

# LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

## **RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION - ADOPTED 20 APRIL 1996**

*(Rule 2 amended 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2003, Rule 10 amended 29<sup>th</sup> April 2006,  
Rules 6, 7 & 8 amended 28<sup>th</sup> April 2007. Rule 7b amended 12<sup>th</sup> April 2008,  
Rule 13b amended 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2017)*

### Title

1. The Association shall be called the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers.
2. The Bishops of Llandaff and Monmouth shall be invited to be Presidents and the Deans of Llandaff and Newport, together with all the Archdeacons within the two Dioceses, shall be invited to be Vice-Presidents of the Association.

### Objects and Aims

3. The objects of the Association shall be:
  - a) to promote the ringing of church bells for Divine Service;
  - b) to foster the art of change ringing;
  - c) to assist in providing, restoring and maintaining in good order bells within the two dioceses;
  - d) to provide a forum for fellowship and discussion between ringers;
  - e) to liaise with Church and other authorities on matters pertaining to bells and ringing.
4. The Association shall loyally abide by the rules and decisions of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers as long as it remains affiliated to that body.

### Organisation

5. The Association shall comprise two Branches operating within the constituent dioceses, each having sole responsibility for organising its own affairs in relation to matters not specifically covered by these rules, always provided that such organisation does not conflict with the objects as stated above.

### Membership

6. Classes of Membership shall include:
  - a) Ringing Membership of the Association;
  - b) Honorary Life Membership may be conferred for outstanding service to the objects and aims of the Association;
  - c) Non-resident Membership, normally conferred upon ringers resident outside the territorial limits of the Association.
7.
  - a) Ringing Membership shall be conferred by a Branch upon those deemed eligible by that Branch;
  - b) Honorary Life Members shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting of the Association;
  - c) Non-resident Membership shall be effective from the time at which the subscription is paid;
  - d) Membership of the Association may be suspended or rescinded at a General Meeting of the Association. In addition, Ringing Membership may be suspended or rescinded if a

## Ringling Member;

- i) moves outside the territorial limits of the Association;
  - ii) leaves unpaid his annual subscription for more than one year.
- e) Any nominations and citations for the position of Honorary Life Membership shall be passed to the incumbent Branch and Association Masters for consideration before being passed to the Association Management Committee for final consideration. Furthermore, nominations will only be considered if they are made before the last Association Management Committee Meeting prior to the Association's Annual General Meeting. No impromptu nominations from the floor will be allowed at the Annual General Meeting.
8. a) Voting and participation at General Meetings shall be limited to Ringling and Honorary Life Members who, for the purposes of these rules shall be known as Voting Members.
- b) Only those eligible to Vote at General Meetings, as defined by Rule 8a, shall be eligible to hold an elected Office of the Association.

## Subscriptions

9. Annual Subscriptions for Ringling Membership shall be decided independently by the Branches in order to cover the activities of both the Branch and the Association; subscriptions for other classes of Membership shall be decided by the Association from time to time.

## Offices

10. A Master, Secretary, Treasurer and such other Association Officers as are felt appropriate shall be annually elected from among the Voting Membership, always provided that:
- a) a reasonable balance of offices is maintained between the Branches, not only in any one year but also from year to year;
  - b) no one person shall remain in the same office for a period of more than six consecutive years without a break of at least one year;
  - c) representatives on the Central Council shall be elected in accordance with the prevailing rules of the Council, and their term of office shall not be restricted.

All expenses of any Officer or Representative of the Association incurred as a result of carrying out the responsibilities of office shall be reimbursable from Association funds.

## Administration and Meetings

11. The affairs of the Association shall be administered by a Management Committee which shall consist of the Association Officers, the Central Council Representatives, and twelve other Voting Members of the Association, six appointed by each Branch. Any Trustees of the Bell Restoration Fund, if not a member by the above criteria shall, ex officio, also be a member of the Management Committee. Other persons deemed appropriate may be co-opted by the Management Committee but they shall not have voting rights.
12. Other permanent or short-term committees may be set up at any time by the Management Committee to assist with achieving the objects of the Association or to facilitate its administration.
13. a) General Meetings of the Association shall be held no less frequently than once per year, one of which, to be known as the Annual General Meeting, shall be held within four weeks of Easter Day, at which the audited accounts for the previous year shall be presented.

- b) Notice of business to be transacted at all General Meetings, including motions for consideration, shall be given to members at least four weeks prior to the date of the meeting, either by letter or electronic media, via tower correspondents at each Association tower with members.
  - c) General Meetings as necessary to conduct the business of the Association shall be called by the Secretary or upon the written request of not less than three percent of the Voting Members at least eight weeks prior to the date requested for the Meeting.
  - d) Motions for consideration at a General Meeting shall be proposed and seconded by Voting Members of the Association and submitted to the Secretary at least eight weeks prior to the date of that General Meeting.
  - e) Six percent of the Voting Membership shall be the quorum of a General Meeting.
14. The Secretary shall publish annually an Association Report which shall normally include reports from the Association Master, the Secretary, the Treasurer and the Branches, together with the Accounts of both Branches and other such information as may be deemed useful to the members.
15. There shall be a Bell Restoration Fund. Applications for a grant from this fund shall be made to the Secretary for consideration by a committee who will allocate such grants at their discretion.
16. Peals and other performances undertaken in the name of the Association shall be subject to such conditions as may be decided upon from time to time at a General Meeting.
17. Amendments or additions to these rules shall only be made at an Annual General Meeting in accordance with the procedures given in Rule 13d. Decisions of the Association may be taken at a General Meeting of the Association.

**Decision (Rule 16), 25<sup>th</sup> April 1998**

All those taking part in Peals in the name of the Association shall be Members of it. Names and addresses of those elected to Non-Resident Membership before the attempt shall, together with the prescribed fee, be given to the Association Treasurer no later than one calendar month following the election. The Association reserves the right not to accept Peals.

**Decision (Rule 6.c and Rule 7.c and d i), 11<sup>th</sup> November 2009**

Ringling Members who live or who move outside the territorial limits of the Association will automatically be Non-Resident Members unless they pay the appropriate annual subscription for Ringling Members.