

# Irish Association of Change Ringers



## Association Rule Book

February 2024



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# Association Rules

## RULES OF ASSOCIATION

1. That this Society shall be called the "Irish Association of Change Ringers".
2. That it shall have as its objectives the promotion of ringing Church Bells for Divine Service and the study of scientific change ringing.
3. That it shall consist of Life, Ringing and Non-Resident Life Members.
4. That a Life Member shall be a person whom the Association desires to honour for exceptional services rendered by him or her to the exercise.
5. That a Ringing Member (being a person who is capable of ringing a bell unassisted in rounds) shall pay an annual subscription to the District Treasurer. The annual subscription shall consist of a District and an Association levy; the amount for the Association shall be set by the Executive Council and that for the District by a General Meeting of the District.
6. That any Ringing Member taking up residence outside the jurisdiction of the Association will automatically become a Non Resident Life Member (NRLM). Any ringer normally resident outside the jurisdiction of the Association may become an NRLM on payment of the appropriate fee, which shall be determined by the Executive Council. NRLMs may also be elected according to rule 23 relating to peal ringing.
7. That persons may be admitted as Ringing Members at any District Committee or District Annual Meeting. Proposals for Life Membership must reach the General Secretary not less than 14 days before the holding of the Executive Council with the reasons for such nominations.
8. That the name of any Ringing Member shall be removed from the books, but may be reinstated at the discretion of the District Committee.
9. That all subscriptions shall be due on 1st January in each year for that year.
10. That the management and property of the Association shall be vested in the Executive Council. The Executive Council shall consist of a President, Ringing Master, General Secretary, General Treasurer and Librarian. In addition, each District shall be represented by a Vice President, Ringing Master, Secretary, and representative for each 50 members or part thereof. No Association Officer shall hold the same post for more than five consecutive years, with the exception of the Association Librarian who may be re-elected for a sixth year and subsequent years.
11. That the Executive Council shall have power and control over all the Association's funds.
12. That the Association be affiliated to the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR) and abide by its Rules and Decisions. Each District shall nominate at least one representative, annually, for election to the CCCBR and notify the General Secretary at least 14 days before the Annual General meeting of the Executive Council. In the event of a nil return from a District the Executive Council will elect a representative. The Council will then elect the number of representatives that the IACR is entitled to have. There is no restriction on the number of yearly terms CCCBR representatives can serve.

13. That all nominations for the offices of President, Master, Librarian, General Secretary and General Treasurer shall be in the hands of the General Secretary at least 14 days before the Annual General Meeting of the Executive Council. The Executive Council at its February Meeting to assist agreement, may suggest potential nominations to the District AGM Meetings. The nominations received from the District AGM's to the General Secretary shall be considered by the Executive Council at its Annual General meeting (held in May), and in the event of their accepting more than one nomination for any office a ballot of those present who are entitled to vote shall decide. Incoming officers shall take up their positions on 1st January of the year following their election.
14. That the Master, who shall be a change-ringer, shall have control of the ringing at all Executive and General Meetings of the Association .
15. That the Executive Council Annual General Meeting shall be held as soon as possible after the last of the three District Annual Meetings for the purpose of the election of officers and for the transaction of the business of the Association.
16. That the General Secretary shall distribute printed copies of the Annual Reports and Statements of all Accounts as soon as possible after 31 January in each year, and in any case before the District Annual Meetings.
17. That three Districts shall be maintained as established and the names of the Districts shall be "Northern" (embodying all affiliated societies in Northern Ireland), "Eastern" (embodying all affiliated Societies in Leinster except Kilkenny) and "Southern" (embodying all Societies in Munster with Kilkenny). The Executive Council, bearing in mind the geographical position of the various Societies, shall decide in which District they shall be affiliated.
18. That each District shall manage its own affairs in all matters save and except where otherwise provided for in these rules, or when they affect the principles and well-being of the Association, in which case the Executive Council shall have power to intervene.
19. That each District shall hold at least two meetings in each year. The election of District Officers shall take place at the District Annual Meetings only.
20. That no alteration or addition to these rules shall be made except at the Annual Council Meeting. Particulars of a proposed alteration or addition shall be notified (in writing) to the General Secretary not later than 1 February, who shall distribute such particulars to the District Secretaries for discussion at the various District Annual Meetings.

