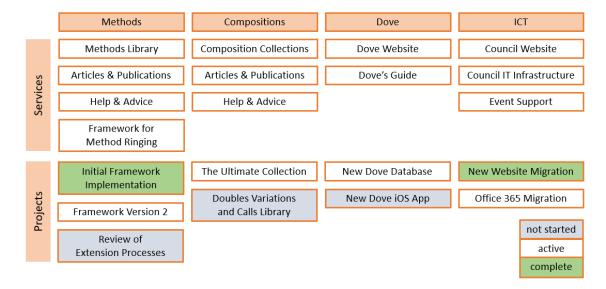# Technical & Taxonomy Workgroup

Annual Report For 2019

The organisation of the workgroup is unchanged from 2018, with four teams handling Methods, Compositions, Dove and ICT. The services and projects supported by the workgroup and projects are as follows:

Methods	Compositions	Dove	ICT
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			

(Services)

Methods	Compositions	Dove	ICT
Initial Framework Implementation	The Ultimate Collection	New Dove Database	New Website Migration
Framework Version 2	Doubles Variations and Calls Library	New Dove iOS App	Office 365 Migration
Review of Extension Processes			

(Projects)

not started
active
complete

Methods

1,160 new methods were added to the CCCBR Methods Library (methods.cccbr.org.uk) in weekly updates throughout the year, bringing the total number of methods to 21,863 at the end of 2019.

The Central Council Framework for Method Ringing became effective on June 1st 2019, superseding the Central Council Decisions. Following implementation, 582 methods were retitled as set out in the Framework Transitional Arrangements – Appendix F, and 756 methods have been added to the Library under the provisions for retroactive recognition. These are methods that did not qualify for inclusion based upon the Decisions at the time of ringing, but would have qualified had the Framework been in place at the time. Further methods will be added in this way as they come to light. For example, there are still 90 methods on a list of provisionally named methods (https://complib.org/report?name=provisionallynamed) that could be included if we are provided with a report of a qualifying performance, the composition where needed to establish truth, and a revised name where there is naming conflict.

The workgroup's methods panel has answered various method-related 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 main activity during the year was related to implementation of the Framework on 1 June. Composition Library, which is used to maintain method data, was updated with the changes to classification and terminology, requirements for naming, support for historic names, and provision of on demand reports for retroactive recognition and provisional names. The Framework FAQs were published in the Ringing World as a series, followed by articles on implementation and retroactive recognition.

Framework version 2

Following intensive work on version 1 of the Framework in 2017, 2018 and early 2019, the team did not produce an update in 2019, as no significant issues had been raised. However, in preparation for a version 2, several smaller items were worked on in 2019 as follows:

- A proposed notation for describing jump changes has been finalized. This will be added to Appendix A (Place Notation).
- With assistance from the Ringing Theory email group, details of all known rung jump methods and their first performances have been compiled. There are 12 of these methods, rung between 1976 and 2016. These will be added to the Methods Library under the retroactive recognition provisions once the Library's software has been upgraded to handle jump changes.
- We finalized our proposal for how methods with jump changes should be classified – this was a potentially unfinished item in v1 of the Framework. The proposal doesn't result in any changes to the workings of the current Framework classification system, but some explanation sections of the Framework will be edited for clarity.
- Progress was made on refining the recommended set of Unicode characters that can be used in method names to make uniqueness of names more apparent, ensure that names can be properly expressed in common fonts, and ensure that ringing software developers know which characters they should be able to support. Once this work is completed, it will be incorporated as an updated Appendix B.
- Several minor issues relating to the operation of Section 6.A of the Framework (performance title and performance detail) were uncovered, mostly by Don Morrison as he implemented the Framework's definitions into his ringing software e.g. the performance title definition needs revising to cater for some edge case performances of spliced. These issues have been compiled, and will be addressed in 2020.

Additional work planned for 2020 by the Framework team includes:

- A review of the Framework's extension processes with the aim of documenting existing extension anomalies in the Methods Library; identifying shortcomings in processes and documentation; and developing tools that could bring an appreciation and practical application of method extension to a wider audience.
- Adding tables of false course heads to the Framework appendices.
- Supplementing the table of Leadhead Codes (Appendix C) with a relative lead notation (Plain Bob = +1, Cambridge = +2, Bristol S Major = -1n, etc).
- Developing standard language relating to the CC Framework for affiliated societies to include in their rules if needed. Some societies' rules make specific reference to the rules-based approach of the former CC Decisions, which no longer applies under the Framework.

Compositions

Over the past twelve months, *Composition Library* has increasingly been demonstrating its worth. There have been no requests for compositions directed towards the workgroup, and only a handful of compositions submitted by email to compositions@cccbr.org.uk for publication. While this facility remains available, it's clear that the conducting community is well-served with resources and able to source compositions without our assistance. Workgroup members were approached by *The Ringing World* for input into this year's RW Diary and were able to provide a collection of quarter peal length compositions suitable for a variety of Major methods. *The Ringing World* also published compositions as part of the Method of the Month series.

