

# Rules for the Cheltenham Branch Striking Competitions

(Also available at <http://www.cheltenhambranch.org.uk/competition.htm#rules>)

## Association Rules

The rules will closely follow those used for the Association as follows:

- The test piece will be 120 changes (not 240) of any Doubles or Minor method.
- Each team shall have 5 minutes to adjust ropes and practise as they wish.
- The signal to start will be two whole pulls on the treble.
- Marking will start at the first blow of the method or the first Call Change, or after one minute of rounds if the opening rounds exceed one minute.
- The closing rounds will be marked in full.
- Judging will be entirely on the standard of striking.

However:

- One Ringing Master shall be in charge of the competition.
- Plain courses or Call Changes to a minimum of 120 are allowed subject to the agreement of the Ringing Master in charge (see FAQs).
- The Steward and Ringing Master in charge shall be allowed to participate in the competition.

## Local Branch Rules

When many bands are expected to enter, we may choose to have more than one draw so that people do not have to wait while all competitors ring. This should also enable us to allow for individual towers that have additional ringing commitments, e.g. weddings, if we are warned in advance.

## Band composition

Towers may enter more than one band of regular Sunday Service ringers. One *reserve ringer* with a *regular association* with the tower may be included to make up one of the bands with the consent of the Ringing Master in charge.

## Scratch bands

Towers wishing to include members but not having enough ringers to make up another *bona fide* band should ask the Ringing Master in charge to organise a suitable *scratch* band. It would be helpful to have an indication of names in advance.

## Banner vs. Cleeve Trophies

All bands will compete for the Banner Trophy. Bands with only two ringers with proficiency certificates can also compete for the Cleeve Trophy (see FAQs).

## FAQs

We hope branch members will enter into the *spirit of the competition* when interpreting the above rules. For guidance we have provided answers to some frequently asked questions below.

**Q:** What's the point of having a striking competition?

**A:** To promote better striking for Sunday Service ringing.

**Q:** What is the definition of a Sunday Service ringer?

**A:** Someone who frequently and regularly rings for Sunday Service at your tower.

[http://www.cheltenhambranch.org.uk/publications/branch\\_comp\\_rules.pdf](http://www.cheltenhambranch.org.uk/publications/branch_comp_rules.pdf)

**Q:** Does my band meet the criteria?

**A:** Yes if no other band would complain about it if you won.

**Q:** What Call Changes shall we ring?

**A:** It is suggested that the conductor calls the bells at least into a recognised change, e.g. Queens or Tittums, and back.

**Q:** What happens if my tower has 6 'proficient' ringers and 4 novices, do I have to choose between entering a band that qualifies for the Cleeve, and putting in my best band for the Banner?

**A:** With the consent of the Ringing Master in charge you may reuse 2 ringers to make up a band for the Cleeve Trophy.

**Q:** What are the duties of the Steward?

**A:** The Steward shall:

- 1) Point out which bell is the treble.
- 2) Warn you when your 5 minutes practice time is nearly up.
- 3) Advise call change bands when they've rung 4 minutes of changes (approximately 120 changes).

**Q:** What can I do if my question has not been answered?

**A:** Contact one of the branch Ringing Masters whose names will be in the annual report and on the branch programme and website (<http://www.cheltenhambranch.org.uk/contacts.htm>).

Janet Covey-Crump  
& Philip Abbey  
Joint Ringing Masters  
27 November 2004