## **RINGING OF PEALS**

21. That Peals rung for the Association shall comply with the Rules and Decisions of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers relating to Peals.
22. That all ringers taking part in Peal attempts for the Association must be members of the Association.
23. That non-members wishing to ring Peals for the Association must be proposed by one member and seconded by another prior to the Peal attempt. The name of any newly elected member, proposer and seconder, together with the relevant subscription, should be sent to the General Secretary within one month of the Peal attempt, and be added to the list of NRLMs .
24. That a Peal Fee which will be determined by the Executive Council, be forwarded to the General Secretary. This Peal Fee is to be lodged in the Bell Restoration Fund.
25. That details of all Peals should be sent to the General Secretary within one month of the Peal being rung.
26. That should any of the above rules not be complied with, the Association may choose not to accept the Peal.

## **BELL RESTORATION FUND**

1. That the Bell Restoration Fund of the Irish Association of Change Ringers exists to make donations towards the cost of restorations and the transfer of redundant rings of bells.
2. That grants shall be considered only in the case of applications made by churches in Ireland where bells are, or will be, rung by teams of ringers.
3. That the fund shall comprise that sum existing on 1 June 1993, augmented annually by the Executive Council. The balance of the fund shall not be allowed to fall below £400.
4. That any work grant aided by the Bell Restoration Fund must be conducted / overseen by a professional bellhanging company.
5. That the decision to make grants towards the restoration of rings of bells shall be made by the Executive Council on receipt of a written request from the local Church Authorities. If a grant is pledged, the General Treasurer will make payment following the receipt of a certificate of completion of the work.
6. That any grant not claimed after three years of it being pledged shall be considered void.
7. That all decisions by the Executive Council in regard to these rules shall be considered binding and final.

## **MURPHY CUP COMPETITION**

1. That a competition shall be held annually in the three Districts and the qualifying teams from each District to compete for the Murphy Cup. For every three teams, or part thereof, participating in the District competition, one shall qualify.
2. That the Murphy Cup shall be held on a date to be decided by the Executive Council.
3. That the Murphy Cup shall be awarded to the Society producing the best performance in the opinion of the judges. Judging shall take account of rules 14, 15 and 16 below.
4. That the Ringing Master shall select the bells, ensuring that the competition venue is neutral, such that no Society shall have home advantage.
5. That 8 bells be the standard number rung for the test. A six bell tower shall not be required to ring more than six bells. A five bell tower shall not be required to ring more than five bells. All teams must ring to a common Tenor.
6. That all Societies affiliated to the Irish Association shall be eligible to compete so long as all ringing in the test are life or fully paid-up ringing members as defined in Articles 4, 5 and 6 of the Association Rules.
7. That any Society finding itself short for the contest may have the assistance of not more than two members in the case of a band ringing 8 bells, and not more than one member in the case of a band ringing 6 or 5 bells.
8. That the order in which teams will ring shall be decided by lot in the presence of the Ringing Master and the Captains of all teams.
9. That no member shall ring for two teams in the same competition.
10. That call changes or scientific change-ringing may be rung.
11. That bands ringing call changes shall ring at least thirty different changes.
12. That change-ringing bands shall ring a minimum of two hundred and ten changes of which at least seventy must be different.
13. That each band shall be allowed the use of the bells for fifteen minutes. They shall be allowed practice rings and to adjust ropes. The treble shall then be struck handstroke and backstroke and then the band shall ring ten minutes for the test piece. Only the test piece shall be judged.
14. That for teams ringing an open lead then the handstroke gap shall be consistent.
15. That for teams ringing a closed lead, the lead shall be consistently on the next beat after that of the last bell.
16. That for any bell not set at the end of the test, no penalty will be incurred.
17. That any band breaking down is to be counted out.
18. That the President and the Ringing Master shall select at least three Judges.

