

# RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION *(revised April 2011)*

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1. The Association shall be called "The Kent County Association of Change Ringers" and shall operate in the county of Kent and that part of London formerly in the county of Kent. Its aims shall be the establishment, maintenance and encouragement of service ringing in the churches in its area: the recognition of ringers as church workers and the proper care and use of bells and belfries: the cultivation of the art of change ringing.
2. The Association shall be affiliated to the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers and shall loyally abide by its rules and decisions in matters relating to ringing.
3. (i) The Archbishop of Canterbury shall be invited to become President and the Bishops, Deans and Archdeacons within the Association's area shall be invited to become ex officio Vice-presidents.  
(ii) Other Vice-presidents may, in recognition of outstanding services to the Association, be nominated by the General Committee for election for life. Their election must be approved by at least two thirds of the Members present and voting at an Annual General Meeting. Elected Vice-presidents shall enjoy Honorary Life Membership.
4. The Association shall consist of Practising, Associate, Honorary Life and Non-resident Life Members. A Practising Member shall be deemed to be a person who can, without assistance, ring rounds and lower a bell. Such competency shall be confirmed by an elected District Officer.
  - (i) (a) Practising Members shall comprise:
    - a. Adult Members.
    - b. Members up to the age of 18 years (Junior Members).
    - c. Members who are in full time education.
    - d. Members aged 65 years or more.  
(b) Each Practising Member shall pay an annual subscription except as provided in paragraph 4(iii). Members aged 65 years or more with 25 years of unbroken practising membership shall be entitled to free membership. The amount of the subscription and the proportion to be allocated to the Association's bell restoration fund for the year beginning 1st January next shall be resolved each year at the Annual General Meeting.  
(c) Practising Members shall be elected at a District meeting or as authorised in paragraph 13.  
(d) Subscriptions shall be due on 1 January. The names of Practising Members shall appear in the Handbook only when any arrears have been paid.  
(e) Members joining the Association after 1 July in any one year shall be entitled to pay only half the amount of that year's subscription.
  - (ii) Non-ringers may be admitted as Associate Members at any time. They shall subscribe not less than one tenth of the subscription of a Practising Member. Associate Members shall not be entitled to vote at any business meeting of the Association.  
(iii) A person may, in recognition of services to ringing, be nominated by the General Committee for election as an Honorary Life Member. Election of an Honorary Life Member must be approved by at least two thirds of the Members present and voting at an Annual General Meeting.  
(iv) Any Member may become a Member for life on payment of an amount not less than that determined from time to time in respect of such membership by resolution of the Annual General Meeting of which some part as determined by resolution of the Annual General Meeting shall be contributed to the Association's bell restoration fund.
5. Any tower with a Practising Member shall be "in union" with the Association and shall receive a free copy of the Handbook.
6. (i) A ringer not residing in the Association's area may be elected a Non-resident Life Member on a single payment of an amount determined by resolution of the Annual General Meeting. Such a Member shall not be entitled to vote at any business meeting  
(ii) A Practising Member who has paid an annual subscription for two consecutive years shall, on leaving the Association's area, become a Non-resident Life Member without further payment unless he elects to remain a Practising Member. On return to the area practising membership may be resumed on payment of the appropriate subscription.

7. Government of the Association shall be vested in a General Committee who, beside any other meetings, shall always meet in November or December, when the day and place of the Annual General Meeting shall be fixed. The General Committee shall consist of the Chairman, General Secretary, Treasurer, Elected Vice Presidents, Bell Restoration Officer, Training Officer, Publicity Officer, Handbook Editor, Webmaster, the Central Council Representatives, and representatives from the Districts. Other members, not exceeding three in number, may be elected at the Annual General Meeting. The General Committee shall have power to co-opt further members. Eight members shall form a quorum at any meeting of the General Committee.
8. (i) The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall take place between Easter and July. At this meeting the Chairman, General Secretary, Treasurer, Peal Secretary, Librarian and any other necessary officers shall be elected. A Registered Auditor or Independent Examiner shall also be elected.
  - (ii) At this meeting reports of proceedings and a Statement of Accounts shall be presented.
  - (iii) An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Association shall be called by the General Secretary on receipt of a requisition signed by, either, at least twenty Practising Members from each of at least four different Districts, or, at least fifteen members of the General Committee. Notice of an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be given in *The Ringing World*, and sent to all District Secretaries as soon as possible after receipt of the requisition, and at least three weeks before the meeting.
9. (i) The Association shall operate in six Districts as determined by the General Committee and known as the Ashford, Canterbury, Lewisham, Maidstone, Rochester and Tonbridge Districts. No tower shall be transferred from one District to another without the approval of the General Committee.
  - (ii) A meeting shall be held quarterly in each District to discuss Association business. A church service will be arranged whenever possible.
  - (iii) The quarterly meeting of each District immediately before the General Committee meeting in November or December shall be the Annual District Meeting, at which a District Secretary and two representatives to serve on the General Committee for the ensuing year shall be elected.
  - (iv) All notices of motion for the agenda of the Annual General Meeting must be forwarded to the General Secretary by 1 September and same shall be forwarded to Districts for consideration at their Annual District Meetings.
10. (i) The District Secretaries shall:
  - Receive subscriptions in the Districts and remit them to the Treasurer.
  - Make yearly reports to General Secretary for presentation to the General Committee(ii) The District Representatives shall:
  - Inform District meetings of matters discussed and approved by the General Committee and, where appropriate, convey the views of District meetings to the General Committee.
  - Be aware of the condition of bands and bells in the Districts and report as necessary.
11. (i) Representatives of the Association on the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers shall be elected triennially from current practising members, such election to take place at the Annual General Meeting of the Association approximately 12 months before the first meeting of each session of the Council. The number of representatives so elected shall be as currently prescribed by the Central Council.
  - (ii) Reasonable travelling and hotel expenses (limited to two nights) will be allowed to the Representatives attending the meeting.
12. (i) The General Secretary shall, whenever appropriate, offer the services of the Association for the opening of any new or restored ring of bells in its area or for any special occasion.
  - (ii) The General Secretary shall take all practicable steps through the appropriate District to meet any request for help in training a band.
13. Prior to starting for a peal, and provided the majority of the band are already Practising Members, they may elect the remainder as Members of the Association. Not more than two persons resident within the Association's area may be elected in this way and the election will be subject to ratification at a meeting of the District in which the Practising Member resides. Subscriptions of such Members must be paid at the time of the election and handed to the District Secretary with full particulars.

14. (i) Peals rung by bands made up entirely of Members of the Association will be credited to the Association and printed in the Handbook only if the appropriate peal fees together with details of compositions on seven bells and above are received by the Peal Secretary within two months of performance or by 15 January of the following year, whichever is the sooner.
  - (ii) The peal fee shall be an amount determined from time to time by the Annual General Meeting following a recommendation from the General Committee.
15. In the event of the dissolution of the Association the assets of the Association shall be distributed equally among those churches which at the time of dissolution were in union with the Association for the charitable and religious purposes of the said churches.
16. (i) No alteration to these Rules shall be made except at an Annual General Meeting of the Association.
  - (ii) Notice of any proposed alteration to these Rules must be received in writing by the General Secretary by 1 September before the Annual General Meeting at which the proposition is to be made. Upon receipt, the General Secretary shall give details in writing to all District Secretaries who shall read out the proposed alteration at the next quarterly District meeting.
  - (iii) Drafting amendments may be accepted at the discretion of the Chairman of the Annual General Meeting.
  - (iv) An amendment (other than a drafting amendment) to any proposed alteration to these Rules may be made at the Annual General Meeting at which the proposition is made. If the amendment is carried the vote on the amended proposition shall be taken at the following Annual General Meeting.

# BELL RESTORATION FUND RULES

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1. The fund shall be known as "The Kent County Association of Change Ringers' Bell Restoration Fund".
2. The object of the fund shall be to advance the Christian religion by providing financial assistance to churches in the county of Kent or that part of London formerly in the county of Kent for the purpose of maintaining and improving their bell installations by the making of grants from the fund.  
Maintaining and improvement of a bell installation shall be deemed to include the following:
  - (a) taking out an existing ring of bells, supplying and installing a new frame and fittings, recasting the bells and erecting the same;
  - (b) taking out, overhauling and reclapping existing bells, supplying and installing a new frame and fittings and re-erecting bells;
  - (c) taking out existing bells, overhauling existing frame and fittings, recasting, or overhauling and reclapping same and re-erecting;
  - (d) augmentation and bringing existing bells, frame and fittings into an adequate state of repair;
  - (e) other major repairs to bells, frame, fittings and towers;
  - (f) the provision of bells, frames and fittings and erection of the same in churches which previously had none.
3. The fund shall be administered by the Committee of The Kent County Association of Change Ringers, who shall have the power after considering an application submitted in writing to approve a grant from the fund.
4. The Chairman, General Secretary and the Hon. Treasurer shall be the Trustees of the fund. Any two of them may sign cheques drawn on the fund. The Trustees shall have the power to invest or otherwise deal with such sums as the Committee of the Association may place in their hands in such manner as the Committee or any subcommittee appointed for the purpose by the Committee shall direct.
5. In the event of the dissolution of the fund the assets of the fund shall be distributed equally among those churches which at the time of dissolution were in union with the Association for the charitable and religious purposes of the said churches.
6. The Honorary Treasurer shall prepare a balance sheet as at 31 December in each year and an income and expenditure account for the year ended on that date which shall be examined by a Registered Auditor or Independent Examiner elected by the Members of the Association at the Annual General Meeting of the Association first held after 31 December to which the fund's accounts are prepared.
7. No alteration or addition to or deletion of these rules shall be made so as to cause the fund at any time to cease to be a charity in law. No alteration, addition or deletion shall be made except at the Annual General Meeting of the Association or at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Association especially called for the purpose. Notice of any proposed alteration or addition to or deletion of these rules shall be given to the General Secretary of the Association at least one calendar month prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting.