

KCACR Training Officer

Summary

Skills needed

- 1) to be able to ring to a reasonable level and thus to be able to advise students on choice of events and identify suitable helpers
- 2) an interest in the development of ringers
- 3) a reasonably wide experience of ringing and ringers
- 4) IT skills because:
 - many people expect efficient communication by email for bookings etc (and this can only increase)
 - there is a need to produce and circulate posters and notes / programmes etc for events

What has to be done

- 1) Directly or indirectly help all ringers in the County develop their ringing or ringing-related skills. This has largely been done through planning, advertising and organising training events:
 - encouraging/helping Districts to do the elementary teaching, ideally by themselves running events, available to all in the District, up to at least Bob Minor / Grandsire Doubles level
 - running centrally other events, on more advanced ringing, bell maintenance, teaching bell-handling, conducting / bob calling, raising and lowering in peal, etc, etc
- 2) Deal with miscellaneous queries eg
 - people who want to learn to ring
 - people who want advice on various problems in their tower
 - people who want to make more progress

How I did the job

(not the only way, but it could be of interest)

Training SubCommittee

This was made up of invited members with the aim of having least one from every District. It met regularly, 2 or 3 times a year, to discuss which events to run and how. Hon Gen Sec and Chairman ex officio members. The structure is not in the rules.

Events

- I aimed to organise as a minimum two events a year - one being a major one (all-day at least). When fixing dates, I avoided clashing with regular District meetings, which are on 1st, 2nd and 3rd Saturdays in the month. It is essential to get next year's dates fixed in the previous June if you want to stand a chance of Districts not fixing other events on the dates you've chosen. (Obviously this will not be possible initially.)
- There is no need to lead all (or even any of) these yourself. I "invited" various people I knew from elsewhere to lead major events, by providing a presentation initially and then leading one of the groups.

- The CC Education Committee now offers various courses, mostly on teaching people to ring, see cccbr.org.uk/edc/courses/cands.php. These normally work on the basis that they provide tutor(s), notes and tell you what else is needed and you take student bookings, organise groups and helpers (if needed) and arrange venues including towers.
- There are many people in the county willing and able to join in as helpers and to run groups.

Publicity

No event will be successful without wide publicity well in advance.

- Posters - I produced two posters a year in January (covering events for the year) and July (covering the rest of the current year, with dates and topics for events the following year) and aimed to get a copy up in every tower.
- Website - Frank is very willing to put training publicity on the website.
- Other - Emails to District discussion groups,

Other things

Cinque Ports Ringing Centre at Dover

- The Training Officer is automatically part of the management of the Cinque Ports Ringing Centre at Dover and will be copied in on some emails.
- In the setting up of the centre, it was agreed that, should the equipment cease to be used in Dover, it would be the right of the KCACR to take it over to be relocated.

Insurance

- The Hon Gen Sec knows all the current facts on the KCACR policy.
- Since anyone advising a ringer could be accused of causing an accident by the advice they gave, it has been agreed (somewhere in the minutes) that its unwise to use, even as helpers, people from Kent who are not KCACR members.
- When I have run an event using outside “staff” such as running CC Education Committee courses with EdC tutors, I have checked on individual insurance provision. There is no global CC cover for such things. I have contacted our insurance company and got extra cover for individuals - £30 or so for two or three named people for two days.

Legal

I have once been approached by a solicitor acting for someone who broke an arm while learning to ring. Fortunately the tutor was not a KCACR member and now seems to have stopped teaching, probably ringing too. If someone approaches with a legal problem Bob Cooles (approachable via the CC, unless you know him) is a good and willing source of advice.

Personal comment

If whoever takes on the job wishes, I am very happy to help with events. I am currently on the CC Education Committee, should you want to run one of their courses I would be able to do the co-ordination too. I have a quite a collection of programmes and student notes from past events, which could provide a starting point for ideas.

CML
20 August 2008