

MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD AT RAINHAM

Easter Monday 5th April 2010

(Subject to adoption by the AGM to be held at Speldhurst in the Tonbridge District in 2011)

The meeting was hosted by the Rochester District. The service was held in the parish church of St Margaret Rainham and attended by over 60 members and friends. Rev Ren Harding, the Assistant Curate, took the service, and Rev Kenneth Clark, Rector of Stone, preached the sermon, the lessons were read by Peter Hartley, a Cobham ringer and Margaret Funnell, Hon Gen Sec of the Association, the prayers were led by Rev Ren Harding and Rev Stanley Evans, a Vice President. 10 towers were open before the service; a service touch was rung by an invited band and 4 towers were open after the meeting.

An excellent lunch was served to 50 people in the Millennium Centre before the meeting commenced at 2.40 p.m.

1. Welcome. The Chairman welcomed 80 members and visitors, including three Vice Presidents. The Chairman invited Rev Stanley Evans to open the meeting with a prayer.

2. Apologies for absence. Apologies were received from *Isabel Pearce (Sevenoaks), Neil Jones (Rochester Cathedral), Mike Bullett (Speldhurst), Alex Britton (unattached Lewisham District), Roy, Sally-Ann and Richard Barclay (Staplehurst), Doris Colgate (Sevenoaks), Cathryn and Andrew Hills (St. Dunstons, Canterbury), Nigel Haig and Sue and Nigel Pagram (Cobham), Lucille Corby (Chiddingstone), Nicholas Wilkins (Chelsfield), Malwyn Williams (Otham), Sheila Dobbie (Mereworth & West Peckham), Marie Evans (Associate Member St Laurence-in-Thamet) and Dickon Love (unattached Lewisham District).*

.3. Minutes of the AGM held at Aylesford on Easter Monday, 13th March 2009

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. 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. Mr. Dale queried the transfer of funds from BRF to General and was advised that these funds had been in the wrong account and the Independent Examiner had instructed how to correct them. She proposed that the Division of Subscriptions between General Fund and BRF for 2010 should be 50/50 this was seconded by Eric Roughley and agreed by the meeting. 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. Dr Phillip Barnes said his report was in the Handbook on pages 82 to 97. He said there had been a decrease in the number of peals rung in the year. He further advised that all old peals rung are now on the website. He moved that the report be adopted; this was seconded by Mrs. J .Barlow. 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 advised there had been a further 4 quarters including one first quarter, making a total of 880 for the year, he moved the adoption of his report which was printed in the Handbook on pages 71 to 80; this was seconded by Mrs K Leeves. 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. Mr. Huxley advised in the absence of Mrs. Basford who was unable to attend the meeting that there was no report.

10. Officers' reports

Bell Restoration. Mr Butcher moved the adoption of his report which was printed in the Handbook on page 14. This was seconded by Mr. F Lewis and the meeting agreed. The Chairman thanked Mr Butcher and his whole committee for their work.

Webmaster. Mr Lewis said the Website was his report. The Chairman said it was a very good report and this was seconded by Rev. D Cawley. The Chairman thanked Mr Lewis for all his hard work especially in keeping the site up to date.

Child Protection. Mr. Spencer said his report could be found on Page 15 of the Handbook. He said he could do nothing further until the House of Bishops gives out guidance to the Dioceses. Hopefully this will produce shared views. He proposed the adoption of his report this was seconded by Mr. P. Barton and the meeting agreed.

Health & Safety. Mr. Sims advised there were some shortcomings in some of our systems both in bellringing and the churches. Each tower needs to do a risk assessment and a template for use by the towers is now on the website. Each tower is different and there needs to be communication between the church and the bell ringers. Mr. Manger enquired as to whether the Association should keep a record of all towers and whether they have carried out a risk assessment. Mr. Huxley said we cannot make them do this but perhaps we could exclude them from union if no assessment was carried out. Mr. Dale proposed this idea and that this should be taken to General Committee for discussion. Mr. Sims proposed the adoption of his report and this was seconded by Mr. David Wilkinson and the meeting agreed.