Workgroup members have continued to contribute heavily to *Composition Library*, providing an ever-increasing catalogue. The overall count of compositions available has risen by 7,000 to a total of over 36,000 compositions. Particular focus in the Central Council's printed collections has seen the whole of 2004 Collection of Ten Bell Compositions added (731 compositions) providing good coverage for the ten-bell method collection. A similar task is now underway with the Council's 2004 Collection of Twelve Bell Compositions. There is an ongoing focus on ensuring that, when made available, compositions used when methods are first rung are captured and linked to performances. Conductors are encouraged to make sure that such compositions are made clear in BellBoard submissions. Workgroup members are also making available smaller collections including historic compositions (e.g. Bell News, Clavis Campanalogia) and individual composers' collections.

Richard Pullin's series of Notable composers of the past has continued to appear in *The Ringing World* over the last twelve months and has been well-received. Andrew Johnson issued a challenge in a Christmas issue article on Stedman Triples, and a number of other interesting articles on composition have been published by other composers.

In preparation for creating a definitive Library of Doubles Variations and Calls, Peter Hinton prepared a detailed report on Doubles Variations in September outlining a number of issues in this area, an analysis of newly rung variations, naming conflicts, and name changes. Following this analysis, Peter's has rewritten his Doubles Variations website with a new database backend, so that it can now provide much more detail about doubles variations rung to date. It is expected that we are now in a stronger position to deal with any future queries or naming clashes in this area.

Stewards of the Dove Database

During 2019 we made 662 updates to the information that we show against a '*Dove* entry', and 1048 updates to the information held in the prototype-National Bell Register (pNBR). The latter represents a 14% increase on the number of changes made during 2018 and the former a 38% decrease. One significant factor in this decrease was the publication of *Dove 11* at the end of 2018 and the work that we undertook beforehand to ensure that the *Dove* entries were as up-to-date as could be.

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

	Rings			Unringable		
	As at 1 Jan	*As at 31 Dec*	*Change*	*As at 1 Jan*	*As at 31 Dec*	*Change*
16s	3	3	0	0	0	0
15s	1	1	0	0	0	0
14s	1	1	0	0	0	0
12s	139	140	+1	0	0	0
10s	285	288	+3	2	1	-1
8s	1896	1898	+2	46	47	+1
6s	2948	2953	+5	102	102	0

5s	593	591	-2	131	131	0
4s	310	308	-2	147	146	-1
3s	969	964	-5	576	577	+1
Total	**7145**	**7147**	**+2**	**1004**	**1004**	**0**

We list seven rings for the first time (namely **Bundaberg**, Australia; **Clifton**, Corpus Christi, Notts; **Dorstone**, Herefs; **Drayton Beauchamp**, Bucks; **Rosemeadow**, Australia; **Singapore**; **Vernet-les-Bains**, France) but no longer list six others (namely **Bacup**, S Saviour, Lancs; **Farewell**, Staffs; **Feock**, Cornwall; **Kettlethorpe**, Lincs; **Medmenham**, Bucks; **Stoke, Hanley**, Staffs). In addition, in the light of new information obtained, we re-list one ring previously de-listed (namely **Winforton**, Herefs). We have been notified of 14 augmentations, four rings that are no longer unringable, and seven rings that are now unringable.

We thank all who have notified us of changes. Once again, the majority were provided by a small number of contributors, with almost 50% of *Dove* updates and over 80% of *pNBR* updates being supplied by fewer than 10 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 *Dove 11* has sold well during 2019 with around 750 copies purchased, 75% of the initial print run. We have no current plans to produce an updated book.

We suffered a major problem at the end of August when we lost our ability to update the *Dove* website from the old DataEase-based *Dove* database. The website itself remained fully functional, albeit frozen in time. We were able to update the website again from the beginning of November, although we were still unable to accept changes submitted via the website. This remains the situation at the end of 2019, although we hope to be in a position to provide full website capability once more during the first quarter of 2020.

To eliminate our dependence on old technology for *Dove*, Richard Smith and his team have accelerated development of the replacement solution using up-to-date technology. Key achievements during 2019 included:

- Deploying a hierarchical system of regions (countries, counties, dioceses, and territorial associations)

Development of a replacement for popular *Dove* iOS app, written by John Baldwin's son Sid, has been put on hold pending completion of our move to the new *Dove* database.

Tim Jackson again attended the DAC Bells Advisors' Conference, this time in Oxford, at which Church Care outlined the limited progress made in compiling an independent database of bells and bell frames. We have put on hold our suggestion to Church Care to consider the sharing of data pending completion of our move to the new *Dove* database.

Our plans for 2020 are summarised as follows:

- To restore full *Dove* website capability, with a target of the first quarter of 2020
- To complete development, testing, and deployment of the new *Dove* database such that we eliminate our dependence on the old one
- To develop a new call handling system for incoming updates so that we can take over the receipt of message submitted to the *DoveMaster* email address from John Baldwin; the intention is to facilitate the sharing of the processing of these updates across the team
- To resume development of the replacement *Dove* iOS app
- To resume dialogue with Church Care around the sharing of bells and bell frames data

ICT

Most of the time spent during the past year has been on the introduction & ongoing updating/maintenance of the 'new' website, as well as a fair amount of time spent building a booking system for the 2019 Annual Meeting at Goldsmiths.

David Richards and his team provided technical support and the live stream for the 2019 Annual Meeting.

Office 365 work is ongoing, with two workgroups now trialling the functionality and we expect to move over to it fully in 2020.

Andrew Hall has done some additional work on the database elements behind the website, and there is ongoing work to update the Rolls of Honour in conjunction with Alan Regin.