

Spring 2022

Welcome to the latest ART Assessors update...

...coming now after ringing has re-established itself in many aspects and locations after the pandemic restrictions. As I'm sure you're aware ART has been busy over the last year, working with our partners to plan for the resumption of ringing. Since last Summer we've been delivering face-to-face day courses once again, rolling out refresher courses both online and physical, and working with teachers, mentors and new ringers to move forwards positively. Over this time the ART Management Committee has been meeting regularly through our computer screens every three months and has held a full day in-person strategy and planning meeting. The ART AGM has also recently taken place. An appropriate time then for a bit of a roundup relevant to ART Assessors, standards and assessments.

Team news

It is good to be able to welcome three recently appointed Assessors ... Roger Haynes and Fiona Hartley in Wiltshire and Karen McCleave in Northumberland. Also, a mention that Dee Smith in Cambridgeshire has recently joined the ART Management Committee to bolster the Standards Workgroup representation. Sadly, we note the death of two of our team, Terry Collins in Hampshire and Bruce Butler in the USA, and record grateful thanks for their support and work for ART over recent years.

Assessments up-and-running

It is very good to see that ART Assessments are now starting to take place again as ringing teaching has begun to emerge in more strength recently. The number of accreditations is significantly lower though than before the pandemic. This is partly to be expected as many bands are still finding it difficult to establish a regular routine of attendance and numbers. However, it is worrying, with the potential for a cohort of delegates missing out on development opportunities via good mentoring which is a loss to ringing teaching. If you know of any teachers who had started teaching after a course (pre-pandemic) and need support to kick-start their development, please let us know and we'll try our best to help.

Given the extremely high demand for ART Module 1 day courses since ringing resumed, it is hoped that this will lead to a period of increased assessments becoming established. Thank you in advance for your key role in helping this occur and strengthening the teaching and standards in ringing progression.

Assessment procedures

Not that long before the pandemic struck we had reached a settled period with respect to assessment and accreditation – procedures were compatible with both M1 and M2 modules and assessment teaching criteria had been established on a level playing field for both teachers and mentors. Two years on, we will move forwards with these same systems and no major procedural changes with logbooks, criteria and submissions. Extensive ongoing



work on the 'Son of SmART Ringer' project will see some new developments in the appearance and running of our online platform for the ART Training Scheme and Learning the Ropes, but for the present time all is as it was!

As it may have been some time since you carried out an assessment, should you need any reminders, the following links will hopefully be of use.

[Assessor Resources](#)

[Assessors – Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Video developments

One aspect of the pandemic restrictions has been the explosion in video tools and ringers are making good use of these changes. In ART we have thought about how this could help in the future, for example we've experimented with having some of the introductions and theory elements of the day courses delivered through video gatherings ahead of the physical course.

There are also possibilities too linked to assessment. Last summer, Assessor Tony Croft in Leicestershire undertook a distance M1 assessment for teacher Steve Farmer in Cheshire using both live discussions and pre-recorded teaching sessions. Not only was this successful, but Steve found watching videos of his own teaching a great way of improving his teaching skills! Tony has now agreed to be a lead Assessor in this area of work. Please contact [Tony](#) if you want to know more about using this way of working with M1 assessments.

Online Assessor course

Work has started on an online course for ART Assessors. This would serve as a summary of the accreditation and assessment processes, standards and the vital work and role of the Assessors. It will be of use as a refresher course and for new entrant Assessors. The aim is for the delivery mode to be fairly fluid so that it could be used live, both virtual or physical, or be based around pre-recorded webinar type updates. Dee Smith is taking the lead with this – further news on the project in due course.

M1 Physical Refresher Workshops

Half-day physical refresher workshops are now up-and-running and are available to anyone who has previously attended an M1 day course. They give an opportunity to refresh the memory about the ART teaching principles and the various techniques and exercises used in teaching bell handling.

We are looking to increase the bank of deliverers for these courses and ART Assessors have both the knowledge and experience for this role. It is also a great way of getting teachers enthused in and working towards accreditation again. If you're interested in being involved, whether in your own area or further afield, then please contact either [Lesley Belcher](#) or [David Sparling](#) for more details.



Assessor gatherings

Last year we missed out on a physical gathering of Assessors, but replaced it with a series of late Spring meetings on Zoom. There was a lot of value in having a virtual catch-up in this way and so we will arrange another short series of Zoom events in the hope that one of the times will suit you. Further information about this soon.

Lesson planning and reviewing

Do you feel that you have come across some excellent examples of Teaching Logbook lesson plans and reviews (or the opposite!) when out conducting assessments or when mentoring a new Teacher yourself? If so, we would be interested in knowing more about these so that potential exemplars can be used on day courses and be included in SmART Ringer resources.

Before (and after) the assessment visit!

One useful thing that I have started to do more is to view the completed logbook lesson plans ahead of the assessment visit by requesting a scan of the relevant pages be emailed across if that's possible. I've been able then to get a better idea of the teaching set-up and development and formulate some questions. The increased use of online meetings also gives us capacity to maybe set-up a get-together with the teacher ahead (and even after) the tower session part of the assessment.

Bolstering the Assessor bank

There are a number of geographical areas that would benefit from some additional (or even new!) Assessor presence including Oxfordshire, Sussex and Lincolnshire. If you know of anyone in these areas or elsewhere who you feel would make an excellent addition to the team in recognising the importance of standards and rigour, then we would be very pleased to hear more.

And finally...

Please do use the Assessors mailing list email address if there is anything you wish to share or bounce around the team. A message to assessorslist@bellringing.org will be sent to all of us in the role. If you wish to contact me directly for any discussion or question related to assessment, accreditation or standards then my email address is below. In the meantime though, take care and all best wishes.

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ART Management Committee

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