



# CENTRAL BUCKS BRANCH

## STRIKING COMPETITION RULES

### A. PURPOSE

The purpose of the branch Striking Competition is to promote the Objects of the Oxford Diocesan Guild (and therefore the Central Bucks Branch), to encourage Sunday Service and Branch Bands to improve their striking and to regard good striking rather than the complexity of methods rung as a primary aim.

### B. RULES

1. The competition organiser must receive the name of the team by the date specified or by the time of the draw if there is no date specified.
2. Where possible, the names of the team members and the conductor should be notified to the competition organiser before ringing.
3. Every ringer taking part in any branch striking competition must be a resident ringing member, a life member or an honorary ringing member of the Oxford Diocesan Guild and must also be a member of the branch.
  - a. People not members of the branch can ring in the competition, however may only enter under rule 5d.
4. A person can ring for a maximum of two teams.
5. Membership of Teams
  - a. A Tower Band shall consist of members who normally ring together at the same tower for Sunday Services, whether or not they ring at more than one tower and shall be chosen by the Tower in any way it thinks fit. E.g. where ringers and ringing are shared between more than one tower.
  - b. Members may not ring for the same band twice.
  - c. One substitute member shall be permitted who shall be a member of the Branch.
  - d. 'Scratch teams' – bands of people who would like to ring together, but cannot be put into a 'Tower Band' by either of the above rules. These bands are allowed, but shall not be placed in the competition, or be allowed to enter the Guild competition on behalf of the branch.
6. Entry and naming of teams
  - a. Teams will only be allowed to enter if they meet the above criteria.
  - b. The tower name is the team name.
  - c. Towers are allowed to enter more than one team. In such cases, the first band will be named 'A' the second band 'B' and so on.
  - d. Each team will be numbered in the order that they rang for ease of reporting results afterwards.
  - e. Also refer to rule B2.
7. The order of ringing of the teams shall be drawn in advance or at the start of the competition.
8. The bells will be up.
9. Up to two minutes practice will be allowed to each team immediately prior to the test piece, after which the bells must be stood and any alterations to the rope should be made.
10. A signal of two whole pulls (handstroke, backstroke, handstroke, backstroke) shall be given on the treble to notify the judge(s) that the test piece is about to begin.
11. Open handstrokes will be assumed unless it has been otherwise informed to the organiser.
12. Only the test piece which must finish with rounds will be judged.
13. The test piece will consist of at least one minute's rounds followed by 120 changes of any method of Doubles or Minor or 120 rows of call changes. If a method is rung then plain courses will be acceptable. If call changes are rung then at least 16 changes must be called

and at least 5 different bells brought down to lead. Any team intending to ring call changes should notify the organiser at the time of entry.

14. The competition will be judged on striking alone.
15. Any team failing to obey any of the above rules will be disqualified.
16. The judges' decision will be final.

#### **C. ORGANISATION**

1. The Branch officers committee shall be responsible for organising the competitions.
2. One, (but preferably two) judge(s), who should not be resident members of the Branch, should be appointed to judge each competition in advance.
3. At least two stewards will be appointed to ensure the above rules are followed correctly, one to supervise the entry of the teams into the tower and the other to take charge in the belfry (This steward will also be able to help with the timing for the practice and rounds in the test piece.)
4. Eliminator rounds may be arranged if necessary. They shall be notified in advance of the competition if a large number of teams have entered. Eliminator rounds shall not be organised on the day – the number of teams that enter on the day will be set to a suitable level. Preference will be given to towers that have eligible bands.
  - a. For these rounds the judges may be resident members of the Branch but should not be members of any Tower taking part.

#### **D. RESULTS AND OTHER**

1. The results will be announced on the day after the judging has been completed.
2. Certificates will be given to those coming in first, second and third place.
3. The winner will also take the branch trophy and will keep it until the next competition, when it must be returned.
4. The winner of the competition will be entered to the Guild 6-bell striking competition which normally takes place in October.

JANUARY 2012

Adapted from the official ODG Rules