

Constitution of the Handbell Ensemble organised under the auspices of the South West Regional Association of the Handbell Ringers of Great Britain

1. The Ensemble

1.1 The object of the Ensemble is to provide an opportunity for ringers to participate in pieces of music with a wider range and/or requiring techniques with which they may not be familiar.

1.2 Membership of the Ensemble shall only be open to paid-up members of Handbell Ringers of Great Britain ('HRGB'). Ringers assigned to other Regions of HRGB may be invited to join the Ensemble but if over-subscribed in any year priority should be given to members of the South West Region.

1.3 The Ensemble's year shall run from one regional AGM to the next and it shall disband at the end of each year.

1.4 The Ensemble shall normally perform two or three pieces at the Regional (or Spring) Rally and at a Christmas (or Autumn) event. Rehearsals shall be arranged at a location or locations as geographically central as possible within the Region.

2. Management

2.1 The South West Regional Committee shall each year nominate a Leader of the Ensemble to be ratified by the members at the regional AGM. The Committee may suspend operation of the Ensemble in any year or years if no suitable nomination for the post of Leader is made.

2.2 The Leader is responsible to the Committee for all actions and decisions regarding procedures and dates, choice of repertoire and day to day management. He/she may delegate tasks to other members of the Ensemble (e.g. collection of money, arranging refreshments, music librarianship etc).

2.3 The Leader shall decide which bells are allocated to each ringer, having due regard to the Ensemble's needs, the ringer's preferences and their physical or musical abilities.

2.4 Any unresolved grievances by members of the Ensemble shall be sent in writing to the Regional Secretary by the person aggrieved for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting of the Committee. The decision of the Committee shall be final and binding on all parties.

2.5 The Leader may invite (or agree to requests from) other ringers to conduct the Ensemble for some pieces.

2.6 There shall be a presumption that the Ensemble shall have the use of the Shea and Freeman Bells (with other bell sets by private arrangement) and this may involve 'sharing' the bells with other individuals/groups at Regional events.

2.7 Music for the Ensemble shall be selected by the Leader for that year's repertoire and purchased through the Regional Treasurer. Each member of the Ensemble shall be provided with an original which must be brought to every rehearsal. Ringers are responsible for making time for private study of their music and for any required marking-up of their parts. When a piece of music is no longer in the repertoire, the member is responsible for returning the unmarked original in good order and for destroying any marked photo-copies.

3. Finances

3.1 The Ensemble shall be self-financing as far as possible; the Regional Treasurer after discussion with the Leader shall recommend an annual subscription.

3.2 Each member of the Ensemble shall pay an annual subscription, due at the first rehearsal after the AGM. Exceptionally, members attending a single rehearsal on a trial basis may be asked for a contribution to cover refreshment costs.

3.3 Any music or equipment bought at the request of the Leader for use by the Ensemble shall remain the property of the Region and may be used by the Region for other regional purposes.

5. General

5.1 The Regional Committee of the South West Region reserves the right to amend the terms of this document at any time and from time to time. Any such amendments to take effect after ratification by the members of the Region in general meeting.