



Bath & Wells Diocesan Association of Change Ringers

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Association Awards

The Association has a number of award schemes for recognising members in different ways. This document lists those awards and summarises the criteria and processes for each of them.

The Awards

1. Honorary Life Membership of the Association

This is the highest award made by the Association, and is made only for exceptional service.

2. The Master's Certificate of Commendation

Awarded for particular service, often at local or Branch.

3. Member Emeritus

Awarded to longer serving members who are no longer able to actively participate in ringing.

4. Young Ringer Award

A scheme to recognise all participating young ringers up to 18 years of age.

5. Young Ringer of the Year

A competitive award made annually to the young ringer making the greatest progress.

6. Long Service

Recognising resident members with 40 years or more service to the Association.

Criteria

1. Honorary Life Membership of the Association

Rule 11 iv, as amended at the 2024 AGM states:

"Honorary Life Membership (HLM) is awarded for outstanding contribution to the objects of the Bath & Wells Diocesan Association of Change Ringers, as described in these rules. Decisions are made by the General Committee, and recipients cease to be required to pay membership fees in recognition of this important award."

The objects referred to are embodied in Rule 1 as follows:

- i. Recognition of the true position of ringers as Church workers and the encouragement of ringing for Divine Service.*
- ii. Promotion of the art of church bell ringing within the Bath & Wells Diocese, especially by giving support and training to ringers when requested.*
- iii. To support the maintenance, restoration and ringing of church bells within the Bath & Wells Diocese by the provision of an Advisory Service and a Ringing Support Fund.*

iv. Promotion of fellowship between ringers.

2. The Master's Certificate of Commendation

The Master's Certificate of Commendation recognises extended or specific service of high note to the Member's local tower or Branch.

- i. It is not an award for Long Service, this is recognised through Long Service Certificates.
- ii. The nominee must have gone over and above simple membership, paying subscriptions and turning up to ring on Sundays and practice nights.
- iii. The case must demonstrate outstanding contribution to local ringing, and/or branch ringing.
- iv. The nominee may have made significant contribution though holding Branch Offices over a number of years (n.b. holding office in itself is not an element of the criteria).
- v. This Award does not replace either HLM or Long Service Certificates.

Examples for consideration

- Long and faithful service as a Tower Captain.
- Long and faithful service as a Branch Officer.
- Significant impact as a teacher, training many new ringers over many years.
- The unsung heroes in our midst, for example always there providing teas for meetings etc over many years.
- A great achievement in a project, of benefit to the wider ringing community in helping to achieve the Association Objectives, for example the driving force behind a restoration, or augmentation, or creating a training centre for the Branch/Association (n.b. probably not a project that just creates a popular peal venue).

3. Member Emeritus

This is an important award, recognising and honouring those longer serving members who are no longer able to actively participate in ringing. Eligible members will:

- i. be existing General or Associate Members.
- ii. have a minimum 10 years fully paid 'resident' membership ('resident' is defined in Long Service Awards below).
- iii. be no longer able to participate in normal tower bell ringing due to age or infirmity.

4. Young Ringer Award

This award is designed to encourage young people through their early years as a ringer

- i. It is for all young ringers, aged up to 18, from when they begin to learn to ring up until they are ready to learn plain hunt.
- ii. It is intended to motivate young ringers, firstly to ring at their own practices and Sunday Service ringing, but then also to begin ringing at other towers and at Branch events.

5. Young Ringer of the Year

Awarded annually to the young ringer making the greatest progress. This competitive award is designed to complement the Young Ringer award (above).

- i. The competition is open to all young ringers aged 18 or younger.

- ii. It is for the keen young ringers who are learning to plain hunt and who are moving on to method ringing and recognises commitment and regular attendance at Sunday service and practice night ringing.
- iii. It also provides a stimulus for progression in several areas, not only in the methods that can be rung, but in calling touches, ringing quarter peals, ringing at new towers and branch events, etc.

6. Long Service

Recognising resident members with 40 years or more service to the Association.

- i. Resident means those paying annual resident member subscription and those exempt from annual subscription (Honorary Life Members and Members Emeritus). This may include members who might otherwise be considered as having moved to non-resident status, but have chosen to continue paying annual subscription (or are exempt from annual subscriptions, i.e. HLM & ME).
- ii. Time spent as a Non-Resident Life Member does not qualify as 'service' for the calculation of service years in this context.
- iii. Any periods of lapsed membership are not qualifying years, for example a member first joining 40 years ago, but lapsing their membership after 20 years and returning to membership 10 years later will be deemed to have 30 years membership.

Process

1. Honorary Life Membership of the Association

- i. HLM submissions may be considered at any time.
- ii. Any member may propose another for election, however the case must be submitted (sponsored) by the relevant Branch Chair or by a member of the General Committee.
- iii. The proposer drafts the case for consideration and agrees this with the sponsor.
- iv. The case must make a compelling argument as to why the Member should be awarded HLM status (see criteria above).
- v. The sponsor submits the case by sending to the General Secretary (GS).
- vi. The GS will circulate the proposal to the General Committee, who will be asked to consider the case and vote. Unless prior agreement to an extension has been reached any votes not received after two weeks will be considered abstentions.
- vii. The GS conveys the decision to the proposer, cc to the sponsor and Branch Chair, Secretary & Treasurer.
- viii. If the proposal is successful, the Master will write to the Member.
- ix. The Membership Secretary (MS) will update the membership database.
- x. The MS will provide the completed certificate and citation for award at the next Association AGM or convenient occasion.
- xi. Upon election to HLM the individual ceases to pay annual subscriptions (i.e. they will not pay at the next subscription point).

2. The Master's Certificate of Commendation

- i. Nominations are made by the Branch Committee, with the formal proposal being submitted to the Master by the Branch Chair.

- ii. The Branch Chair submits the formal proposal to the Master. There is no prescribed format, but the case should be in writing and be compelling.
- iii. The Master receives the case and takes advice from the Executive Committee or others as he/she sees fit.
- iv. If the Award is granted, then the Master writes to the recipient to inform them and the General Secretary confirms the award to the Branch Chair.
- v. The Certificate is ideally presented by the Master at the next available Association Meeting (or other Association gathering). If this is not practical, then the Certificate will be presented at the next relevant Branch meeting by the Branch Chair (or the Master if present).
- vi. The Master's Certificate of Commendation Recipients are listed in the Annual Report.
- vii. The Master's Certificate of Commendation may be awarded more than once to the same recipient (but each award will need a different case).

3. Member Emeritus

- i. The Branch Committee identify members for the award of Member Emeritus.
- ii. Branch Secretary confirms that the individual concerned is an existing General Member or Associate Member with at least ten years fully paid membership (information obtainable from the Membership Secretary).
- iii. The Branch Secretary prepares the Member Emeritus certificate and this is awarded at the next Branch meeting or other suitable occasion (blank certificates are obtainable from the Membership Secretary).
- iv. The Branch Secretary minutes the change of status at the next available Branch Meeting.
- v. The Branch Secretary notifies the Membership Secretary.
- vi. The Membership Secretary records the change of status in the membership database.
- vii. Upon transfer no further annual subscriptions will be due from the Member (i.e. they will not pay at the next subscription point).
- viii. Branches have a responsibility to keep contact with Members Emeritus, inviting them to events, sending them copies of newsletters & providing them with annually with a copy of the annual report & handbook.

4. Young Ringer Award

- i. There are three modules with twelve tasks in each. The tasks can be started at any time and from whatever stage the young ringer has reached.
- ii. There is no time limit for each module and the tasks may be done in any order.
- iii. All instructions and task sheets are available on the Association website or from the Association Education Officer.

5. Young Ringer of the Year

- i. The entry form should be signed by an appropriate adult e.g. Tower Captain/Ringing Master/Tutor to show attendance at practice night or Sunday Service ringing, attendance at Branch events, etc, or to show the completion of an achievement e.g. ringing a quarter peal, calling a touch of a particular method, etc.
- ii. Points are awarded for each attendance or achievement.

- iii. The competition will be for the George Wareham Trophy which will be awarded annually.
- iv. The starting date each year is March 1st and the closing date the following year is February 28th/29th.
- v. All instructions and entry forms are available on the Association website or from the Association Education Officer.

6. Long Service

There are two types of recognition relating to members with 40 years or more service and members with over 50 years or more service. At 40 years, and then annually, the member is recognised in the annual report & handbook. At 50 years and 60 years, and then in 5 yearly increments, members receive a framed certificate.

At 40 or more years:

- i. Each year as a part of the annual report & handbook production process, the Membership Secretary uses the membership database to identify those qualifying members.
- ii. The Membership Secretary confirms names with the relevant Branch Officer charged with local membership matters (likely to be either the Secretary or Treasurer, but varies from Branch to Branch). The membership database will be updated with any variance.
- iii. Confirmed names are included in the Handbook section of the annual report & handbook.

At 50 or more years:

- i. Each year, using the confirmed 40 or more years list (see above) the Membership Secretary identifies those qualifying members (members with 50, 60, 65, 70 etc years of service).
- ii. The Membership Secretary produces framed certificates for each recipient.
- iii. Certificates for 60 or more years will be presented by the Master at that year's AGM.
- iv. Certificates marking 50 years will be presented by the Master at the AGM to recipients in the AGM host Branch, other 50 year certificates will be passed to relevant Branch Chairs for presentation at the next Branch event.