

The award scheme and you

What to do during the year

The award scheme is not a ‘course’ with a fixed list of things that you have to do, but there will be some events organised for participants, at which you will have the opportunity to do various different things (with a bit of fun thrown in).

The award will be based on all of the ringing, and ringing-related things that you do during the year. Where you choose to concentrate your effort, is up to you. You might be the sort of person who likes to understand lots of different things, or you might be the sort who gains most satisfaction from being really good at something. High achieving ringers often combine a bit of both. Whatever you feel is best for you, you are encouraged to consider all the different ways that you could develop yourself, both to gain more satisfaction from your ringing and to become a more valuable member of the ringing community.

At the end of the year a panel will assess what you have done, and what you have achieved, during the year. The way the assessment works is explained below, so you can be aware of it when deciding what you want to do during the year. The marking scheme rewards many kinds of achievement. You don’t have to force yourself to do something under each heading, but it may encourage you to consider exploring some aspect of ringing that you might not otherwise consider. In general the more things you do, and the more successful you are in doing them, the more highly you will be assessed.

Some things you do could contribute under more than one heading, for example: If you learn how to teach bell handling, and then help train recruits in your band, you would have developed new skills and given service to your band. If you researched the history of the bells in your area, and presented the results to a group in your parish, it would show that you had developed your breadth of knowledge and had also made a contribution on behalf of ringers to the wider community.

Assessment process

Your assessment will be based on the evidence that you present at the end of the year, ie on your log book and anything else you wish to include. The assessors will be trying to answer all of these questions:

- Have you developed your ringing, and other related skills?
- Have you used those skills in the service of the band(s) with which you ring?
- Have you made a contribution to the wider community (of ringers and of non-ringers)?
- Have you developed ‘breadth’ – interest in, and understanding of, different aspects of ringing?
- Have you developed ‘depth’ – a special expertise in any aspect(s) of ringing?

To guide their assessment, the panel will use the marking scheme in the table below.

What to present

Whatever you do, make sure that what you present for assessment includes it, and fully reflects your achievements. You don’t have to make it a big or complicated, so long as it gives the assessors a clear picture. Remember that the assessors real interest is in what you have done, rather than how you present it.

As a minimum you need to present a logbook, but you are free to include anything else, in any format (words, pictures, audio, video, web, ...) that you feel will help the assessors to get a feel for what you have done

A good way to check what you intend to present is to give what you have written (and anything else you intend to offer) to someone else who can look at it with a fresh pair of eyes, and make suggestions.

Your log book

Your log should be in two parts: a record of what you have done during the year, and a commentary that gives the assessors additional information to help them understand what you have achieved.

A diary sheet is provided, but you may wish to keep your own records in some other form if you prefer. Bear in mind the need to get your tower captain or other appropriate person to verify and sign your entries. Using the diary sheet, that is best done as you go along, but if your tower keeps attendance records anyway, a signed statement of your total attendance at services and practices (out of how many possible) would be just as acceptable.

Some things you do require no commentary, for example the fact that you went on an outing and rang at 5 towers. But if for example you had organised the outing, or put your splicing skills to use by doing an emergency repair at one of the towers, then you should mention that in your commentary. If you ran a practice, you might comment on what you learnt from it.

Other material

If you have already written something (eg a newsletter article, or research on your tower’s history) or produced something like a video, then include a copy, or a short summary. If you have produced something like a website, then provide a link to it. If you undertake research or study to broaden your knowledge, then you will need to write something to show what you have learnt.

In summary, offer material in any convenient form, which will give the assessors a good picture of your achievements.

Marking scheme

Theme	Sub area	Criteria	Evidence (certified by appropriate person)	Total possible
Ringing skill development	Bell skills	Progress in bell control, striking, ringing heavy/light bells, raising & lowering	Summary at start and end of year. Notable achievements	20
	Method skills	Progress in method ringing, including conducting and/or handbell ringing	Summary at start and end of year. Notable achievements + the band's repertoire	
	Performances	Peals, quarter peals or other performances	Details of performances	
	Training	Any ringing courses or other tuition attended	Record of attendance, certificates awarded, etc	
Service to local band	Service ringing	Regular attendance ¹ at the services for which your local band(s) rings	Record of attendance, +pattern of band's service ringing	20
	Practice ringing	Regular attendance ¹ at your local band(s) practices	Record of attendance, + pattern of band's practices	
	Active role	Any contribution to running the tower (eg organising events, maintaining the bells, teaching others) as an officer or a helper	Details of activity, and any posts held.	
Contribution to wider church and ringing community	Local community activity	Anything relating to the relationship between ringers and non-ringers, eg articles about ringing in parish magazine, local press, radio or websites, active role in tower open days, presentations or demonstrations to non ringers, ...	Details of activity, and contributions made	20
	Branch/Guild activity	Regular participation in Branch events, participation in Guild events	Record of participation, and any specific contributions made	
	Youth related activity	Any activity related to fellow young ringers or young non-ringers, eg organising or helping at youth events, writing articles or making videos to help recruit young ringers, ...	Record of activities, and specific contributions made	
	Other	Anything else, eg articles in the Ringing World	Details of contribution made	
Breadth of knowledge and interest	Bell maintenance	Understanding of a bell installation – how it works, its key features, how to maintain it, safety implications, etc.	Any documents or other media produced. Details of how information was obtained. Any other relevant evidence.	25
	History of bells and ringing	Understanding of the origins and evolution of English style bells and change ringing, awareness of major events in ringing history.	As above	
	Local bell or ringing history	Awareness of the origins and development of local (or other) rings of bells, bands or ringing traditions	As above	
	Ringing theory	Understanding of the basic principles of method construction, composition and proof, and awareness of any related theory	As above	
	Other	Anything related to ringing/bells and not covered above	As above	
Depth of knowledge and/or expertise	Any of the above aspects of ringing	A level of performance, knowledge, expertise or contribution that is well above what would be expected for an average competent ringer in a similar situation	Anything appropriate that conveys the nature and degree of the achievement	15

Notes:

- 1 Regular attendance is related to the normal pattern of ringing for the band. 100% attendance is not required to achieve full marks (everyone takes holidays) but a high level is expected, so for example 50% attendance will obtain less than half marks.
- 2 All records should be validated and signed by an appropriate person, eg tower captain or Branch ringing master