National Twelve-Bell Striking Contest

Application notes

Welcome to the 2027 contest.

The qualifiers will be held at Kettering, Stafford, Towcester, and Worcester All Saints, on **Saturday 20th March 2027.**

The final will be held at Bury St Edmunds on **Saturday 26th June 2027.**

The method for the test piece will be Cambridge Surprise Maximus. The touches will be published on the website and emailed to entrants following the Committee meeting taking place on December 6th 2026.

The chief judge is Jennie Earis.

Please read these notes (and the Rules available on the contest website) carefully before filling in the online entry form at www.12bell.org.uk.

Please complete the entry form online and pay your entry fee before **5pm** on **Friday 27th November 2026**.

Criteria for eligibility
The guiding principle for eligibility is that eligible teams should have established, current, and regular ringing as a centre.

Bands must be representative of 'centres at which twelve bell ringing is organised and practised' (rule 4.1) and members of teams must have 'current and regular association with the centre they represent' (rule 4.3). The Committee usually interprets 'current and regular' to mean a minimum of one occasion per month for at least three months prior to application, and can include Sunday service ringing, weekly or monthly practices, and peal attempts. Future changes made to the list of ringers using the 'two week' rule (see below) must also meet these criteria. For ringers who don't meet the defined options, please choose 'other' in the drop-down list and explain your reason in the text box at the foot of the form. The Committee will consider each variation and make a ruling in each case.

The Committee must rely on the goodwill of band organisers if the contest is to flourish. The majority of participants wish the Committee to enforce the spirit of the Rules of the contest so please bear this in mind when selecting your band.

Guidance for entering names
Please enter names in alphabetical order by surname. Names should be entered as they normally appear in peal reports in The Ringing World. In order that a wider pool of ringers is available for judging, please limit your squad list to 16-20 names.

Entry fee and payment
The fee for the 2027 contest is **£96** and is payable directly into the bank account numbered 55697515. The branch sort code is 23-05-80. The title of the account is National Twelve-Bell Striking Contest. Please include your band name as a reference.

Secretary: Kirsten Hawkins, 12bell.secretary@gmail.com, 07562 379788



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Additions and amendments
Any additional names and their associations should be notified to the Secretary by email **at least two weeks before the contest** (the 'two week rule', rule 4.3). On the day of the contest, and before ringing, a committee representative will check the names on the actual band list against the list of names submitted with your entry form (including any approved subsequent additions). Bands including ringers not on their lists will be disqualified.

Seeding
For the 2027 contest, eight (8) teams will be seeded.

Practices
Subject to appropriate arrangements at host towers, each team may be allocated one pre-contest practice at its qualifier venue. On the day of the qualifiers, teams will have a slot of up to 40 minutes in which to practise and complete their test piece. The slot length will depend on the number of teams entering the Contest, and whether there have been pre-contest practices at that venue. A venue-by-venue decision on practices and slot lengths will be made at the Committee meeting on December 6th 2026.

All pre-contest practices (for both the qualifiers and final) will be allocated fairly based on band preferences for available slots.

Teams are reminded of their obligations under rule 6 to appropriately limit their ringing at contest venues beyond their allocated practices.

Recordings
It is a requirement that recordings of the contest ringing can be made and used by the 12 Bell Contest Committee and its representatives and that you agree to the contest being streamed over the internet. Additionally, photographs taken at the contest may be published in the Ringing World and on social media networks. The entry form requires you and your band to agree to these conditions. Please note that the Committee expects that the Strikeometer will be used at all five towers.

If you have any questions at this stage, please contact the Contest Secretary.

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