

## MINUTES OF THE EGM & AGM HELD AT BIRCHINGTON

Easter Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013

*(Subject to adoption by the AGM to be held at Lewisham in the Lewisham District in 2014)*

The meeting was hosted by the Canterbury District. The service was held in the parish church of All Saints, Birchington and attended by over 50 members and friends. The Chairman, Mike Little led the service, the sermon was preached by Revd. David Cawley, Honorary Life member, and the lessons were read by Mike Little, the Chairman of the Association and Margaret Funnell, Hon Gen Sec of the Association. Revd. Stanley Evans read out the names of those members who had died since the last AGM.. Twelve towers were open before the service and 5 towers were open after the meeting. A really excellent lunch was served to approximately 50 people in Church House before the EGM and the General Meeting commenced at 2.35 p.m.

**1. Welcome.** The Chairman welcomed 83 members and visitors, including three Vice Presidents. The EGM then commenced.

**Motion: to ratify the appointment of Donald Holden as Association Treasurer for the year 2012 to 2013.** It was proposed by Doug Snoswell and seconded by Jacqueline Barlow and all agreed that the appointment be ratified.

The meeting closed at 2.38 p.m.

**2. Apologies for absence.** Apologies were received from Hugo Tracey (Tunbridge Wells), Adam Brady (Staplehurst), Roy Barclay, Sallyann Barclay and Richard Barclay (Staplehurst), Pat Phipps (Unattached Maidstone District), Hazel Basford and Hedley Basford (Canterbury Cathedral), Derek Wilkinson (Northfleet), Alex Britton (Unattached Lewisham District), Richard Edwards and Karen Edwards (Tenterden), Richard Bourne (Frittenden), Janice Brown (Life Member), Alice Holden, Jennifer Holden and Rosemary Holden (Willesborough), Dickon Love (Bromley), Marie Evans (Associate Member St Laurence in Thanet), Lucille Corby (Brasted), Diane Reynolds (Eltham), Mike Worthington and Tessa Worthington (Sevenoaks), Chris Godfrey and Janet Godfrey (Chilham), Graham Long (Greenwich) and Damien Smith (Ashford).

### **3. Minutes of the AGM held at Headcorn on Easter Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> April 2012**

The minutes were taken as read being in the Handbook and displayed on the Web It was proposed by MRFS and seconded by Daniel Brady that they be approved, all agreed and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

**4. Matters arising from the minutes.** None

**5. General Secretary's report.** The General Secretary moved the adoption of her report, which was printed in the Handbook on Page 13, this was seconded by Brian Law. All agreed.

**6. Treasurer's report.** The Treasurer Mr D Holden advised the accounts were printed in the Handbook on Pages 16, 17 and 18 but had not been audited. He proposed acceptance this was seconded by Daniel Brady as approved but subject to audit. All Agreed. The donation shown in the accounts was from the estate of the late Sheila Dobbie. It had been agreed at the last AGM that the whole of the subscriptions should be credited to the General Fund.

**7. Peal Secretary's report.** Dr Phillip Barnes advised his report was published in the Handbook on Pages 84 to 109. He said there had been a good range of ringing this year. There had been seven new first pealers this year. He proposed adoption of his report seconded by Jacqueline Barlow and the meeting agreed.

**8. Quarter Peal Secretary's report.** Mr Leeves advised his report was printed in the Handbook on Pages 71 – 83. Since publication there had been a further 9 quarters rung so in total 934 had been rung last year. It was encouraging that 50 ringers had rung their first quarter, six being on the new ring of St Giles Farnborough. 46% of all quarters were rung on

a Sunday and 42% were of Plain Bob or Grandsire. He moved the adoption of his report this was seconded by Frank Lewis and the meeting agreed.

The Chairman thanked Dr Barnes and Mr Leeves for their reports.

**9. Librarian's report.** No report as Mrs Basford was unable to attend.

## **10. Officers' reports**

**Bell Restoration.** Mr Butcher advised his report was published on Page 14 of the Handbook. He proposed adoption of his report. This was seconded by Graham Coker and the meeting agreed.