19. That the Judges shall be in some suitable position so as to hear the bells but not know who is ringing.
20. That the Ringing Master and his/her deputies shall take charge of the tower during the competition, receive the Judges' reports and announce results at the conclusion of the competition.

## **ATTENDANCE SHIELD COMPETITION**

1. That this shield is awarded to the Society showing the best improvement in the average percentage of bells rung for Service compared to the previous year provided that a minimum standard is achieved.
2. That the percentage attendance is calculated on the following basis:
  - a. That towers are classified as having 5, 6, 8, 10 or 12 bells.
  - b. That only ringing of at least 15 minutes' duration will qualify, and so only ringing of this length or more should be recorded.
  - c. That only one Service in the week is counted, and where there is more than one, the Service with the most bells rung by both resident members and visitors is recorded.
  - d. That the 48 best weeks in the year will count.
  - e. That the minimum standard is 60%.
  - f. That the competition is based on the calendar year.



# Northern District Rules

## CUNNINGHAM CUP COMPETITION

1. The Cunningham Cup Competition shall be held annually on the same day as the Annual General Meeting.
2. The Cup shall be awarded to the Society scoring the least number of faults made in the test for good striking held on the same day as the Annual General Meeting of the Northern District.
3. The District Ringing Master shall appoint two competent judges to adjudicate at the test.
4. Eight bells shall be the standard number rung for the test. A six bell tower shall not be required to ring more than six unless they so desire. If only six bells are available then all towers ring six.
5. Only Societies in the Northern District who are affiliated to the Irish Association are eligible to compete, so long as all ringing in the test are fully-paid up members, and can enter any number of teams, provided no member can ring in the Competition twice.
6. Any Society finding itself genuinely short of ringers for the competition, can have the assistance of not more than two members, (one for a six bell tower), taken from those present who are not competing. Any tower entering two teams must ensure that the 'A' team consists entirely of tower members.
7. The judges to be in some suitable position so as to hear the ringing, but not know the Society ringing.
8. No member shall ring for two Societies, and the conductor of each band must take part in the ringing.
9. Call-changes or change-ringing may be rung. All bands to ring to a common tenor.
10. Bands ringing call-changes shall ring at least thirty different changes.
11. Change-ringing bands shall ring at least two hundred and ten changes.
12. Each band shall have the use of the bells for fifteen minutes. The first five minutes can be used by the band to practice in any way they wish. (The length of time for practice is at the discretion of the District Ringing Master to ensure completion of the competition in the time available).
13. The test piece shall last for at least 10 minutes and only this test piece shall be judged.
14. Any band breaking down shall be counted out.
15. Any ringer failing to set their bell at the end of the test piece shall have one fault added for each ringer so failing.

16. Any ringer pulling off their bell, or any other bell, other than in the allotted practice time, shall have one fault added for each bell so pulled off.
17. The Ringing Master, or a substitute appointed by him/her on the day shall have full control of the arrangements and take charge of the tower, receive the judges' report, make deductions, if any, and report the results immediately after the competition is completed.
18. The Ringing Master, if taking part in the test with their own band shall appoint a competent person present to act in their place in the tower while they are ringing.
19. All Societies must notify the District Secretary at least fourteen days before the date of the Competition of their intention to take part and be present at least fifteen minutes before the time specified by the Ringing Master as the time at which they shall ring.
20. If in any year the competition is not held then the cup shall be returned to the donating tower for safe keeping.

## **YOUNG CUP**

1. The Young Cup shall be awarded to the team which has the best improvement in order of placing in the result of the Cunningham Cup Competition from the previous competition.
2. The team which wins the Cunningham Cup is not eligible to be awarded the Young Cup in which event the Young Cup goes to the next best improvement from the previous year's place performance.
3. In the event of a tie in place improvement e.g. 5<sup>th</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> then the team with the better improvement in faults should be awarded the cup.
4. In the event of no team showing an improvement the cup shall not be awarded.
5. If in any year the competition is not held then the cup shall be returned to the donating tower for safe keeping.

