity to acquire new knowledge or skills.

Committee work

You can most easily do this, at least to start with, by joining a committee whose work interests you. Speak to someone who is already a member of the committee – perhaps the Chairman – and discuss how you might be able to help. You can start to work with the committee, either formally as a co-opted member, or informally as an adviser, without

having to be elected as a member. This will give you the chance to try it out before being formally elected at the next meeting.

Contribute to the annual meeting

Everyone's views are valuable at the meeting. Please do contribute to the debates and ask questions as the committees and stewards report on their work. New members can make great contributions as they are less familiar with the ways of the Council and can be best placed to question and challenge existing practices. Remember though that we are all volunteers and doing the best we can and challenges should be constructive and polite!

Be a link between the Council and your local society

Your society members have elected you to the Council and they deserve to know what is happening and what work you are doing. Do try to find a suitable society meeting to report to your society members and to help them understand what it is that the Council does for ringers and what the current issues are. If you receive criticism of, or queries about, the Council from your society members it is helpful if you report this to the officers, who can try to address any issues raised or provide you with answers to feed back locally.

What will I get out of it?

You will have the opportunity to meet and work with other ringers from around the country and the world. You will be able to contribute towards current issues the ringing Exercise is facing and help find answers to problems. The annual meeting can be fun, with various social events included, but this is a form of reward for all the work during the year.

What do I do next?

You can prepare for your first Council meeting by reading the reports beforehand. If you know people who have been Council members talk to them. Talk to the other members from your society or your predecessor.

The Council meeting is on the Monday of the Bank Holiday weekend and there are various ringing and non-ringing events during the weekend. Do come and enjoy these and take the opportunity to meet and talk to other Council members.

Being a new member among so many old hands might seem daunting, but you will find everyone will be very willing to talk and explain to you how things work. You may even find you know more Council members than you thought!

When you are ready to join a committee you need to be elected at the meeting. Council is keen to encourage new members onto committees so you won't have a problem here. You could ask your colleagues from your home society to nominate and second you or you could ask people from the committee you wish to join to do this. Any Council member can nominate or second anyone for committees but it is best to arrange in advance who will do this to avoid a hiatus during the meeting or missing the right moment to be nominated.

You will receive a form enquiring about your interests, skills and knowledge. This is intended to cover both ringing and non-ringing aspects. Council needs people with skills in IT, law, commerce, government, to name but a few and it is helpful to know the backgrounds of members. Please do complete this form as fully as possible and return to the Council Secretary ahead of the meeting.