

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION OF RINGERS

ASSOCIATION RULES – REVISION

Annual General Meeting – 1st May 2010

This note accompanies the proposed revised version of the entire Association Rules, as presented to the Annual General Meeting of the Association on the 1st May 2010, following consideration by the Standing Committee and by the President's Sub-Committee.

The proposal comprises the replacement of the existing Association Rules by the following:

- The Norwich Diocesan Association of Ringers (incorporating the Nolan Golden Education Fund) Rules
- The Norwich Diocesan Association of Ringers Bell Restoration Fund Rules

The purpose of the revision is to maintain compliance with the requirements of the Charity Commission in the administration and management of the Association and its charities. Because the Association derives important financial benefits from its charitable status, notably relating to tax and gift aid, it needs formally to recognise the increased role and responsibilities of those members who serve as trustees.

Under the revised Rules the responsibility for the Association as a charity is placed on the Trustees. At the same time, the proposal aims to keep a balance between the Trustees and the Standing Committee, so that the Committee can continue to act as the essential link with the membership at large.

The revision uses material from the Charity Commission's model constitution to regulate the duties and responsibilities of all the Trustees, i.e. of the Association, the Bell Restoration Fund and the Nolan Golden Education Fund.

With the exception of consequential numbering changes, all alterations to the Association's current Rules are shown in *italics*, either as whole sections or additional words.

The rules have been re-ordered and a number of matters have been brought up to date:

- The expenses provisions for Central Council representatives have been modernised.
- The rules relating to the termination of membership have been simplified and there is a new consequential requirement to keep a central register of all members' contact details.
- There is a modification of the objects of the Association, which rationalises the reference to the education of the public and increases the emphasis on the promotion of ringing and training.
- There is a stipulation that, except for the ex officio Trustees, no member can hold more than one office as a Trustee.
- The office of Chairman of the Belfry Advisory Committee and the structure of Branch Technical Advisers are formalised.
- The quorum for meetings of the Standing Committee has been defined.

Under current Rule 7, following the Annual General Meeting, a whole year of debate will take place at Branch level and by the Standing Committee and the Trustees, before formal consideration of the new Rules at the Annual General Meeting in 2011.

Comments or observations from individual members are also welcomed and should be sent to the General Secretary, for consideration by the Standing Committee and the Trustees.

David R. McLean, General Secretary, Norwich Diocesan Association of Ringers
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