



THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Easter Monday, 1st April 2024 at Rainham, St. Margaret from 2 p.m.



1. **Welcome by the Chairman** - Neil Jones welcomed 60 members to the meeting (with 4 members listening online). He reported that due to the short timetable for production and early Easter deadline, the Handbooks were not available today. They would be distributed through District Secretaries shortly.
2. **Apologies for Absence** – Jacqui Barlow, Phil & Liz Barnes, Margaret Fitzgerald, Isabel Pearce, Sue Cameron, Debbie Goacher, Hugo Tracey, Graham Long, David Ridley, Ian Cochrane, Mark Chittenden-Pile, Chris Trafford, Brian Osmer.
3. **Minutes of the EGM & AGM 2023** held on 10th April 2023. Both were proposed for adoption, seconded and carried nem con.
4. **Matters arising** from the Minutes – A correction of fact was raised regarding AGM Agenda item 16.3. Hazel Basford had served KCACR as Librarian only, not General Secretary and Treasurer too. These were deleted from the signed Minutes and initialled by the Chairman.
5. **Chairman/General Secretary's Report** - Noted without comment.
6. **Treasurer's Report** – The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his good work. The reports were noted without comment.
7. **To agree the Practising Member's Subscription 2025** – The Treasurer had recommended this to remain at £15 per adult member. Proposed approval by Tim Wraight, seconded by Jen Thomas and agreed nem con.
8. **Allocation of Subscription Funds** – The Treasurer had recommended: 50% to the General Fund, 25% to the BRF and 25% to the Training Fund. Charles Sinden commented that £16k was already in the Training Fund yet very little had been spent and needs to be spent. The Treasurer suggested that more investment in training was needed. There are healthy sums in all funds and KCACR could spend more. Margaret Funnell commented that funds in the General Fund were more practical as they could then be transferred to other funds as required. The Chairman responded that there was great demand for ART M1 and M2 courses which are offered to members free of charge. Towers should note that the Training Fund could pay for simulators and associated equipment was available on application by all members to support training projects across the association. Jen Thomas commented that the Young Ringers' expenses (tower donations, travel & accommodation costs for competitions) came out of the Training Fund which varied from year to year depending on where the competitions were held. The Chairman recommended support for the existing Treasurer's recommendation but to publicise the fund more widely, with the proviso that the Training Fund be reviewed next year. This amended proposal was put by Cathy Hall, seconded by Jo Horton and approved with one abstention. The Chairman asked members to spread the word that the Association could help with training costs.

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 without comment.
11. **Quarter Peal Secretary's Report** – Noted without comment. The Chairman commented that both the Peal and Quarter Peal databases were very valuable resources.
12. **Officers' Reports** were all noted without comment.
- 12.1 Bell Restoration 12.3 Training
- 12.2 Publicity 12.4 Young Ringers
13. **Election of Officers** – The following officers were all proposed, seconded and elected unopposed as shown. Following his election, the Chair said he looked forward to his third year in office but in line with current convention, he would be standing down at the AGM 2025.
- | | <u>Officer Title</u> | <u>Nominee</u> | <u>Proposer</u> | <u>Secunder</u> |
|------|----------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 13.1 | Chairman | Neil Jones | Cathy Hall | Steve Fitton |
| 13.2 | Hon. Gen. Secretary | Joanne Pohl | Neil Jones | Sue Bassett |
| 13.3 | Hon. Treasurer | Peter Joyce | Sue Bassett | Neil Jones |
| 13.4 | Training Officer | Sue Bassett | Rupert Cheeseman | Malcolm Barden |
- Following a question about the role of the Association Training Officer, Sue Bassett advised that it was not formalised but she would like to help encourage and spread the best practises going on in some districts across the whole association to support learners.
- The Chairman commented that all areas of teaching and learning needed encouragement and recommended the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) as an important and formalised training scheme of teachers with a useful framework to encourage learning. The Chairman wished also to see the development of 10 and 12 bell ringing across KCACR.
- | | | | | |
|------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|
| 13.5 | Youth Officer | Jen Thomas | Ben Dellow | Charlotte Elvers |
| 13.6 | Bell Restoration | Brian Butcher | Charles Sinden | Sue Bassett |
| 13.7 | Central Council Rep (1) | Neil Jones | Mark Elvers | Sue Bassett |
| | Central Council Rep (2) | Alexander Runting | Debbie Runting | Nigel Pointer |
| | Central Council Rep (3) | Stephanie Runting | Debbie Runting | Jen Thomas |
| | Central Council Rep (4) | VACANT | | |
| | Central Council Rep (5) | VACANT | | |
- The Chairman advised that all five Central Council Representatives could attend and vote at the CCCBR AGM as KCACR is considered a large association. Up to three could attend General Committee Meetings. The main role of representatives is to scrutinise and monitor the decisions of the Executive Committee and groups. Representatives also disseminated information from CCCBR and fed back the views of members, to help develop and inform CCCBR projects and policies. Following the election of the first three representatives, the Chairman proposed that the remaining two vacancies be filled by co-option by the General Committee. Seconded by Jen Thomas and carried nem con.
- | | | | | |
|-------|------------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 13.8 | Handbook Editor | Doug Davis | Elizabeth Barnes | Phillip Barnes |
| 13.9 | Health & Safety | Becky Winter | Doug Davis | Tom Winter |
| 13.10 | Librarian | Philippa Rooke | Peter Norwood | Svetlana Sokolova |
| 13.11 | Membership Secretary | Doug Davis | Jen Thomas | Peter Joyce |
| 13.12 | Peal Secretary | Phillip Barnes | Doug Davis | Damien Smith |
| 13.13 | Publicity Officer | Tom Winter | Doug Davis | Becky Winter |
| 13.14 | Quarter Peal Secretary | Anthony Leeves | Emma Tamkin | Zena Seal |
| 13.15 | Safeguarding | Emma Jarvis | Ann Jenner | Mark Elvers |
| 13.16 | Webmaster | Doug Davis | Tom Winter | Becky Winter |

Following these elections the Chairman thanked all officers most sincerely for their work on behalf of the Association, which is much appreciated. In particular he thanked Jen Thomas as Youth Officer, Doug Davis as Handbook Editor, Webmaster and Membership Secretary, the Peal and Quarter Peal Secretaries and Emma Jarvis as Safeguarding Officer. Their work contributed enormously to the work of the Association.

14. **Presentation of 50-years' Membership Certificates** – Certificates had been signed by the President of KCACR his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, for presentation to these long-standing members; Roy Barclay, Karen Barter, Laurence Bond, Debbie Goacher and Julie Palmer. Roy Barclay was able to attend and was presented his Certificate by the Chairman.
15. **Election of Vice Presidents** – The General Committee had considered and agreed three proposals for the election of Vice Presidents and put forward the following members for election. In accordance with the rules two-thirds of the members present at the AGM needed to vote in favour. All three were unanimously voted as Elected Vice Presidents.
 - 15.1 Hazel Basford – Tim Wraight spoke at length on Hazel's achievements in ringing and over 32 years' work on behalf of the Association to research, create and manage an historical archive for KCACR. Following election the Chairman congratulated Hazel and presented her with a certificate. Hazel spoke of her honour to receive this accolade but also thanked the Association for giving her years of self-indulgent "work" on subjects close to her heart.
 - 15.2 Jen Thomas – Ben Legg paid tribute to Jen for her outstanding leadership of Kent Young Ringers (KYR) and creation of a Youth Ringing Programme over the past six years. Such is the strength of young ringers in Kent, inter-district youth striking competitions are possible. KYR have consistently performed well in the South East and National Ringing competitions, twice winning the Robert Lewis Trophy for Excellence in 2019 and 2021. Jen has personally taught many young ringers and has also created Kent Mini-Ringers for Year 7 and below. Kent ringing now has great hopes for the future, due to Jen's work. Becoming an Elected Vice President is a fitting tribute for her work. Following election the Chairman congratulated Jen and thanked her personally, then presented the Certificate. Jen spoke of her honour and privilege to receive the nomination. She thoroughly enjoys working with the KYR & Mini-Ringers, in spite of the "mad moments" it is a lot of fun to work with KYR. She also thanked colleagues Ben, Neil, Shona and Emma for their support.
 - 15.3 Anthony Leeves – Eric Roughley spoke about Anthony's meticulous work as Quarter Peal Secretary for KCACR over many years, amongst other work on behalf of the Association. Sifting through Ringing World quarter peals week after week to create a database of records going back to 1951 is a tremendous "labour of love". Some 43,000 quarter peal details are now listed on Bellboard. Members agreed such work befitted his Election as Vice President. Unfortunately Anthony Leeves was not present to receive his Certificate in person.
16. **Forthcoming Events**
 - 16.1 SEECON – South East England Striking Contest for young ringers – 13/04/2024 at Bushey. A team of 8 KYR will be representing KCACR and is considered an excellent experience to lead into the RWNYS in July.
 - 16.2 Association 8-Bell Competition & BBQ – 22/06/2023 at Birchington, Quex Park, The Waterloo Tower. CT7 OHR. 09.45 draw with BBQ & ringing follow the competition. Names will be needed for the BBQ. There may also be a mobile belfry known as the "Touring Tower", in addition to the bells at Quex Park. Full details will be available nearer the event but the Chairman advised that it will be a good day out.
 - 16.3 RWNYS - Ringing World National Youth Contest – 06/07/2024 London.
 - 16.4 Essex 10 bell Trophy Competition – 14/09/2024 – St Martin of Tours, Epsom. KCACR came third last year. Doug Davis is organising the band.

