

# Reading Branch Novice Striking Competition for the John Butler Trophy

## Objective

To encourage bands who would not normally consider themselves good enough to enter the branch competition to enter the competition for the experience and to improve their striking by benefiting from the constructive comments given by the judge(s).

## Definition

A novice is defined as a ringer who may have been ringing for a number of years and, because of opportunity or aptitude, may not have progressed beyond the early stages of learning:-

- call changes and who has not yet mastered the art of making a change with consistent, accurate striking and may need assistance with identifying the bell to strike over at the change
- plain hunting and may need coaching with striking when leading and lying behind
- simple doubles methods, i.e. plain bob or grandsire, and may need coaching with dodging and place making
- to conduct simple methods

In addition, it is expected that novice ringers will have rung few, if any, quarter peals and will not have rung a peal.

## Rules

1. The tower captain of entrants shall be responsible for determining if a ringer is a novice and for declaring this on the competition entry form.
2. Novice bands may comprise ringers from one or more towers.
3. Novice bands may have the help and guidance from a maximum of two experienced ringers.
4. The experienced ringers may ring as part of the band and may coach the band or may coach individual novices by “standing behind” during the ringing of the test piece.
5. An experienced ringer may conduct the test piece or may “stand behind” and coach the novice conductor.
6. Novice bands will be judged to the same standard as other competing bands and the Judge(s) will not have prior knowledge that the band is a novice band.
7. A novice band may win the Reading Branch striking competition but may not go on to represent the Branch at the Guild six bell striking competition.
8. In the event of a novice band gaining the fewest faults in the competition the next highest placed non-novice band shall go on to represent the Branch at the Guild six bell striking competition.
9. The highest placed novice band shall be awarded the John Butler Trophy.