



**MINUTES of the General Committee Meeting held by ZOOM on
Saturday 27th November 2021 10.00-12.45**

MEMBERS PRESENT:-

Association Chairman (& CC Rep 1)	PB	Phillip Barnes			
General Secretary	SB	Sue Bassett	Central Council Rep 3	DD	Doug Davis
Association Treasurer	MP	Maureen Poole	Ashford District Rep	MCP	Mark Chickenden-Pile
Training Officer	DG	David Grimwood	Lewisham District Rep	NS	Natalie Slator
Youth Officer (& CC Rep 2)	JT	Jen Thomas	Maidstone District Rep	DD	Doug Davis
Bell Restoration Officer	BB	Brian Butcher	Tonbridge District Rep	CL	Catherine Lewis
IN ATTENDANCE:-					
Handbook Editor	DD	Doug Davis			
Peal Secretary	PB	Phillip Barnes	Webmaster	DD	Doug Davis
Safeguarding Officer	EJ	Emma Jarvis	Health & Safety Officer	PS	Peter Sims

2021/11/1 **Welcome, Apologies for Absence and Substitutions** – The Chairman (PB) welcomed officers to the meeting and stated that Agenda item 5.3 would be taken after completion of other business with core committee members only. Central Council Reps. Caroline Stockmann and Nick Wilkins, Canterbury District Rep. Jo Horton, Rochester Rep. Richard Bushell had either given apologies or were absent. Rochester Rep. substitute did not appear.

2021/11/2 **Minutes of meeting held on 24th July 2021** – The Minutes were proposed for approval by MP, seconded by DD and carried nem con. They were later signed digitally by the Chairman and uploaded to the website.

2021/11/3 **Matters arising/updates from minutes** **ACTION BY**

2021/11/3.1 **KCACR Governance & Structure Review** – PB reported that he and CS had put together questions to find out members' views on ringing, the association, the state of towers or whether covid-anxiety remained an issue. DD & PB had prepared a webpage, ready to launch the survey very soon. The 2017 survey of towers may be repeated early in 2022. PB & DD to launch the survey soon

2021/11/3.2 **eBells Loan Scheme** – PB reported that one further set was on loan. There were many open sessions for online handbell ringing available. Agreed that better publicity on the Website/Facebook and other electronic formats was needed. Information be put on the website. PB and DD to raise publicity profile.

2021/11/3.3 **Tom Barlow Memorial KYR Handbells** – PB reported that the Handbells had been delivered. Jacqui Barlow had requested that a first peal be rung on them in Tom's memory prior to the dedication service. It was proving difficult to get the band together but hoped this would be rung in January 2022. A Dedication Service would follow at St. Michael's Maidstone. Young Ringers would be particularly welcome at this. PB to liaise with JB regarding peal and dedication arrangements.

2021/11/3.4 **Finance – investment proposals** – MP reported no further progress as she would be stepping down at the AGM and this issue may best be taken up afresh by the new Treasurer. Agreed to leave for new Treasurer. In abeyance. New Treasurer for AGM 2022

2021/11/3.5 **Inventory of Association Assets** – SB advised that the list was being updated as new items were purchased and notified. SB ongoing.

2021/11/3.6 **Certificates for HRH DofE tolling** – PCS had advised that he no longer wished to progress this and recommended abandoning the project. After a short discussion, it was **agreed** to abandon the project but Districts or individual towers could pursue this if they wished. District Reps to advise their Districts.

2021/11/3.7 **Ringling recruitment equipment project** – DD reported that the cameras, screens and supporting equipment had their first test-run at Boxley in

