



Training Times

One of the responsibilities placed upon the Ringing Centres Committee is to set minimum standards for the recognition of Ringing Centres. This would enable the Ringing Centres Committee to be assured that all recognised Ringing Centres are giving a service of a particular minimum standard and that the Committee may approach other organisations (e.g. The Ringing Foundation) with applications and ideas with confidence as to those who could benefit or may be required to implement any approved scheme.

Each Centre is different but some form of quality kite mark (perhaps in addition to recognition) may be a boost for any Centre and may be welcomed but we are anxious that we do not introduce a need for extensive records, additional paperwork, assessments and unnecessary bureaucracy.

This is one matter where we would like to hear from you with your views at the regional forums that are being organised. Please come along and tell us what you think and hopefully how you feel that we may best implement the need for a minimum standard for each Centre without preventing any of the valuable work being undertaken by the vast majority of the recognised Centres continuing.

Norman Mattingley

Troyte Ringing Centre – Theory with Tea

Although there is no service on the second Sunday of each month at Bampton, our ringers kept turning up so we hit upon the idea of doing ‘something’. Ringing quarter peals would simply encourage worshippers to attend non-existent services – so Theory with Tea was born.

It has been running now for the last ten years and depending on those who wish to come, we have three different types of theory sessions. We have beginners sessions which start with call changes and work up to Plain Bob Doubles through plain hunting, plain courses and why we have bobs. We have more advanced sessions which concentrate on learning specific methods and start with the place notation, creating the blue line and tips on learning to ring the method and we have question and answer sessions.

Each session is based on working with pencils and squared paper and the aim is to create some kind of method sheet which becomes an aid to learning. The sessions last about one hour and are followed by tea. People are away by 8pm at the latest.

Michael Hatchet.

There will be more about Theory with Tea in the next edition.

Regional Forums

To date we have 2 forums organized. The dates and venues are as follows:

South West/Western

When: Saturday 10th July 2010, 2 30 - 4 30 pm

Where: Bradpole Ringing Centre, Nr Bridport, Dorset

What: Regional seminar for Ringing Centres organised by the Central Council Ringing Centres Committee.

The programme will include:

- presentations by one or more centres on current activities, successes and problems
- presentation and discussion on the role and work of the Ringing Centres Committee
- opportunities to share good practice and seek help with current concerns
- Tea and cake!

Applications to Les Boyce on 01884 256819 or email

lesboyce@gmail.com



Northern Forum

When: Saturday 2nd October 2010

Where: Yorkshire Dales Ringing Centre, Settle, North Yorkshire

What: Regional seminar for Ringing Centres
Programme similar to South West/Western region
Applications to: Alan Bentley on 01296 393077 or email

arb99net@netscape.net

News from Gwennap

Students from the Gwennap Ringing Centre had an outing to Kenwyn on the 27th March 2010. For most of the students, who have just started to ring rounds and call changes, it was the first opportunity to ring away from the Gwennap Ringing Centre and for nearly all of them, the first opportunity to ring on eight bells. Besides a visit up the tower to see the bells, there were opportunities to look at a display kindly arranged by Ian Self of videos, books, photographs and a variety of articles about ringing and interesting Churches, a 'go' on a working model bell, the opportunity to ring handbells and to talk informally



The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers

Ringing Centres Committee

about methods, compositions, falseness, peals and quarter peals, the Guild and such things as the history and development of ringing. The students all rang extremely well and they all left feeling pleased with their individual performances. It is hoped that they also took with them a greater knowledge of the art and in particular of the fellowship that exists between ringers of all ages.

For the Tutors there was a realisation that teaching students to ring at a Ringing Centre can be so directional that many of the basic concepts and more general matters which are frequently introduced by non teaching members of bands are unintentionally omitted and that more general sessions to bring in other ideas and people are needed to develop the interest of the student to allow that student to become a more complete ringer in time to come with an added interest which can be pursued outside the tower ringing sessions.

St. Wennappa's Church,
Gwennap, Cornwall



Harry Nicholls, a member of the Gwennap Ringing Centre management committee, organised a recruitment weekend attracting interest from local radio, television and newspapers, which led to a variety of people wanting to learn to ring. This group has made steady progress at Gwennap on the simulator learning to ring up and down as well as to lead, ring rounds and call changes and have now been introduced to other towers and open ringing. Most have now joined an active band, local to themselves and are contributing to Sunday service ringing but still return to regular sessions at Gwennap with a view to learning the basics of Change Ringing. The management committee now wish to repeat the idea this year with another recruitment weekend followed by simulator sessions at Gwennap in the hope that it will attract a similar group of learners who may progress together.

College Courses for Bellringing?

Courses run for the Southend-on-Sea Adult Community College

- A conversation with a member of the College staff and a local Rochford ringer in 2004 prompted the college to explore the possibility of running bell ringing courses

- Martin Newman and Peter Sloman were interviewed and appointed to the posts of instructors
- The College was keen to run the courses because, amongst other things, we ticked the box in that we used computers, gave individual one to one tuition and used "chalk and talk". It seems that inspectors look for these factors when assessing colleges.
- As there was only one tutor post for the course Martin and I shared the £17.00 per hour tutor fee.
- The course runs for three hours each Saturday but we were only paid for two!
- One disadvantage of the course is the plethora of paperwork from the College.
- The first courses run in 2005 ran for fifteen weeks but in October 2009 and without consulting us – we still had the same objectives to achieve! – the College reduced this to ten
- The fees for the course for 2009/10 were: October 2009 ten weeks for two hours each session £77 (over 60's £61 Benefit £17) January 2010 for ten weeks for two hours each session £93 (over 60's £61 benefit £17)
- The January 2010 course did not run and we are waiting for the college to confirm whether the course will be in the next prospectus – no reason why it should not as they have very little costs in offering the course.
- The fees have the disadvantage of being quite expensive (as we would teach for nothing!) but the advantage of students staying the course. Of the seven who enrolled in October, five now ring regularly.
- The other disadvantage of the course is that all the students are, by definition, adults. But one of our latest students has introduced her 15 year old son to ringing.

Courses

- As the College courses may not be running in the future – the last four out of five have not run because of the lack of numbers, we are looking at the possibility of offering our own courses via the local press and media.
- We are of the view that charging for the courses will encourage attendance as has been demonstrated from those college courses that ran in the past.
- The courses will, as in the past, concentrate on teaching good bell handling but not be restricted to adults.

Peter Sloman
April 2010



The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers Ringing Centres Committee

Charging for the use of Ringing Centres

Peter Sloman raises the point that the college courses tend to be expensive as they would be prepared to teach for nothing, but that an added advantage of charging is that the students stay the course. It would be interesting to know what other Ringing Centres do in relation to charging.

Many of you run specific courses – Is there a fee for this?

Do you charge at a similar rate as for visiting peal bands?

Do you always provide a tutor and run the course yourself or do you hire the Ringing Centre out for others to run their own courses or to bring their own bands to use the facilities.? It would be very interesting to find out.

Please send any comments or indeed articles that you would like included in the next edition of the Newsletter to janet@ajsplace.fsnet.co.uk.