**Webmaster.** Mr Lewis said the Website was his report.

**Training.** Mr Brady advised his report was published on Page 15 of the Handbook and proposed its adoption. This was seconded by Jacqueline Barlow and the meeting agreed. Mr Dale advised the meeting that Daniel had responded to the survey held by Chris Mew in relation to the future of ringing and the national momentum to improve ringing. Mr Dale had carried out a survey of the districts in relation to ITTS and funding for training. Most districts had a general reluctance to implement ITTS as they had insufficient information. The districts were keen for a recruitment and training fund to be put in place. In relation to this the rules will need to be amended in order for this to occur.

**Publicity.** Mr Snoswell advised he had no report as he had not been given any information. He advised there is a problem of bell theft in the county and we should all be vigilant. He had been offered a ring of 8 bells and had informed the police and the diocese of this. Investigation is in hand

**Child Protection.** Mr. Spencer advised his report was published on Page 15 of the Handbook. He stated he gives a report to the General Committee twice a year and tries to visit all Districts. The web site gives links to other authorities and also the code of practice is published on the web. CRB checks are now known as DBS and these may be portable in the future. There is still one area of disagreement in relation to these checks in that if there are no young ringers at a tower no check need be made. He further advised that he may seek re-election to the post for another two years but will then wish to retire. He proposed the adoption of his report this was seconded by Graham Coker and the meeting agreed.

**Health & Safety.** Mr. Sims advised his report was published on Page 15 of the Handbook. He stated it had been a quiet year but the insurance situation in relation to the accident at Northfleet in 2009 is still ongoing. However it is intended to change our public liability insurance to include member to member cover. He proposed adoption of his report this was seconded by Daniel Brady and the meeting agreed.

**Handbook Editor.** The Chairman congratulated Graham Coker for the handbook being ready before August. Mr Coker asked everyone to let him know if they found any errors. Further he requested that all notices of births, deaths or any other event should be sent to him throughout the year. Those persons who were made members in January 2013 were included in the handbook. He asked the Districts to consider the question of learners who have no category of membership as to how they should appear in the handbook. He thanked Tim Munt for the publication of the handbook. He proposed acceptance of the Handbook this was seconded by Tim Wraight and the meeting agreed.

The Chairman thanked all officers for their hard work.

## **11. Rule Changes**

Details of the two proposals were set out on the Agenda

1. The Proposal by Mr Sims of an amendment to Rule 16 by adding an extra clause (v) was discussed at length. Mr Wraight said the motion was undemocratic, unhelpful and does not

allow freedom of speech. Further it shows lack of tolerance. Mr Spencer said many associations had this rule in their constitutions. Dr Barnes felt the rule would save a lot of unnecessary discussion at meetings. MRFS proposed an amendment to the motion and that this should now read: 'When a rule has been discussed and voted upon at an AGM it will not be discussed and voted on again for a minimum of 3 years unless proposed by either, at least twenty Practising Members in total from at least four different Districts, or, at least fifteen members of the General Committee. A vote was taken For 47, Against 14, Abstentions 6. Rule Agreed.

2. The second proposed change by Graham Coker was withdrawn as this will be incorporated within the new draft rules being prepared by a committee set up for this purpose. These will be presented to the Districts for their ADMs and to be brought to the AGM in 2014.

## **12. Election of officers.** The following officers were elected

	Nominee	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman	Mike Little	David Manger	Pamela Manger
Secretary	Margaret Funnell	Doug Snoswell	Graham Coker
Treasurer	MRFS	Josephine Horton	Daniel Brady
Peal Secretary	Dr Phillip Barnes	David Grimwood	Damien Smith
Librarian	Hazel Basford	Josephine Horton	Stephen Marsh
Handbook Editor	Graham Coker	Tim Munt	Patsy Ayathurai
Quarter Peal Sec	Anthony Leeves	Eric Roughley	Janice Burn
Bell Rest Officer	Brian Butcher	Anne Anderson	Mavis Chapman
Webmaster	Frank Lewis	Fraser Clift	Jane Lawrey
Training	Daniel Brady	Roy Barclay	Adam Brady
Publicity	Doug Snoswell	Alan Driver	Brian Trill
Health & Safety	Peter Sims	Sheila Phyll	Tim Munt
Child Protection	Nigel Spencer	M J Swan	Brian Butcher
Extra 3	Peter Sims	Sheila Phyll	Doug Snoswell
	Rev David Cawley	Philip Larter	Revd Stanley Evans
	Ian Mills	Tiffany Lynch	Jacqueline Barlow
CC Reps for			
2014-2016	David Grimwood	Phillip Barnes	Damien Smith
	Doug Davis	Peter Dale	Margaret Funnell
	Frank Lewis	David Manger	Dan Bishop
	Philip Larter	Andrew Corby	Donald Niblett
	Catherine Lewis	Bobbie Fairclough	Janet Whitehead

