

Castor Ringing School

Notes for Volunteers

Thank you for volunteering to help at Castor Ringing School on Saturday Mornings. This sheet outlines the roles of our Volunteers and gives some very basic guidance to get you started.

We teach Learners from initial bell-handling up to and including touches of Plain Bob Minor inside. All tuition is individual and, when we are teaching method ringing, we generally have only one Learner in the circle at once. To achieve this, we need a minimum of six volunteers each week.

Helpers

Helpers are ringers who are able to reliably ring Plain Bob Doubles and Plain Bob Minor inside. Their role is to provide a reliable band to give the Learner the best possible chance of achieving their current goal. Many volunteers are content to act as Helpers every week whilst others may aspire to become Tutors. However, as we generally need five Helpers but only one Tutor for most touches *all* Volunteers spend the majority of their time as Helpers. Remember:

They also serve who only stand and ring!

Tutors

Tutors are experienced ringers with the necessary skills to stand with a Learner as they either:

- Learn to handle a bell or
- Learn the art of change ringing.

Some Tutors have the skills to do one of these; some to do both. For those who aspire to become Tutors but do not yet have the necessary skills, training can be arranged through the Association of Ringing Teachers.

Session Leader

The Session Leader will be an experienced Tutor with the necessary skills to organise a training session.

Some Guiding Principles

The most important skills in teaching are patience, patience, and more patience.

Stay calm under all circumstances. Learners will take on board your emotion: if you are anxious, they will be anxious.

Remember that no Learner makes mistakes on purpose. If they get something wrong, it means they do not yet have the necessary skills to get it right. Our job is to identify the problem and step by step, teach them how to do it properly. Some skills, most notably rope-sight, can take many months to acquire.

There is no such thing as a 'difficult' Learner, but there may be some that need a Tutor with a different skill-set to that which you currently possess. If you are struggling to teach a particular skill to a particular Learner, please ask for help.

When you are acting as a Helper, please resist the urge to walk over to the Learner after the touch to add your thoughts, however wise and helpful they may be. They may already be struggling to assimilate the feedback from their Tutor and burdening them with more will almost always be counter-productive.