- 16.5 Association 6-bell competitions – 28/09/2024 Lewisham District – venue to be advised. Methods a.m. for District Bands. Call Changes p.m. The Chairman hoped that more than 4 teams will enter the Call Change competition this year. Rules 1-4 had again been suspended to enable an OPEN competition for up to 10 bands comprised of any KCACR member (not just tower bands).
- 16.6 Association Choral Evensong of Remembrance – 17/11/2024 Service at Canterbury Cathedral from 5.30 p.m.
17. **Any Other Business**
- 17.1 Don Niblett 91st birthday – Mike Little advised that a quarter peal had been rung at Birchington and this was dedicated to Don on his 91st birthday. A certificate had been produced and Marilyn Barden agreed to take it for Phil & Liz Barnes to present to him. Other birthdays of note yesterday being Brenda Davis, 82 and Malcom Smith, 60.
- 17.2 Chelsfield wooden spire and parakeets – Philippa Rooke spoke of the need to raise funds for works to Chelsfield spire and to eradicate a problem with parakeet ingress. As Church Warden she would be undertaking a sponsored walk 5-10 May from Chelsfield to Canterbury St. Martin's. Funds would be shared 50/50 between Christian Aid and Chelsfield Spire appeal. She would aim to visit a church in every KCACR district along the way and she would appreciate support from towers, even if only for a cup of tea, before walking on her way.
- 17.3 Membership Certificates – Hamilton Woods understood that the Association was reluctant to issue printed Membership Certificates but considered that it should. Members of other Districts also expressed a desire for the award of Certificates to continue and spoke about how important they were to new members when presented in person at a District Meeting. The new online member mojo membership system enabled members to print out their own Certificates but many members considered this an unwelcome step. The Chairman responded that there is nothing to stop Districts printing their own Certificates and presenting them to new members. Many Certificates signed in advance by Vice Presidents or General Secretary had remained unused and became obsolete through changes in personnel. A majority of those present indicated by a show of hands, their desire to see printed certificates reinstated. The Chairman agreed to take on board the views of the wider membership via an email poll and to explore the printing and graphic design costs.
- 17.4 Bell Sunday, 12th May 2024 – As this was not an Association event, it had not been included in the list of Forthcoming Events. KCACR members will no doubt take part if they wish. CCCBR has information on its Website about how to celebrate this event.
- 17.5 Rope Fund & Training – Eric Roughley suggested that the Association consider creating a rope fund. Something for the General Committee to consider. Eric also considered there was a massive gap in the initial teaching of bell handling. The Chairman emphasised that the ART M1 learning hubs focussed on teaching learners well and more ART courses for teachers to attend were being organised.
- 17.6 Forthcoming Rule Changes – The Chairman advised that work was progressing to update and streamline the current rules to enable the Association to run more efficiently. A draft would be sent out soon to all members and posted on the Website for feedback to the General Committee by July. A final draft would then be submitted to Districts by 1st September (in accordance with current rules) for discussion at ADMs in October and then presented for adoption at the AGM 2025.

18. **Votes of Thanks** – The Chairman expressed thanks to the Incumbent Reverend Nathan Ward, Reverend Jonathan Jennings and Reverend David Ridley for taking the service at St. Mary’s, Rainham, to organist Graham Long, Tim & Dee Wraight for local arrangements and for the refreshments served by Val Cooper and Annette Jacobs. Donations towards costs would be appreciated. The Chairman then presented the outgoing General Secretary, Sue Bassett, with flowers and a gift card and thanked her for all her work over the past six years.

The meeting was declared closed at 3:35 p.m.

SIGNED by the Chairman as a true record as adopted by members at the AGM on 21st April 2025 at St Nicholas, Rectory Lane, Sevenoaks TN13 1JA:

.....
Chairman