The Secretary had not sought re-election but as no-one else was prepared to stand she agreed to continue for another year. The current Treasurer did not seek re-election and MRFS agreed to take on this position. It had been proposed by Nigel Spencer and seconded by Jacqueline Barlow that all officers be elected on block. The meeting agreed

**13. Appointment of auditor** Mrs. Stockmann was proposed by Daniel Brady and seconded by Dan Bishop and all agreed.

**14. Certificates for 50 years' membership.** The Chairman read out a letter from Lambeth Palace thanking all our members for their service and stating that Archbishop Justin Welby will agree to be our President for a short term. Two members were presented with their certificates by the Chairman Ian Cochrane (Tunbridge Wells) and Isabel Pearce (Sevenoaks) Unfortunately Alan Webb (St Michael & All Angels, Maidstone), Martin Pring (All Saints, Maidstone) and Roger Long (St Nicholas, Chislehurst) were unable to attend and their certificates will be presented at their respective District Meetings. Frank Gates (Bromley) was due to receive his certificate but unfortunately died last month and his certificate will be given to his family.

The Chairman presented a certificate to Dr Donald Niblett for his 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday and also a birthday cake which was shared with all the members.

#### **15. Forthcoming events.**

1. The Central Council Meeting will be held in Kent on the 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> May 2014. Mr Larter stated that what the Central Council do for bell ringing is important. The Flyer which Mr Lewis has prepared will be taken to the council meeting this year which is being held at Guildford. This will set out what Kent intend to do for the meeting in 2014. Volunteers will be needed to help for the weekend and anyone interested should speak to any of the CC Representatives or Mr Manger. Mr Larter said progress is being made with young ringers and a competition to design the Logo to be used for the CC Meeting Of 2014 for the flyer, brochure and other items took place for those ringers under the age of 25. Five entries were received and these were judged by the small committee set up to organise the Meeting and a graphic designer. The winner was Matthew Smith of Christchurch, Erith and the runner up was Douglas Neve of All Saints, Birchington. The other entrants were Barnaby Larter of Ospringe, Daniel Brady of Staplehurst and Eloise Scarth of Christchurch, Erith. All entrants will receive a prize. Mr Manger advised that the Central Council meeting will take place at the Marriott Hotel, Bearsted and had been booked in 2010. Volunteers will be required for the Help Desk, Sales Desk, Microphone Walkers for the meeting, Tellers for the Monday, Helpers at the Welcome and Foundation Meetings and the Songs of Praise being held at Headcorn on the Sunday. Further Stewards will be required at the Hotel on the Sunday and at the towers on Saturday and Tuesday.

2. Mrs Lewis advised that the Ringing World Calendar will be ready in October and the cost will be £7 per calendar. She thanked everyone for the pictures and was sorry they could all not be used. A poster will be forwarded to all districts to publicise this.

3. Angela Clark advised that Martin Wilson of Tonbridge has refurbished the 6 Bell Striking Competition trophy and this will be ready for the competition for this year..

4. Mr Snoswell advised that St Nicholas, Strood are going to have eight bells installed.

#### **16. Any other business.**

Mrs Lewis advised that someone was needed to sell/order sweatshirts etc in the Canterbury and Maidstone Districts and asked for volunteers to contact her.

**17. Votes of thanks.** Mr Manger thanked the Chairman for taking the service, organising lunch and taking the meeting.

The Chairman presented a bouquet of flowers to the Secretary in thanks for her work over the last 10 years.

The Chairman then thanked the Canterbury District for the delicious lunch, the organist for playing for the service and all others who had helped throughout the day. The church collection which amounted to £102.73 is being split between All Saints Church and the BRF.

Meeting closed at 4.40 p.m.

The raffle then took place and Tea, coffee and biscuits were served.