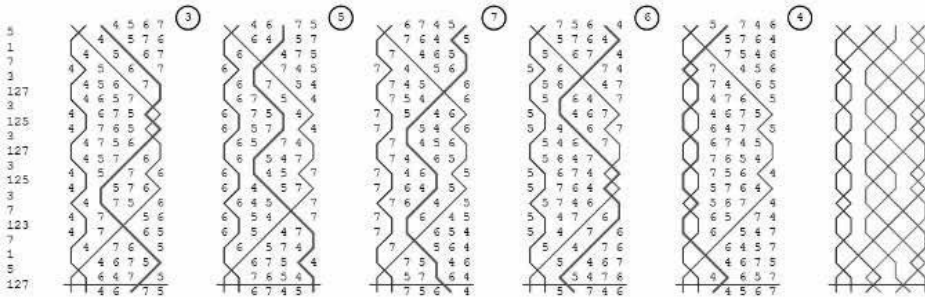


Replacing the Central Council Decisions – Part 4

By Tim Barnes (on behalf of the task group)



Introduction

In the last *RW* article on the new framework (18th May 2018), we launched the first ringing community consultation on the latest draft. This article describes the feedback we received and the changes made to the framework as a result, and it also sets out our planned next steps.

Before starting, a quick acknowledgement that this update is later in arriving than previously intended – mostly due to me having had less time available to work on the framework in the past two months than hoped.

Feedback received

31 people submitted responses via the SurveyMonkey website and 4 others provided feedback directly via email. We thought this was a good level of participation given all the other demands on ringers' time, and it comfortably exceeded our previously-stated hope of getting at least 20 responses.

The feedback was of a high quality – it was clear many had read the framework in detail, and thought carefully about potential issues and how the framework might be improved. So, thanks to all participants in the consultation for that. I was braced for lots of criticism, and while there was some, it was less than expected and more than offset by many positive comments.

Most respondents said who they were – only about 15% were anonymous. As we didn't ask for permission to quote people, we haven't attributed names to any comments made, either in this article or on the website.

FAQs

The framework website (https://cccbr.github.io/method_ringing_framework/) has an FAQ page as Appendix I, and this is where we've listed all the points raised in the consultation and provided our responses. About 70 FAQs have been created and I encourage everyone who is following this project to read them. We've made over 30 changes to the framework as a result of the consultation, and the FAQ responses also describe these updates. In the interests of brevity, I won't list all the changes here.

Most of the changes fall into the category of improving clarity – e.g. refining wording, adding examples, explanations and diagrams, and structuring content more logically. No

major flaws were uncovered, such as the framework not working in certain scenarios, or not being able to describe a form of method ringing that is readily foreseeable.

Many different views

The consultation provided a reminder (not that we'd forgotten) that ringers have a wide range of views on the topics covered by the framework. As I've noted previously, there won't be any solution that has near unanimous support. In addressing the feedback received, the framework team frequently referred back to the CRAG motion that established our mandate: when deciding among different possible solutions, which approach is the most descriptive, permissive and simple?

But applying the CRAG mandate hasn't answered all questions; making the framework permissive (i.e. enabling it to describe a very wide range of method ringing forms) inevitably reduces its simplicity. But it isn't a framework if it can't describe all reasonably foreseeable forms of method ringing. The goal therefore became to make the framework *as simple as possible* while maintaining its permissiveness.

This hasn't satisfied everyone – for some the framework is too technical and for others it isn't technical enough. On this point, it's worth noting that the framework isn't intended as a mathematical paper that could be cited in academic research. It also isn't intended as a primer on method ringing for people new to the Exercise – there are other publications that capably meet that need. The intended audience for the framework starts at the level of ringers who are already familiar with the basics of method ringing.

Description not prescription

There were a few comments in the consultation of the form, "this should be allowed", or "that shouldn't be permitted". So, it's worth re-stating that the purpose of the framework isn't to take a view on what is "acceptable" method ringing. That approach has been tried for many decades and it didn't work well because there was never agreement on where the relevant lines should be drawn.

Instead, the framework's primary goals are to provide terminology that enables all forms of method ringing to be clearly described and communicated about by ringers, and also to set out the requirements for (1) adding a new

method to the methods library (including the method's classification and any extension considerations), and (2) adding a new record length to the register of record length performances.

Stages, methods and blocks

Two areas that raised several questions, and which we've now further explained in the framework, are 'stage', and the difference between a 'method' and a 'block'. Because stage is a term that applies to other terms (row, change, method, composition and block), it's easiest to describe stage as part of the definition of the other terms. But this leaves information about stage fragmented across different parts of the framework. To address this, we've written a primer that covers all aspects of stage that are needed to support a permissive framework, and this primer can be accessed via a link from each term to which stage applies.

We've also expanded the further explanation for a method (3.E.1) to explain how this differs from a block (3.D.1).

While these two terms are closely related in 'everyday' ringing, the distinction becomes more important in a permissive framework which must be able to describe a wide range of ringing. E.g. two Minor methods could be used side by side to create a Maximus block. Note that 'block' here is a general term for a set of rows. It is not related to 'non-method blocks', as introduced to the Decisions in 2014 – the framework does not use these.

Peals of Triples

The single issue that generated the most comments in the consultation is whether peals across all stages should be standardised at a minimum of 5000 changes, or whether Triples (and possibly lower stages) ought to remain at 5040. The limited data we have (which may not be a representative sample) suggests a split of around 60/40 on this topic. We've therefore included a more detailed FAQ response on this point – see section K of the FAQ page.

