

JRN's understanding of the Central Council's present position

The position of the Central Council regarding peals that for one reason or another do not comply fully with the Decisions of the Council relating to peals is not entirely straightforward but, as explained to me by Peter Niblett, chairman of the Methods Committee, and Tony Smith, former chairman of that committee and immediate Past President of the Central Council, it is as follows:

1. Since 2002 Council has had no concept of recognition or non-recognition. All peals published in *The Ringing World* are to be included in the Analysis (see 3. below), which shall identify peals which do not comply with parts A to D of the Council's Conditions for Peals.
2. Peals rung on dumbbell rings, or rings of real bells with the clappers tied, in both cases using simulated sound, are held not to comply because the Conditions for Peals require peals to be rung on bells (for example, Condition (D)B.3 requires that Peals of Major shall be rung on eight bells, or on nine bells with the tenor as cover).
3. The Peal Records Committee is required:-

"To prepare an analysis of and report on all peals published in *The Ringing World*. The analysis shall include all peals published in *The Ringing World* and shall identify peals not complying with parts A to D [of the Council's Conditions for peal ringing]".

The form the analysis and report takes is the responsibility of the Peal Records Committee. Typically it comprises a narrative record of overall totals, noteworthy events, leading towers etc., followed by a set of tables in which the peal totals are broken down by type (tower or handbell), Association and Method.

Non-compliant peals have to be identified in the report but there is no requirement for them to be included elsewhere in the analysis, though the Committee is not barred from including non-compliant peals in the analysis if it so chooses (always bearing in mind point 4. below).

At the present time (i.e. the 2011 Central Council meeting) peals that are non-compliant by virtue of being rung on dumbbell rings are included in the narrative report under a specific heading but are excluded from the tables (the 'statistical analysis') and from the overall totals in the narrative. The form of the reporting of non-compliant peals is such as to imply that their mention is merely for the purpose of identifying them for exclusion, for example:-

"Peals not complying with the Decisions on Peal Ringing

We have identified the following performances published in *The Ringing World* as peals that do not comply with Decision D (Parts A-D) relating to peal ringing. These have not been included in the totals below:

21 April: Hurstpierpoint, Sussex, the Whickham (sic) Ring, 5088 Yorkshire S Major - was rung on dumbbells using a simulator.

..."

4. At each annual meeting the Council votes to accept (or amend) the report of The Peals Records Committee, for the preceding year.

What it boils down to, in my judgement, is this:

The Peal Records Committee, and (when the committee's report is accepted) the Council, exclude 'non-compliant' peals from all totals and tables, unless there are special circumstances to justify their inclusion. They are mentioned in the narrative report merely for the purpose of identifying them for exclusion. They are to all intents and purposes not accepted.