

## MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD AT MARDEN

Easter Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2015

*(Subject to adoption by the AGM to be held in the Rochester District in 2016)*

The meeting was hosted by the Maidstone District. The service was held in the parish church of St Michael & All Angels, Marden and attended by members and friends. 12 towers were open before the service and 10 towers were open after the meeting. An excellent lunch was served in Marden Memorial Hall before the General Meeting commenced.

**1. Welcome.** The Chairman welcomed 105 members and visitors and Canon David Grimwood opened the meeting with a prayer.

**2. Apologies for absence.** Apologies were received from Nigel Spencer (Hythe), Ian Mills (Eltham), Phil Larter (Ospringe), Clare Larter (Ospringe), Jane Farmer (Shorne), Richard Farmer (Shorne), Nigel Haig (Cobham), Marie Evans (Westgate), Dickon Love (Bromley) and Tessa and Mike Worthington (Sevenoaks).

### **3. Minutes of the AGM held at Lewisham on Easter Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> April 2014**

The minutes were taken as read being in the Handbook and displayed on the website. It was proposed and seconded 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 for the adoption of his report, which was printed in the Handbook on Page 16, this was seconded and all present agreed.

**6. Treasurer's report.** The Treasurer MRFS advised that he was still trying to work out where the excess in the balance is. He wished the upcoming Treasurer all the best and offered help to continue work on the last 2 years' accounts should it be required.

He proposed Division of Subscriptions to be 50% to the General Fund, 25% to the BRF and 25% to the Training Fund. The proposal was seconded by Daniel Brady, and all voted in favour.

Mr Eric Roughley asked why it was that, as an Association, we cannot manage to balance the books, expressing concern that this had been going on for 2-3 years. He suggested that the General Committee should take the accounts and see them corrected and re-presented back to the Association within a 6-month period. The Treasurer responded by saying that he believed that was what he had just said.

Mrs Caroline Stockmann, the ex-Independent Examiner for the Association, introduced herself to the meeting and agreed with Mr Roughley that the accounting process for the Association has been poorly governed and would not be allowed to continue in any other organisation. She commented that Sage Accounts had been purchased by the Association some years ago, but its use was abandoned the following year in favour of Excel spreadsheets on a laptop that crashed when she received it to audit which is not acceptable. She went on to reiterate that it is a priority that the errors in the accounts are found and rectified, using outside help if required, and that the members should support the new Treasurer in the task ahead.

The Treasurer MRFS responded by saying that he had suggested the Association employ and accountant last year to help with the accounts, and reiterated again that he felt this should be done. He advised that he had acted as Treasurer for 2 years and that was long enough for him to know he would not want to do so again, and felt that a qualified person should be used in future.

Mr Peter Dale commented that he believed the General Committee had actually agreed to pay for an external accountant to help get the accounts in order, confirmed by both Mrs Margaret Funnell and the Chairman. Mr Roughley was happy if this was the case.

Mr James Davis commented that he didn't think it was fair to put all the blame at the current Treasurer's door as the accounts were not in a fit state when they were inherited. He suggested we should just draw a line under it and look to the future when the accounts will be back in order within the next 6 months.

The Chairman asked the meeting if all present were happy for external accountants to be employed for the purposes of getting the accounts in order, all were in favour.

**7. Peal Secretary's report.** Dr Phillip Barnes advised his report was published in the Handbook on Pages 80 to 106. He expressed his pride in the peal of Bristol Surprise Maximus that had been rung in November at Canterbury Cathedral by an all-resident (County) band, pleased that he had been a part of and conducted it. He was also pleased that there were 2 peals rung for the 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Lucille Corby. He covered a couple of minor points of housekeeping, noted that the Association had recently rung its 15,000<sup>th</sup> peal and then Jacqui Barlow proposed adoption of his report seconded by MRFS and the meeting agreed.

**8. Quarter Peal Secretary's report.** Mr Leeves advised his report was printed in the Handbook on Pages 68 – 79. He moved for the adoption of his report, this was seconded by Dr Philip Barnes and the meeting agreed.

**9. Librarian's report.** Nothing to report.

## **10. Officers' reports**

All of the officers' reports had been provided to the meeting in bulk, and the Chairman suggested we adopt them as such. He first asked if there were any questions from the floor.

Mr Timothy Wraight talked about his recent visit to Gorran in Cornwall to see and hear the ex-Chatham bells in action, commenting that it has been a successful project.

The adoption of all the reports was proposed by Daniel Brady and seconded by Timothy Wraight. All agreed.

## **11. Rule Changes**

The Chairman asked the meeting if there were any questions about the proposed final version of the Association rules before he moved for the to be adopted.

Mr Alex Britton commented about Rule 7.1, stating that he is unattached and hence doesn't have a tower he could identify himself with for voting purposes. The Secretary suggested that we could perhaps add the words 'or District' to the rule, however Mr Peter Sims said that there was no reason why someone couldn't respond with 'unattached' if asked to identify their tower for voting purposes.

