



**MINUTES of the General Committee Meeting held by ZOOM Conference on
Saturday 28th November 2020 10.00 – 12:30**

MEMBERS PRESENT:-

Association Chairman (& CC Rep)	PB	Phillip Barnes			
General Secretary	SB	Sue Bassett	Central Council Rep	NW	Nicholas Wilkins
Treasurer (& Ashford Rep)	MP	Maureen Poole	Ashford District Rep.	PCS	P Charles Sinden
Training Officer	DG	David Grimwood	Canterbury District Rep.	JH	Jo Horton
Youth Officer	JT	Jen Thomas	Lewisham District Rep.	NS	Natalie Slator
Bell Restoration Officer	BB	Brian Butcher	Maidstone District Rep.	CB	Chris Bassett
Central Council Rep	DD	Doug Davis	Rochester District Rep.	RB	Richard Bushell
Central Council Rep	CS	Caroline Stockmann	Tonbridge District Rep.	LN	Louise Nightingale
IN ATTENDANCE					
Safeguarding Officer	EJ	Emma Jarvis	Peal Secretary	PB	Phil Barnes

2020/11/1 **Apologies for Absence and Substitutions – None**

2020/11/2 **Minutes of meeting held on 25th July 2020** were approved then signed digitally by the Chairman after the meeting.

2020/11/3 **Matters arising/updates from previous minutes**

2020/11/3.1 **2020/07/3.1 – Membership communications sub-group** – Reported that a useful meeting had been held with District Officers regarding the new membership database and subscription renewals process.

ACTION BY
DD to continue system tests and data transfer.

2020/11/7 **Policy and Procedures for approval** – These items were brought forward to enable the Safeguarding Officer to leave the meeting after these items.

2020/11/7.1 **Safeguarding Policy** - EJ's report and draft Policy had been circulated in advance. Discussion ensued between the pros and cons of the CofE and/or the CCCBR Policies and the circumstances when each policy would apply. Not all ringing events took place on CofE premises (e.g., secular towers, online ringing or Handbells). After much discussion PB proposed that the CCCBR guidance, as it applies to KCACR activities, be adopted secondary to the CofE/Diocesan Safeguarding policy. Clear advice to be given as to when each would apply. Agreed by 12 with 1 against and 3 abstentions. PB agreed to look again at EJ's original amendments to the CCCBR policy and to circulate this for agreement, prior to uploading to the website.

EJ & DD to upload the website links and advice once the wording of CCCBR guidance had been agreed by General Committee.

2020/11/7.2 **KYR Consent Form** – The proposed consent form had been circulated and was agreed nem con.

DD to upload the form.

2020/11/7.3 **Data Protection & Privacy Policy** – The proposed Policy had been circulated and was agreed nem con. EJ left the meeting after this item

DD to upload the policy.

2020/11/4 **Treasurer**

2020/11/4.1 **Treasurer's Report** – MP had circulated her budget summary and highlighted various balances, including funds held for specific items

and outstanding monies due before the year end. There had been a 40% increase in the printing cost of Handbooks, but income from advertising and sales had only met 48% of that cost. Overall, income and expenditure had remained similar to previous years.

2020/11/4.2 KYR Budget proposal – JT had circulated her budget proposal which was the same as 2020 at £3,000. This was agreed nem con.

2020/11/4.3 Subscriptions 2022 – MP opened discussions on whether there may be disquiet amongst members at having paid full subs for 2020 when little ringing had taken place. General discussion ensued with ideas to freeze, charge half rate or suspend subscriptions for a year. Concern was expressed that subscription income was needed for insurance, Handbook printing and increased training in future. Agreed on balance to continue subscriptions at £15 per adult.

2020/11/5 **Review of Bell Restoration Fund** – MP reported that she had been going through annual reports and accounts from 1970 onwards. She was now analysing data and aimed to report to the February meeting. It was considered a huge but worthwhile task. Need also to look at how many ringers we have to match the bells available.

2020/11/6 **Application for Charitable Status** – Further to Minute 2020/07/3.4 it had been realized that the proposed CIO structure would not, after all, be the best way forward. ADMs had been advised that a Charitable Association Model would be explored. PB had prepared and circulated a draft Constitution taking in discretionary elements and necessary rules revisions. He appreciated the feedback given. Charity status would basically enable gift aid tax reclaims and give access to funds that only give to charities. It was also about good governance, being well-run and having an effective structure in place. The difficulty for KCACR was to fit its existing governance within the Charity structure. There were many complicated issues which needed to be resolved before an application could be made. The way KCACR runs through its Districts are very important to ringing but the Charity model has all decisions being taken in a general meeting of all members. Trying to tie Districts into one cohesive body would be very difficult. KCACR needs to look at how it is run before going forward into Charity status. CS considered there are different permutations that can be explored and worked through over time. She offered assistance with this and there was general agreement to spend more time to look at the issues within KCACR to enable efficient and appropriate governance, then move forward on the charitable issues later. After a long, wide-ranging discussion it was agreed not to rush this process so PB offered to write to members stating that the charitable status issue would not be presented to the 2021 AGM. It was agreed that he should hand-pick members to review the KCACR structure and governance alongside obtaining a deep understanding of what members need and want to encourage success and engagement in ringing.

