

CHANGE RINGING FOR THE FUTURE

REPORT ON BREAKOUT GROUPS EAST MIDLANDS REGION

A. What's working well in your area?

Working together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clusters - cooperation between towers eg to make up Sunday service and wedding ringing ▪ Cooperation in the association and between districts 	x 4
Recruitment, retention, training and development, events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monthly/bi-monthly focus practices (eg Plain Bob/10-bell/Stedman/Cambridge/spliced) and training events - encourages less able ringers to progress (though mainly mature ringers attend – youngsters have other activities) ▪ Some towers are very strong ▪ Social events ▪ We get more young learners when there are young people in the congregation and when there are existing young ringers (eg Old Brompton) ▪ Saturday mornings are increasing in popularity ▪ Rising ringers and youngsters ▪ LDG junior membership has more than trebled 2006-15 – local leaders, simulators, youth team for RW striking contest ▪ Use of simulator/mobile belfry at festivals/shows, guide/scout events raises awareness (eg Whittington Gala) ▪ Annual course ▪ Trained new band from scratch with ITTS material ▪ Training for all ages ▪ Teaching handling ▪ Visitors from other guilds to branch meetings ▪ Progressive – Plain Hunt Doubles to Treble Bob 	x 8 x 3 x 2
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bell restoration x2 ▪ Fantastic website (Leicester) ▪ Energetic leadership makes huge difference whatever the nature of the initiative 	x 2

B. What's NOT working well in your area?

Working together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Huge problem maintaining Sunday service ringing – ringers too spread out ▪ Gap between ringing and non-ringing fraternity difficult - don't seem to mix enough - relationship difficult due to lack of regular ringing at some churches ▪ Inter-tower collaboration in a 'small' sense ▪ The geographical extent of the guild makes interaction very challenging 	<p style="text-align: right;">x 3</p> <p style="text-align: right;">x 2</p>
Recruitment, retention, training and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PR/marketing including display boards and website are absent/not effective/not up to date ▪ Quality of training and correction of faults eg bell handling ▪ Recruiting young ringers ▪ Continuing training at intermediate levels – how to stop people getting bored and giving up ▪ Quarter peal days ▪ Peals in simpler methods (as opposed to Surprise Maximus) ▪ Recruitment ▪ Knowledge of potential of ICT in teaching ▪ Few if any recruits ▪ Reluctance of learners to attend training/go to other towers ▪ Finding towers across the guild willing to host 3 hours training 	<p style="text-align: right;">x 4</p> <p style="text-align: right;">x 3</p> <p style="text-align: right;">x 3</p> <p style="text-align: right;">x 2</p>
Meetings/ events/practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meetings on Saturdays poorly attended ▪ Short of active ringers/practices (though octogenarian practice still active) ▪ Not enough more advanced ringing at practices (Chesterfield District) ▪ Advanced practices are too far away eg Melbourne 	<p style="text-align: right;">x 2</p>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Town centre towers but no local band ▪ Enabling the less experienced to become better peal ringers ▪ Finding officers at guild and branch level ▪ Alternative societies! – B&DA ▪ Rubbish striking ▪ Not enough competent conductors ▪ Local towers doing badly ▪ Politics in towers and branches ▪ Consolidation/support for new bands ▪ Apathy amongst ringers – possibly ringing is not their no.1 hobby! 	

C. What cross-boundary initiatives are happening near you?

Working together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Joint meetings with neighbouring guilds – Coventry, Peterborough, Lincs ▪ The Sherwood Youths is an existing cross boundary society ▪ This does not work well (across district & association boundaries) ▪ Invited Coventry Guild to join in Ridgman Cup striking competition – as it's near their boundary ▪ Combined bands ▪ Lots of shared practices/social events across guild branches available ▪ Clusters ▪ 12-bell monthly practice 	x 2
Training and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Guild-based training rather than district 	
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Peel bands ▪ Attendance at practice nights rely on visiting ringers ▪ We frequently have members from other bands at branch meetings – this extends the range of abilities available to support and encourage others ▪ Ridgman Trophy striking competition 	

D. What are the cross-boundary opportunities in your region?

Working together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Geriatric ringing outings in neighbouring counties provide good opportunities for experienced ringers ▪ Could be better – nearer two other associations than the other end of our association ▪ Closer ties with associations both within and across association boundaries eg Leicester, Derby, Loughborough, Lincoln, Nottingham, Nott Trent ▪ Probably not enough cross-boundary events/initiatives ▪ Need to use each other's best practice more! ▪ Scope as geographical good, but not happening ▪ Can't comment on cross association ▪ Peterborough/Lincoln guild – lots of opportunities to share practices ▪ N-W Lincoln and E-N Notts – used to be considerably more opportunities used than now 	
Recruitment, training and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One-off training events eg courses ▪ Need to work together more on recruitment ▪ Shared meetings and focus training ▪ Active training calendar 	
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Peel bands ▪ Involve theological colleges – train 'vicars' ▪ Diocesan education offices to CofE schools ▪ Would be good to have an association/regional young ringers competition ▪ Need more support for local tower captains ▪ Involvement in Ridgman trophy striking competition as a cross-boundary activity – could be developed 	x 2