

MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD AT AYLESFORD

Easter Monday 13 April 2009

(Subject to adoption by the AGM to be held at Rainham in the Rochester District in 2010)

The meeting was hosted by the Maidstone District. The service was held in the parish church of SS Peter & Paul, Aylesford and attended by over 60 members and friends. Rev Chris van Straaten took the service, and preached the sermon, the lesson was read by Tina Bastow, an Aylesford ringer and the prayers were led by the Vicar and Rev Stanley Evans, a Vice President. Twelve towers were open before the service; a service touch of Bristol Major was rung by an invited band and 10 towers were open after the meeting.

An excellent lunch was served to over 40 people in the Brassey Centre before the meeting commenced at 2.40 p.m.

1. Welcome. The Chairman welcomed 85 members and visitors, including David Kelly from the Keltek Trust and Martin Howe from Norfolk. The Chairman invited Rev Stanley Evans to open the meeting with a prayer.

2. Apologies for absence. Apologies were received from *Phillip Barnes (Wrotham), Brian Butcher (Hythe), Nigel Spencer (Hythe), Graham Long (Woolwich), Richard Bourne (Ifritenden), Bobbie Fairclough (Otford), Terry Barton and Fred Scoones (Tunstall), Malcolm Hitchcock (Hollingbourne), Tim Munt (Sarden), Nicholas Wilkins (Chelsfield), Philip, Cathryn, Andrew and Susan Hills (Canterbury), Dickon Love (Bromley), David Cawley (Hon. Life Member), Sheila Dobbie (West Peckham and Mereworth), Isabel Pearce (Sevenoaks) and Dot Hooker (Maidstone).*

.3. Minutes of the AGM held at Perry Hill on Easter Monday, 24 March 2008

The minutes were taken as read having been printed in the Handbook. The Chairman signed them as a true record.

4. Matters arising from the minutes. There were no matters arising.

5. General Secretary's report. The General Secretary moved the adoption of her report, which is printed in the Handbook; this was seconded by Mrs J Barlow. Motion carried. The Chairman thanked Mrs Funnell for all her hard work over the year.

6. Treasurer's report. The Treasurer Mrs P Phipps advised the accounts were printed in the Handbook and she raised three issues that needed response from the meeting. Mr A Britton raised the issue of why no interest was shown against the Memorial Funds. The Treasurer advised that these were in accounts that had insufficient money to gain any interest. It was agreed by the meeting that these funds should be moved to an account where interest was earned, even if it was only small. The Treasurer asked whether subscriptions should be increased this year to £10, the meeting agreed to no increase at present. The meeting were asked to agree the division of money from subscriptions which at present is 50% to the General Fund and 50% to the BRF. Mrs Basford proposed and Mr Dale seconded the motion that this should remain as at present. The meeting agreed. Finally the Treasurer asked that the appointment of the Auditor be deferred and be agreed by the General Committee after this year's accounts have been audited. The meeting agreed. She moved the adoption of the accounts; this was seconded by Mrs J Barlow. The motion was carried by the meeting. The Chairman thanked Mrs Phipps for her hard work.

7. Peal Secretary's report. The Chairman, in the absence of Dr Phillip Barnes moved that the report be adopted; this was seconded by Mr R Edwards. The report was accepted by the meeting and the Chairman thanked Dr Barnes for his work over the year.

8. Quarter Peal Secretary's report. Mr Leeves moved the adoption of his report which was printed in the Handbook; this was seconded by Mrs C Larter. The report was accepted by the meeting and the Chairman thanked Mr Leeves for the report and all his hard work in maintaining the records.

9. Librarian's report. Mrs Basford thanked everyone for all the material and books she had received over the year. Any information and articles are welcome. She advised she had met Alan Regin at the Roadshow who advised her that the person who compiled the list of ringers who died in World War II for the Central Council was in fact a Kent ringer. Therefore their list was substantially more complete than her current list. Subsequently she has received this list from Alan Regin and will work her way through it. The Chairman advised he has given the original chain of office to Mrs Basford for archiving. The Chairman thanked her for her work over the year.

10. Child Protection Officer's report. Mr Spencer was unable to attend the meeting but his report was in the Handbook. The Chairman advised that under the impending new legislation it is possible that all District ringing masters need to be CRB checked and they should speak to their parishes about this. Mrs Basford advised that a new agency is to be set up in respect of child protection. More information will be forthcoming after the Central Council meeting in May.

11. Handbook Editor's report. The Handbook spoke for itself. Mr Huxley advised that he had ordered a reduced number of Handbooks for this year. They are now printed in Kent and the turn round time 13 days. Some Districts had not returned any information so last year's details were printed in the new Handbook. He expressed his thanks to everyone who had sent in the necessary information on time and especially thanked Mr F Lewis for proof reading the report. Mrs Basford requested that any unwanted Handbooks from previous years be sent to her. The Chairman thanked Mr Huxley for an excellent Handbook.

