

## **Proposal to change Rule 4 of the Murphy Cup Rules**

*Proposed by Mike Pomeroy Secoded by Don McLean*

It is proposed that Rule 4 of the Murphy Cup rules

“4. That the Ringing Master shall select the bells.”

is amended to read

“4. That the Ringing Master shall select the bells, **ensuring that the competition venue is neutral such that no Society shall have home advantage.**”

### **Background**

This proposal is made to ensure that no society shall have home advantage when competing for the Murphy Cup. If adopted, it will be expected to become part of the rules for the 2023 and subsequent Murphy Cup Competitions.

To the knowledge of the proposer and seconder, there has been more than one occasion over the past 10 years when a society has had home advantage. That is a Society has competed for the Murphy Cup on its own bells.

While home advantage is accepted as custom and practice for District Competitions, it is difficult to defend home advantage for the Association’s striking competition, where neutral venues are freely available. In the past when, arguably, more hotly contested Murphy Cup competitions were held, some Societies would have refused to compete if one of the competitors had home advantage. Such refusals would have been based both on unfairness as well as a high level of respect for the Association’s premier striking competition.

Experience has shown that even with a larger number of teams competing in the Murphy Cup, it is relatively easy to find a neutral venue. In addition, there is little evidence to show that it is difficult to “book” a neutral venue on the shortish timescale allowed between the last District AGM / Competition and the Association AGM / Competition.

In the case that the Association is invited to hold its Annual Meeting and the Murphy Cup competition at a particular venue, then this rule change would require the inviting Society to withdraw from the Murphy Cup Competition, even if it had qualified through the District Competition.

This rule change proposal is made to assist the Association Ringing Master to ensure there is maximum possible fairness in the way in which the Murphy Cup Competition is conducted, thus minimising potential anger or dispute.