



**MINUTES of the General Committee Meeting held by ZOOM on
Saturday 24th July 2021 10.00-12.20**

MEMBERS PRESENT:-

Association Chairman (& CC Rep 1)	PB	Phillip Barnes			
General Secretary	SB	Sue Bassett	Central Council Rep 4	CAS	Caroline Stockmann
Association Treasurer	MP	Maureen Poole	Ashford District Rep	PCS	P. Charles Sinden
Training Officer	DG	David Grimwood	Canterbury District Rep	BL	Ben Legg
Youth Officer (& CC Rep 2)	JT	Jen Thomas	Lewisham District Rep	NS	Natalie Slator
Bell Restoration Officer	BB	Brian Butcher	Maidstone District Rep	CB	Chris Bassett
Central Council Rep 3	DD	Doug Davis	Rochester District Rep	RB	Richard Bushell
IN ATTENDANCE:-					
Handbook Editor	DD	Doug Davis			
Peal Secretary	PB	Phillip Barnes	Safeguarding Officer	EJ	Emma Jarvis
Public Relations Officer	CAS	Caroline Stockmann	Webmaster	DD	Doug Davis

2021/07/1 **Apologies for Absence and Substitutions** – Central Council Rep. Nick Wilkins, Canterbury District Rep. Jo Horton substituted by Ben Legg, Tonbridge District Rep. Louise Nightingale, Health & Safety Officer Peter Simms.

2021/07/2 **Minutes of meeting held on 17th April 2021** – After amendment of “were” to “was” at 2021/04/4 penultimate sentence, the Minutes were proposed for approval by DG, seconded by PCS and carried nem con. They were later signed digitally by the Chairman and uploaded to the website.

2021/07/3 **Matters arising/updates from minutes** **ACTION BY**

2021/07/3.1 Festival of Ringing Update – The September dates were not available at Benenden. Due to a reluctance to attend large gatherings and lack of time now to organise, it was agreed to leave this in abeyance until next year. PCS to liaise with Benenden for spring 2022. PCS to liaise with Benenden

2021/07/3.2 Memorial Service – Sunday 7th November, 2021 - 3.15pm at Rochester Cathedral with a Choral Evensong. This will include Cathedral ringers, Handbell ringing and would be open to all members. Good publicity will be needed across the Association. DD, CAS & JSB to advertise the event.

2021/07/3.3 KCACR Governance & Structure Review – PB reported that not much had occurred to date and questioned whether starting a top down review was right. We are not sure, as we emerge from the pandemic, that we know what members want. General discussion included trying afternoon meetings in summer and morning meetings in winter to see if it affected attendance. District Reps could champion discussion amongst members. People were thinking short term at present and very little response is received to emails. Perhaps Covid had changed ringers’ priorities? PB had in mind a low key approach to begin getting people re-engaged. CAS, DD, BL and PB to progress the survey idea. PB, CAS, DD, BL to consider a way forward.

2021/07/3.4 eBells Loan Scheme – One set were on loan to a new learner who was working through plain hunt. JT had used a set for outreach to a school. There had not been a strong launch. DD requested that information be put on the website. PB to write copy for the Website.

