



Technical & Taxonomy

August 2025

The Technical and Taxonomy working group has continued to maintain libraries, collections, and ongoing projects, plus several new initiatives are in development and are scheduled for launch and rollout in the autumn and winter of 2025.

Compositions

The Compositions Team continues its work as usual while also seeking a new chair to lead the committee. The Compositions Library - complib.org - run by Graham John, continues to work on upgrades and user interface improvements and has grown to include over 75,000 compositions and upwards of 24,000 methods. The Council's Library for Variations and Calls - varlib.org - supported by Peter Hinton, also continue to grow and now contains over 5,900 Doubles Variations. The Compositions email (compositions@cccbr.org.uk) is always available, so please get in touch with any enquiries or for any advice you may need.

Methods

Methods Library

At the end of 2024, there were 24,295 methods recorded in the CCCBR Methods Library, an increase of 362 from the previous year. Additionally, there are four Dynamic methods defined descriptively (no change). A report of firsts in method for each ringing style (towerbells, handbells, keyboards, etc) in 2024 can be found on Complib (complib.org/report?name=firstsinmethod&year=2024).

Six new methods rung in 2024 and a further six up to May 2025 did not qualify for inclusion in the CCCBR Methods Library: Four were not rung to a qualifying length (Framework 5.E.1.a) - St Aldate's Place Doubles, Clewer Minor, Rapid Rap Minor and Arthur Superstar Little Bob Minor; two were not rung to a true touch (5.E.1.d) - Demi-Double Dublin Alliance Minimus and NUSCR Ruined Our Evening Little Alliance Minimus; and two were not rung by an all-

human band (5.E.1.g) - Denmark Surprise Royal and Moriarty Little Bob Sixteen.

The remaining four methods are clearly related to existing methods by extension or contraction, but there is no existing extension process that can define the relationship (Framework 5.E.1.e, 8.B.1) - St Radegund Jump Minimus, Frequently Slow Doubles, Offen Slow Doubles and Elliptic Jump Royal. The new extension process (EP4) currently being evaluated can relate the Doubles methods, and it may also be possible to expand its scope to include Jump methods. If this is successful and the process is adopted, these methods can be added to the library retroactively.

Rotations

Bands are increasingly wishing to separately name rotations of existing methods, with 46 already recorded in the CCCBR Methods Library. While this was not permitted under the former Decisions of the CCCBR, the Framework for Method Ringing recognises that there are cases where separate naming of rotations may be beneficial, with New Grandsire given as a classic and historic example.

However, the current Framework doesn't provide any guidance on other beneficial cases for naming rotations, leading to debate among the Methods Team each time a new rotation is rung and named. After much discussion this past year, we have settled on the following approach:

We seek to balance (a) recording rotations in the Methods Library when there are good reasons for doing so, and (b) not recording them where they don't serve any useful purpose, and possibly could confuse ringers (such as all 11 rotations of Stedman being separately named). However, sensible requirements for (a) don't necessarily preclude (b). So we remain dependent upon ringers applying good judgement when naming rotations.

To date we have identified 7 cases where naming of rotations may be beneficial, and all existing named rotations fall into these categories:

1. Multi-hunt methods: the Grandsire / New Grandsire case.
2. When different rotations give starts that correspond to other methods: the Cloister / Bastow case. Cloister is Stedman quick sixes; Bastow corresponds to other Little Plain methods.
3. Rotation by an odd number of changes, swapping the handstroke / backstroke orientation: the Duck Berry case. The change in orientation makes the method seem different to ring.
4. When methods have hunt bell(s) with repeating path(s): the Dunholme Court / Wigford Court / St Mary-le-Wigford Court Minimus case. Although these are rotations, ringers need to know 3 different blue lines to ring them, justifying their separate naming in the Library.
5. When a method is spliced with a rotation of the same method. In this case, naming both rotations facilitates the description of the composition, as well as enabling these names to be used by the conductor when calling this composition.
6. When variations have been named on different rotations of the base method. Recording all the rotations in the Methods Library gives consistency with the Variations Library.
7. When naming of rotations follows from method extension. E.g. X Minor and X Major have been rung and named, and a band now wants to ring X Royal, but there is already a Y Royal in the Library that is a rotation of X Royal. Recording X Royal in the Library as well as Y Royal ensures the full "X" method family is consistently represented.

When bands ring and name new rotations, we will generally ask them to (a) confirm they are naming a rotation intentionally, and (b) provide their reasoning for doing so, which will then be discussed among the Methods Team if needed. We also plan to include additional guidance on the naming of rotations in the next update of the Framework.

Method Extension Review

The team has not progressed the review of method extension processes this year due to lack of time and focus on other items. We aim to return to this in 2026.

Methods Team Members & Questions Arising

The Methods Team is lead by Tim Barnes, Graham John runs the process to extract newly rung methods from BellBoard, validate them, and then add them to the Methods Library. The other Methods Team members are: Adam Beer, Mark Davies, John Harrison, Peter Hinton, Don Morrison, Philip Saddleton, Natasha Williams and Robin Woolley.

The Methods team continues to respond to any queries raised about methods through social media and by email (methods@cccbr.org.uk).