

HEADLINES FROM THE 12 BELL COMMITTEE MEETING

2024 CONTEST UPDATE

Chilcompton, host tower for the 2024 final, are hoping to launch their website soon. Among other things, this will offer the chance to book transport to the tower from nearby railway stations, book on-site camping, and pre-order beer tokens.

The test piece for both the eliminators and final will be the first six leads of Cambridge Surprise Maximus. Other potential method choices were discussed, and a significant minority of the committee were in favour of ringing Cinques this year. However, we settled on Cambridge again, because it is a familiar method which not easy to strike well.

NEWS FROM THE STRIKEOMETER TEAM

In 2023 teams were asked to record and analyse touches from their practice sessions themselves, rather than sending them off to the strikeometer coordinator. On the whole this has been a success, and will be repeated in future. Dave Richards will run an online training session on 14th January 2024, to which all competing teams are encouraged to send a representative. This training will mean all teams can go into the eliminator with an equal knowledge of the strikeometer tools available to them.

There is an ongoing project to explore whether it is possible to calibrate hawkear so that its output more closely resembles what can be heard from the ringing chamber. At the 2018 eliminators, simultaneous recordings were made from the belfry and ringing room, and we now need help analysing these to determine whether they show consistent differences for any bells. If you would like to be part of this team, please get in touch with the [strikeometer coordinator](#).

WHAT IS GOOD RINGING?

A working group has been formed, led by [Neil Buswell](#), with the aim of collecting views on what particular features of a performance might make it better or worse than another, with the ultimate aim that a consensus on this topic (if one can be reached) could be useful to future judges and drive developments of hawkear.

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

We are still looking for potential candidates to take over from Dave Richards, the current strikeometer coordinator, who is stepping down in 2025.

- **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.

If you can think of someone who would be a good fit for either of these roles, please [ask the secretary](#) for more information.

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT?

Currently, it's normal practice for all teams to be offered a practice slot a few weeks before ringing in an eliminator or final. But should this continue to be the case? Arguments were raised on both sides, particularly around the time, effort and travel involved. Evidence from the final at Crediton (the last occasion on which no teams were permitted a separate practice) was that there was a wider gap than usual between the teams at the top and bottom of the table. On balance, the committee decided that it was in the interests of the contest to continue with practice slots wherever possible. On the subject of travel, the committee has aimed to group eliminator towers more closely together so that entering teams have an idea of the kind of travel that will be required in advance of the draw.

UPDATES TO THE CONTEST WEBSITE

The website has been moved to new hosting, on server space provided by the Central Council. The bands for all finals are complete, and the judges list is almost complete (a few gaps in the early 1990s). We also have a lot of recordings now, particularly from the last 10 years or so. [David Hull](#) is always pleased to receive more information and recordings in whatever format.