

Responsibilities

We provide the main tutors and a set of photocopiable course material, but you should provide all programmes (including, where necessary, maps and directions). We expect the host society to handle administration, accommodation, arranging local towers and helpers. We prefer to deal with one local liaison person, as this simplifies organisation. We will work with you during the planning period to ensure that you benefit from what has been learnt on previous courses. We can provide assistant tutors if required, but we would encourage you to consider suitably experienced people from within your society. They contribute directly to the course, and their experience will of course benefit future local training activities.

Meals and accommodation

You will need to organise meals during the course. Lunches will probably be in pubs or cafés near the towers used by the groups, but it is valuable to have some meals all together at the course base. Whether you offer overnight accommodation to your students will depend on local circumstances, but we will expect you to arrange suitable accommodation for tutors.

Catchment

You may wish to join with a neighbouring society and advertise the course more widely in your part of the country to increase the numbers, but as mentioned elsewhere we would wish to have one point of contact with you

Availability

We can run the course at any reasonable date, subject to adequate notice to ensure availability of tutors. You will of course also want to advertise well in advance. We encourage you to contact us early, even if you are still not sure whether you wish to go ahead. This will allow us

to plan in advance and arrange for the best geographical allocation of tutors for your course.

Cost

Tutors give their time free of charge, but they will have to travel and the committee will incur expenses in connection with the course. The charge is currently £40 per tutor, excluding accommodation, within the UK mainland. We reimburse individuals for their actual costs but this flat charge avoids penalising societies where tutors have to travel long distances. (Courses outside UK mainland are subject to agreement.)

More information.

For more information, or specific arrangements, please contact either

John Harrison (Committee Chairman)

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or

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The Central
Council of Church
Bell Ringers

Teaching the Teachers

Objectives This weekend course is suitable for all ringers who have mastered the basics and wish, either now or in the future, to contribute towards running a tower by teaching, or helping to teach others. It is particularly suitable for those who find themselves in charge of a tower because no one else can be found to undertake the task, or who are hoping to revive the ringing at an inactive tower.

The course aims are:

- To give practical tuition in the skills required to teach other ringers
- To give insight into the process of managing and sustaining a band of ringers
- To encourage interaction and sharing of ideas
- To give the impetus for further development

Format

The course is modular and can be varied to suit local needs. Over a weekend, all students will take the Tower Management module plus two optional modules. A possible programme for a weekend course:

- Friday – Registration from 5pm, then dinner followed by the introductory session on tower management for all students.
- Saturday – Sessions start after breakfast, and continue into the evening, with the groups moving to towers appropriate to their options.
- Sunday – Sessions start after breakfast, and end at 5.00, at the tower where the final session is held. Time can be built in for Sunday morning service ringing

The detailed timetable is tailored to suit local needs and constraints.

We can also offer day courses covering only one or two modules, although this loses some of the benefits of interaction between students and tutors possible over a longer period.

Helpers and guineapigs

You will need sufficient competent helpers for modules other than bellhandling. Practical teaching requires someone to teach, and so we ask you to try to find a few volunteers at appropriate stages of learning. For bellhandling you will need to find people who have never rung but are willing to try.

Towers

Apart from Tower Management, all the groups are practical based with both sessions taking place in towers. There is some theory, but we prefer to do this in situ. We will discuss with you

details of the type and number of local towers needed for the different groups.

Other Facilities

You will need a small hall for the Tower Management sessions, ideally with one or two side rooms to use during the exercise on running ringing sessions although a single large hall with groups spread around may work just as well. Equipment such as whiteboard, flipchart, OHP or multimedia projector can be useful, but are not essential.

The Modules

Each module lasts approximately 5 hours, divided into two sessions. Groups are kept small with a tutor and assistant tutor for each which allows maximum attention for each student. The usual maximum number of students for a full course is 24. The minimum viable number will depend on your fixed costs (rooms, etc) and whether you have to pay for tutors' accommodation.

- *Tower Management (all students)*

This covers tower objectives, organisation, management, recruitment, training, church liaison, leadership and running ringing sessions.

Students will contribute both questions and ideas from personal experience and take part in a role-playing game that simulates the decision making needed to run a ringing practice.

- *Teaching bell handling.*

Students will be taught how to teach a new recruit to handle a bell safely and gain good bell control. During the first session all techniques are demonstrated and during the second session there is hands-on experience of teaching 'guinea pigs' who have never handled a bell before, under the close supervision of experienced tutors. Students should be competent bell handlers but need no previous teaching experience.

- *Teaching raising & lowering in peal.*

Students will be taught how to teach ringers to raise and lower in peal, and how to develop a band's ability to do so successfully. The first session covers teaching ringers to raise and lower in time with another bell with the opportunity to practise this with learners acting as guinea pigs. The second session covers leading up and down effectively in peal. Students will have the opportunity to practise this, with helpers completing the band.

- *Teaching beyond Rounds*

Students will be taught how to train and develop ringers through the important stage between ringing Rounds and ringing methods. This includes teaching and calling call changes, the principles and practice of Kaleidoscope ringing, detecting and correcting errors and coaching learners. During the second session, students will teach and coach a learner who is at the stage to begin ringing call changes and/or Kaleidoscope exercises. The detailed content of the practical sessions will be adapted to student need.

- *Teaching method ringing.*

Students will be taught how to teach elementary method ringing, including specific techniques to aid learning, and how to recognise and respond to the problems that learners may have. During the second session there will be the opportunity to teach a learner a method that he/she does not already know.

- *Elementary Conducting Skills.*

Students will be taught how to call straightforward touches of Plain Bob Doubles & Minor and will start to explore how to observe and use coursing orders to make sure the ringing is right. Both sessions include practical ringing activity during which there will be the opportunity to call touches.