12. Officers' reports

Bell Restoration. The report is printed in the Handbook. Mr Butcher was unable to attend the meeting. The Chairman stated that the Bell Restoration 'gang' do a tremendous amount of work which saves the parishes money. He moved that the report be accepted, this was seconded by Mrs J Barlow and the meeting agreed. The Chairman thanked Mr Butcher and his whole committee for their work.

Publicity. Mr Dale proposed the adoption of his report which was printed in the Handbook; this was seconded by Mrs P Manger and was agreed by the meeting. The Chairman thanked Mr Dale for his work over the year.

Webmaster. Mr Lewis advised there had been over 79,000 hits, approximately 44 hits per day. He said that he has almost 75% of email contacts for the towers. He is hoping to incorporate a list of the ringing books available and from where they can be obtained; an article on the new boards and a catalogue of the books held by Mrs Basford in the Association Library. He requires any information on events together with photographs. He thanked all those who have contributed over the past year. The Chairman thanked Mr Lewis and said the website is our main advertisement for the Association.

13. Election of officers. The following officers were elected, all having agreed to stand:

	Nominee	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman	Peter Sims	Pamela Manger	Tim Munt
Secretary	Margaret Funnell	Diana Wraight	Karol Leeves
Treasurer	Patricia Phipps	Brenda Davies	Tom Barlow
Peal Secretary	Dr Phillip Barnes	John Keeler	Richard Edwards
Librarian	Hazel Basford	Philip Elderton	Josephine Horton
Handbook Editor	Craig Huxley	Frank Lewis	Philip Elderton
Quarter Peal Sec	Anthony Leeves	Alan King	Eric Roughley
Bell Rest Officer	Brian Butcher	Nigel Spencer	Ivan Hart
Webmaster	Frank Lewis	J Fraser Clift	Tessa Worthington

Extra 3	David Manger	Frank Lewis	Peter Dale
	Damien Smith	Richard Edwards	Martin Marshall

14. Appointment of auditor It was agreed that the General Committee will deal with this matter.

15. Certificates for 50 years' membership. The Chairman read out a letter from Lambeth Palace thanking all our members for their service. Three members were presented with their certificates by the Chairman: Ann Gilbert (Sturry), Monty Gilbert (Sturry) and David Gower (Ashford District).

16. Proposed election of Vice President. It was proposed by the Ashford District to the General Committee and subsequently nominated by them, that David Manger be made a Vice President of the Association. Mr Sims said that Mr Manger had served the Association well in various positions over many years; including being the only person who had held the office of Association Chairman twice. A vote was taken and there being over a two thirds majority in favour Mr Manger was duly elected a Vice President. Mr Manger said he was very grateful for this honour.

17 Rule changes. Two rule changes had been proposed

1. Canterbury District proposed a change to Rule 4 (i) (a) b to read: Members up to the age of 18 years and those still in full-time education (Junior Members). Mr Bassett proposed an amendment to this in that the wording '(Junior Members)' be removed; this was seconded by Mrs J Barlow. Mrs Basford proposed a further amendment in that the wording should be further amended by the removal of the words 'those still'; this was seconded by Mr Barton. Voting took place and all three proposals were dismissed by the members. Motion was lost.

2. The second change was to Rule 7 and proposed by the General Committee that in the fourth line after 'Treasurer' insert 'elected Vice Presidents'. A vote was taken and 1 was against. The motion was carried by majority.

18. Forthcoming events. Notice was given of the following:

- 1 May General Committee meeting at Leeds
- 27 June 8 Bell Striking Competition at Tenterden
- 4 July National 12 Bell Competition at St. Paul's Cathedral
- 12 Sept Essex Trophy at Hythe
- 12/13 Sep Heritage Open Days
- 26 Sept 6 Bell Striking Competition at Lynsted

19. Any other business. Mr Huxley explained the proposal for an increase in peal fees to 50 pence per ringer which had been agreed by the General Committee. After general discussion a vote was taken; eight members were against and there were six abstentions. Motion was carried.

20. Votes of thanks. The Chairman thanked Rev Chris van Straaten for taking the service and for the use of the bells, all incumbents for the use of the bells at the churches open for ringing during the day, Aylesford ringers and their helpers for the magnificent lunch, Mr Huxley for playing the organ for the service and Rev Stanley Evans for taking part in the service. Mr Bagshaw thanked Mr Manger for doing an excellent job as Chairman over the past three years. Mr Manger passed over the chain of office to the new Chairman Mr Peter Sims.

Rev Stanley Evans closed the meeting with a prayer and the Grace.

Meeting closed at 4.30 p.m