

FRIENDLY STRIKING COMPETITION (FSC)

GUIDANCE NOTES

The aims of the Southern District Friendly Striking Challenge ("FSC") are to:-

- 1) Encourage bands to meet other ringers
- 2) Improve striking.

The scoring system supports both these aims:

- ✓ 1 point for a home match
- ✓ 2 points for an away match
- ✓ 3 points to the winning band
- ✓ For a draw, each team has 1 point

The host band is encouraged to provide light refreshments (eg tea or coffee) so that ringers can meet socially. Although this is primarily intended to be a 6 bell competition, 8 bell towers can ring on 8 bells if both bands agree. Towers with only 4 or 5 bells are urged to have a band of 6 ringers for their away matches but may consult the Master.

To avoid the possibility of too many matches, FSC will be based on a mini-league system with the aim that no tower will have more than 10 matches in a league of up to 6 towers. If required, the Master will allocate towers, mainly based geographically to minimize travelling. Each tower is expected to select its band from its regular Sunday ringers. For those towers without a full Sunday band, they may consider forming a joint-tower band for the duration of this year's event, as agreed with the Master.

Bands will arrange their own matches – each pair of bands in their league may have only two matches, one at home and one away. To ensure that all bands ring call changes of a similar standard, back rounds must be included, with the Tenor covering. Method ringing is allowed but please ensure that back rounds is included.

As previously, the two bands must agree to have one independent judge. However, bands are encouraged to have one, or more, extra member(s) of their band as student judges, whose scores will not count towards the match outcome. This gives students the opportunity to listen to the striking and gain experience of judging, being mentored by the independent judge.

Advice to judges:

We acknowledge that there are differing ways to judge but this is acceptable for the FSC. Although open handstroke leads are encouraged, this should not be a factor to be included in the scoring as the degree of openness varies between towers. No faults should be given if a ringer fails to stand the bell.

We suggest that the independent judge meets the two tower captains to explain the scoring system and to define a draw.

The independent judge may request a period of informal ringing, with a mixed band, to explain the scoring method to the student(s).

The Judges are encouraged to present their report towards the end of the refreshment period so that social interaction can be encouraged. During the report, the judge is asked to avoid making any comments of an individual because the less experienced members of each band should be encouraged to take part in the FSC. If the Tower Captain wants further comment, it is suggested that the Captain and judge talk privately.

Comments re the Master:

The District Secretary will maintain a spread sheet which will be regularly updated and published on the Association web site. Bands are encouraged to check on their progress. The band with the highest number of points in each league scored by the end of British Summer Time (irrespective of number of matches completed) will compete for the Richard Wallis Trophy in a final – venue arranged by the Southern District Committee.

It is hoped that all bands will abide by the friendly spirit of this event. The guidance and rules have been kept to a minimum. If a band needs extra guidance, or feels that another band is not keeping to the spirit of this event, then the band should consult the Master.

The RULES

1. Only bands, which have agreed to participate, may challenge or be challenged for a match.
2. To avoid the possibility of too many matches, FSC will be based on a mini-league system. If required, the Master will allocate towers, mainly based geographically to minimize travelling
3. Challenges must be issued, and matches completed, during British Summer Time.
4. Bands should ring call changes for a minimum of 5 minutes beginning and ending in rounds and **must** include back rounds, with the tenor covering. Method ringing is allowed but back rounds **must** be included.
5. The two bands must agree to have one independent judge whose score decides the outcome. When the judge is unable to assign a winner, the judge may declare a draw.
6. The home band gets one point and the visiting band gets 2 points. The winning band receives a further 3 points. For a draw, each team has 1 point.
7. Following completion of a match, one representative from each band shall notify the District Secretary of the outcome (eg. by e-mail).
8. The band with the highest number of points in each league scored by the end of British Summer Time (irrespective of number of matches completed) will compete for the Richard Wallis Trophy in a final.
9. The decision of the Master is final.