

EDITORIAL

PROPOSED RINGERS' WORKSHOP

The idea of holding a ringers' workshop seems to have been received with approval and 51 % of the questionnaires sent to ringers were returned to SAFRING. This was an excellent response by any standards and I am grateful to all those who took the trouble to post back the tear-off slip to SAFRING.

Recipients of the questionnaire will recall that they were asked to tick a 'No' or a 'Yes' or a 'Maybe' box with respect to their attendance at the proposed meeting. A lot of ringers ticked the 'No' box and wrote that they would have liked to attend such a meeting but could not afford the cost of travel. Many apologised in advance for non-attendance. For ringers living in Zimbabwe and Malaŵi, travelling to Wilderness on the southern Cape coast and back would mean a round-trip in excess of 5 000-6 000km. But even for those living within the boundaries of the Republic, the cost of travel plus the symposium registration and the cost of accommodation at the venue was obviously more than they could fund from their own pockets. Suffice it to say that only one of the 14 ringers who stated their intention to attend is not registered with, or employed by, a university, museum, government or provincial department.

If, in addition to these 14 confirmed attendants, half of the 'Maybe' group also arrive, then the turn-out will comprise about one sixth of the total number currently using SAFRING rings.

Recipients of the questionnaire were also invited to suggest subjects which could be addressed by the meeting. There was a good response to this and 21 topics were suggested for discussion. 'Techniques' headed the list, following by 'ringer training', with the 'need for more permanent ringing stations or observatories' in third place. These three topics were the only ones to be listed by five or more ringers. The 'need for more ringers' and 'Ringng Manual' were next in order of popularity. Many ringers expressed an interest in the outcome of the meeting and it should be possible to supply details and impressions in the next issue of this magazine.