Mr Timothy Wraight talked about Rule 4.1, commenting that the rule as it stood meant that a significant number of people were unable to verify someone as being competent. He also withdrew a proposed change to Rule 15.1.

After some further discussion and clarification around Rule 7.1, the rules as amended and dated 30<sup>th</sup> August 2014 were proposed for adoption by Mr Brian Butcher, seconded by Mr Peter Sims. All in favour bar 1 against.

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

	Nominee	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman	Daniel Brady	Philip Barnes	Doug Davis
Secretary	Douglas Davis	Timothy Wraight	Diana Wraight
Treasurer	Margaret Funnell	Anthony Leeves	Michael Bullett
Peal Secretary	Dr Phillip Barnes	Daniel Brady	Chris Bassett
Librarian	Hazel Basford	Josephine Horton	Stephen Marsh
Handbook Editor	Tim Munt	Frank Lewis	Graham Coker
Quarter Peal Sec	Anthony Leeves	Mike Bullett	Eric Roughley
Bell Rest Officer	Brian Butcher	Ivan Hart	Roland Jackson
Webmaster	Frank Lewis	Caroline Berry	Tessa Worthington
Training	Peter Dale	Terry Barnard	John Easley
Publicity	Helen Webb	Val Cooper	Sue Cameron
Health & Safety	Peter Sims	David Manger	Rev David Cawley
Child Protection	Nigel Spencer	Michael Swan	Cleo Hart
Extra 3	Peter Sims	Sheila Phyll	David Wilkinson
	Caroline Stockmann	Catherine Lewis	Helen Webb
	Rev David Cawley	Stanley Evans	Len Huckstep

As we had 2 candidates for the post of Chairman, their proposers addressed the meeting prior to the vote. Dr Phillip Barnes talked about Daniel Brady and Eric Roughley talked about Catherine Lewis. The candidates then left the room while the vote took place. There was a clear majority in favour of Daniel Brady, and only 3 abstentions.

The remainder of the officers were elected en bloc, with all in favour apart from 3 abstentions.

**14. Certificates for 50 years' membership.** The following members were presented with their certificates by the Chairman: Len Huckstep (Canterbury St. Dunstan), Frank Matthews (Meopham), Marjorie Matthews (Meopham, collected by Frank on her behalf), Pamela Manger (Frittenden) and Brian Butcher (Lympne). Christine Webb was awarded her 50-year Certificate but was in hospital so would be presented to her separately by her District. Frank and Wendy Dadson were also awarded their certificates but weren't present so will also be presented their certificates separately.

### **14a. Vice President Nomination**

Terry Barnard from the Maidstone District spoke about their nomination for a new Vice President of the Association. Ashley Horton made the official proposal of Tom Barlow. Tom was duly elected with a unanimous vote by all, and presented with a certificate by the Chairman to a standing ovation.

## **15. Forthcoming events.**

1. Ben Legg advised the meeting that the Canterbury District were hosting a Kent Young Ringers practice on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April at St. Stephen's, Canterbury.
2. Peter Dale advised that there was a Module 2 ITTS course coming up on 19<sup>th</sup> September.
3. The Secretary reminded everyone that there is 'Ringing for England' on St George's Day. 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2014. Any ringing should be advised to Libby Alexander, the co-ordinator.
4. The Secretary also advised everyone that we are being asked to ring for VE Day this year, on 9<sup>th</sup> May at 11am (although VE Day itself is 8<sup>th</sup> May).
5. A question was asked as to whether we are doing any ringing for the Magna Carta. Helen Webb advised that details are on the Publicity page of the KCACR website.
6. Tim Wraight advised that there is also VJ Day to ring for in August.

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

1. The Chairman expressed his thanks to David Manger and the organising committee for the Central Council meeting hosted in Kent.
2. Rev Stanley Evans thanked all those involved in the quarter peal at St. Margaret's Rochester to celebrate his 70 years of membership of the Association, on the exact day 29<sup>th</sup> July. He also thanked all those involved in the quarter peal at Westgate to celebrate his 60 years as a reverend.
3. Jo Horton advised the meeting that Andrew Corby was unwell and asked if we should send him a get well card. This was agreed.
4. Liz Barnes advised that there was a photo in the room from the Association's Centenary at Canterbury Cathedral. She asked for those present to see if they could recognise any of the faces and put names to them if possible.
5. David Manger advised that Frittenden would be holding their usual practice that evening.
6. Andrew Hills asked if anything was going to be done around the First Peal initiative. The Chairman asked the District to try and encourage people to attempt their first peal this coming year, and Phil Barnes offered help with arranging and/or providing bands if required.

The outgoing Chairman passed the Chain of Office to Daniel Brady, formally beginning his term of office, with applause from the room.

**17. Votes of thanks.** The Secretary then offered a vote of thanks to Mike Little for his 3 years as Chairman. Mike then thanked the Maidstone District and all those involved in the organisation of the AGM. He thanked everyone for coming, and thank everyone for their support over the last 3 years.