Handbook Editor. Mr. Huxley congratulated the Association on the events during the year. He would like everyone to keep to the deadlines set in the months leading up to the publication of the Handbook. He has some concerns about members only appearing once in the book where they pay their subscriptions to. The handbook is not an Annual Report and so should reflect the whereabouts that ringers attend. He feels there should be two lists under each tower – one for the members and one for additional ringers. He apologised for omitting Mr. Manger from the list of Vice Presidents. Mrs. Davies said that postcodes should now be included. Mr. Barnes said that as half the income of the Association is defrayed on publishing the handbook and as most people are now on electronic communication should we now cease having a handbook. He proposed that this be taken to General Committee to discuss. Mr. Huxley said that if this occurred then subscriptions would need to be reduced. Mr. Derek Wilkinson felt that perhaps there should be just one handbook per tower. Mr. Manger said people, including himself, use the handbook on numerous occasions. Mr. Barton thanked Mr. Huxley for his work. Mr. Huxley proposed acceptance of the Handbook and this was seconded by Mr. Dale and agreed by the meeting.

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

	Nominee	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman	Peter Sims	Sheila Phyll	Tim Munt
Secretary	Margaret Funnell	Diana Wraight	Florence Hamp
Treasurer	Patricia Phipps	Tim Munt	Sheila Phyll
Peal Secretary	Dr Phillip Barnes	Peter Dickinson	Jacqueline Barlow
Librarian	Hazel Basford	Josephine Horton	Len Huckstep
Handbook Editor	Craig Huxley	Josephine Horton	Malcolm Smith
Quarter Peal Sec	Anthony Leeves	Graham Everitt	Alan King
Bell Rest Officer	Brian Butcher	Helen Webb	Chris Saunders
Webmaster	Frank Lewis	Fraser Clift	Eric Roughley

Health & Safety	Peter Sims	Sheila Phyll	Tim Munt
Child Protection	Nigel Spencer	Brian Butcher	Ian Hart
Extra 3	Damien Smith	Karen Edwards	Paul Barton
	Rev. David Cawley	Rev Stanley Evans	Jacqueline Barlow

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Philip Barnes	Jacqueline Barlow	Peter Dickinson
Peter Dale	Josephine Horton	Donald Niblett
Richard Edwards	Kate Rawlinson	Keith Hammond
Philip Larter	Damien Smith	Donald Niblett
Catherine Lewis	Eric Roughley	Fraser Clift

The Chairman advised that there are two positions, namely Training Officer and Publicity Officer which need filling and asked everyone to take this back to their Districts for discussion. It is very important that we publicise ourselves in order to gain new members.

12. Appointment of auditor Mrs. Phipps proposed Mr. John Carter this was seconded by Mr. D. Brady and agreed by the meeting.

13. 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: Rev. David Cawley (Honorary Life Member), Andrew Corby (Canterbury Cathedral) and Brian Trill (Hoo St Werburgh).

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

- 19th June Ashford District outing to Bruges (see Damien Smith)
- 26th June 'Putting in the Bobs' at Dover Ringing Centre
- 3rd July Real Striking Competition at Herne

15. Any other business. Mr. Wraight advised that so far there has been no interest in respect of the transfer of bells from Chatham. The Trafford Ring will be at the Kent County Show on the Friday and Saturday.

20. Votes of thanks. The Chairman thanked Rochester District for organising the event and the Rainham Ringers for tea, Canon Alan Vousden for the use of the church and the bells, Rev Ren Harding for officiating at the service, Gordon Lucas for playing the organ, Rev. Stanley Evans for the prayers and Kenneth Clark for preaching the sermon.

Rev David Cawley closed the meeting with a prayer.

The raffle was then drawn. All tickets were sold on the day and all winners were present. All prizes were donated and there were no costs. The sum of £81.50 was raised. Thanks for the combined effort of Florence Hamp for organising the raffle and to Sonya Gowdy for arranging the licence from Swale Borough Council.

Meeting closed at 3.40 p.m.