

Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

East Berks & South Bucks Branch

LORNA NEWTON 6 BELL COMPETITION – the PROCEDURE and RULES

1. Aims

- a) to encourage good striking, in a competitive but friendly atmosphere.
- b) to reap the benefits of socializing between towers.

2. The Timing

- a) The initial draw will take place at a Branch practice or meeting before the end of February.
- b) One further round, or possibly two if there are sufficient participating teams, takes place through the summer months.
- c) The final is on the second Saturday in October, prior to the Half Yearly Meeting.

3. Who can take part

- a) All towers are entered, with the exception of the winner of the previous year's six-Bell Competition (unless they have a second band - see (b)). The ringers who rang in the winning band may ring in a round of the current competition only as an individual (one per band) and only if they have a regular link with the tower concerned.
- b) A tower may enter more than one band, but please let the Branch Secretary know if you are doing so before the time of the draw
- c) Joint teams with another tower may also be entered, again letting the Branch Secretary know before the time of the draw.
- d) A tower band should comprise at least 50% tower members. Any ringers in a band who are not tower members must have some links with that tower, e.g. as regular visitors. The only restriction within these criteria is that no one should ring in more than one band in any one round of the competition.
- e) Only one ringer who has taken part in a previous round is permitted to ring as an individual for another band, including another band from their own tower, in subsequent rounds of the competition.
- f) The Branch can agree to provide a coach/conductor for a tower on request. This person is exempt from the restriction above.
- g) All ringers must be paid-up Branch members.

4. Making the arrangements

- a) The tower captains should arrange a mutually agreeable date and tower for the competition. It might prove easiest to hold it at one of the towers' practice nights; alternatively, find a neutral tower.
- b) The tower captains need to arrange a suitable judge, acceptable to both towers. A list of possible judges is available from the Chairman.
- c) Whilst either tower can make contact, the primary responsibility for making contact to agree the arrangements rests with the tower listed first in the draw and this must be done at least two weeks before the "last play" date.
- d) If the towers cannot agree a mutually acceptable date, tower, or judge then the matter may be referred to the Secretary who, with the Branch Officers, will make a decision.

5. The Ringing

- a) Two minutes' practice should be allowed prior to the test piece, after which all bells should be stood. Signal that you are ready by ringing the treble for two whole pulls.
- b) The test piece is one minute of rounds, followed by either 120 changes of any method or at least 120 rows of call changes. Plain courses of a method, or plain hunt, are acceptable. If call changes are rung, then at least two bells (other than the treble) must be brought to lead and at least 12 changes must be called.
- c) The test piece should be followed by some rounds but these rounds will not be judged, neither will any call changes after 120 rows have been rung.

6. Helpful hints

- a) Try to make the arrangements well before the deadline date.
- b) If ringing call changes, we suggest that you appoint someone (perhaps the steward who does the time keeping) to count the changes for you.
- c) Any problems please contact a Branch Officer for advice.

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