Classification options

You may recall that method classification (which leads to words like "Bob" and "Surprise" in method titles) has been another difficult area. The framework development team previously couldn't agree on a single proposal to put forward, so we included alternatives A & B and asked consultation participants to let us know their views. However, there wasn't a very clear preference for one over the other – about 60% supported B and 40% supported A.

Continued discussion among the framework team has now resulted in a consensus solution for classification that could be viewed as falling somewhere between alternatives A & B. In summary:

- Plain, Treble Dodging and Principle classifications are unchanged;
- The symmetry requirement for Treble Place and Alliance is relaxed so that symmetry may be about a change or a row (today it can only be about a change);
- Hybrid, while retained as a classification, no longer inserts the word "Hybrid" into

a method title (in the same way that a principle doesn't result in a method title word – e.g. Stedman Triples, not Stedman Principle Triples);

- Short course methods are no longer differential;
- The Slow Course classification is retired; and
- Non-method blocks are retired – they become methods.

Appendix F.1 of the framework links to a list of the methods whose titles will change as a result of the above, and sets out the planned handling of these title changes.

Continuous improvement

We believe we've achieved a great deal in the framework project to date, but some areas of possible improvement would have taken too long to address in the first version. For example, our last *RW* article mentioned that a full review of method extension is planned – to consider what simplification or generalisation might be possible. The framework website layout and formatting could also be improved with more time, and scope for other improvements will no doubt emerge. This first version of the framework should therefore be viewed more as a starting point than an ending point.

Next steps

The latest version of the framework, which we've numbered v0.95, now incorporates everything discussed above and in the FAQs. As this project has already been running for more than a year, with well over a thousand hours of work put in collectively by the team, we'd like to submit v1.0 of the framework to the CC Executive before the end of the year.

We're now launching what we intend to be a **second and final consultation** on the first version of the framework, which will run from today until Fri Nov 30th. This latest consultation can be accessed at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JGHZG7S> and it comprises a single free form text box for respondents to enter any comments they'd like to make. We would be very grateful if respondents could check the FAQs first to make sure a point they plan to raise hasn't already been addressed previously. If it has been raised and you disagree with the response, please provide the FAQ number and let us know why you think our response is wrong.

During December we'll make any final changes to the framework arising from the second consultation, with the goal of handing over framework v1.0 to the Executive by 31st December.

Data Protection – Audit of Requirements

Requirements of GDPR cover two distinct aspects: the rights of the individual and the responsibilities of the organisation processing data. Each of these involve positive statements and documentation, and the following outlines the key measures to be taken. An audit should confirm that such measures exist.

Documentation relating to the individual

Individuals for whom data is held should have a clear understanding of the effect of such processing through a **Policy Statement**. The policy should show specific information which should include:

- (1) Name of organisation contact (may be a local officer)
- (2) Purpose(s) of processing (e.g. to inform, collect subscriptions)
- (3) Lawful basis on which data is held (consent)
- (4) Categories of information held (name, address, telephone, etc.)
- (5) Who holds data, e.g. officer(s) of organisation
- (6) Retention period of data, e.g. until person ceases to be a member
- (7) Rights of access
- (8) Right to correct data
- (9) Right to withdraw consent or erase data
- (10) Right of complaint

When should information be provided and has it been?

Policy statement posted on website
 Policy statement incorporated as part of consent process at time of getting data from the individual.

If data already held, then as soon as is reasonably possible.

Documentation relating to the organisation

Records may be kept in writing or electronically. The latter facilitates easy update or correction and should be kept current.

Consent should be **in writing** from the individual and “tick boxes” are not acceptable.

There should be a clear record of organisational policies and protocol for processing and holding data.

Audit of activity

The following is a list of key questions to be asked:

- (a) What information is held
- (b) Are policies kept under review
- (c) Are records of consent kept
- (d) Where is data held and by whom
- (e) Has there been a Data Impact Assessment (* see below)
- (f) Has the holder of data (the processor) clear guidelines of protocol
- (g) Has computer held data protection of security measures including up to date protection programmes
- (h) Are breaches investigated and dealt with
- (i) Security need only be *appropriate to the organisation concerned* in terms of cost and complexity. Access should only be to authorised persons
- (j) What back-up of data is there should records, particularly those held electronically, be lost
- (k) Are there measures for erasure of data where “old” computers are disposed of

* It is unlikely that any data held by ringing organisations constitute a “high risk” and an impact assessment should not be necessary.

Small organisations of less than 250 persons only have dispensations from documentation where use of data is occasional. In most ringing contexts there is regular use of data for contacting members.

The foregoing notes have been drawn up as an audit guideline only and if there is any doubt further advice may be sought.

CHRIS MEW

Ridgeway Press
 Printers to *The Ringing World*
 Call 01256 300420
 to discuss
 your own printing needs



A quarter peal band at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, celebrating 100 years of women in the Oxford Society with the first all ladies quarter peal on the bells by a local band. Band in order clockwise from front right.

Oxford. (Cathedral) 21 Oct, 1254 Grandsire Cinques: Michele Winter 1, Zoë E Lee 2, Hannah Guggiari 3, Charlotte Everett 4, Dorothy G Hall 5, Katherine A Stonham (C) 6, Helen V Bond 7, Rebecca Gingell 8, Hazel M Rothera 9, Elizabeth C Frye 10, Joanna E Knight 11, Emma Stanford 12. Celebrating 100 years of women in the Oxford Society. 1st all ladies Q on the bells by a local band.