## **ADAMSON CUP COMPETITION**

1. The Adamson Cup Competition for change ringing shall be held annually on a date fixed by the Committee.
2. The cup shall be awarded to the Society belonging to the Northern District scoring the least number of faults made in the test for good striking held on the date set out in rule 1.
3. All Societies in the District affiliated with the Irish Association are eligible to compete, so long as all ringing in the test are fully paid up members.
4. Any Society finding itself short of ringers for the competition can have the assistance of not more than two members present who are not competing. Any tower entering two teams must ensure that the 'A' team consists entirely of tower members.
5. No member shall ring for two bands, and the conductor of each band must take part in the ringing.

6. Eight bells to be the standard number rung for the test.
7. The District Ringing Master shall appoint two competent judges to adjudicate for the test.
8. The judges to be in some suitable position so as to hear the ringing, but not know the Society ringing.
9. A method chosen from three methods fixed in accordance with paragraph 10 must be rung.
10. The three methods to be rung for the ensuing year's competition shall be fixed by the District Ringing Master and shall be announced at the AGM held in the year of the competition.
11. At least two hundred and ten different changes shall be rung.
12. Each band shall be allowed 12 rounds and stand to try the ropes. This is not to be counted in the test.
13. Any band breaking down shall be counted out.
14. Any ringer pulling off their bell, or any other bell, other than in the allotted practice time, shall have one fault added for each bell so pulled off.
15. Any ringer failing to set their bell at the end of the test piece shall have one fault added for each ringer so failing.
16. The Ringing Master shall have full control of the arrangements and take charge of the tower, receive the judges' report, make deductions, if any, and report the results to the Annual Meeting.
17. The Ringing Master, if taking part in the test with his own band shall appoint someone present to act while he is ringing.
18. All Societies must notify the District Secretary at least fourteen days before the date of the competition of their intention to take part and be present at least fifteen minutes before the time specified by the Ringing Master as the time at which they shall ring.
19. The judges' decision shall be final in all matters relating to the competition.
20. Any addition or amendment to these rules can be made only at the Annual General Meeting of the District subject to notification being given, in writing, to the District Secretary at least one month before the date of the meeting.
21. Rule 6 cannot be altered.
22. If there is only one team entered for the competition then the competition shall not be held.
23. If in any year the competition is not held then the cup shall be returned to the donating tower for safe keeping

## **PATTERSON CUP COMPETITION**

1. The Patterson Cup Competition is to encourage doubles ringing.
2. It shall be competed for annually at St.Thomas, Belfast, on a date to be fixed by the District Ringing Master. The date in each year to be as close to 10<sup>th</sup> January as is feasible.
3. All Societies in the Northern District affiliated with the Irish Association are eligible to compete, so long as all ringing in the team are fully paid up members.
4. Any team finding itself short of ringers for the competition can have the assistance of one member present who is not competing.
5. No member shall ring for two bands.
6. Six bells to be the standard rung for the test.
7. Five minutes practice shall be allowed, calculated from the first ringing of a bell. This may be reduced at the discretion of the District Ringing Master depending on the number of teams entering.
8. The test shall be two hundred and forty changes.
9. Any band breaking down shall be counted out.
10. Any ringer pulling off their bell, or any other bell, other than in the allotted practice time, shall have one fault added for each bell so pulled off.
11. The Ringing Master shall have full control of the arrangements and take charge of the tower, receive the judges' report, make deductions, if any, and report the results immediately after the competition is completed.
12. The Ringing Master, if taking part in the contest with his own team shall appoint someone present to act while he is ringing.
13. All teams must notify the District Secretary at least fourteen days before the date of the competition of their intention to take part and be present at least fifteen minutes before the time specified by the Ringing Master as the time at which they shall ring.
14. The judges' decision shall be final in all matters relating to the competition.
15. Any addition or amendment to these rules can be made only at the Annual General Meeting of the District subject to notification being given, in writing, to the District Secretary at least one month before the date of the meeting.
16. If there is only one team entered for the competition then the competition shall not be held.
17. If in any year the competition is not held then the cup shall be returned to the donating tower for safe keeping

## IVEAGH CUP COMPETITION

1. The Iveagh Cup Competition shall be held annually on a date to be fixed by the Northern District Ringing Master and to be announced at the District Annual Meeting. The date selected to be as near to 29<sup>th</sup> September in each year as is feasible.
2. The Cup shall be awarded to the team scoring the least number of faults made in the test for good striking held on the agreed date.
3. The District Ringing Master shall appoint two competent judges to adjudicate at the test.
4. Six bells to be the standard number rung for the test.
5. All Societies in the Northern District affiliated with the Irish Association are eligible to compete so long as all ringing in the test are fully paid up members, and can enter any number of teams, provided no member can ring in the same Competition twice. At least two members of each team competing must be under the age of 25 years on the day on which the Competition is held.
6. Only one visitor may ring for each team. Any tower entering two teams must ensure that the 'A' team consists entirely of tower members.
7. The judges to be in some suitable position so as to hear the ringing, but not to know the team ringing.
8. No member shall ring for two teams, and the Conductor of each team must take part in the ringing.
9. Call Changes or Change ringing may be rung.
10. Teams ringing Call-Changes shall ring at least twenty different changes.
11. Change-ringers shall ring at least one hundred and twenty changes.
12. Each band shall have the use of the bells for fifteen minutes. The first five minutes can be used by the band to practice in any way they wish. (The length of time for practice is at the discretion of the District Ringing Master to ensure completion of the competition in the time available).
13. Any band breaking down shall be counted out.
14. Any ringer pulling off their bell, or any other bell, other than in the allotted practice time, without the Ringing Master's consent shall have one fault added for each bell so pulled off.
15. The Ringing Master shall have full control of the arrangements and take charge of the tower, receive the judges' report, make deductions, if any, and report the results of the Competition.
16. The Ringing Master, if taking part in the test with his own team shall appoint someone present to act while he is ringing.

17. All teams must notify the District Secretary at least fourteen days before the date of the competition of their intention to take part and be present at least fifteen minutes before the time specified by the Ringing Master as the time at which they shall ring.
18. The Cup shall be insured against all risks in the replacement value thereof by the Northern District.
19. If there is only one team entered for the competition then the competition shall not be held.
20. If in any year the competition is not held then the cup shall be returned to the donating tower for safe keeping.

## **MCBRIDE MEMORIAL CUP**

1. The McBride Memorial Cup shall be awarded to an individual, who on the day of the AGM of the Northern District of the IACR is under 22 years of age.
2. Presented annually on the day of the AGM of the Northern District of the IACR.
3. The winner of the cup is the young person, who in the opinion of the Northern District Ringing Master best fits the following criteria:
  - a. has rung regularly for Sunday services
  - b. has rung regularly at District practices.
  - c. has shown the most personal improvement since the last AGM of the Northern District of the IACR.
4. The decision of the Northern District Ringing Master is final.
5. The above rules may be amended /updated with the joint permission of the Executive Committee of the Northern District of the IACR, and of the ringing descendants of Jim McBride.
6. If, in any year, the cup is not awarded, it shall be returned to the donating tower for safe keeping.

## **BELL RESTROATION FUND RULES**

1. The Fund shall be known as the Irish Association of Change Ringers' Northern District Bell Restoration Fund.
2. The object of the Fund shall to advance the Christian religion by providing financial assistance to churches in Northern Ireland for the purposes of maintaining and improving their bell installations by making grants to them. Maintenance 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 reclappering existing bells, supplying, and installing a new frame and fittings and re-erecting the bells.

