

The GLOUCESTER and BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

Registered Charity Number 281431

'BEST KEPT TOWER' COMPETITION 2006

To all Branch and Tower Secretaries,

The aim of the competition is to improve the overall standard of maintenance in towers throughout the Association. The judges will pay particular attention to the safety aspects, regular maintenance and general cleanliness.

Conditions for the 2006 Competition:

1. The categories are: I) Towers with Six bells or less that are rung from the ground floor; II) Towers with Six bells or less that are rung from an upstairs room; III) Towers with Eight bells or more.
2. The judging to select the category winners, and the overall competition winner, will take place on Saturday 11th March 2006. The Association Chairman or Chief Judge will contact each tower to arrange an approximate time for the judges to arrive and inspect each tower.
3. The Best Kept Tower Competition Trophy, the Trophies for each category, and Certificates will be presented at the 2006 Annual General Meeting of the Association.
4. Each tower that becomes a category winner will receive a trophy, to be held for one year. Discretionary trophies will be awarded, at the Chairman's discretion, for meritorious work in the belfry, and all entrants will receive a framed, illuminated certificate.
5. All towers within the Dioceses of the Gloucester and Bristol or affiliated to the Association are eligible to enter the competition provided that the tower contains a ring of three or more bells.
6. The judges will give regard to those aspects of the tower for which ringers are normally responsible - the ringing chamber, any intermediate chambers, the bell chamber and staircase. Particular attention will be paid to safety aspects, routine maintenance, cleanliness and tidiness. (See overleaf for further guidance).

TO ENTER THE COMPETITION, email, or phone the Association Chairman before Saturday 18th February.

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General guidance for towers entering the Best Kept Tower Competition

The Judges will have regard to safety aspects, regular maintenance and general cleanliness and tidiness.

They will pay special attention to:

Electrical wiring; secondary and emergency lighting sources; adequate means of lighting i.e. Safe lead lights; appropriate fire extinguishers; fire hazards; safe rope spider; clear advisory notices re: clock hammers, etc.

General points of safety; first aid box; carpets likely to cause people to trip; furniture likely to obstruct ropes or ringers; unsafe boxes; stairs and clock chamber clean and tidy.

Signs of regular maintenance, necessary lubrication of main bearings, pulleys and clappers - but not excessive greasing which attracts dust; ropes which are not frayed nor worn, and are adjusted regularly on wheels to ease wear; well spliced ropes; care of frame, no loose or missing bolts, nuts, etc.; sound stays; wiring at louvres; proper storage of ropes; tool kit available.

Bonuses: well organized, informative notice board; signs of healthy ringing activity, well-organized library; brief history of the bells; security measures.

Anything else the ringers can do to improve surroundings e.g. Cleanliness, painting, carpeting, furnishings.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Before starting work on any improvements to your tower, whether in the belfry or the ringing chamber, you should always obtain the consent of the churchwardens and incumbent. This applies to any work - new carpets, redecoration, an extra light fitting or whatever. It may be necessary for the matter to be referred to the P.C.C. or for Faculty consent to be obtained. Please do not assume that it is all right - please check. All electrical work must conform to the current edition of the IEE Wiring Regulations and the P.C.C. should notify the church insurers before any work is commenced.