

The Tewkesbury Shield Competition

The Tewkesbury Shield is a limited edition Spode plate presented to the Tewkesbury Abbey Guild of Ringers by the Theocsbury Charity Committee in 1971, to be the trophy for an annual ringing competition.

Rules

(adopted 9/3/2012)

1. The Competition.

- 1.1. The Tewkesbury Shield Competition shall be a striking competition held annually at Tewkesbury Abbey.
- 1.2. The Competition shall be organised by a Committee.
- 1.3. The Competition shall be held on a date to be determined by the Committee, normally on the first Saturday in May.

2. The Committee

- 2.1. The Committee shall be a Sub Committee of the Tewkesbury Abbey Guild of Ringers.
- 2.2. The Committee shall consist of ;
 - 2.2.1. A Chairperson, who shall be appointed by the Vicar, or in the case of an Interregnum, the Churchwardens.
 - 2.2.2. A Vice Chairperson, who shall be the Tower Captain at Tewkesbury Abbey.
 - 2.2.3. A Secretary, who shall be appointed annually by the Tewkesbury Abbey Guild of Ringers at their AGM held during the first week of Advent.
 - 2.2.4. Up to three other members of the Tewkesbury Abbey Guild of Ringers.
- 2.3. The Committee may co-opt to replace any of the posts of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson or Secretary if they become vacant.

3. Selection of Participating Teams.

- 3.1. Teams representing any Guild, Association or Society may send in an application to take part in the Competition.
- 3.2. Only one application from each Guild, Association or Society will normally be accepted.
- 3.3. Places in the Competition will be allocated by a ballot.
- 3.4. Any Association, Guild or Society winning three years in a row may, at the discretion of the Committee, have their application removed from the ballot for the following year.

4. Selection of Team Members.

- 4.1. It shall be the responsibility of each Association, Guild or Society to select the members of its own team.
- 4.2. All participants shall be Ringing or Full Members of the Association, Guild or Society they represent. Non-resident Life Members are not eligible.
- 4.3. No person may ring in more than one team.

5. The Test Piece.

- 5.1. The test piece which is to be rung by every team shall be selected by the Committee each year.

6. Judges.

- 6.1. A chief judge shall be appointed each year by the Committee.
- 6.2. Up to two Assistant Judges shall be appointed by the Chief Judge.

7. Stewards.

- 7.1. The Committee will appoint a number of Stewards each year to assist in the running of the competition :-
 - A Steward shall arrange the ballot for the order of ringing.
 - A Steward shall ensure that the Judges are not disturbed.
 - A Steward shall arrange for the teams to be ushered up and down the tower.
 - A Steward in the Ringing Chamber shall help each team with the timing of their practice ringing, signalling to the Judges, and to advise on other matters as necessary.

8. Draw and Ringing.

- 8.1. The order of ringing and start time shall be determined by a ballot which shall take place immediately before the start of ringing.
- 8.2. No variation in the order determined shall be allowed.
- 8.3. Any team not complete when required to ring shall be disqualified.
- 8.4. Each team shall be allowed a specified period of practice before ringing the test piece.
- 8.5. Each team will signal to the judges, as instructed by the stewards, before ringing the test piece.

9. Judging.

- 9.1. The Chief Judge shall agree the method of marking with any Assistant Judges, and shall be responsible for the reconciliation of marks.
- 9.2. All ringing, including rounds, shall be judged after the signal has been given.
- 9.3. Judging shall be on the striking and general presentation of the test piece.
- 9.4. Each change shall be judged individually and marked according to the degree of fault in the striking.
- 9.5. The penalty for individual bells sounding before and after the test piece shall be decided by the judges.
- 9.6. The system of marking shall be such that the total number of changes can be checked. Any team ringing a touch which is under or over the specified length shall be disqualified.
- 9.7. The Judges have the power to disqualify any team which fails to complete the test piece.
- 9.8. For any other deviation in the test piece, or for excessive time wasting, a team may be disqualified at the Judges' discretion.
- 9.9. The Judges' decision on all matters pertaining to the adjudication of the ringing shall be final.

10. The Shield.

- 10.1. The Shield shall remain in Tewkesbury Abbey.
- 10.2. The Shield shall be inscribed each year with the name of the winning Association, Guild or Society.
- 10.3. A certificate and/or another prize shall be presented to the winning team and the Association, Guild or Society they represent.

11. Peal Attempt.

- 11.1. The winning Association, Guild or Society may be invited to arrange a peal at Tewkesbury Abbey, the arrangements to be made with the Secretary of the Tewkesbury Abbey Guild of Ringers.

12. Standing Orders

- 12.1. The Committee shall issue Standing Orders for the competition each year.
- 12.2. The Standing Orders shall include :-
 - The date of the Competition
 - The names of the teams taking part
 - The method and composition of the test piece
 - The time allotted for practice
 - The name of the Chief Judge

- The timetable

12.3. The Standing Orders shall be issued not less than four weeks before the date of the Competition.

13. Alteration to the Rules.

13.1. No alteration, addition or deletion shall be made to these Rules except at a Committee meeting at which not less than five members are present.

14. Interpretation of the Rules.

14.1. In all matters pertaining to the interpretation of the Rules, the decision of the Committee shall be final.