**TRAINING OFFICER’S REPORT TO KCACR ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETINGS – OCTOBER 2024**

Since taking on the role of Training Officer at this year’s AGM, my mission has been to gain a full understanding of the training work being done by Districts and to be a conduit for learners needing extra help or information. I have invited all members (who opted in, to receive KCACR emails) to tell me where they need additional help to improve their ringing journeys. To date, I have received 12 requests and I’m working to generate focussed hub sessions for these ringers, as well as to point them in the direction of learning materials that would benefit them. The hub sessions need to be booked by learners, to ensure sufficient experienced teachers are made available to support them. Details are on the Training Page of the KCACR Website.

I am a convert to the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) methods for teaching ringing. I hope that many more experienced teachers will embrace and, learners will benefit from, the ART suggestions. If you have yet to engage with ART, please let me know if you wish to attend a day-course, as more can be arranged over the coming winter months. KCACR will even reimburse you the £30 course fee if you wish.

In the past year, there have been at least 30 attendances by KCACR Ringers at the M1 and M2F level ART courses held around the county. Four ringers have been Assessed by me and Accredited by ART for their hard work and practise of ART teaching methods. This boosts the total to 10 ART Accredited teachers in the whole of Kent (that I am aware of). Well done to them all, you are helping to support the future of bell-ringing - provided you practice your skills regularly by training learners of course!

The Central Council research towards Bellringing in 2030 (with its controversial new logo) could be seen as a gloomy forecast. If existing ringers do nothing positive to teach new people to learn and enjoy the art of bellringing, that forecast may well become reality. Ringing as we know it today, could then become a shadow of its former self. It’s down to each and every one of us to help bring in and teach new learners well and to ensure that they don’t give up when it becomes difficult.

As we know, it is hard and dedicated work to ensure that new learners receive good and frequent practical teaching sessions. All too often learners give up after learning to handle a bell, if proper bell-control is not taught or practised sufficiently well, before introducing call changes or change ringing. Many then give up, finding the next stage too hard, without the necessary ongoing support. Experienced ringers and officers can all do their bit by giving signposts to useful articles in the Ringing World, or websites such as ART, Central Council and The Whiting Society. They all provide useful publications to provide step-by-step support to make a learner’s ringing journey fun with simple exercises to hone bell control, a sense of place amongst others and to gain the elusive “ropesight”. If you’re unsure where to start in your own ringing teaching journey, then make contact with me!

Sue Bassett, KCACR Training Officer training@kcacr.org.uk – 25/09/2024