2021/11/3.8	<p>October. A few teething-problems were fixed to allow the bells and ringers to be visible from the body of the church. Ringing videos had also been displayed on a large TV screen. The event had attracted three adults and a young person to learn to ring. DD was preparing some Instruction Documentation for the equipment, to enable it to be set up wherever needed.</p> <p><u>KYR Parental Consent & DGPR form</u> – The revised document had been circulated and uploaded to the Website. This document would be reviewed annually at the July General Committee meeting in future.</p>	<p>DD to finalise Instruction Documentation and advertise the equipment.</p> <p>Annual Review July 2022</p>
2021/11/4 2021/11/4.1	<p>Finance</p> <p><u>Treasurer’s Report</u> – MP’s reported that the £1,800 previously held in the General Fund for a postponed KYR trip had been repaid to parents. The report was noted with one comment; the £7,233.60 expenditure was for Handbells, not eBells. The accounts would be left in good order for the new Treasurer.</p>	
2021/11/4.2	<p><u>BRF Grant Application</u> – BB commented that the application by Meopham was for work on the louvres only but was covered by the BRF Rules. He proposed a grant of £1,600, seconded by SB and agreed. DG advised that the sound control works for Maidstone All Saints had been completed and expressed gratitude for the Association grant.</p>	
2021/11/4.3	<p><u>Kent Young Ringers Budget Proposal 2022</u> – JT had provided a detailed budget and explained that it had increased, mainly due to the two night stay in Exeter 2022 where accommodation was expensive. All[PRJB1] expressed positive support for the work JT was doing for and with the KYR. PB expressed delight at the leadership roles and ringing talent of former KYR members who were now ringing at Universities or working in IT at The Ringing World. KCACR is very fortunate to have JT and helpers who are doing so well to encourage the KYR.</p>	
2021/11/5 2021/11/5.1	<p>Proposed Rule Changes at AGM 2022</p> <p><u>Canterbury District Proposed Amendment to Rule 4</u> – After a long discussion regarding the different competences required of handbell and tower bell ringers related to insurance issues, it was agreed to accept the Canterbury District proposed amendments shown in red:-</p> <p><i>“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 tower bell. Or can ring a plain course on 6 or more handbells in a method in the traditional way, two in hand. Such competency shall be confirmed by an elected Association or District Officer. (a) Practising Members shall be elected at a District Meeting or as authorised in Rule 11.”</i></p> <p>DG agreed with and would present these amendments to the AGM 2022.</p>	<p>DG to present the amended proposal to AGM 2022</p>
2021/11/5.2	<p><u>Member query re: Lapse in membership status</u> – It had been queried whether members who had not paid their 2020 subscription during the pandemic would be able to back-pay their subs and resume membership, to ensure their continuous membership record. The enquirer had suggested a rule change but this was not thought necessary. The committee had previously agreed a pragmatic approach be taken over gaps in 50 year membership. If lapsed members wished to back-pay their subs then Districts could organise a bulk payment and inform the Treasurer which year was being paid for and by whom. Lapsed members (non-renewal by 30th September annually) can either back-pay or be re-elected in accordance with rule 4(d).</p>	<p>SB to advise District Secretaries/ Treasurers that back-payments of subs to reinstate inadvertently lapsed members can be accepted.</p>
2021/11/5.3	<p><u>Confidential briefing on safeguarding matters and the need for further rule changes</u> – This item was considered at the end of usual business and is recorded separately as a Confidential Minute. PS and BB had left the meeting prior to this item being discussed. Following the briefing, the General Committee supported both of the Chairman’s proposed rule changes and agreed to the suspension of Rule 15(ii) to enable the changes to be put to the</p>	<p>PB to circulate proposed rule changes prior to AGM 2022</p>

AGM 2022. In the interim the General Committee agreed to adopt the changes as a management policy for the time being.

- 2021/11/6
2021/11/6.1 **Feedback from past events**
Central Council of Church Bell Ringers' AGM – 04/09/2021. JT's report had been circulated and noted. PB spoke to update various issues; The National Ringing Centre joint project with the Churches Conservation Trust would now be going ahead. The restoration and conversion of The Black Lion pub with ringing centre promises to be an important concept. The Young Change Ringers Association would be holding its first event in Birmingham on 15th January 2022. It was noted that some guilds were paying YCRA £15 p.a. subs on behalf of their young ringers. Members were open to supporting KYR similarly to open up their ringing opportunities. After some discussion, PB proposed, seconded by DD and **agreed** that KCACR pays only the annual subscription on behalf of any KYR who wished to join YCRA. DG suggested a review be undertaken in 18 months' time to assess its effectiveness. Hopefully a cohort of young ringers will gel and ultimately take on leadership roles. DG reported that the Guild of Clerical Ringers was enthusiastic for special celebrations for a Bells Sunday project but each tower should sort out their own appropriate local celebrations.
- 2021/11/6.2 RWNYContest – 11/09/2021, Worcester. JT commented that this was a fabulous occasion and she was so proud of the KYR team that came 5th. It had included some inexperienced ringers who had progressed quickly in the week leading up to the competition. The KYR other team performed beyond expectations and worked hard to aim at perfection, winning the Call Change section.
- 2021/11/6.3 Essex Trophy 2021 – 11/09/2021, Staplehurst. MP reported that the day was a great success and thanked SB for accommodating the competition at short notice. Thanks also were expressed to the Kent team who had won the competition and all the helpers on the day.
- 2021/11/6.4 KYR Inter-District Striking Competition – 06/11/2021, Farningham. JT commented that it was a great afternoon but only one district was able to field a complete team. Elected Vice President David Manger had kindly presented the trophy to the winning team (Ashford District) as no General Committee member had been available on the day.
- 2021/11/6.5 Memorial Service – 07/11/2021, Rochester Cathedral. DG reported that the Dean of Rochester had been pleased to host the event and given an invitation for it to become an annual event. General discussion was supportive and understood that Neil Jones was very happy to facilitate this. **Agreed** to accept the invitation and to keep the Choral Evensong event near to, but avoid, Remembrance Sunday annually. SB to write to the Dean (copy to NJ).
SB to write to
The Dean of
Rochester
Cathedral.
- 2021/11/7 **Annual Policy Review** – Data Protection and Privacy Policy was reviewed and a slight amendment was **agreed** in Clause 3 to record only a member's year of birth, rather than full date of birth. This was in response to an inadvertent data breach by a member which was dealt with quickly. In discussions it was considered necessary for the Association to hold only a member's year of birth in future. PB considered that performance information "published elsewhere" in Clause 4, was technically an irrelevance but did not think it worth changing at the present time. PB confirmed that all historical Kent Peals (previously published) would soon be uploaded to the RW Bellboard.
PB to sign an
amended copy of
the policy.
DD to upload the
revised policy to
the website.
- 2021/11/8
2021/11/8.1 **Forthcoming Events** (Covid-19 restrictions permitting)
AGM – 18/04/2022. In-depth discussions took place regarding the pros and cons around the style of meeting to adopt (Zoom, interactive, live, streamed, etc.) due to the ongoing uncertainties of the pandemic. On balance a normal live meeting was preferred. Care would be needed to avoid financial loss (mainly catering & hall costs) if a live meeting were ultimately not possible due to Covid-19 restrictions. Suggested that members make their own lunch
NS to ask Lewisham
District if it wished
to host AGM 2022.
If not, PB to explore
potential in

- arrangements or bring a picnic to eat in the meeting hall. KCACR/organisers could plan liquid refreshments, the service and open towers as usual. NS to check whether Lewisham District would consider hosting after having already planned the two previous AGMs (abortive due to the pandemic). If not Maidstone District would be next in line. PB to check availability of Platt Village Hall with a service at Wrotham as an alternative if needed. NS & PB to liaise over this asap. Noted that vacancies would need to be filled at the AGM 2022 for Chairman, Treasurer, Training Officer, Central Council Representative (although the number may be reduced to 2 in future) and a Public Relations Officer. PB asked members to let him know if anyone was interested in any of these roles.
- 2021/11/8.2 Festival of Ringing – 2022. This was considered a lovely thing to do but as the pandemic was continuing the original “back to ringing celebration” idea was now rather flat. Suggested it be held alongside the inter district 8-bell competition in June or on the May Bank Holiday. MP to ask Charles Sinden if he could get an organising group together. CL was asked to check if the Tonbridge District (competition hosts) would be able to organise something. Suggestions around combining this with the AGM and an open day were raised too. DD agreed to give this some thought, investigate possibilities then email ideas around the General Committee for feedback and planning.
- 2021/11/8.3 Inter-District 8-bell Striking Competition – Provisionally Chiddingstone on 25th June 2022 ringing the Stedman Triples test piece agreed in 2020.
- 2021/11/8.4 Association 6-bell Call Change & Change Ringing Striking Competition 24th September 2022 - MP to check if Saltwood would be available or to look elsewhere. PB reminded members about the broadening of the competition to include both Change and Call Change. The 6-bell Striking competition rules and Call Change Striking competition rules had been adopted in February 2020 and were printed in the 2021 Handbook. SB to advise and remind Districts about the new rules and single date for both competitions.
- 2021/11/8.5 Youth Striking Competition – As the November date clashed with too many other ringing events, the competition was (post meeting) moved to third Saturday in February annually. Next KYR competition to be 18th February 2023, in the Maidstone District. 13:45-17:00. DD offered Boxley as a venue. A representative from the General Committee was (again) requested to attend the competition to present the trophy. Volunteers to contact SB.
- 2021/11/8.6 Essex Trophy – Details had yet to be advertised. The usual date would clash with the Cumberland Youths’ 275th Anniversary Dinner. Bletchingley was being considered as the venue.
- 2021/11/9 **Reports FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
- 2021/11/9.1 Bell Restoration Report – BB’s report had been circulated and noted.
- 2021/11/9.2 Youth Officer’s Report – JT’s report had been circulated and noted.
- 2021/11/9.3 Health & Safety Officer – PS stated that he had nothing to report now but new legislation was anticipated for 2-3 years’ hence. BB commented that various belfry inspections were continuing.
- 2021/11/10 **Any Other Business** – No items were raised.
- 2021/11/11 **Date of next meeting** – 26/02/22, 23/04/22, 30/07/22.

Maidstone District and advise.

SB to advertise anticipated AGM officer vacancies. All to advise likely candidates to PB or SB

DD to investigate possibilities for email discussion within General Committee.

CL to check availability.

MP to research venue in the Ashford District.

SB to advise Districts about the competitions.

Meeting closed at 12:45

SIGNED as a true record by DATE: