

The Bath and Wells Diocesan Association of Change Ringers

President: THE RIGHT REVEREND THE LORD BISHOP OF BATH AND WELLS

The BELL FUND of the Association is Registered Charity No. 273962



To: Association members present at the Annual General Meeting, Easter Monday, 2006

The following text was discussed at the General Committee Meeting in March, when it was agreed to place it before the AGM for discussion by the members.

ASSOCIATION TRAINING FACILITY – OUTLINE DESCRIPTION

The Association has the opportunity provided by its financial strength, to establish a Training Centre, where courses can be run and regular training provided by a team of skilled tutors and helpers. In time, its reputation and links with education in the local community will help to generate new recruits to the Exercise, and new members for the Association.

This note attempts to describe the ideal training environment, some of the qualities required in the personnel involved, and provides a framework that could be developed by a prospective management team.

LOCATION

In a Church (which need not be in current use), with a suitable ring of at least 6 bells, which may require some restoration work. The ringing room will be on the ground floor ideally, or with easy access for the less able-bodied.

Toilets and some catering facilities should be available.

In or close to a large centre of population, with good transport communications, where links may be established with local colleges of further education and schools.

PERSONNEL

A Manager will be required to organise courses, tutors, helpers and students. The Manager may also be a Tutor, of course. He or she will have a track record in good organisational and communication skills. He will be responsible to the Church Authorities and the Association for the reputation and conduct of the Centre, and will rely upon a pool of suitable and willing tutors and helpers. He will, in conjunction with the Association and Branch Education Officers, stimulate demand and offer practical training for all abilities.

Tutors will be required who are prepared to teach and able to devote regular time to running either longer periods of tuition (courses, for example) or regular weekday or weekend training sessions. The tutors should also be prepared to offer courses of further education in conjunction with local colleges and schools. Tutors will have a detailed and comprehensive knowledge of their subject, will be respected ringers in the Association, and will have demonstrated good teaching skills on previous Association or other specialist courses or in their vocation.

Helpers will also be required to attend regularly to assist the tutors. They will be competent ringers with a good reputation for handling and method ringing.

Accreditation will be required under the Child Protection Act.

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COURSES ON OFFER

From basic handling to simpler methods on lower numbers, leading to more complicated ringing on the higher numbers if the facilities allow and if the demand is there. Courses can be held during the day, in the evening, or on Saturdays.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The Centre could also be used for peals and quarter peals. It could be fitted with a simulator and dumb bell. It could benefit from sound control.

INITIAL FUNDING

Within the next two years, there could be some £15,000 available within the General Fund, and further cash could be found from the Bell Fund in the form of a grant in line with its Charitable Objects.

EXPENSES

While the courses can be largely self-financing, the balance of the expenses of the Manager, Tutors and Helpers would be found from a combination of the General Fund and the Bell Fund. It is not proposed to approach the host Church for a contribution.

CONCLUSION

Applications are invited in writing from prospective management teams, identifying how their proposal will match this template. Applications should be addressed to the General Secretary.