

## MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD AT WILLESBOROUGH

Easter Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2018

*(Subject to adoption by the AGM to be held in the Canterbury District in 2019)*

The meeting was hosted by the Ashford District. The service was held in the parish church of St Mary the Virgin, Willesborough and attended by members and friends. Towers were open before the service and after the meeting. An excellent lunch was served in the church before the General Meeting commenced.

**1. Welcome.** The Chairman welcomed 117 members and visitors and David Grimwood opened the meeting with a prayer.

**2. Apologies for absence.** Apologies were received from Hazel Basford (Birchington, Quex Park), Tom Winter (St. Lawrence in Thanet), Alice Holden (Willesborough), Rosemary Holden (Willesborough), Jennifer Holden (Willesborough), Steve Goodsell (Deal), Chris Cooper (Ashford), Jay Ford (Bredgar), Tim Ford (Bredgar), the Rodmersham band, Allen Collins (East Sutton) and Liz Barnes (Wrotham).

**3. Minutes of the AGM held at Cranbrook on Easter Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2017** The minutes were taken as read being in the handouts, 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's report was printed in the Handbook on Page 16 and in the handouts. He commented that it had been a busy and challenging year. The Chairman thanked the Secretary for making the last 3 years easy for him.

**6. Treasurer's report.** The Treasurer advised that the accounts were in the handbook (pages 10-12) and all were currently with the Auditor. She commented that our expenses are rather higher than our income hence next year we may need to think about raising subscriptions. Pat Phipps commented that some expenses had risen substantially in the past year. The Treasurer advised that Central Council expenses were high due to the meeting being in Edinburgh, and that the Officer's Expenses included a sum towards the mobile ring thus making this seem higher. The Secretary also mentioned that room hire costs had increased as we were now hiring a venue away from Leeds Tower Room. Pat Phipps then commented on the cost of the handbook suggesting that £4 per copy was high and couldn't see how this could be justified. The Chairman commented that the General Committee will need to review this next year. Another comment was made suggesting that Young Ringers' expenses should come from their account, and the Chairman responded that there is no Young Ringers account. The Secretary also commented that some items can come out of the Training Fund as per the guidelines, whereas others can't and hence come out of the General Fund. Tim Wraight observed that the Training Fund doesn't seem to get used so perhaps we shouldn't put 25% into that account this year. Margaret proposed that her report and the accounts be adopted.

**7. Division of Subscriptions** Margaret proposed that 100% of subscriptions should be paid into the General Fund this year as both BRF and Training funds were healthy. Caroline Stockmann seconded the proposal, all were in favour apart from 1 against.

**8. Peal Secretary's report.** Dr Phillip Barnes advised his report was published in the Handbook from Page 85. He commented that it was a good year for peal ringing, notably because it wasn't just the usual peal bands involved. He also noted that all the compositions rung for the Association since 1996 are now on Complib. He then proposed adoption of his report which was seconded by David Grimwood. Jackie Barlow then asked if anything was going to happen to peal fees with the changing situation of the handbooks. He responded by saying that the peal fee pre-dates the start of the free handbook, but thought it was an appropriate time to review these.

**9. Quarter Peal Secretary's report.** Mr Leeves advised his report was printed in the Handbook from Page 72. He commented that it had been a record year, and congratulated Mike Birkbeck on ringing 3,000 and Jackie Barlow on ringing 1,000. There had also been a steady stream of firsts

through the year including 9 first as conductor. He also said it was encouraging to see quarter peals starting to be rung by the Kent Young Ringers. He proposed adoption of his report, seconded by Mike Birkbeck.

**10. Librarian's report.** Hazel Basford was not present but had nothing to report.

## **11. Officers' reports**

**a) Bell Restoration** Brian Butcher's report was on pages 17-19 of the handbook. Only one item needed an updated which was Otham where the 4<sup>th</sup> has been found to be cracked so they are still in progress. Brian proposed adoption of his report, seconded by Phil Barnes.

**b) Webmaster** Doug Davis advised that the new website continues, and made note that handbooks are available through there this year. The other Districts apart from Tonbridge and Canterbury are not really making use of the ability to add information to the website. He also asked for any comments or suggestions for the website to be sent to him. Other than that, nothing to report. Mike Rannard asked if anything was known about the replacement for the Dove's Guide iOS app, and the Webmaster confirmed it was well underway with Dropbox integration being worked on. It will appear on the Central Council website when it is available. Doug then proposed adoption of his report, seconded by Margaret Funnell.

**c) Handbook Editor** The Chairman commented that handbooks were available today, and that by asking for members to pay for it this year the print run had been vastly reduced. Tim Wraight commented that the handbook had been free since being voted for in 1990. He proposed that the free handbook should be reinstated as free from next year. Pat Phipps commented that she didn't think handbooks should be ordered for those that don't want them, but it seemed sensible to simply ask who did want one. The question was asked as to how much had been saved on the production cost of the handbook this year, and the Secretary advised that he thought we had made approximately £700. Peter Sims commented that handbook waste had been discussed many times at the General Committee, and that it had been suggested on numerous occasions that towers should be asked how many copies they need but this has never happened – and this would be a sensible way forward. Michael Keeler-Walker commented that his ringers wondered what they got for their membership fee each year and thought that the handbook should be request only for those that want them. He also said that this was a similar feeling gained from those present at their ADM. He then also proposed that the handbook move to a request model next year and be reinstated as free to those members that want it. Phil Barnes commented that, as noted by the Treasurer, without charging for the handbooks as we have done this year our available funds would be even less and in fact subscriptions would have likely had to increase. As such he advised those present that there would be a cost to providing the handbook for free. The Chairman commented that given we are putting 100% of subscriptions into the General Fund then we should be able to afford to do that this coming year and reminded everyone as to why the decision was made to charge for it this year. Sue Bassett commented that she supported the long-term aim to move away from printed handbooks and asked where members would find their access password for the online handbook, and the Secretary advised there would be new membership cards this year which have these on. A couple of other comments were made in a similar vein, someone saying that they thought the way this had been done was clumsy. The Secretary then commented that we didn't have a Handbook Editor this year, so everyone was lucky there was a handbook at all. The Chairman then asked for a vote to be taken on the proposal to make the handbook free to all members but that they would have to actively request a copy, all were in favour apart from 3 abstentions. Catherine Lewis suggested Thanks should be given to the Secretary who had pulled the handbook together.

**d) Health & Safety** Peter Sims advised that his report was on Page 19 of the handbook. He mentioned that the only query he'd had last year was about lone working in the tower. He reminded everyone that we should always have someone with us when working in the tower. The only other thing he wanted us to think about for the coming year was about how we determine our fitness to ring from a health point of view. Age, physical or mental health could all be factors that mean we may not be safe to ring and these things need to be kept an eye on by ourselves and others. He then proposed the adoption of his report, seconded by Brian Butcher.

**e) Child Protection** Nigel Spencer advised that his report was on Page 16 of the handbook, his only real comment being that Safeguarding Training is being rolled out by the dioceses and will likely be available during the coming year.

**f) Training** Tom Winter stood down from the role earlier in the year and had not provided any report.

**g) Publicity** Caroline Stockmann advised a good relationship had been built with BBC Radio Kent with 3 items going out with them in the past year. They are keen to continue to promote ringing, so people should let her know if they have an opportunity to discuss. She also talked about the Ringing Remembers campaign and encouraged people to get their learners to register and proposed adoption of her report, seconded by Lesley Barclay.

**h) Youth** Jen Thomas advised that there are a lot of youngsters around now, up to 17 attending the regular Saturday practices. The report is on page 17 of the handbook. Phil Larter offered congratulations and thanks to Jen for the fantastic work she is doing. Jen's report was seconded by Ben Legg.

Daniel Brady proposed that we adopt all the reports en bloc, and all were in favour.

## **12. KCACR Census**

Phil Barnes talked about the survey that had been carried out in November 2017. He thanked everyone who had put the effort in to take part, and a 65% response rate was actually very good. 153 towers responded, 19 didn't ring once on a Sunday in November. Slightly more worrying was that 36% of towers had at least 1 'silent Sunday'. Some towers claimed that there weren't services to ring for, however this may not be entirely true based on a quick look at church websites. Of the towers that could ring at least once on a Sunday, 53 had enough ringers to ring every bell and 77 had too few. On average, there was 0.9 of a ringer per bell. There are 1661 bells in the County, compared to our active membership of 1450 – showing the need for recruitment.

## **13. Proposed Rule Changes**

Daniel Brady suggested he stand down from the Chair for this part of the meeting. Phil Barnes proposed Chris Bassett take the chair for this part of the meeting and all were in favour.

Proposal 1: Replace 'Chairman' with Master

Daniel Brady as proposer of this change summarised his thoughts behind it. Following the 2017 AGM he wondered which Association Officers have responsibility for delivering the aims of the Association and found there was a distinct lack of someone to 'establish, maintain and encourage service ringing in the Association area' – we don't have to have anyone elected at Association or District level to look after ringing in this way. Hence the proposal to have a Master who is responsible for overseeing ringing both at District and Association level. Questions and comments were then invited from the floor.

Some comments included: changing 'Chairman' to 'Master' was unnecessary/irrelevant; not having someone responsible for something usually means it doesn't happen; it's too much work for one person, better to spread the load; a different name for the role helps us to realise we have to think differently, look at a more strategic approach as a whole rather than in District 'silos'; important to break down the invisible barriers between Districts; there are different skills required to chair meetings compared to running ringing so difficult to combine these roles.

The proposal was put to a vote: 41 in favour, 66 against and 6 abstentions. The proposal was not adopted.

Proposal 2: Reduce the size of the General Committee

Doug Davis summarised his thoughts behind this proposal. He commented that General Committee meetings can be a challenge due to the number of people attending – at most up to 34 people could be there at any time, and this can cause delays in getting things done (sometimes years, as in the case of the Mobile Ring). The number would be reduced to 22, making it simpler to do the business of the Association.

Some comments included: drafting amendment now required to replace 'Master' with 'Chairman' in this proposal; some felt that the Bell Restoration Officer should still be a Committee member; some felt that the number of District Reps should be reduced to 1; Vice Presidents coming off the Committee will lose all the experience that they have; should also reduce the number of CC Reps that attend any one meeting to 3; perhaps the Youth Officer should come off the Committee and just report to it; people who are elected to the Committee should be responsible and attend regularly; there should be a clear distinction from a governance perspective around proposals for work and approvals for that work to be done.

Following the comments and discussion, drafting amendments were proposed:

- The word 'Master' to be replaced with 'Chairman' in this proposal
- Only 1 District Rep should be on the Committee from each District – all in favour, carried
- CC Reps changed to 3 of the 5 attending any one meeting – all in favour, carried
- Bell Restoration Officer remains as a Committee member – majority in favour, carried
- Youth Officer to be removed from the Committee – no seconder, so motion lost

Final Committee would be:

Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Training Officer, Youth Officer, 3 of 5 CC Reps, 1 District Rep, Bell Restoration Officer (total 15).

This was put to the vote: proposed by Doug Davis, seconded by Daniel Brady – 1 abstention, proposal adopted.

Chris Bassett then stood down from the Chair and Daniel Brady resumed his role for the remainder of the meeting.

Mike Bullett commented to the meeting that he would be encouraging the Tonbridge District ringing master to become the District Rep.

**14. Election of officers.** The following officers were elected individually:

<b><u>Nominations for Officers 2018 - 2019</u></b>			
<b><u>Post</u></b>	<b><u>Nominee(s)</u></b>	<b><u>Proposer</u></b>	<b><u>Seconder</u></b>
Chairman	<b>Phil Barnes</b>	Phil Larter	David Grimwood
General Secretary	<b>Sue Bassett</b>	Phil Barnes	Mike Little
Assistant Secretary	<b>Cathy Cheeseman</b>	Phil Barnes	Mike Little
Treasurer	<b>Margaret Funnell</b>	Alan Driver	Arthur Vidgeon
Peal Secretary	<b>Phil Barnes</b>	Steve Davis	David Grimwood
Quarter Peal Secretary	<b>Anthony Leeves</b>	Mike Bullett	Eric Roughley
Handbook Editor			
Librarian	<b>Hazel Basford</b>	Stephen Marsh	Ann Davies
<b><u>Sub-Committee Officers</u></b>			
Bell Restoration	<b>Brian Butcher</b>	Keith Osborne	Chris Cooper
Training	<b>David Grimwood</b>	Graham Heath	Steve Davis
Publicity	<b>Caroline Stockmann</b>	Doug Davis	Catherine Lewis
Webmaster	<b>Doug Davis</b>	Daniel Brady	Phil Barnes
Health & Safety	<b>Peter Sims</b>	Sheila Phyll	Tim Munt
Child Protection	<b>Nigel Spencer</b>	Maureen Poole	Brian Butcher
Youth	<b>Jen Thomas</b>	Jamie Austin	Nick Wilkins

The Treasurer gave 1 years' notice, as did the Safeguarding/Child Protection Officer. Initially as there was no nomination for a General Secretary, an adjournment of 10 minutes was taken to allow discussion to take place and a suitable candidate be found. As a result, the role of Assistant Secretary was added.

The role of Handbook Editor was left vacant.

**15. Certificates for 50 years' membership.** The following members were congratulated on their long membership by the Chairman and received their certificates if they were present: Martin Davies, Peter Swift, Chris Bassett, Ray Lucas, Sylvia Lucas, Nicholas Butcher and Peter Silva.

**16. Forthcoming events.**

1. County 8-bell Competition – 30<sup>th</sup> June AM at Aylesford

**17. Any other business.**

1. Ali Ducker made a statement about the situation around her role and subsequent request to leave the role of Ringing Master in the Rochester District, and some further statements were made by Mike Rannard, Phil Larter, Richard Bushell, Sven Wraight and Tim Wraight. Margaret Funnell responded to these comments with her own statement. At the end of these, comment was made that this was not a matter for this meeting.

2. Phil Barnes asked those present to take note of the new rules being proposed by the Central Council and give any comments to the Central Council reps.

3. It was asked if we could aim to have a microphone at the next AGM.

4. Neil Jones talked about Ray Morgan Bob Triples which had been names in memory of Ray Morgan of Rochester Cathedral who had passed away from Motor Neurone disease recently and asked those present to ring this method and raise money for the MNDA if possible.

5. Jen Thomas commented that there is now a Kent Young Ringers page on the website with all their events, as well as a Kent Young Ringers page in the handbook.

6. Dan Jarvis asked if the General Committee could review Life Membership and subscriptions.

7. Mike Bullett asked if there was to be any more guidance on GDPR. Daniel Brady had previously sent out details that should cover everything.

8. It was asked if the KCACR was considering anything related to clauses being added to contracts around new planning/housing developments to help prevent noise complaints. Daniel Brady advised there is guidance on the Central Council website about this.

The Chairman then offered a vote of thanks to all those involved in organising and supporting today's AGM.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Phil Barnes (Chairman)