



THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

5th April 2021 at 11.00am by Zoom Webinar

1. **Welcome by the Chairman** – As we were unable for a second year, due to Covid-19 restrictions, to meet together in person, Phillip Barnes welcomed a total of 75 attendees online and explained how this meeting would operate (technically), how to use the online raised hand function and to vote. The Chairman reminded members to unmute themselves in order to speak and welcomed members from far and near to the meeting.
2. **In Memoriam** - The Reverend David Grimwood called to mind friends and fellow members of the Association who had passed away during the past year; Thomas E Barlow, John Cannell, Emma Cundiff, Stephen J Davis, Roger Durrant, Colin Fleetwood, Joan Gordon, David Gower, Mark Hatton, Hilary Hazell, Percy Hicks, Sylvia Mackenzie, Bernard Mee, Geoff Mills, Alan Munden, Angus Ogilvy and Peter Skinner. It was noted that David Levick had also died more recently. There followed prayers of thanks for the lives and souls of the faithful departed and consolation for those who mourn.
3. **Apologies for Absence** –Jacqui Barlow, Hazel Basford, Margaret Fitzgerald, Dot Hooker, Tim, Diana and Sven Wraight.
4. **Agreement to take items of Any Other Business notified in advance** – Members had been invited to notify items of AOB in advance. The Chairman announced issues relating to youth ringing and handbells. Questions relating to finance and membership database that had been raised by members for discussion at AOB would also be taken.
5. **Minutes of the AGM by Zoom Webinar, 11th July 2020** – The Minutes had been widely available on the Association website so were taken as read. No queries had been raised as to their accuracy so the Chairman proposed adoption, seconded by Lesley Barclay. An online vote was taken and the following results displayed for all to see; 91% For, 0% Against, 9% Abstained. The Chairman would digitally sign the Minutes post meeting.
6. **Matters arising from the Minutes**
 - 6.1 **BRF Review** – Following a member’s question at last year’s AGM as to why there was so much money in the Bell Restoration Fund and what was being done about it, a wide-ranging review had since been conducted. The Treasurer explained that the General Committee had analysed the review outcomes at its February meeting (minutes available on the website). The Treasurer then highlighted the main issues that had affected BRF income and expenditure over the years since 1970. The deposit fund had grown steadily to a peak in 2010 after which the grants had exceeded income. Annual income was variable and included donations, fund-raising, 120 clubs and deposit interest. The past year’s income at under £8,000 had been the lowest since 1994 and was likely to be low again in 2021 due to the covid restrictions on ringing activities. Extensive cost savings on projects had been achieved through the voluntary work of Brian Butcher and the “Heavy Gang”. Comprehensive details of this work is listed on a spreadsheet available on the website. The Treasurer then referred to the key points which need to be addressed; Investments spread, rates and effects of inflation erosion, consider increasing grants and widen the objects of the BRF which would need a rule change.

7. **General Secretary's Report** – Sue Bassett confirmed that no comments had been raised by the membership and had nothing to add to her report at pages 21-22 in the 2021 Handbook.
8. **Treasurer's Report** – Maureen Poole spoke to her reports at pages 11-14 in the 2021 Handbook, these were displayed onscreen and now added to the end of these minutes. The Treasurer explained that income had increased substantially due to subscriptions, Handbook advertising and the sale of the KCACR Trailer. The accounting complexities of the Kent Young Ringers' fund was explained. Deposit monies for trips that haven't taken place are currently held in the General Fund and over-inflate the figures. The biggest items of expenditure relate to the printing of the Handbook and Insurances. The Treasurer apologised for the out of period adjustment made in the previous financial year which was made due to inexperience. This has been corrected this year on the advice of the Independent Examiner, Stephen Marsh and does not materially affect the figures. The Treasurer confirmed that the 2020 accounts had been signed off by the Independent Examiner. A member asked whether savings had been made by not printing Handbooks for every member. Doug Davis, Handbook Editor, stated that the exact amount would needed checking but considered around £600 or £1 per Handbook had been saved. No further queries on the accounts were raised so the Treasurer proposed their adoption. Seconded by David Robinson and an online poll was then taken. Votes For 97%, Against 0%, Abstained 3%
Dickon Love raised the subject of Peal Fees and explained the reasons behind the fact that young people were being deterred from attributing their Peals to the Association due to the Peal fee. Discussed whether the Association could do without the Peal Fee income and it was understood that other Associations had abolished peal fees. Noted that a rule change would be needed if the Peal fees were to be abolished. Dickon Love proposed, seconded by Andrew Hills that this Association's Peal Fee be set to zero for 2021 pending a review. After further discussion the proposal was carried by a vote of 97% For, 1% Against with 7% who Abstained.
9. **To agree the Practising Member's Subscription 2022** – The Treasurer proposed no increase in the Member's Subscription, this was seconded by Doug Davis. A vote was taken which resulted in adoption of the proposal with 97% For, 0% Against and 3% who Abstained from voting.
10. **Allocation of Subscription Funds** – The Treasurer proposed 50% to the General Fund, 37.5% to the Training Fund and 12.5% to the Kent Young Ringers Fund. Caroline Stockmann asked whether there were any plans for the Training Fund. The Chairman replied that we don't yet know what needs there will be once a return to ringing is possible. The fund could be used to support where there may be local difficulties with training events or equipment. The Chairman spoke about the recent purchase of eBells to support the learning of ringing handbells online. Funding from the training fund has enabled this loan scheme. Other projects could be considered. The proposal was seconded by Charles Sinden and agreed 99% For, 0% Against and 1% Abstained.
11. **Election of an Independent Examiner Rule 6(i)** – The Treasurer proposed that Steven Marsh be appointed Independent Examiner for 2021, seconded by Stuart Palin. There being no other proposals a vote was taken which resulted in 95% For, 0% Against and 5% Abstained.
12. **Amendment to Rule 9(i)** – The Chairman explained the need to tidy up this rule as the Central Council no longer had 3-year terms for the elected Representatives. The Chairman then displayed on screen the amendments which had been notified to members at their Annual District Meetings. The proposed new rule would read as follows:-
Representatives of the Association on the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers shall be elected from current Practising Members at each Annual General Meeting of the Association. The number of representatives so elected shall be as currently prescribed by the Central Council.
Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Doug Davis and carried by a vote of 100%.

13. **Peal Secretary's Report** – Printed from page 68 of the Handbook. The Chairman displayed a graph of peals rung across the world which suddenly plummeted to zero after 16th March 2020 with covid-19 lockdown. It then picked up with the first outside, socially-distanced Handbell Peal on 19th June 2020. The progress by young ringers and the resurgence of Handbell ringing generally was very encouraging. There had not been so many Handbell peals rung since the heydays of 1966 and 1942. Many Handbell Peals were being rung by Young Ringers which is very encouraging. No questions were raised.
14. **Quarter Peal Secretary's Report** – Anthony Leeves had nothing further to report and no questions were raised.
15. **Officers' Reports** – pages 22-24 - The Chairman took the reports as read and proposed they all be adopted en-block at the end. There were no dissenters to this.
- 15.1 Bell Restoration – Brian Butcher had nothing further to report and no questions were raised.
- 15.2 Publicity – Caroline Stockmann commented that she had reached out last March for stories of activities during lockdown but only a few responses had been received. Please let her know what is going on, with any anecdotes, which are appealing to reporters for good media coverage.
- 15.3 Training – David Grimwood spoke about looking ahead and the probable need to invest in training. He had concerns that Tower Captains may struggle individually to recruit or to train in their tower and encouraged ringers to work together in clusters or districts to do something of quality, deliverable and well targeted. This may need the payment of expenses for trainers to travel to towers. A programme of investment from the Training Fund and commitment across towers will be needed. We are no longer restricted to our own locality. He encouraged people to find ways of working together and apply for financial support from the training fund. The Chairman agreed entirely and considered that Zoom would remain useful and important when lockdown lifts as it brings together groups of ringers without the need to travel. The future was expected to be different and exciting but not necessarily scary. No questions were raised.
- 15.4 Young Ringers – Jen Thomas added that two outside handbell practices had been arranged for some youngsters this week (both socially-distanced and covid-secure). No questions were raised.

