

PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE

AGM APRIL 2015

The following proposals for changes to Rules and Operating Procedures will be made at the AGM on 25 April 2015. The proposals require approval by the membership and will be decided by a show of hands at the AGM. Rule changes require a two thirds majority with the other proposals requiring a simple majority. All members who have paid their 2015 membership subscription by 31 March 2015 are eligible to vote.

Proposal No. 1

Guild Rules Review of Name and Object

Current Rule No. 1 Name and Object

- a. The name of the Guild shall be "The Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers."
- b. The objects of the Guild are
 - i. to encourage the recognition of ringers as church workers
 - ii. to promote the ringing of bells for worship and on other suitable occasions
 - iii. to promote the care and restoration of bells
 - iv. to recruit and train ringers
 - v. to promote and advance change ringing

Review

The review process started in 2012 is aimed at creating an organisation that is suitable for a one thousand plus membership in the 21st century whilst ensuring ongoing development and growth. The name and objects of the Guild need to reflect these aspirations and be inclusive of all bell ringers that seek to support these aims.

Proposed Rule No. 1

- a. The name of the Guild shall be the "The Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers".
- b. The objectives of the Guild are:
 - 1. To promote and advance change ringing in all the different modes of operating including ringing in/with Churches, Secular Towers, Mini Rings, Hand Bells and Simulators.
 - 2. Endeavour to provide a service to the Church and Community by ringing for Church Services and Festivals, Community Festivals and Celebrations.
 - 3. To promote the care and restoration of bells used for full circle ringing in the Diocese of Lincoln.
 - 4. To recruit, train and develop bell ringers in the art of change ringing and endeavour to ensure the continuing use of bells for the ongoing needs of the church and community.

Proposal No. 2

BRF Rules Review of All Existing Rules

The review process has attempted to correct anomalies that had been created in the rules through previous changes to the grant procedure, adding clarification to committee membership and bringing the procedure for notifications and approval of rule changes in line with the Guild Rules. The overall intent of the Bell Repair Fund is not changed with some clarification on qualifying work whilst leaving some discretion to the Grants Committee. See attached sheet for more details

Proposal No.3

That 10% of 2016 subscription be allocated to the new Guild Training Fund. See attached sheet for more details.

Proposal No. 4 To add the following item to the Rule on the Guild Committee

The Executive Officers may, for the purpose of obtaining specialist advice or assistance with a specific project, co-opt additional people up to a maximum number of four. Such membership shall not carry voting rights and shall last for a period of twelve months, after which it shall be subject to renewal by the committee.

Note. A particular requirement is to enable the Leader of a sub-committee / working group to attend the Guild Committee

Change to Striking Competition Rules

To meet the new arrangements agreed at the 2014 AGM for the 6 bell and 8 bell striking competitions, both sets of rules have had the wording covering qualifying teams changed. For information purposes attached are copies of the new sets of rules.

This is for information purposes only and not subject to a vote at the 2015 AGM.

Lincoln Guild Bell Repair Fund Rules

Current Rules	Proposed New Rules
<p>1. The fund shall be known as the Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers Bell Repair Fund.</p> <p>2. The objects of the Fund shall be to advance the Christian Religion by providing financial assistance to Churches in the Diocese of Lincoln for the purpose of maintaining and improving their bell installations by making grants to them. The maintenance and improvement of a bell installation shall be deemed to include the following :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 re-clapping existing bells, supplying a new frame and fittings and re-erecting the bells. c) Taking out existing bells, overhauling the existing frame and fittings, re-casting or overhauling and re-clapping the bells and re-erecting them. d) Augmentation and bringing existing bells, frames and fittings into an adequate state of repair. e) Other repairs to bells, frames and fittings. f) The provision of bells, frames and fittings and erection of the same in Churches which previously had none. 	<p>1. The fund shall be known as the Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers Bell Repair Fund.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The object of the Fund shall be to provide financial assistance to Churches in the Diocese of Lincoln for the purpose of maintaining and/or improving their bell installations.</p> <p>2. Applications for grants shall be submitted on the Grant Application Form via the appropriate Branch Secretary to the Grants Committee of the Guild, which shall have the power after considering an application to approve a grant from the Fund. Grants will not be considered for any work which has not received approval from the Diocesan authorities. The Grants Committee shall consist of the Master, the Secretary, the BRF Administrator and two other Guild members appointed annually by the Guild Committee. At meetings any three of the above, of whom one should be an Executive Officer, shall form a quorum. The secretary (or proxy) of the branch in which an applicant tower is situated should be present in a non-voting capacity to represent the applicant.</p>

g) The provision of sound control materials.

h) The transfer of bells from one tower to another and the work entailed.

