

HANDBELL RINGERS OF GREAT BRITAIN



Membership Secretary:

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JOINING HRGB

The aim of the Society, which was formed in 1967, is *“To advance, provide and encourage for the public benefit the art of handbell tune ringing in all its forms.”* It is the only national organisation supporting handbell, handchime and Belleplate players. The Society presents to its members a wide range of activities and music designed to show the many aspects of handbell tune ringing.

The Society is organised into 8 regions giving access to a nationwide network of handbell ringers from all walks of life and of varying abilities. Each region holds rallies where teams have the chance to ring individually or to combine to ring the same piece of music in ‘massed’ ringing. Workshops are also organised in the regions for teams to try out other ringing methods or techniques.

A National Rally is hosted by a different region each year. This may be either a one-day or a weekend event, which culminates in a concert by some of the participating teams.

HRGB is one of seven countries to host the International Handbell Symposium which is held every two years giving members the chance to visit Japan, Korea, Australasia, Canada, America, Hong Kong and Singapore to meet and ring with handbell teams from these and other countries.

Membership Benefits

-  Two copies of the national magazines '*Reverberations*' each year.
-  Regional newsletters (number varies between regions) with local news and events.
-  The HRGB Music scheme which offers competitively priced music.
-  Public liability insurance at all events organised through HRGB.
-  Preferential rates at handbell events.
-  Workshops by recognised exponents of handbell ringing and ringing techniques.
-  A network of ringers all willing to exchange ideas.
-  HRGB Crescendo Scheme - a programmed learning scheme for new and young ringers that provides recognition in the form of badges and certificates for achievements in ringing.
-  Discounted instrument insurance schemes
-  Access to the William Hartley Memorial Fund which offers interest free loans to help with refurbishing an existing set of bells or purchase of a new set.
-  Financial assistance to young ringers who want to experience a national handbell event.
-  Use of one of the various loan sets of bells, handchimes or Belleplates.
-  Membership card & entitlement to wear the gilt membership badge.
-  National Residential Ringing Week.
-  The opportunity to attend the International Handbell Symposium.
-  UK Bronze.

Membership Rates

The Handbell Ringers of Great Britain (HRGB) membership year runs from the 1st January to 31st December. You may register at any time during the year as a team, a youth team or as an independent member (one not part of a particular team). A 50% discount for new adult members will apply if registering after 1st July.

TEAM MEMBERSHIP

A fee of **£5.00** to register the team name (payable once only).

Adult annual subscription **£12.00 per person**

Junior annual subscription **Free of charge**

(Junior members are those still at school, but not at college or University).

INDEPENDENT MEMBERSHIP

A registration fee of **£1.00** (payable once only), plus the annual subscription of: **£12.00 for Adult members** **Free for Junior members**

Team and independent members are entitled to purchase and wear the HRGB gilt pin badge, which can be ordered on the Membership Application form.

YOUTH TEAM MEMBERSHIP (INNOMINATE MEMBERSHIP)

This group membership is aimed at youth teams (e.g. schools, scouts, guides) where members may change during the course of the year. The correspondent **must** be a paid up member of HRGB. Each member of the youth group will be entitled to a button badge, a copy of the junior magazine *Young Vibrations* and the team will receive one copy of *Reverberations*, the national magazine. They will not, however, have any voting rights.

There is no subscription fee to register a Youth Team.

Adult member **£12.00** (unless already registered with HRGB)

Junior members **Free of charge**

Please complete both sides of the youth team membership application form and return to the membership secretary.

HRGB and Gift Aid

In March 2000 the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced a change in the way registered charities can reclaim tax on donations. This means HRGB can now reclaim tax through the Gift Aid Scheme on membership subscription and donations paid by those members paying income tax.

For HRGB to take advantage of this, each adult tax paying member of your team must sign and date a copy of the enclosed Declaration and return it with their membership fee if applicable. However to qualify for the tax reclaim, individual members must pay the membership fee in one of the following ways:

- a) by paying the membership fee directly to HRGB
- b) by paying the membership fee to the team correspondent/treasurer who then pays for the whole team directly to HRGB
- c) by paying a regular individual subscription to the team during the year which is in excess of the membership fee and which is used by the correspondent/treasurer to pay the HRGB membership.

Unfortunately tax cannot be claimed back for the membership fee or donation if these are paid from fees received by the team. However if a tax paying member is also paying the subscription for their spouse or their children then HRGB can claim the tax for them as well - as long as the tax payer has paid sufficient tax to cover all the payments.

If you need additional copies of the Declaration these can be obtained from the Membership Secretary or by photocopying a blank form. The correspondent or treasurer of your team is then asked to sign the Membership Application Form to verify the subscriptions have been collected as set out above.

If circumstances change and any member is no longer a tax payer, please let the Membership Secretary know in writing so that the Declaration can be cancelled.

If you need any further clarification about Gift Aid please contact the Membership Secretary.

Please encourage tax paying team members to complete the Declaration, as this will provide an obvious benefit to HRGB.