

## HEADLINES FROM THE 12 BELL COMMITTEE MEETING

### WHAT IS GOOD RINGING, AND HOW SHOULD IT BE MEASURED?

This question is central to the 12 bell contest, but there is currently no clear consensus on exactly what makes good ringing, or the best way to measure it. In recent years some chief judges have created new strikeometer metrics to use in the contest, which the strikeometer team are very much in favour of. On the whole, there have been no significant developments in the models that the strikeometer uses in the last 10 years.

The committee plan to set up a working group to define good ringing and discuss which strikeometer models are available to use to measure ringing in accordance with the definition. This group will take input from judges and ringers who are not on the committee, so [anyone interested in contributing should get in touch](#).

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW TO USE HAWKEAR?

Many towers now have Hawkear installations, and work is currently being done to make the technology more easily available for new towers. But once you have it, how should you use it to help improve your band's ringing?

The committee discussed some possible ways that good practice could be shared: mentoring for teams less experienced with Hawkear, an online information evening, or a practical session where team leaders could visit a tower to see how it is used in a practice. If any of these sound like something you would be interested in, please [let us know](#).

### COULD YOU BE THE NEXT STRIKEOMETER TECHNICAL LEAD OR OPERATIONAL COORDINATOR?

The strikeometer coordinator, Dave Richards, is stepping down in 2025. To ease the workload of his replacement, Dave's current role will be split between two people:

- **Strikeometer technical lead** who will provide information and analysis for judges and teams.
- **Strikeometer operational co-ordinator** who will work with host towers and strikeometer technicians to ensure all relevant hardware is in place.

More details about these roles are [available from the secretary](#), so please think about whether you know anyone with appropriate skills, or whether you could volunteer to do either of these yourself.

The strikeometer team are also looking for more volunteers to be trained as technicians – [please get in touch if you would like to find out more](#).

### INVESTIGATION INTO RINGING ROOM SOUND FEEDS

A 2020 survey of competing teams showed support for the idea of a sound feed taken from the ringing room, so that the judges (and strikeometer) hear what the ringers are hearing. However, there are issues with the clarity and quality of such recordings, for example because of rope noise and conducting comments.

A possible solution is to compare recordings of the same ringing taken from two different microphones, one in the ringing chamber and one above the bells, to see if there are systematic differences. This analysis could then be used to calibrate the strikeometer, so that its output was a truer reflection of what was heard in the ringing chamber.

If you have, or can make, high-quality recordings from both the belfry and ringing room, or you could help undertake a comparative analysis of this data, please [get in touch](#).