- 2021/07/3.5 Tom Barlow Memorial KYR Handbells – A happy conclusion had been reached with the donation by Jacqui to cover the entire cost of 12 light bells, enabling a variety of combinations to be rung. A set of pocket handbells (for younger & older ringers) being a very portable light 8 had also been ordered from Whitechapel Ltd. CL had decided to have her 20 handbells refurbished for her own use. Jacqui had asked for a formal launch of the bells at St. Michael’s Maidstone, perhaps with a tea party. Memorial Bells launch to be organised by ?
- 2021/07/3.6 Peal Fee Abolition Rule Change Proposal – PB proposed the change to rule 10(i) to exclude “appropriate peal fees together with” and to delete (ii) entirely. The new Rule 10 to read “Peals rung by bands made up entirely of Members of the Association shall be credited to the Association and printed in the Handbook only if details of the compositions on seven bells and above are received by the Peal Secretary within two months of the performance or by 15 January of the following year, whichever is the sooner.” This was agreed and would be notified to District Secretaries for noting at ADMs. It was queried whether Rule 9 had been updated on the Website. SB to notify proposed Rule Change to District Secretaries. SB to check Rule 9 and Website version.
- 2021/07/3.7 Finance – PB reported that a useful discussion had taken place with the Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund Trustees and gave background information about how they went about setting up a Capital Fund from which interest and dividends were used to make grants. Funds were invested on the advice of the Oxford Diocesan Financial Adviser, ring-fenced for the Bell Fund and typically provided a 3-4% return. Next steps for KCACR would be to explore the various Dioceses to see if they could offer something similar. Any key decisions would require the solid support of the committee and be aired at the AGM. It is clear that BRF Trustees need to invest and spend funds wisely. CAS asked “what is the legal structure of the body and rationale for change”. PB stated there would be no change in structure, but broaden the range of trustees to develop the investment policy. The Diocesan Financial Adviser wouldn’t charge investment fees. PB & MP to explore investment potential with Diocesan Financial Advisers
- 2021/07/3.8 Inventory of Association Assets – SB had circulated a list of items she was aware of and advised that this was a “living” document which would need regular updating (but not advertised on the Website). It would be reviewed annually in November. Noted that the 10-bell and 6-bell Trophies were not currently listed. SB requested that all District Secretaries should advise the General Secretary when changes to the Asset list were needed. General Secretary to update the list annually in Nov.
- 2021/07/3.9 Certificates for HRH DofE tolling – A number of designs had been submitted and were noted. PCS considered that the unique sense of the occasion (due to the Covid restrictions on ringing) had been missed in the designs. PCS considered that a very simple design, explaining why normal ringing had not taken place and using caution over use of Royal logos/monograms was needed. He agreed to take the lead and circulate revised, more sober & simple designs and he would check official guidance regarding spelling. PCS to draft alternative Certificates and circulate.
- 2021/07/4
2021/07/4.1 Finance
Treasurer’s Report – MP reported that there have been no further transactions in the Training and Subscriptions accounts since the previous report in April. The grant to £350 had been paid to Ightham from the BRF and Lewisham 120 Club funds of £345 and PCC donations

- of £53 had been received. The Public Liability Insurance premium of £629.12 had been paid to Ecclesiastical.
- 2021/07/4.2 **Training Officer's Spending Proposal** – DG had provided full details of a scheme (which had been inspired by Braddock in Cornwall) to purchase equipment which would raise public awareness about bell ringing. He thanked DD for assistance with the design. The system would enable ringers and bells to be visible inside the church or churchyard and would first be tested at Boxley, then available to other towers. NS commented that this had been tried before in the Lewisham District and had raised interest, but had not resulted in more ringers. CAS advised that expressions of interest would need to be followed up and perhaps have a film of ringing on the website. The proposal to spend around £700 on the project was supported nem con. DG & DD to progress the approved scheme.
- 2021/07/5 **Kent Young Ringers & Kent MINI-Ringers** – A new draft of the proposed Parental Consent & GDPR form was still a work in progress. JT had circulated a late report of KYR activities for information with nothing to vote upon and gave a verbal resume. EJ requested that reports be prepared and circulated at least two weeks in advance of meetings. CAS expressed concern over a recent KYR visit at Sevenoaks, potential backlash from neighbours, that care was needed over the standard of ringing and time to advertise ringing in advance be given. To be borne in mind in future. JT, EJ, SB & DD to work together on the form. JT to raise planning horizon.
- 2021/07/6 **Return to ringing and ringing recovery** – PB raised a number of issues for members to consider around the subject of “What should the Association be doing now, what is the point of the Association and who has the enthusiasm to do things differently?” A number of suggestions were made (but no conclusions reached); Districts should contact their own towers and respond to local needs, District Officers need to instil enthusiasm, the Association to open up opportunities to share best practice, provide opportunities to young ringers, higher ringing, good promotion, ringing centre with week-long “boot camps” for teaching recruits, post-Covid look at how do we attract people in, prepare ourselves through learning to teach through ART training. All to enthusiastically ensure ringing recovery is achieved.
- 2021/07/7 **Central Council Representation** – PB spoke about CCCBR ideas to reduce the number of Association representatives at the AGM. It is no longer necessary to be a CCCBR representative to be on a committee. The number of representatives per society could be reduced according to size. KCACR would have a maximum of 3. CAS expressed concern that representatives may not prepare well or have a consensus before attending and so may talk from a personal viewpoint. DG supported fewer representatives but they would need to be informed of the Association's views. BB considered it a backward step. The principle of reducing numbers was inconclusive.
- 2021/07/8 **Proposal to amend Rule 4(i)** – DG explained the need for the following change to include Handbell ringing, as Change Ringing was legitimate on both Handbells and Tower bells. Without the change, unless a Handbell Ringer was also a tower bell ringer, they wouldn't be able to join the association. DG proposal to include the wording underlined in red below was carried nem con:- “4. The Association shall consist

of Practising, Associate, Honorary Life and Non-Resident Life Members. Practising and Honorary Life Members shall be eligible to vote at meetings of the Association.

(i) Practising Members

A Practising Member shall be deemed to be a person who can, without assistance, ring rounds and lower a bell or can ring a plain course on 6 or more handbells in a method. Such competency shall be confirmed by an elected Association or District Officer.”

SB to advise proposed Rule Change to District Secretaries.

Rule change to be brought to the attention of members at ADMs 2021 for voting upon at AGM 2022.

- 2021/07/9 **Forthcoming Events** (Covid-19 restrictions permitting)
- 2021/07/9.1 Central Council of Church Bell Ringers’ AGM – 04/09/2021 by Zoom.
- 2021/07/9.2 RWNY Festival – 11/09/2021 – Worcester. JT confirmed that a Ringing Festival would be held in place of a competition. Two KYR Teams of 6 would be attending, staying over one night.
- 2021/07/9.3 Essex Trophy 2021 – 11/09/2021 – 09.45 draw at Wye. Cambridge Surprise Royal. Local ringers were making arrangements for refreshments, local pubs, etc. PB confirmed that he would liaise with the Essex Trophy organisers, arrange judges and select the Kent band. Wye Ringers – refreshments. PB liaison, judges & band.
- 2021/07/9.4 KYR Inter-District Striking Competition – 06/11/2021 – No arrangements had yet been made. Lewisham District to host. Lewisham District & JT to organise. SB to nominate Officer attendee
- 2021/07/10 **Reports** for information.
- 2021/07/10.1 Bell Restoration – BB had circulated his report indicating a number of inspections and minor works carried out.
- 2021/07/10.2 Youth Officer’s Report – JT had submitted a report which had been circulated this morning.
- 2021/07/11 **Any Other Business**
- 2021/07/11.1 Advertising Members’ Sponsored Activities – A request had been received from a member to advertise her (non-ringing) sponsored activities through KCACR. After a short discussion members agreed that it was not appropriate to be seen supporting any particular charity on behalf of any member.
- 2021/07/11.2 AGM Reports – NS asked if all reports from the AGM could be made available on the website. PB commented that he had not put up the Covid-related report as evidence had since changed. The most up to date information was available through the Kent Mailing List.
- 2021/07/11.3 Quex Park Pulleys – BB advised that Quex Park needed new pulleys and as it was not a church it could not apply for a grant from the BRF. CB offered some spares from Staplehurst but these were declined. After discussion it was proposed by BB, seconded by PB that a donation from the General Fund of £400 be made to purchase new pulleys.
- 2021/07/12 **Date of next meeting** – 27/11/21 then 26/02/22, 23/04/22, 30/07/22.

Meeting closed at 12:20.

SIGNED as a true record by

DATE: