

Salient points from General Committee meeting on 24th November 2018

A list of the routine tasks and roles that need doing by all Districts will be circulated to help District officers ensure that the Association runs smoothly. Some Districts have already based role descriptions for District officers on these.

A Membership Communications sub-group will be set up to consider how best to maintain and improve contact with individual members while remaining compliant with GDPR.

Mid-week 10 bell practices, bi-monthly, will be starting in 2019. Details to be circulated.

Subscriptions are due 1st January each year. Members are requested to pay promptly through their local tower. District Treasurers are encouraged to forward all subscriptions to the Association Treasurer by 31st January 2019 to help cash flow. An information exercise will be conducted to provide more clarity to members as to what their subscription pays for.

A Finance sub-group will create a draft financial structure and budget for consideration by the General Committee. The Association Treasurer will be standing down at the AGM in April 2019. A successor needs to be found. Anyone interested in this role should contact Margaret Funnell.

Items are available to purchase from KCACR such as books, clothing, videos, glasses and badges. Access to view and purchase items needs to be improved. Consideration will be given to arranging sales through the website in future.

A budget of £2,000 was agreed to support Training events in 2019 and member's training expenses. Members should contact the Training Officer, David Grimwood, to discuss training needs. Greater use of simulators in training would be encouraged.

Kent Young Ringers were delighted with their new Youth Competition Trophy, which had now been engraved with the past 3 years' winning teams. See <https://kcacr.org.uk/kent-young-ringers/news/> A design for individual Youth Competition Certificates was being sought. Please contact General Secretary, Sue Bassett, with your ideas. A full schedule of Youth Ringing events is being arranged into next year. Volunteer (adult) helpers are needed to support the South East England Striking Contest; SEECON to be hosted by Kent Young Ringers at Horton Kirby on 6th April 2019. Please contact Youth Officer, Jen Thomas, to offer your assistance.

Bell Restoration works continue at various towers around Kent. See the Bell Restoration Officer, Brian Butcher's reports at <https://kcacr.org.uk/association/bell-restoration/Works> to install two new bells at Monkton are about to begin. A grant of £1,516.11 has been agreed towards the replacement of the tenor bell at Chilham, the tower which is to host the AGM in 2019.

During investigation of an incident where a stay had been broken there was some doubt as to whether the relatively new members involved had had their basic competence assessed by District officers before election, as our rules require. The Association Chairman requested that District Reps reminded their District's officers of this requirement and that a record be kept..

The issue of Dementia and fitness to ring had been raised by a member for advice from the Association's insurers. This is a sensitive and difficult area. The Association's insurers had suggested that Risk Assessments be done. The Chairman and Health & Safety

Officer will be liaising with the Central Council on this subject for guidance on issues of dementia and other health issues that could affect ringing safety.

Safeguarding Officer, Nigel Spencer, reported that he would not be seeking re-election at the AGM in April 2019. He did not consider it an onerous task but would need someone who could work within procedures, confidentially and able to promote good practise. Suitable candidates should make themselves known to Nigel, as soon as possible.

A timetable for the production of the 2019 Handbook has been drawn up. An Order Form for Handbooks will appear shortly on the Association Website. Final deadline for Handbook Orders will be 25th March. A few of the other deadlines are as follows; Towers to update Quarter Peal information by 11th February – send details to Anthony Leeves, Treasurers/Membership Secretaries to update the Membership Database by 25th February, Towers/District Secretaries to send in their Tower Returns by 25th February, District Secretaries to send all District Information by 11th March. Doug Davis will complete the compilation of the Handbook 18-25th March ready for proof-reading then printing reading for distribution at the AGM on 22nd April. Please help by meeting the deadlines you are responsible for.

The Kent Mobile Ring (KMR) project has made some planning progress this year. A written project update and discussion document as to how the KMR could be used was received by the General Committee. It is anticipated that the current project would cost in the region of £30,000 but would not fall within the criteria of the Bell Restoration Fund, so use of existing KCACR funds or fund-raising would be needed to bring proposals into reality. Members questioned if there was a demand for a portable ring and whether funds would be better invested in centres of excellence. Full details would be added to the Website and feedback encouraged from members. The Chairman recommended that everyone be encouraged to think about it with an “eyes open” assessment of practicality, risks, staffing, etc. The issue and member’s feedback would be discussed at the February General Committee and may well need a decision by the AGM on the future of the project.

Striking Competitions – It was agreed not to enter the Tewkesbury Shield. The County 8-bell competition would be on 29th June 2019 at Tunstall, the method would be a plain course of Turramurra Surprise Major. The Essex Trophy would be on 14th September 2019. A strong band would be needed to ring Stedman Caters at Christchurch, Southgate. Please contact the Chairman if you wish to be considered.

AGM 2019 to be held at Chilham on Easter Monday where arrangements were in hand. Attendees to the lunch would need to bring their own alcohol as no Licensed Bar was available. The committee agreed the nomination of two distinguished members to be elected as Vice Presidents at the AGM.

AGM 2020 – A number of members had suggested holding the Association AGM on a day other than Easter Monday because many have alternative family commitments at that time. The rules state that the AGM should be held between Easter and July 31st each year. Alternative dates had been explored and the committee agreed that the AGM should be on the second Saturday in May (to avoid clashes with Bank Holidays, Easter and School Holidays). Districts are asked to discuss this at their January Quarterly meetings and feed back any comments. The date would then be confirmed by the General Committee in February.

General Secretary
27th November 2018