

LUSCR Central Council Representative – Report on 2016 meeting

Third session of the 42nd Council (119th Annual Meeting)
Portsmouth, Monday 30th May 2016

Here is my report on the Central Council weekend and meeting held this time in Portsmouth, and also some other CC related news over the past year.

Change Ringing for the Future

The President, Chris Mew, introduced this item acknowledging that the pace of change in the Council appeared slow, but assured members that much was being achieved and planned. He stated that the Council intended to work closely with societies and to improve contact with society officers; to this end a number of regional meetings would be held to establish a two-way dialogue. The Founders' Company had also offered a grant to assist with an education and training initiative.

Members commented on the need for a vision to inform on all Council activities and on the need to explain the Council and its work to ringers. Overseas representatives urged the Council to consult and work with them as well as with UK societies. The President responded that a vision statement should recognise the distinction between what the Council can achieve and what can be done at a local level by individual societies.

Motions

There were 8 motions before the Council this time – a record number. The most significant of these for ringers in general were two motions raised by the Methods committee proposing changes to the Council Decisions concerning Peal Ringing, Methods and Calls,

and also a motion that the Council should appoint a Working Group to undertake a detailed review of its rules and activities, and make recommendations for modernisation and report back to the 2017 Council meeting with appropriate recommended changes. After much discussion, this latter motion was passed and subsequently led to the formation of the Council Review Action Group (CRAG) – see the relevant section below on how this has developed over the past year.

The two motions raised by the Methods committee covering proposed changes concerning Peal Ringing, Methods and Calls were passed, including a minor change to the first to amend an incorrect paragraph reference. The Methods committee also issued an explanatory document covering the proposed changes in greater detail.

In summary, the changes were as follows: -

Allow a Wider range of Peal Lengths (in particular to allow peals of Triples or below that contain one partial extent, so that for example a peal of 5100 Doubles made up of 42 extents and a touch of 60 changes will now be compliant).

Allow methods that have more than four consecutive blows in a place.

Allow a new method to be named by ringing a quarter-peal length (thus bringing requirements for naming new methods for Triples and above more into line with existing requirements for naming Doubles and Minor methods).

Allow calls to extend the length of a lead.

Allow handbell peals of Minimus.

These are explained in full in the explanatory document (which I sent out in an email to the LUSCR discussion group on 04/06/2016), which also makes the point that they do not impose any new restrictions, so anything that was permitted under the Decisions as they stood before the changes is still permitted now.

Committee Reports – Ringing Trends Committee members all resign

The Committee Reports were all received and accepted without incident apart from the Ringing Trends Committee whose chairman, Elva Ainsworth, had felt obliged to resign from the Council in October 2015 following publication of a letter in The Ringing World on data protection aspects of a survey being prepared by the committee and designed to provide a robust and accurate picture of the ringers of the world by using a “random sample” methodology. Following adoption of the committee report by the meeting, the remaining committee members resigned with immediate effect, with the result that although the committee still exists in principle, it has no current members.

Minutes of the Central Council meeting

The official minutes of the Central Council meeting at Portsmouth appeared in ‘The Ringing World’ issues 5503 and 5505 (October 14/28, 2016) and can also be found (together with minutes of previous Central Council meetings) at the link shown below:-
<http://www.cccbr.org.uk/council/minutes/>

Other News: -

Council Review Action Group (CRAG)

Following the overwhelming acceptance of the proposal at the 2016 Council meeting to set up a group to review the Council’s purpose, structure and function, the CRAG was formed of equal numbers of non-members, ex-members and current members of Council as agreed in the motion, and held its first meeting in August. Since then, it has developed its ideas and publicised them as widely as possible throughout the ringing community, the main topics being as follows:-

Part 1: Developing a clear vision – Vision Statement.

Part 2: The role of a central body – Suggested Mission.

Part 3: Your feedback on Vision and Mission.

Part 4: What people say about the Central Council and some suggestions for the future.

The CRAG has also set up an on-line survey available to all ringers to complete. No doubt they will gather together all the received feedback from this and come up with a series of proposals to go before the 2017 Council meeting as to what form a central ringing body should now take.

Central Council website – new website being set up

The Information and Communications Technology Committee have put in a lot of work to set up a new website for the Council which will be more flexible and adaptable and have better search facilities than the current website (which mainly consists of static web pages that require constant maintenance and updating) and thus be better able to meet the challenges that the future holds. While much existing data has already been transferred across to the new website and it is effectively running in parallel with the live website, it is still under development at time of writing, although it can be viewed via the following link:- <http://dev.cccbr.org.uk/>

Existing live website link

For the time being the existing website is still the current live Council website and can be accessed via the following link:- <http://www.cccbr.org.uk/>

Next Council meeting

The 2017 Central Council meeting will be hosted by the Scottish Association of Change Ringers in Edinburgh, on Monday 29th May.

Richard Andrew (LUSCR CC Rep)