



**MINUTES of the General Committee Meeting held by ZOOM on
Saturday 30th April 2022 10:00-12:20**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT 10:-

Association Chairman	NJ	Neil Jones	Central Council Rep 3	CS	Caroline Stockmann
General Secretary	SB	Sue Bassett	Central Council Rep 5	DL	Dickon Love
Association Treasurer	PJ	Peter Joyce	Ashford District Rep	MCP	Mark Chittenden-Pile
Training Officer	RD	Rupert Cheeseman	Canterbury District Rep	JH	Jo Horton
Youth Officer (& CC Rep 4)	JT	Jen Thomas	Lewisham District Rep	SS	Svetlana Sokolova
Bell Restoration Officer	BB	Brian Butcher	Maidstone District Rep	DD	Doug Davis
Central Council Rep 1 (& Peal Sec)	PB	Phillip Barnes	Rochester District Rep	RB	Richard Bushell
Central Council Rep 2	DD	Doug Davis	Tonbridge District Rep	CL	Catherine Lewis
ALSO IN ATTENDANCE 1:-					
Handbook Editor	DD	Doug Davis			
Health & Safety Officer	BW	Becky Winter	Quarter Peal Secretary	AL	Anthony Leeves
Librarian	PR	Philippa Rooke	Safeguarding Officer	EJ	Emma Jarvis
Publicity Officer		VACANT	Webmaster	DD	Doug Davis

ACTION

- 2022/04/1 **Welcome, Apologies for Absence and Substitutions** – The new Chairman Neil Jones (NJ) welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Peter Joyce, Doug Davis, Dickon Love, Caroline Stockmann and Mark Chittenden-Pile (substitute Brian Butcher).
- 2022/04/2 **Minutes of meeting held on 26th February 2022** – The Minutes (with amended spelling) were approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 2022/04/3 **Matters arising**
- 2022/04/3.1 **2022/02/3.1 KCACR Governance & Structure Review Results** – PB presented (pictorially) the results of the post-covid Survey of 158 members who responded between February-April 2022. He explained the questions that had been asked and the general findings. However, he did not consider this a fully-representative snapshot of ringing in the Association and was careful not to over-interpret the findings. The main themes for the Association to consider might be to encourage quarter peals, hold on to existing ringers and encourage back lapsed ringers, support the development of ringers through training and to hold social events. Structural reform was not considered the way forward, but closer working amongst districts could be helpful. SB suggested that the results be made available at the Festival of Ringing on 18/06/2022. NJ commented that a recent Rochester Training event had been overwhelmed with cross-district support. JT estimated there were 40 Kent Young Ringers but each did a lot of other activities in addition to ringing so did not all turn up to all events. PB agreed to draft a written report for circulation shortly and consideration at the July General Committee meeting. PB
- 2022/04/3.2 **2022/02/3.2 eBells Loan Scheme Video** – PB asked this be deferred to the next meeting when he hoped to have actioned this. He also gave his apologies in advance for his anticipated absence at the July meeting. PB
- 2022/04/3.3 **2022/02/3.4 Ringing recruitment equipment project** – In the absence of a progress report from DD, this was deferred to the July meeting. DD

2022/04/4	Treasurer's Reports	
2022/04/4.1	<u>The Report</u> was noted without comment. SB mentioned that she would shortly be submitting an expenses claim to the Treasurer for postage of Handbooks & Certificates, gift vouchers to outgoing officers at AGM, stationery, etc.	SB
2022/04/4.2	<u>BRF Investment Account</u> – PB would shortly be handing over to the Chairman and Treasurer, the findings and recommendations following research with the Oxford Diocesan Guild.	PB
2022/04/5	AGM 18/04/2022	
2022/04/5.1	<u>Draft Minutes</u> had been circulated. Two minor amendments were raised and then no further comment was made. To be uploaded to the Website.	SB
2022/04/5.2	<u>Feedback</u> – There was general agreement that (with technical difficulties aside) the arrangements for the day were very good. The pitch of the Service had been absolutely right and uplifting, on the theme of volunteering and team work. Thanks had been conveyed to the clergy and local organisers. Other members had been able to watch online, which was much appreciated. It was agreed this should be continued (if possible) in future years. Discussed whether the format ran more smoothly without a formal lunch, with people enjoying a picnic lunch or in a nearby pub. It was suggested that a buffet lunch or cups of soup might be welcome another year, (particularly if cold weather) to enable circulation amongst members. A return to more ringing during the day would be appreciated in future. Maidstone District to take the feedback into consideration for 2023.	DD
2022/04/6	Association Archive – The new Librarian had been thinking about the space needed to store the archive and noted that much of the material was duplicated. Concern was expressed that digitisation of the archive could become outdated. Various ideas were raised but all agreed the archive needed to be stored in the correct environment to minimise deterioration, but digitising did need to be part of the solution. Agreed that three access points and the cost of storage needed to be considered for the original, a copy and a digital copy. Items should be catalogued and copies stored separately from the originals. PR intended to bring her report to the July meeting for consideration.	PR
2022/04/7	Training overview – The new Training Officer stated his intention to contact each District to assess their training needs. CL commented that in the past the Tonbridge District had run two full-day training events with outside speakers on related topics. The Essex and Hereford Courses were considered good formats with theory learned online in advance and practical application over a long weekend. Pre-booking was advised to ensure engagement alongside good planning. RC agreed to get the District Ringing Masters together and report back at the July meeting.	RC
2022/04/8	Annual Reviews –Policies, Rules and Guidelines for review	
2022/04/8.1	<u>Expenses Policy</u> - Microsoft Word - KCACR Expenses Policy ADOPTED April 2021.docx After discussion, it was agreed that due to the recent large increase in fuel costs, the pence per mile should be reconsidered to at least the HMRC 45p per mile and to remove reference to a lower rate for a 100+ mileage claim. BB queried how would an electric car owner claim? Agreed to defer this to the July meeting to enable input from the Treasurer.	PJ
2022/04/8.2	<u>Youth Striking Competition Rules</u> – This was deferred to the July meeting.	JT
2022/04/8.3	<u>Draft Fund-raising guidance</u> – Agreed that this should be discussed by the Districts for feedback at the July meeting. NJ considered the Association should have something like this and PB reminded members that anything done in the Association's name brought a reputational risk if processes were not kept tight (a reference to 120 Clubs and purchase of gaming licenses).	All District Reps
2022/04/8.4	<u>Insurance policies</u> - Details had been circulated to all committee members for noting.	

2022/04/8.4.1	<u>Association policy with Ecclesiastical</u> – Noted that there were Safeguarding expectations within the policy wording. EJ commented that the Association does have its own Safeguarding Policy (last reviewed February 2022) but recommended that the review be moved to July each year, in case of a future change in Safeguarding Officer at the AGM. EJ commented that she had been unable to attend a recent meeting with Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers in Rochester and Canterbury but PB had attended on her behalf. The recent rule changes at the AGM fitted in well with safeguarding expectations on the Association but other issues may need to be considered after feedback and discussion with PB. EJ agreed to report back at the next meeting in July.	EJ
2022/04/8.4.2	<u>Personal Accident with AmTrust Underwriting</u> – Noted without comment.	
2022/04/8.4.3	<u>Barlow Bells with New Moon</u> – Noted that the bells should remain in the UK.	
2022/04/9	Forthcoming Events	
2022/04/9.1	<u>Combined Festival of Ringing & Inter-District 8-bell Striking Competition - 18/06/2022 Goudhurst</u> . The revised Stedman calling had been circulated. NJ agreed to organise competition Judges and Marshalls. SB to provide Winners' Certificates. The location of the Competition Trophy was uncertain following a flood at Tunstall church. RB to investigate. Additions to the advertisement Poster were requested to include the location of the refreshments venue and when the local towers would be open.	NJ SB RB CL
2022/04/9.2	<u>Association 6-bell Call Change & Change Ringing Striking Competition 2022 –Saltwood 10/09/2022</u> – SB to check on the local arrangements, judges and the other towers to be open during the day. NJ considered it appropriate that a Call Change Striking Competition Trophy be purchased for the event. JH offered to investigate a suitable Trophy. There followed much discussion about the reasons behind the introduction of an Association call-change competition. The aim was to get the best ringing and inspire mixed ability groups to produce high quality call changes. Each band to be Sunday service members of their tower, ringing once only in the competition (potentially 12 bands during the whole competition day). Each District could nominate 2 towers to represent it this year, in cases where no District competitions had been held. District Representatives to feedback to their Districts.	SB JH District Reps.
2022/04/9.3	<u>Essex Trophy 2022</u> – 24/09/2022 St Mary, Bletchingly. Yorkshire Surprise Royal.	DD
2022/04/9.4	<u>KCACR Choral Evensong of Remembrance</u> – 06/11/2022 Rochester Cathedral. 1515.	NJ
2022/04/9.5	<u>Kent Young Ringers Striking Competition</u> – 18/02/2023 Boxley? 13:45-17:00	JT
2022/04/9.6	<u>Annual Dinner</u> – Whether or not to have an Association Annual Dinner was passed out to Districts for consideration and feedback as to its viability and likely support.	District Reps.
2022/04/9.7	<u>AGM 2023</u> – Maidstone District to advise on the date and details in due course.	DD
2022/04/10	KYR report – JT had circulated a written report which was noted. She added that further achievements had been made in a recent quarter peal at East Malling with firsts for the conductor and 3 other young ringers. The Handbell Peal rung by three young ringers, on the Barlow Bells, prior to the AGM was also a great achievement.	
2022/04/11	Any Other Business	
2022/04/11.1	<u>Membership Certificates</u> – Agreed that SB should obtain quotes to have these reprinted in the current format.	SB
2022/04/11.2	<u>Madams Court Mini-Ring</u> – NJ reported that the owner of this mini-ring would like to donate it to the Association, but the bespoke trailer would have to be purchased. Understood the tenor weighs 42lb. There followed much discussion about the pros and cons of this offer, future uses and management within the Association, likely storage and maintenance costs. Whilst, in principle, it was considered a good idea to take on this well-engineered, functioning mini-ring, it did not ring like dumbbells so had limitations as a teaching aid. NJ agreed to put together a business case for consideration at the July meeting.	NJ

- 2022/04/11.3 Ightham Grant Application – An application by Ightham for a grant towards refurbishment of its Ellacombe Chiming apparatus had been circulated and was discussed. PB declared an interest but spoke in support of the application, which enabled change ringing to continue with a chiming option. The BRF rules did not specify grants only to change-ringing installations but PB wouldn't wish to grant funds to a parish that decides to move to a chiming only solution. Understood that the £5k project was currently £2k short. After much discussion a proposed grant of £500 was made by BB, seconded by JH and was carried by a majority of 7 to 4 abstentions.
- 2022/04/11.4 Swan Bells Perth T Shirt – A navy XL embroidered T shirt was available to any member who would like it (preferably with a donation to the BRF). Contact SB.
- 2022/04/12 **Date of next meeting** – 30/07/2022. Agreed by a majority of 7 to hold the July meeting by ZOOM. CL hoped that some meetings could be held in person in future. Proposed following dates 26/11/2022, 25/02/2023, 29/04/2023, 29/07/2023

BB
&
PJ

SB

DRAFT