3. Applications for grants shall be submitted in writing via the appropriate Branch Secretary to the Grants Committee of this Guild, who shall have the power after considering an application to approve a grant from the Fund. This Grants Committee shall consist of the Master, the Hon. Secretary, the Hon. Treasurer, the Secretary of the Branch concerned and two other Guild members appointed annually by the Guild Committee. Any three together with the Branch Secretary concerned to form a quorum.

4. The Guild Committee shall appoint three Trustees for the Fund. Any two of them may sign cheques drawn on the Fund's Bank Account. The Trustees shall have the power to invest or otherwise deal with such sums as the Guild Committee may place in their hands. The Trustees shall make payments out of the Fund only as directed by the Grants Committee.

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 affiliated with the Fund, for disposal in accordance with the objects of the Fund as set out in Rule 2.

6. The Treasurer, on behalf of the Trustees shall prepare a Balance Sheet as at December 31st each year and an income and expenditure account for the year ended on that date, which shall be audited by the Guild Honorary Inspectors of Accounts and presented to the members at the Annual General Meeting of the Guild first held after the end of the year for which the accounts are

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4. 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* with the Fund, for disposal in accordance with the objects of the Fund as set out in Rule 1.

5. The Fund Administrator, on behalf of the Trustees, shall prepare a Balance Sheet as at December 31st each year and an income and expenditure account for the year ended on that date. These accounts shall be examined by the Guild Honorary Inspectors of Accounts, in accordance with Charity Commission rules. The

prepared.

7. No alteration or addition to or deletion from 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 an Annual General Meeting of the Guild, or a Special General Meeting of the Guild called expressly for the purpose. Notice of any proposed alteration or addition to or deletion from these Rules shall be given to the General Secretary of the Guild at least three months prior to the date of the Annual or Special General Meeting. Fourteen days notice of such Meeting and proposed amendments shall be given by the General Secretary to each member through their respective towers.

accounts are to be presented to the members at the Annual General Meeting of the Guild first held after the end of the year for which the accounts are prepared.

6. (a) No alteration of these Rules shall be made so as to cause the Fund at any time to cease to be a Charity in law.
(b) No alteration shall be made except at a General Meeting, (i.e. Annual, Half-yearly or Special) of the Guild and must be passed by a two-thirds majority of those members present.
(c) A minimum of twenty-eight days notice of such meeting and proposed alteration must be given to each member through their respective towers via their Branch Secretaries.

NOTES TO THE RULE

- 1 All references to bells shall mean bells hung for full circle ringing,
- 2 Qualifying work
 - 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 re-clapping existing bells, supplying a new frame and fittings and re-erecting the bells.
 - c. Taking out existing bells, overhauling the existing frame and fittings, re-casting or overhauling and re-clapping the bells and re-erecting them.
 - d. Bringing existing bells, frames and fittings into an adequate state of repair and

augmentation up to a maximum of a ring of 6.

- e. Other repairs to bells, frames and fittings.
- f. The provision of sound control materials.
- g. The transfer of bells from one tower to another and the work entailed.
- h. Any other work which the Trustees deem to comply with the object of the fund.

3 Terms of payment

- a. The Trustees shall, at the start of each calendar year, having reviewed the available funds and known impending work, determine the maximum level of grant to be paid from the fund during the year.
- b. The grant payable shall be assessed as a proportion of the final invoice cost of the project. At the discretion of the Trustees interim payments or loans may be made to assist the applicant parish with its cash flow and to minimize an escalation of cost because of delays in fund-raising.

4 Affiliated Churches

A Church shall be considered to be affiliated to the Bell Repair Fund in any one calendar year if it had donated to the Fund during the previous calendar year.



LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS TRAINING FUND

It was agreed at the 2014 AGM to set up a strong Education and Training Function including the appointment of an Education and Training Officer to organise and coordinate training. Also to make available training courses and establish a Fund to help meet the cost of associated equipment, materials and expenses. It was agreed that funding would be met by direct donations, fund raising events and annually allocating a portion of the member's subscriptions.

The Fund opened on 1 January 2015 and is able to receive direct donations and monies from fund raising events.

