



**Birmingham School of Bell Ringing**

**Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)**

**Report and Accounts**

**Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025**

**Charity No: 1170942**

**Trustees**

S Linford, Chair of Trustees

T Stevens, Treasurer (appointed 25/2/2017)

C McArdle

**Charity Number: 1170942**

**Bank**

Lloyds Bank

Smethwick

**Report of the trustees for 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024- 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025**

The trustees for the Birmingham School of Bell Ringing (BSoBR) present their annual report and accounts year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025

The school was founded in September 2013 and became a CIO 3rd January 2017.

**Our Aims**

To ensure the tradition of English Change Ringing is sustained and enhanced.

**Our Objectives**

The objects of the school are to recruit and train bell ringers in the Diocese of Birmingham and surrounding areas for the purpose of advancing the art of change ringing, and to develop accredited teachers of change ringing.

Our key objectives for the year included

- Recruitment of new bell ringers
- Teaching new and existing bell ringers
- Support local churches by teaching their bell ringers
- Training new teachers of bell ringing
- To encourage the use of the national accredited training programme "Learning the Ropes" (LtR) for new bell ringers in the region.
- To encourage the use of the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) training programme for new and existing teachers of bell ringing
- To provide mentoring opportunities for new teachers
- Students achieving Level 3 or above to continue with the school as Volunteers (sending the elevator back down)



### **Review of Activities and Achievements**

The School continues to recruit students through website enquiries and from local towers who do not have teachers in their band.

The 16 week courses introduced 2 years ago are working well and are managing expectations of students in a much better way. The 16 week block ensure we are able to offer a range of levels given the number of volunteers has reduced.

We implemented a booking platform in September to support with the administration and to enhance to the students experience. This is working very well. We are able to give passwords to students so only those eligible for each level can sign up and pay for the course.

The school normally operates with a team of volunteers, 10 accredited teachers and a pool of 30 experienced ringers.

Number of students passing the Learning the Ropes Levels

Level 1 = 4

Level 2 = 5

Level 3 = 5

Level 4 = 0

Level 5 = 1

### **Fees**

We increased our charge to £6 per session (£3 concession) in September to account for the costs of the booking platform. For this students receive 2 hours teaching per week, affiliation to the St Martins Guild including public liability Insurance. They receive a welcome pack, certificates of achievement at each level and, as they progress, books and DVD's appropriate to their achievement for home study.

### **Recruitment**

Recruitment of bell ringers is key to the success of the school, we have been very fortunate to date that word of mouth our website and the ART enquiry line has provided a steady flow of new recruits.

### **Volunteers**

As always we would like to thank all the volunteers who give up their Saturday mornings to support the school, without your enthusiasm commitment and loyalty to the school we would not be able to run the school and thus provide new bell ringers to our towers. We are very pleased that almost all of our students who achieve level 3 or above continue with the school as volunteers, this is very positive and fulfils our objective of 'sending the elevator back down'.



### **Donations**

The school makes donations each term to the 4 churches where the sessions take place in recognition of their support by providing access to their bells and facilities.

### **Financial Review**

Total receipts were £2316.62, £2276.62 (student fees) £40 Lloyds (compensation for poor service)

Total Expenditure was £2817.67, £1520 donated to the 4 churches the school operates out of, without their support the school could not operate, refreshments £61.12, £355 Donation to Art when students pass the various levels, £310 purchased books that are given to students achieving the various levels of LtR, £29.56 Hand Bell Insurance, Associate Membership to St Martins Guild £95 (Insures learners to ring at guild towers) £169.18 Admin, Other expenses £277.81 (£222 Bookwhen Platform, £49.18 reimburse guild for setup, refunds to learners unable to continue with the school.

**Financial Statement for the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025**

<b>RECEIPTS</b>	
Fees	£2,276.62
Refreshments	
Donations	
Clothing	
Outing SVR	
ART Award	
Other	£40.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>£2,316.62</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>	
Tower Fees	
Refreshments	£1,520.00
Donations	£61.12
Admin	£355.00
Clothing	£169.18
Books	
Assoc Memb	£310.00
Tutor training fees	£95.00
Social Events	
Handsworth Refurb	
Zoom	
Handbell Insurance	
Other	£29.56
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>£277.81</b>
Increase/(decrease) in Funds	<b>£2817.67</b>
Opening Balance	3089.41
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>2588.36</b>