A proposal by the Chairman to adopt all of the above Officer's reports en-bloc resulted in a vote of 97% For, 0% against, 3% Abstained.

16. **Election of Officers** – Nominations had been received for each of the Officer's posts except one. Jen Thomas was proposed by Catherine Lewis to be a Central Council Representative to replace David Grimwood who wished to step down after 5 years' service and he was thanked for his resilience. The proposal was seconded by Nick Wilkins. The full list of nominees with their proposer and seconder was listed on the Agenda and added in full at the end of these minutes. There were no other nominations so the Chairman proposed that these be voted en-bloc and the proposal was carried 99% For, 0% Against and 1% Abstained. The following persons were duly elected.

- | | | | |
|-------|--|-------|--|
| 16.1 | <u>Chairman</u> – Phillip Barnes | 16.2 | <u>General Secretary</u> – Susan Bassett |
| 16.3 | <u>Treasurer</u> – Maureen Poole | 16.4 | <u>Peal Secretary</u> – Phillip Barnes |
| 16.5 | <u>Librarian</u> – Hazel Basford | 16.6 | <u>Bell Restoration</u> – Brian Butcher |
| 16.7 | <u>Training</u> – David Grimwood | 16.8 | <u>Youth</u> – Jen Thomas |
| 16.9 | <u>Central Council Representatives</u>
Doug Davis
Caroline Stockmann | | Phillip Barnes
Jen Thomas
Nicholas Wilkins |
| 16.10 | <u>Handbook Editor</u> – Doug Davis | 16.11 | <u>Health & Safety</u> – Peter Sims |
| 16.12 | <u>Publicity</u> – Caroline Stockmann | 16.13 | <u>Quarter Peal Secretary</u> – Anthony Leeves |
| 16.14 | <u>Safeguarding</u> – Emma Jarvis | 16.15 | <u>Webmaster</u> – Doug Davis |

17. **Members achieving 50 years' membership** – The Chairman congratulated members on reaching 50 years' membership of the Association. He read out the names of the following members who would receive their Certificates in due course.
- Angela Osenton – Unattached
Maureen Poole – Hythe
Robert Powell-Williams – Dover
Anne Rueff - Unattached
- Jacqueline Saker – Whitstable
Nicholas Wilkins – Chelsfield
Angela Wilkins - Chelsfield
18. **Forthcoming Events** – No “normal” ringing events remained possible at the present time and it was unlikely that the usual 8-bell competition would be held on 26th June, even if ringing was allowed to begin again on 21st June. The Chairman hoped that come September something could be arranged to bring members of the Association together in a covid-secure manner. It was noted that the centenary of Ellacombe would be celebrated in June when it was hoped that all Ellacombes would be rung. The Ringing World would probably publish details from the Ellacombe Society.
19. **Any Other Business** –
- 19.1 **Kent Young Ringers** – Jen Thomas had reported that young ringers were now able to meet outside for handbell ringing. Plans were also progressing which may allow groups of 6 to 8 under 18's to meet and ring in well-ventilated towers (under the Government guidance for Youth Clubs and After School Clubs). Tower Captains should let Jen know if their tower would be suitable for young ringers. The CCCBR was working on formal guidance.
- 19.2 **Association EBells Loan Scheme** – The Chairman reported that 10 sets of eBells had been purchased by the Association and would be available for loan to members who wished to try learning to ring handbells. They are extremely realistic in weight and contain a motion sensor for linking to simulator software to enable ringing with others or to practise alone. The Association will also try to provide support groups to assist learners. To accompany each set of Handbells, the Chairman had purchased instruction manuals by Stoeklin & Gaye. Pairs of bells and books will be loaned for six months and full details will be available on the Association Website in due course. If the Loan Scheme is a success, further sets of eBells could be purchased in future. Many young ringers had already purchased their own, subsidised by the Whiting Society.
- 19.3 **Tom Barlow Memorial** – It has been suggested that an appropriate memorial to Tom would be to procure a set of handbells for use by the young ringers. Catherine Lewis has generously donated a set of 20 handbells which are in need of restoration and the construction of carry-cases. Quotes were being prepared for consideration in due course by the General Committee.
- 19.4 **Membership Database** – Neil Jones commented that the members' database worked well and congratulated Doug Davis for his work on it. He asked if District Secretaries would have access to their members' contacts/emails. Doug commented that it is possible to give officers access to the database or to facilitate their use of Mailchimp for emails. More direct contact with the membership will be developed over the coming year. The Chairman commented that limiting access to the database to responsible officers is best practice but Mailchimp would be a sensible and risk-free way of contacting members. Cathy Cheeseman asked if Mailchimp was more secure than direct access to the database. Doug Davis considered yes, as no email addresses would be held on an individual's computer. The pros and cons will need to be looked at as the membership database does include other data, not just email addresses. Stuart Palin liked the use of a service like Mailchimp rather than individuals having full access to the database. Individuals holding mailing lists is risky. Ben Legg had some problems and issues with usernames and contacting young ringers who don't have separate email addresses from their parents. Would it be possible if the email address was separate data from the usernames? Doug Davis to consider this offline.
- 19.5 **Publicity** – Angela Wilkins commented that Chelsfield has been successful in attracting new ringers because of good publicity. A monthly article in Parish Magazines on some (historical) aspect of bell-ringing and ringers' activities is a very positive link with the local community.

- 20 **Vote of Thanks** – The Chairman thanked Doug Davis for providing the online platform with technical back up support from Mark Elvers. Gen Sec for pulling together all the “paperwork” and working with the Chairman. To Maureen Poole, the Treasurer for making the accounts understandable. Thank you also to all the other officers who have been working hard behind the scenes. He thanked all members for maintaining interest in the Association and ringing. Hopefully everyone is ready for things to be a bit different and hopefully no less enjoyable.
- 20.1 A virtual pub session then followed this meeting where members were able to chat together.
- 20.2 At 2pm an online session on getting fit for ringing, using some videos was available.
- 20.3 At 3pm two sessions on getting back to ringing safely were presented.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed after a duration of 1hr 43minutes.

FULL DETAILS OF Nominations for Officers 2021 - 2022			
Post	Nominee(s)	Proposer	Second
Chairman	Phillip Barnes	Doug Davis	Simon Davies
General Secretary	Sue Bassett	Chris Bassett	Debbie Brady
Treasurer	Maureen Poole	Charles Sinden	Nigel Spencer
Bell Restoration	Brian Butcher	Charles Sinden	Maureen Poole
Librarian	Hazel Basford	Sue Bassett	Chris Bassett
Peal Secretary	Phillip Barnes	David Grimwood	Doug Davis
Training Officer	David Grimwood	Mike Birkbeck	Graham Heath
Youth Officer	Jen Thomas	Adam Moore	Jamie Austin
CC Reps (5)	Phillip Barnes	Michele Clement	Simon Davies
	Doug Davis	Mark Elvers	Jen Thomas
	Caroline Stockmann	Sue Bassett	Chris Bassett
	Jen Thomas	Catherine Lewis	Nicholas Wilkins
	Nicholas Wilkins	Philippa Rooke	Lesley Barclay
Other necessary officers			
Handbook Editor	Doug Davis	Tom Winter	Becky Winter
Health & Safety	Peter Sims	Sheila Phyll	Tim Munt
Publicity	Caroline Stockmann	Phillip Barnes	Doug Davis
Quarter Peal Secretary	Anthony Leeves	Mike Bullett	Emma Tamkin
Safeguarding	Emma Jarvis	Ann Jenner	Terry Barnard
Webmaster	Doug Davis	David Grimwood	Maureen Poole

List of AGM 2021 Attendees

Jeannette Barber	Lesley Barclay	Richard Barclay	Roy Barclay	Malcolm Barden
Marilyn Barden	Phillip Barnes	Jane Bass	Chris Bassett	Sue Bassett
Janice Brown	Michael Bullett	Richard Bushell	Brian Butcher	Sue Cameron
Allan Chandler	Cathy Cheeseman	Rupert Cheeseman	Angela Clark	Graham Cuthbert
Peter Dale	Brenda Davies	Simon Davies	Doug Davis	Mark Elvers
Mary Faherty	Colin Finnis	Airlie Fray	George Fry	Margaret Funnell
David Grimwood	Andrew Hills	Josephine Horton	Emma Jarvis	Phil Jarvis
Neil Jones	Cathy Kingham	Anthony Leeves	Benjamin Legg	Catherine Lewis
Mike Little	Dickon Love	David Manger	Ian Mills	Adam Moore
Peter Morris	Louise Nightingale	Stuart Palin	Isabel Pearce	Margaret Philpott
Sheila Phyll	Elizabeth Piercey	Maureen Poole	Robert Powell-Williams	Diane Reynolds
David Robinson	Judith Rogers	James Rooke	Philippa Rooke	Anne Rueff
Debra Say	Allan Shepherd	Peter Sims	Charles Sinden	Peter Smith
James Steele	Rebecca Steele	Caroline Stockmann	Jen Thomas	Keith Tolputt
Christopher Trafford	Stephen Trafford	Angela Wilkins	Nick Wilkins	Hamilton Woods

Summary to support Treasurer's Report at item 8.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS ACCOUNTS SUMMARY
Year Ending 31st December 2020

General & Subscriptions			
Balance b/f 31st Dec 2019	26,419.96	Current assets as of 31/12/2020	
Income	22,053.36	NatWest Current A/C	19,716.49
Expenditure	10,016.85	NatWest Subs A/C	17,466.22
Net Income	12,036.51	Cash held by Districts	703.64
Out of Period Correction	-95.00	Debtors	474.37
Adjustment	-0.75		
Balance 31st Dec 2020	38,360.72	Total Assets	38,360.72

Out of Period Adjustments	
2019 KYR Income Correction	1,974.00
2019 KYR Expenditure Correction	-3,311.68
2019 Adjustment Correction	1,269.68
Total Out of Period Correction	-95.00
2019 KYR Income Correction	
Balances for New Forest Trip 2019	1,577.00
Deposits for Lee Valley Trip 2020	370.00
	1,947.00
2019 KYR Expenditure Correction	
Payment for New Forest Trip 2019	1,734.00
1st Payment for Lee Valley Trip 2020	301.68
Payment for RWNYC 2020 York Hotel	1,276.00
	3,311.68
2019 KYR Net Income correction	-1,364.68
2019 Adjustment Correction	
2019 Adjustment	1,508.22
2019 Restated Adjustment	238.54
	1,269.68
Out of Period Correction	-95.00
	(-1,364.68+1,269.68)

Training Account

Balance b/f 31st Dec 2019	8,193.20	Income	
Income	2,594.59	Subscriptions	2,418.38
		General Training	
Expenditure	1,326.73	Donations	76.21
Net Income	1,267.86	KYR Donations	100.00
Balance 31st Dec 2020	9,461.06		2,594.59
		Expenditure	
		i) General Training	981.25
		ii) KYR	345.48
			1,326.73

Bell Restoration Fund

Balance b/f 31st Dec 2019	134,159.02	Current assets as of 31/12/2020	
Income	7,898.48	NatWest	
		Current A/C	30,325.97
Expenditure	7,559.86	CCLA Deposit	
Net Income	338.62	A/C	103,932.22
Balance 31st Dec 2020	134,497.64	Fixed Assets	239.45
		Total Assets	134,497.64

Minute Item 10

Allocation of 2020 Subscription Funds

2020 Subscriptions 16,384.75

Recommendation

50% General Fund 8,192.38

37.5% Training Fund 6,144.28

12.5% KYR Fund 2,048.09

16,384.75