

Proposed Association Rules for Adoption in 2025

Notice of Submission of Motion for Discussion at the Annual General Meeting of the Kent County Association of Change Ringers in 2025

Explanatory Notes

The rules of the Association have existed in their current form for many years and, although minor alterations have been made, they have not undergone a full review for some time. The result of this is that the rules have become somewhat unwieldy in some situations and in others they lack clarity. Additionally, they lack the flexibility or relevance that ensure they are workable in current times.

The Proposed Association Rules for Adoption in 2025 have taken into account some of these factors and hopefully make the running and governance of the Association more manageable. They have been drafted with the help of other members of the Association who have assisted with the clarity and layout of the document, together with endeavouring to ensure that any changes made are within the spirit of the aims of our Association. All members have had the opportunity to comment on these rules during a consultation period and to suggest any further changes and these submissions have also been considered during the drafting of this final document.

Below is a summary of the main changes made in this redraft of the current Association Rules:

2. PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENTS

This has now taken into account that the Archbishop of Canterbury may decline the invitation to become President. I have also clarified that these Vice-Presidents only remain so whilst they hold their tenures and that these positions are purely Honorary.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Membership categories have been clarified, as have the voting rights for each class.

I have referred to members registering for membership on MemberMojo. However, at present I feel that we will currently need to maintain the system of proposing members at meetings. From my discussion with some members, it seems that there are many active members who are against the idea of joining online and then ratifying this membership at a District meeting.

5. SUBSCRIPTIONS

The subscription deadline changed to 1st March to make it easier to include members in the Handbook. As subscriptions are now made online, this new deadline should not be unreasonable.

To clarify Membership, I have now included a requirement that all Practising members who are entitled to free membership confirm they wish to remain a member annually to ensure that database stays up to date.

6. GOVERNANCE

I have made the Safeguarding Officer part of the General Committee, In these times, I believe that this is an essential role and gives the Safeguarding Officer greater authority at Committee Meetings when it comes to decisions that may need to be made regarding safeguarding issues.

The newly created post of Membership Secretary is also, I believe, an essential post and needs to part of the General Committee.

Additionally, I feel that the CCCBR Reps need no longer to form part of the overall management of the Association. Currently, the rules state that 3 CCCBR reps may attend the General Committee, however, the management of the Central Council has changed to an Executive and a number of workgroups who report to the Executive. Following this reorganisation, the role of the Reps has changed and they are now act more as scrutineers of CCCBR policy rather than guiding the direction of the Central Council.

The quorum for the General Committee is 7. As there are 8 General Committee Officers plus a further 6 District Reps who form part of this committee, that equates to 50%.

7. ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

The revised rules now state that the General Committee should meet at least twice a year. This is, I believe, a minimum requirement and the General Committee currently meet four times a year.

For clarity, I have set the date of the AGM between 21st March and 30th June. 31st July is well into the 2nd half of the membership cycle and the change to 30th June ensures that the AGM occurs the first half of the calendar year.

The rules for calling an EGM have been clarified following the suggestions at a previous committee meeting.

I feel that the decline in the circulation of the Ringing World and the advent of email communications together with other electronic means of notifications

negates the previous stipulation that we published notices in the Ringing World. Looking through the copies I receive, very few associations or guilds now publish notices here.

8. DISTRICTS

I have clarified that District Reps and District Secretaries are automatically members of any District Committee rather than ex-officio members.

9. FINANCES

In response to the ease of use of online banking, the amount that the Treasurer can pay out has been clarified together with a more robust series of checks on payments being drawn on the accounts by the other two Trustees. All payments that the Treasurer makes up to £1500 are with the consent of at least one other Trustee (Chairman or Secretary) and any amount greater than £1500 requires the consent of the General Committee. The Treasurer will also send monthly balance sheets to both of the other Trustees to ensure that spending is as authorised.

I have considered the succession plans so should the Treasurer be unable to carry out their duties another person may administer the funds.

I have also considered how the Association may disperse its assets should it be disbanded. As a ringing Association, I feel quite strongly that these assets should be directed towards supporting and promoting change-ringing and propose that the assets should be distributed equally between the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers and the Association of Ringing Teachers with the express direction that the funds are used towards the furtherance of change ringing within Kent.

11. PEALS

I have slightly altered the membership procedure for Non Resident Life Members who are elected when ringing a peal to tie in with the processes for other Practising Members.

12. CONDUCT OF MEMBERS

Having introduced the Volunteer Complaint and Grievance Procedure in 2021 and adopted the guidelines for the conduct of ringers published by the CCCBR in 2023, I felt that this needed clarification in the rules should the conduct of Members cause concern.

13. SUSPENSION FROM OR TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

I have included negligence in the grounds for suspension of membership. Have also included a clause detailing procedure following suspension of an Officer.

14. MEMBERS WHO HAVE HAD THEIR ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP TERMINATED

Linking with the conduct of Members, I have clarified how those Members who may have had their membership terminated may be allowed to rejoin the Association in the future.

15. AMENDMENTS TO RULES

It would be beneficial to make it easier to change rules through introducing an EGM process in addition to discussion at an AGM. Recent experience has shown that it would be useful to be able to have greater flexibility over when the rules can be amended.

In accordance with the current rule 7(iv) (*All notices of motion for the agenda of the Annual General Meeting shall be forwarded to the General Secretary by 1 September of the year prior to the AGM. Upon receipt the General Secretary shall send details in writing to Districts for consideration at their Annual District Meetings.*), I am proposing the motion that the Association accepts the proposed rule changes as outlined in the document ‘Proposed Association Rules for Adoption in 2025’ for adoption at the 2025 AGM.

In line with rule 7(iv), this motion is for discussion by each District at their Annual District Meeting in October 2024 as requested by the General Secretary of the KCACR.

Neil Jones

Chairman, KCACR

24th August 2024