The Guild Committee are recommending that from 1 January 2016 that 10% (i.e. £1.00 for each adult member and £0.30 for each junior member) is allocated to the new Fund. This percentage will be subject to an annual review by the Guild Committee and subject to approval at the Guild AGM.

To include this new allocation it is recommended that the current allocations be amended as follows:

From: General Fund 50%, Bell Repair Fund 35%, Branch Retention 15%.

To: General Fund 50%, Bell Repair Fund 25%, Training Fund 10%, Branch Retention 15%.

The Fund would receive about £600 per year from this proposal and by the end of 2016 would be in a position to make small items of expenditure on training. This may be an outright purchase or contribution at Guild or Branch level as approved by the Guild Committee. Individual towers or tower groups may request assistance through their Branch Committee.

The Guild Committee will be open to receiving requests on any item associated with education / training and will encourage it to be used for the benefit of member groups. Items of expenditure may include:

Specialised Books, video and stationery.

Expenses towards Training Courses for students and teachers.

Simulation equipment and materials.

Bell Repair Fund: Under the proposed allocation this will receive £600 less than in previous years. The current balance is about £90,000 with income in 2013 of £11,000 and expenditure of £7,000. There is a total of £20,000 of outstanding grants to be paid on completion of the works. A good healthy BRF is important in helping to support bell restoration projects. Increasing the number and availability of ringers to ring the bells is now seen as an important requirement and this slight change in emphasis will help provide the best possible training for new and existing ringers which is considered to be a key part of the Recruitment / Retention process.

Striking Competition Rules - Guild Six Bell

Aim:

The aim of the Competition is to create interest in good striking and lead to improved ringing standards which are considered a key factor in motivating and retaining new ringers.

Rules:

- 1) The contest is open to all towers and tower groups within the Diocese of Lincoln.
- 2) All ringers must be members of the Guild.
- 3) No one shall ring for more than one team and all team members shall be from the same tower or tower group.
- 4) The contest shall be on six bells and be divided into two separate competitions:
 - i) **The John Freeman Cup:** Open to teams that shall ring the designated number of changes and method set by the Guild Committee. A team ringing more or less than the designated number of changes or not starting and finishing in rounds shall be deemed to have rung out and will not be counted in the placings.
 - ii) **The Ted Colley Plate:** Open to teams that shall ring the designated minimum number of changes or rows set by the Guild Committee. Teams may choose to ring call changes, plain hunt on 5 or 6 bells, or plain bob doubles / grandsire doubles. A team may ring more than the designated number but only the first rows of the designated number will be counted. Call changes will be counted from the first row away from rounds. A team ringing less than the designated number of changes will be deemed to have rung out and will not be counted in the placings.

For call changes, the first row away from rounds will be taken to be the start.
- 5) A period of three minutes will be allowed to enable the band to get the feel of the bells.

The bells must then be stood. As a signal to the judge, a few strokes shall be rung on the treble immediately before the commencement of ringing the test piece.
- 6) The conductor may stop and re-start the attempt once, providing no more than thirty changes or half a minute of call changes have been rung.

The band will stand and the treble rung again as a signal of a restart.
A penalty of 10% of their faults shall be added on to make their final mark.
- 7) A clock will be provided in the ringing chamber for the use of contestants.
- 8) A steward will be available to assist, if requested, with the timing of the practice and may be asked to advise the band of the completion of the test piece.
- 9) The judge's decision is final.
- 10) In the event of a high number of entrants, heats may be arranged to limit the number of teams participating on any one day.

Revised April 2015

Striking Competition Rules – Guild Eight Bell

Aim:

The aim of the competition is to create an interest in good striking and lead to improved ringing standards which are considered a key factor in motivating and retaining ringers.

Rules:

1. The contest for the H Law James Shield is open to all Branches within the Diocese of Lincoln. Each Branch may enter two teams.
2. All ringers must be members of the Guild.
3. No one shall ring for more than one team and each team shall contain a minimum of 6 ringers resident in the Branch.
4. The contest shall be on eight bells and each team shall ring the designated number of changes and the method previously determined by the Guild Committee
5. 5. Three minutes are allowed to enable the band to get the feel of the bells. The bells must then be stood. As a signal to the judge a few strokes shall be rung on the treble immediately before ringing the test piece.
6. The conductor may stop and re-start the attempt provided not more than thirty two changes have been rung.

The band will stand and the treble rung again as a signal of a restart.
A penalty of 10% of their faults shall be awarded for such action.

7. A clock will be provided in the ringing chamber for use of the contestants.
8. The judge's decision is final

Revised April 2015