

# Striking Ladder

## My proposal

1. We are to ask all Chester Branch towers in union with the CDG to take part in the ladder. It could make for a livelier competition if we extended the invitation to Wirral, Mid and South Branches of the CDG, and also to the North Wales Association.
2. After a waiting period of no more than six weeks for the invitations to come in to the Branch Secretary, the towers should be put in order. Seeding might be preferable, to prevent weaker teams being demoralised by a heavy defeat. Seeding is to be done by the Ringing Masters. There is no reason why a tower cannot have more than one team; but if the teams reflect a difference of ability that difference should remain.
3. The way of progressing, then, with the league is for any one tower to challenge another tower one or two places (no more) above it in the order.
4. The two tower captains then need to decide:
  - a. what ringing will be judged: each team should ring the same thing;
  - b. when and where the ringing shall take place, with the choice of tower being determined by the toss of a coin. There is no reason not to ring both 'home' and 'away', or even at a neutral venue.
  - c. Where the towers have different numbers of bells, it will be assumed that the piece to be judged will be on the lower number; unless the tower captains decide otherwise.
5. Between them the two tower captains need to decide how the ringing is to be judged; and the two obvious systems would be:
  - a. Invite a judge; and if both home and away venues are chosen the same judge must attend both times.
  - b. Record the ringing, which could be sent to a judge or to the Branch Committee; or it could be marked by the ringers themselves. Guidance on marking should be available from more experienced ringers, especially those with judging experience.
6. The result is to be sent to the Branch Secretary within seven days.
7. It is to be understood that any tower entering the competition is not expected to remain passive, but actively to seek another tower to challenge.
8. Nevertheless, it will probably be necessary for the Branch Committee, and especially the Ringing Masters, from time to time to encourage competition, bearing in mind the similarity in the abilities of the two towers.
9. Periodically results and the changes in the ladder shall be communicated via the Branch website and Newsletters.

10. Above all it is important that the competition be not taken too seriously: no team should ever feel humiliated and no team should crow if it's at the top of the ladder. The whole point is to encourage better striking.

David Adams; Thursday, 17 August 2017