- c. Taking out existing bells, overhauling existing frame and fittings, re casting or overhauling and reclapping same and re-erecting.
  - d. Augmenting and bring existing bells, frame, and fittings into an adequate state of repair.
  - e. Undertaking other major repairs to bells, frame, fittings, and towers.
  - f. Providing bells, frames and fittings and erecting the same in churches which previously had none.
  - g. Acquiring redundant bells for subsequent redeployment and/or recasting.
3. The membership of the fund shall be that of the Irish Association of Change Ringers Northern district as defined in the rules thereof.
  4.
    - a. The Fund shall be administered by the Management Committee of the District, here in after referred to as "The Committee".
    - b. The Committee shall have the power to approve grants from the Fund. All applications for grants must be made in writing.
    - c. The Committee shall have the power to appoint sub-committees. They shall report back their actions fully and promptly to the Committee.
    - d. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt up to three people at any one meeting to assist in its deliberations.
    - e. The management of the Bell Restoration Fund shall be an item on the agenda of every meeting of the Committee.
  5.
    - a. The Secretary and Treasurer of the District shall be ex-officio Trustees of the Fund and in addition two other members of the District shall be elected at the District Annual Meeting to act as Trustees of the Fund.
    - b. The Trustees may open such bank accounts as may be required in the name of the Fund. Any two of the four nominated Trustees shall have the power to sign cheques.
    - c. Any outstanding monies in the hands of the Trustees not required for the immediate purposes of the Fund shall be invested in any manner the Trustees may think fit in the best interests of the Fund.
    - d. The Committee and its sub-committees shall have the power to raise funds by any means they see fit as long as they do not engage in permanent trading.
  6. 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 affiliated to the District, and shall be solely for the purposes of bell maintenance and restoration.
  7. The District Treasurer shall prepare a balance sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> December in each year and an income and expenditure account for the year ended on that date which shall be audited by an auditor elected by the members of the District at their Annual General Meeting of the District first held after 31<sup>st</sup> December in which the Fund's accounts are prepared.
  8. No changes shall be made to these rules which will cause the Fund to cease to be a charity in law.

Changes to the rules may only be made at an Annual general Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting

# Eastern District Rules

## LINDOFF CUP COMPETITION

1. That the Lindoff Cup Competition shall be held annually in the Eastern District of the Irish Association of Change Ringers with the qualifying team(s) going forward to compete in the Murphy Cup Competition.
2. That the number of teams qualifying for the Murphy Cup are to be determined by the number of teams entered for the Lindoff Cup one team to qualify for every three teams or part thereof entering the competition.
3. That the Lindoff Cup competition is to be held at a different tower each year on a date to be decided at the preceding Annual General Meeting a system of rotation will operate in deciding the location each year.
4. That the Lindoff Cup shall be awarded to the society producing, in the opinion of the judges, the best performance. Judging shall be in accordance with guidelines as approved by the Executive of the Irish Association of Change Ringers.
5. That 8 bells be the standard number for the competition a 6 bell tower shall not be required to ring more than 6 bells but an 8 bell tower will be obliged to ring 8 bells.
6. That all Eastern District societies affiliated to the Irish Association shall be eligible to compete so long as all ringing in the test are fully paid-up members of the Irish Association of Change Ringers.
7. That any society finding itself short for the competition may have the assistance of substitute ringers from other towers, 2 ringers in the case of an 8 bell tower and 1 ringer in the case of a 6 bell tower. Assisting ringers must also be paid-up members of the association.
8. That the order in which the teams ring shall be decided by lot in the presence of the Ringing Master and Captain of each team.
9. That any bellringer shall not ring for two teams in the competition
10. That the competing teams may ring methods or call changes for the test piece 210 changes or at least 30 different call changes
11. That the duration of the test piece be 10 minutes, preceded by a five minute practice
12. An 8 bell tower entering an additional 6 bell team (s) may not have any substitutions on any team. The 6 bell team, being the 2<sup>nd</sup> or subsequent team from the 8 bell tower, may not go forward for the Murphy Cup competition



