



## THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

The following is a summary of the subjects discussed at the Rochester District training “Running Ringing and Ringing Etiquette” on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2017 held at Chalk, St Mary

### HEALTH and SAFETY

- H&S is about reducing risk in our environment and the activities that we undertake
- A hazard is something that has the potential to harm or injury
- A risk is the possibility of the hazard to cause harm or injury

For example, a bell that is in the up position is a hazard; the risk is that someone who is not a competent ringer pulls the rope. The impact may be that the person gets a rope-burn, or more serious injury; the likelihood of this happening depends on the controls in place e.g. access to the ringing chamber, supervision of non-ringers, and so on.

Some hazards that we encounter in bell ringing are: ropes, bells, access e.g. spiral staircases and ladders.

Risk Assessments should be in place for every tower. Risk assessments should be completed by someone competent in assessing risks and with a knowledge of the activity being assessed; this may require that the competent risk assessor works with a competent bell ringer.

An example risk assessment is available on the KCACR website: <http://kcacr.org.uk/>

What are some of the things that bands can do in relation to health and safety in the tower?

- First aid kits: Is there a first aid kit? Is it in date? Is it complete? If not, then buy one.
- Emergencies: The emergency call-handlers answering your 999 call will probably not have local knowledge for your area. Is the post code of the church prominently displayed in the tower?
- Health issues: Does anyone in the band have asthma or diabetes? Or a heart condition? Has the Tower Captain been advised of this? Does anyone else in the band know what to do if they fall ill?
- First Aiders: Does anyone know how to perform emergency first aid?

Guidance and Advice:

KCACR Health and Safety Officer: <http://kcacr.org.uk/county/kcacr-officers/>

## **SAFEGUARDING**

Of who? Children and vulnerable adults

Why? Prevention of abuse, which may be physical, sexual and/or emotional

Who leads? The Diocese and the PCC

Disclosure and Barring System (DBS): a check is made on the individual for any convictions and cautions

The DBS check is NOT safeguarding! It ensures that, at the time of appointment to a role, the individual has not previous history of behaviours that make them risk to children and vulnerable adults.

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR) Tower Stewardship Committee have issued guidance relating to safeguarding. The "General Statement on Safeguarding Children in Towers" (2015) contains a list of guidelines including:

- Keep an attendance register, which all attendees must sign, so that everyone is aware who was present at any given time;
- Children must be supervised at all times...;
- Always have two adults...present whenever children/young people are ringing, being supervised, taught or transported.

### *Case Study of Safeguarding Implementation: Rochester Cathedral*

The Chapter discussed requirements with the Tower Captain; it was agreed that those involved in the teaching of handling (six in total) would be required to: complete a voluntary Confidential Declaration regarding suitability, provide contact details of two individuals who would provide character references, enhanced DBS checks, and attendance at a Safeguarding briefing. The remaining members of the band were required to attend the Safeguarding briefing, and Chapter agreed that this would be arranged to follow the AGM, when the majority of the band would be assembled.

### Accountability

The CCCBR Tower Stewardship Committee has published a template "Role Description for Tower Captain/Bell Ringing Leader" (2017). This document includes clarification on Accountability: "[the Tower Captain/Bell Ringing Leader] when carrying out [their] responsibilities...will be accountable to: the incumbent; the parish safeguarding team; and through them to the Parish Church Council (PCC)."

### Guidance and Advice:

KCACR Child Protection Officer: <http://kcacr.org.uk/county/kcacr-officers/>

CCCBR Tower Stewardship Committee: <https://www.cccbr.org.uk/towerstewardship/>

## DEVELOPING RINGERS

- How do you get people to progress in their ringing?
- How do you get the band to progress as a whole?

*There can be difficulty catering for all those attending a practice*

- Realistically, there are likely to be only 10 slots of ringing on a practice night
- Ideally, each member of the band should be able to ring one thing that they are working on at each practice

*Making the most of each ring*

- Place the band:
  - either say who will ring in each touch and let them choose which bell they will ring,
  - or tell them which bell to ring;
- Only one "learner" in at a time, with the best possible band around them

*Standards and consistency*

- If someone has rung well, or a touch was well struck, then say so.
- But be honest! If something was not rung well, then saying otherwise gives the wrong impression about what is expected and what both individual ringers and the band should be aspiring to.

*If there are not enough people in the band who can ring a method*

- Ask ringers from other towers to come along to the practice to help
- Encourage attendance at district practices

*If someone is having difficulty with handling*

- Hold a separate practice