

ESSEX TROPHY STRIKING COMPETITION

Date:

Venue:

Hosting Guild:

Test Piece:

RULES

1. The competition shall be known as the Essex Trophy and was first competed for in 1979 as part of the Essex Association of Change Ringers' Centenary celebrations.
2. Entry shall be by invitation only. The Essex Association will issue the invitations to territorial associations in the south-east of England, approximately six months before the competition is due to be held. The invitation will include details of the host association, the tower, method and time of the draw.
3. The Essex Association will ensure that the arrangements for the competition are sent to invited associations at least 2 months in advance of the competition; this will include the composition for the test piece if applicable.
4. Each association taking part shall be entitled to nominate one representative to a committee, which shall decide the date, the host association for the following year, which associations shall be invited to participate, and any changes to these rules. The committee will normally meet during the competition, after the ringing completes. Other detailed arrangements for the competition shall be delegated to the host association, which shall decide the venue, method for the test piece, and the identity of the judges.
5. No person may ring for more than one team. The team for each territorial association shall consist of full resident members of that association.
6. Each team will be allocated a 30-minute slot. The changes of the test piece must be commenced no earlier than 10 minutes after the start of each team's slot, and no later than 15 minutes after the start of the slot. Subject to these limitations no restriction is placed on the rounds or any changes rung before the test piece. Bands are asked to minimise the rounds rung at the completion of the test piece. Teams must complete their test piece within the allocated slot.
7. When the team is ready, the judges shall be alerted by the ringing of two whole pulls on the treble and second.
8. The host association shall provide stewards to accompany each competing team in the ringing chamber to assist in the timing of the practice, rounds and test piece. The steward shall remain in the ringing chamber during the practice and shall leave the ringing chamber before the start of the test piece.

9. The whole of the test piece shall be judged, but not the rounds at the beginning and end.
10. If a team should fire out they may retire or start again, in which case the faults already incurred shall be added to those subsequently incurred.
11. The decision of the judges on all matters pertaining to the performance shall be final.
12. The winners of the competition shall be awarded the Essex Trophy, which they shall hold for one year. The Trophy remains the property of the Essex Association.