# Southern District Rules

## R R CHERRY CUP COMPETITION

1. That a striking competition shall be held annually in the Southern District, each tower to host the competition In turn.
2. That the R R Cherry Cup shall be awarded to the Society producing the best striking in the opinion of the Judges. Judging shall be in accordance with guidelines as approved by the Association Executive Council.
3. That eight bells be the standard number for the test except when the competition venue is a six-bell tower, in which case the test will be on six bells. A six-bell tower team shall not be required to ring more than six bells. All teams must ring to a common Treble or Tenor.
4. That all Societies affiliated to the Irish Association shall be eligible to compete so long as all ringing in the test are life or fully paid-up ringing members as defined in Articles 4, 5 and 6 of the Association Rules.
5. That any Society finding itself short for the contest may have the assistance of not more than two members in the case of a band ringing 8 bells, and not more than one member in the case of a band ringing 6 or 5 bells.
6. That the order in which teams will ring shall be decided by lot in the presence of the Ringing Master and the Captains of all teams.
7. That no member shall ring for two teams in the same competition.
8. That call changes or scientific change-ringing may be rung.
9. That bands ringing call changes shall ring at least thirty different changes
10. That change-ringing bands shall ring a minimum of two hundred and ten changes of which at least seventy must be different.
11. That each band shall be allowed the use of the bells for fifteen minutes. They shall be allowed practice rings and to adjust ropes. The treble shall then be struck handstroke and back-stroke and then the band shall ring ten minutes for the test piece. Only the test piece shall be judged.
12. For teams ringing an open lead then the handstroke gap shall be consistent.
13. For teams ringing a closed lead, the lead shall be consistently on the next beat after that of the last bell.
14. That for any bell not set at the end of the test, no penalty will be incurred.
15. That any band breaking down to be counted out.
16. That the Chairman and the Ringing Master shall select at least two Judges.

17. That the Judges shall be in some suitable position so as to hear the bells but not know who is ringing.
18. That the Ringing Master and his deputies shall take charge of the tower during the competition, receive the Judges' report and announce results at the conclusion of the competition.

### **TALBOT TROPHY**

1. The trophy is to be called the Talbot Trophy.
2. The trophy is to be awarded to the most improved tower competing in the R R Cherry Cup.
3. The trophy is to be awarded on the basis of the greatest improvement of ranking of a tower from one year to the next. If no winner is available by this method the greatest reduction in faults will be used.
4. A tower must complete the test piece to be considered for the trophy.
5. No tower can win both Cherry Cup and Talbot Trophy.
6. The Ringing Master's decision is final.

### **FRED BOGAN MEMORIAL TROPHY COMPETITION**

1. The Fred Bogan Memorial Trophy Competition shall be held annually on a date and at a venue fixed by the Committee.
2. The committee shall consist of the Southern District officers.
3. The Trophy shall be awarded to the Society belonging to the Southern District scoring the least number of faults in the test held on the date set out in paragraph one.
4. All Societies in the District affiliated with the Irish Association are eligible to compete, so long as all ringing in the test are fully paid up members.
5. Any society finding itself short of ringers for the competition can have the assistance of not more than one member present who is not already competing.
6. No member shall ring for two bands, and the conductor for each band must take part in the ringing.
7. Six bells to be the standard number rung for the test.
8. The Ringing Master shall appoint two competent judges to adjudicate for the test.
9. The judges to be in some suitable position so as to hear the ringing, but not to know the Society ringing.
10. The method to be rung shall be fixed by the Committee and shall be announced at the AGM following the RR Cherry Cup competition.
11. The test piece shall be of ten minutes duration: at least two hundred and forty changes shall

12. Each band shall be allowed five minutes to try the ropes. This is not to be counted in the test.
13. The treble shall be rung two whole pulls to signal the start of the test piece.
14. Any band breaking down shall be counted out.
15. Any ringer failing to set his bell at the end of the test shall have one mark added for each stroke.
16. The Ringing Master shall have full control of the arrangements and take charge of the tower, receive the judges' report and report the results to the Annual Meeting.
17. The Ringing Master, if taking part in the contest with his own band, shall appoint someone present to act while he is ringing.
18. Societies must notify the District Secretary at least forty-eight hours before the date of the competition of their intention to take part and be present at least fifteen minutes before the time specified by the ringing Master as the time at which they shall ring.
19. The Judges decision shall be final in all matters relating to the competition.
20. Any addition or amendment to these rules can be made only at the AGM of the District subject to notification being given, in writing, to the District Secretary at least one month before the date of the meeting.
21. The competition shall only take place if there is a minimum of two competing Societies.
22. The Trophy shall be presented to the winning band at the competition venue.
23. In the event that the competition does not take place, or that no society completes the test piece to the satisfaction of the judges, the Trophy shall be kept in St Fin Barre's Cathedral.

