



THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Easter Monday, 10th April 2023 at Wrotham, St. George from 2.15 p.m.



- Welcome by the Chairman** - Neil Jones welcomed 48 members to the meeting (with 3 members listening online). The Chairman commented that his first year in office had been busy but enjoyable. He thanked all ringers for supporting additional ringing for national events including the Platinum Jubilee for Queen Elizabeth II in the summer then for her death in September and accession of King Charles III. These had all raised huge media interest in ringing, particularly the Ring for the King's Coronation, which would impact on us all. Neil Jones also acknowledged the achievements of Richard and Rebecca Steele who had won the Len Roberts Award for the promotion of ringing by the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART). They had purchased a drone with the award fund which was being used to enhance the digital displays of ringing events and churches online.
- Apologies for Absence** – David Grimwood, Peter Simms, Sheila Phyll, Roy & Sallyann Barclay, Donald & Rosemary Holden, Caroline Stockmann, Isabel Pearce, Rosemary Fletcher, Ashley Lupin, Graham Cuthbert, Andrew Gunstone, Margaret Funnell, Nigel Baker, Don & Ruth Niblett, Liz Barnes, Jacqui Barlow, Mark Chittenden-Pile, Catherine Pearce, Daniel Brady.
- Minutes of the AGM** held on 18th April 2022 were proposed for adoption by Doug Davis, seconded by Terry Barnard and carried nem con.
- Matters arising** from the Minutes – A comment was raised about the poor attendance at the Choral Evensong November 2022. The Chairman would answer this at Agenda item 15.4
- General Secretary's Report** - Noted without comment.
- Treasurer's Report** – Peter Joyce made additional comments to highlight that the PayPal transactions were now shown separately to show the fees charged by PayPal. Donations were now enabling a Kent Young Ringer (KYR) support fund to assist young people to engage in ringing. NatWest had made a generous donation of £200 after he had complained at their poor and dilatory service in changing account signatories. A grant had been paid out to Meopham and a grant to Rochester Cathedral had been agreed. Peter Joyce thanked Stephen Marsh and Maureen Poole for their invaluable support in his first year as Treasurer. He proposed to open a savings account shortly to enable KCACR to benefit from a higher interest rate. The Chairman then invited questions from the floor. Charles Sinden queried why the cash held for 2021 and 2022 remained the same amount. The Treasurer confirmed that this was cash held by Districts and no change had been advised. Phil Barnes confirmed that most money was sent direct by Districts to the Treasurer in respect of donations to the BRF but some Districts may hold some funds in cash.
- To agree the Practising Member's Subscription 2024** – The Treasurer recommended this to remain at £15 per adult member. Proposed by Adam Moore, seconded by Brian Butcher. A majority voted in favour, none against and one abstention. Carried.

8. **Allocation of Subscription Funds** – The Treasurer recommended: 50% to the General Fund, 25% to the BRF and 25% to the Training Fund. The Treasurer commented that budgets and expenses hadn't changed that much this year so there was no reason to change. Proposed approval by Marilyn Barden, seconded by Phil Barnes and carried nem con.
9. **Election of an Independent Examiner (Rule 6i)** – The Treasurer proposed Stephen Marsh, seconded by Stuart Palin and carried nem con.
10. **Peal Secretary's Report** – Noted with one query as to how peals are noted in the Handbook. Phil Barnes commented that any Peal that is submitted to Bellboard and/or printed in the Ringing World – and ascribed to KCACR – would be added to the Handbook.
11. **Quarter Peal Secretary's Report** – Noted without comment.
12. **Officers' Reports**
- 12.1 Bell Restoration – Noted without comment.
- 12.2 Publicity – Caroline Stockmann had messaged that the KCACR Banners had been used many times in the past year. There was lots of Ring for the King activity and media interest.
- 12.3 Training – Rupert Cheeseman reported on the interest in ringing that the Ring for the King initiative had generated. An ART M1 course had been booked for 13th May 2023 at Meopham. Details were available on the ART Website at [ART Events - Home \(bellringing.org\)](http://ART Events - Home (bellringing.org)). The £25 course fee could be reimbursed to KCACR attendees on application to the Treasurer.
- 12.4 Young Ringers – In addition to the report published in the Handbook, Jen Thomas gave a big "Thank You" to the (now closed) Cinque Ports Centre for a substantial donation to Kent Young Ringers (KYR). Jen Thomas highlighted how active KYR is with new bands and learners coming forward. KYR had been featured in The Times and on Sky News. Four new ringers rang for the first time in the South East England Striking Contest (SEECON). KYR had been invited to feature in a filming session at Aylesford to promote ringing. It was still a sad surprise that some Tower Captains still did not know about KYR and were not encouraging their young learners to join the activities. There are currently 70 young ringers around Kent, some might not wish to join in, but District Secretaries need to promote and send out the KYR information to Tower Captains with young ringers.
13. **Election of Officers** – The following officers were all proposed, seconded and elected unopposed as shown.

	<u>Officer Title</u>	<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
13.1	Chairman	Neil Jones	Mark Elvers	Cathy Cheeseman
13.2	Hon. Gen. Secretary	Susan Bassett	Doug Davis	Peter Joyce
13.3	Hon. Treasurer	Peter Joyce	Jen Thomas	Phillip Barnes
13.4	Bell Restoration	Brian Butcher	Philippa Rooke	Sue Cameron
13.5	Librarian	Philippa Rooke	Jen Thomas	Rupert Cheeseman
13.6	Peal Secretary	Phillip Barnes	Caroline Stockmann	Peter Joyce
13.7	Training Officer	Rupert Cheeseman	Philippa Rooke	Sue Cameron
13.8	Youth Officer	Jen Thomas	Callum Clark	Ellen Jones
13.9	CC Rep (1)	Phillip Barnes	Caroline Stockmann	Peter Joyce
	CC Rep (2)	Alexander Runting	Doug Davis	Jen Thomas
	CC Rep (3)	Caroline Stockmann	Phillip Barnes	Peter Joyce
	CC Rep (4)	Neil Jones	Jen Thomas	Phillip Barnes
	CC Rep (5)	Stephanie Runting	Jen Thomas	Phillip Barnes

13.10	Handbook Editor	Doug Davis	Caroline Stockmann	Jen Thomas
13.11	Health & Safety	Becky Winter	Tom Winter	Doug Davis
13.12	Publicity	Tom Winter	Becky Winter	Alison Gerrish
13.13	QP Secretary	Anthony Leeves	Emma Tamkin	Michael Bullett
13.14	Safeguarding	Emma Jarvis	Ann Jenner	Stanley Jenner
13.15	Webmaster	Doug Davis	Tom Winter	Becky Winter

14. **Presentation of Certificates** – Certificates had been prepared for signature by the President of KCACR his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury. Unfortunately, they had not yet been returned in the post but would be forwarded on as soon as possible to the recipients.

14.1 75-years' Membership – Peter Dadds

14.2 50-years' Membership

Donald Amos	Mark Backhouse	Douglas H Bratt
Barbara Dale	Ian Mills	Alison Parsons
Keith Record	Elizabeth Sabine	Zena Seal

15. **Forthcoming Events**

15.1 Festival of Ringing and Association 8-Bell Competition – 17/06/2023 at Lympe. 224 changes St. Clements Bob Major WHWH. The Chairman commented that he hoped that this event would be better supported than the previous year. Brian Butcher confirmed that parking would be available beside the church with a coffee morning inside between 10:30-Noon. Light lunches would be available in the nearby Village Hall with the Kent Mini Ring set up in the Village Hall car park. In addition to the competition, four other towers would be open during the day; Hythe, Saltwood, Mersham, Cheriton. More details would be advertised on the website as they became available.

15.2 Essex Trophy 2023 – 09/09/2023 – St. Mary, Walthamstow. Grandsire Caters.

15.3 Association 6-bell competitions – 30/09/2023 Canterbury District (tbc). The change ringing competition would be held in the morning with an “open” competition in the afternoon. Details would be finalised at the next General Committee Meeting.

15.4 Association Choral Evensong of Remembrance – 19/11/2023 at Rochester Cathedral. 3.15pm. The Chairman commented that attendance in 2022 had been disappointing but the date had been moved to later in November this year. It was hoped this would enable more members to attend. Jen Thomas suggested this event be held every two years. The Chairman agreed to review attendance after this year.

16. **Any Other Business**

16.1 Central Council Workgroup Leader – The Chairman advised the meeting that CCCBR was looking for a Workgroup Leader. Phil Barnes added that the role had become more practical in recent years and training could become an important part of the role.

16.2 Handbooks – The General Secretary advised that back copies of Handbooks were available (subsequently handed to the Librarian).

16.3 Election of Vice President – Tim Wraight requested that the General Committee consider electing Hazel Basford as a Vice President in recognition of her 32 years' service as KCACR Librarian, ~~General Secretary and Treasurer~~. Agreed to add it to the next Agenda.


16.4 Succession Plan – Chris Bassett asked if the General Committee had a succession plan for all posts. It was considered an important issue to address.

16.5 National Ringers' Sunday 14th May 2023 – The Chairman reported that this event had been earmarked nationally for ringers to celebrate and make the most of opportunities proactively. The Central Council had posted useful ideas on its website and Chairman's blog.

- 16.6 KCACR Training Day – Rupert Cheeseman asked if there would be interest in a training day similar to the Essex weekend and at what level? It was thought a training day for the emerging ringer, basic change ringers, step into surprise. Communication from District Ringing Masters would be helpful. Suggested this was considered by the General Committee.
17. **Vote of Thanks** – The Chairman expressed thanks to The Reverend David Jones, the Vicar of Wrotham, Edward Right, Daniel Brady for playing the organ, Doug Davis for the meeting arrangements and Phil Barnes for local arrangements at Wrotham.
- 18 **Date of next AGM** – Proposed 1st April 2024 in the Rochester District

The meeting was declared closed at 3:19 p.m.

SIGNED by the Chairman as a true record as adopted by members at the AGM 2024

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Chairman