PB to write to members stating that the charitable status issue would not be presented to the 2021 AGM.

PB to hand-pick members to review the KCACR structure and governance alongside obtaining a deep understanding of what members need and want to encourage success and engagement in ringing.

2020/11/8 **Officers' verbal updates**

2020/11/8.1 District issues during lockdown – Lewisham District held monthly practices and competitions using Ringing Room. Sturry band suffered computer connection dropouts at weekly practices. ART ran sessions on how to run a Ringing Room Practice. Various programmes (Abel or Mobil) enable other bells to ring around you.

2020/11/8.2 Training – DG expressed thanks to Tom Hinks for supporting ringing online. NW then explained proposals to turn Chelsfield into a ringing training centre by installing two training bells. This would be a permanent installation in memory of John Barnes, a life-long ringer and teacher. The principle had been approved by the PCC and draft costs were expected to be around £6-10k. The location, access, parking and church facilities were excellent. KCACR financial support would need routing through the training fund. There was general enthusiasm and support for this proposal. Members should contact NW with ideas for this project.

2020/11/8.3 Youth – JT's written report had been circulated and was noted. She commented that she would be making a presentation on tower and handbell ringing to schoolchildren (9-11 years) early next year. She also hoped to train others to present similarly. JH was trying to engage the juniors from Canterbury Kings School with bellringing but had problems with responsibility going forward.

2020/11/8.4 Central Council – CS commented that she was collating data on association finances to see where they are spending their funds. DG commented that Simon Linford was lifting CCCBR to new level and energy and activity generally.

2020/11/8.5 Bell Restoration – BB commented that Farnborough's 4th bell had been retuned and re-casting two small bells was pending. Work was progressing at Faversham with the new bells cast and existing bells retuned. No decision had been reached about Bobbing. The 5th has been found to be cracked and doesn't sound good. Work at lightham to tighten the tenor wheel found that the clappers need re-bushing. Due to Covid-19 preventing ringing, some projects could not be checked and completed at the moment. BB had circulated a spreadsheet of bell maintenance work going back to 1960 and this would be added to the website, once MP had assisted with the improvement to the layout.

MP to liaise with BB then send Bell Maintenance spreadsheet V2. to DD for uploading to Website

2020/11/8.6 Publicity – Nothing to report.

2020/11/8.7 Handbook & Website – DD commented that the website was ok and he would start work on the 2021 Handbook very soon, including contacting advertisers. DD to ask for help if needed.

2020/11/8.8 Safeguarding – No further report.

2020/11/8.9 Librarian – No report made.

2020/11/9 **BRF Grant applications** – None received.

2020/11/10 **Specific Matters**

2020/11/10.1 ADMs 2020 – Various issues arising from ADMs were raised. Canterbury District was concerned it might lose members because of the new online subscription scheme. Lewisham was prepared to

run the AGM 2021 but despite the prospect of Covid-19 vaccines becoming available, it was still unlikely that a face to face meeting could be held by Easter. After long discussion CS suggested that another Zoom AGM be held on Easter Monday in April followed by a face to face ringing Meeting on a Saturday in July (for decision in February 2021). This received unanimous support.

- 2020/11/11 **Forthcoming Events** (all TBC and Covid-19 restrictions permitting)
- 2020/11/11.1 AGM 2021 – Zoom meeting on 5th April 2021 with proposed face to face meeting in July.
- 2020/11/11.2 SEECON Striking Competition 2021 –Writtle, Essex on 17/04/2021.
- 2020/11/11.3 Association 8-Bell Competition 2021 - 26/06/2021 at Chiddingstone 09:45 draw. Stedman Triples calling at <https://kcacr.org.uk/touch-for-the-8-bell-competition/>
- 2020/11/11.4 RWNYContest – 10/07/2021 – Worcester
- 2020/11/11.5 Essex Trophy 2021 – 11/09/2021 – 09:45 draw. St. Mary the Virgin, Ashford, Kent – Cambridge Surprise Royal.
- 2020/11/11.6 Association 6-Bell Competition 2021 – 25/09/2021 – Ashford District to host.
- 2020/11/11.7 KYR Inter-District Striking Competition – 06/11/2021 – Lewisham District to host. Nominate a General Committee attendee as per Minute 2019/11/5.2.
- 2020/11/12 **AOB**
- 2020/11/12.1 Tom Barlow Memorial – MP had discussed with Jacqui Barlow the suggestion that a set of “travelling” handbells be purchased for use by the Kent Young Ringers. A cost estimate and details of availability would be circulated and opened for donations after two quotes had been obtained.
- 2020/11/12.2 ART Awards – JT suggested that Tom Hinks should be nominated for an award. She would be glad of emails to bombard Lesley Belcher with.
- 2020/11/12.3 Vote of thanks – JT thanked everyone for the time they spend behind the scenes on the big jobs being done.
- 2020/11/13 **Date of next meetings** –27/02/21, 17/04/21, 24/07/21, 27/11/21

Meeting closed at 12:30 after 2hrs. 23 minutes and 46 seconds.

SIGNED as a true record by

.....DATE.....