



THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Easter Monday, 6th April 2026 at St Mildred's, Church Road,
Tenterden, TN30 6AT
2pm

Item

1. **Welcome by the Chairman** – Neil Jones welcomed 58 members to the meeting.
2. **Apologies for Absence** –
Sue Atkinson, Roy and Sallyann Barclay, Jacqui Barlow, Malcolm and Marilyn Barden, Margaret Fitzgerald, Andrew Gunstone, Donald and Rosemary Holden, Mike Little, Stuart Palin, Isabel Pearce, Dave Robinson, David J. Wilkinson
3. **Minutes of the AGM 2025** held on 21st April 2025.
The minutes were proposed for adoption by Peter Joyce, seconded by Adam Moore, and carried.
4. **Minutes of the EGM** held on 21st April 2025.
The minutes were proposed for adoption by Chris Bassett, seconded by Hugo Tracey, and carried.
5. **Matters arising**
 5. 1. Matters arising from the AGM minutes – none
 5. 2. Matters arising from the EGM minutes
Phil Barnes enquired whether there would be further discussion about the charitable status of the Bell Restoration Fund (BRF); Chairman NJ confirmed there would not, since we are still in discussion with the Charities Commission.
6. **Chairman's and General Secretary's Report** – available on pages 21-22 of the KCACR 2026 Handbook. The report was taken as read.
7. 1. **Treasurer's Report** – Annual accounts 2025 available on pages 10-12 of the KCACR 2026 Handbook. The report was taken as read.
 - a) Treasurer PJ noted the BRF had received a generous legacy during the year from Mary Andrews.
 - b) He also noted a legacy received from Hugh James.
 - c) The UK government, through the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS), has (as of 1 December 2025) increased the bank deposit protection limit to **£120,000** per eligible person/per authorised institution. Nevertheless with these legacies, we've superseded this limit and additional bank accounts would be opened with Skipton Building Society.
 - d) Treasurer PJ advised the members present of a slight error that had been made following the last AGM: instead of allocating 10% to BRF and 40% to General Fund, 40% of subs had been paid to BRF and 10% to General Fund, meaning that the BRF owed the General Fund £3278. PJ confirmed this would be rectified.
 - e) Finally, PJ expressed his thanks to Stephen Marsh for inspecting the accounts.
- 7.2. The annual accounts were proposed for adoption by Sue Bassett (SB) and seconded by Phil Barnes, and carried with none against and no abstentions.
8. **To agree the Practising Member's Subscription 2026** –
 - a) The Treasurer's recommendation is for this to remain at £15 per adult member.

- b) Despite an increase in the Central Council fee per member, the KCACR is able to absorb that increase, given the Association had increased its own membership fee to £15 some years back.
- c) PJ proposed the Practising Members' Subscription is kept at £15 per member; Jen Thomas seconded, and the motion was carried with none against and no abstentions.

9. Allocation of Subscription Funds

- a) Treasurer PJ's recommendation was that 50% went to the General Fund, 50% to the Training Fund, and 0% to the Bell Restoration Fund (BRF).
- b) This was proposed by PJ, seconded by Philippa Rooke, and was carried with none against and no abstentions.

10. Election of an Independent Examiner (Rule 6i)

- a) The Treasurer proposed Stephen Marsh, Hazel Basford seconded. This was carried with none voting against, and no abstentions.

11. Peal Secretary's Report – available on pages 64-78 of the KCACR 2026 Handbook. The report was taken as read.

- b) Phil Barnes congratulated bands that have started ringing more peals, and stated it was good to see new people beginning to ring peals.

12. Quarter Peal Secretary's Report – available on pages 61-63 of the KCACR 2026 Handbook. The report was taken as read.

13. Officers' reports

13. 1. Bell Restoration – available on page 22 of the KCACR 2026 Handbook.

13. 2. Youth Officer – available on page 22 of the KCACR 2026 Handbook.

14 Election of Officers

- a) The following officers were all proposed, seconded and elected unopposed as shown.

General Committee role	Nominee	Proposer	Second
Chairman	Rona Joiner	Peter Joyce	Stuart Cox
Secretary	Rhiannon Meredith	Rona Joiner	Philippa Rooke
Treasurer	Peter Joyce	Doug Davis	Joanne Pohl
Membership Secretary	Doug Davis	Joanne Pohl	Neil Jones
Safeguarding Officer	Emma Jarvis	Joanne Pohl	Mark Elvers
Training Officer	Neil Jones	Sue Bassett	Peter Joyce
Youth Officer	Jennifer Thomas	James Carter	Charlotte Elvers, Sophia Braithwaite
Bell Restoration Officer	Brian Butcher	Charles Sinden	Nigel Spencer

Other necessary officers	Nominee	Proposer	Second
Central Council Rep 1	Neil Jones	Doug Davis	Joanne Pohl
Central Council Rep 2	Sue Bassett	Neil Jones	PamMajor
Central Council Rep 3	Chris Bassett	Neil Jones	
Central Council Rep 4	David Holdridge	Cathy Hall	Ian Mills
Central Council Rep 5	Role remains vacant		
Peal Secretary	Philip Barnes	Peter Joyce	Stuart Cox
Publicity Officer	Joanne Pohl	Doug Davis	Jennifer Thomas
Quarter Peal Secretary	Anthony Leeves	Michael Worthington	Michael Bullett
Librarian	Philippa Rooke	Lesley Barclay	Nancy Fisher
Health & Safety Officer	Role remains vacant		
Handbook Editor	Doug Davis	Joanne Pohl	Neil Jones
Webmaster	Doug Davis	Joanne Pohl	Neil Jones

- 15. Presentation of 50-years' Membership Certificates** – presented to:
 J Susan Bassett
 David Edgar
 Mark Harding (in absentia)
 Nigel Spencer
 David Wilkinson (in absentia)
- 16. Forthcoming events**
- 16.1 27 June – Association 8-bell Competition. Venue Harrietsham. Method: Middlesex Bob Triples
- 16.2 11 July – Ringing Discovery Day. Venue: Dartford (Lewisham District).
- 16.3 26 September – Association 6-Bell Competition. Venue: Chalk (Rochester District).
- 16.4 15 November – Association Evensong. Venue: St Alfege, Greenwich (Lewisham District).
- 17. Any Other Business**
17. 1. b) Steph Barclay asked members interested in taking part in the South East 12-bell competition, and Essex trophy 10-bell competition, to get in touch with herself or Richard Barclay. They would be overseeing the Association entries to those competitions, and interested members are to contact them if interested to be added to the long-list for the team/s.
17. 2. c) On Saturday, 9th May at 2pm the Rochester District is holding a forum for tower captains, hosted at Bredgar, for those who are new at being tower captains, or those interested in being a tower captain, or those who show potential. If interested, get in touch with Neil Jones or Rona Joiner.
17. 3. a) NJ shared that an ART M1 course taking place on 6th June at Westgate-on-Sea. This is the first step towards teaching bell handling bellringing to novices. Having done the course doesn't make you a member of ART, but helps you understand what works well when teaching bell handling. The course is listed at <https://events.bellringing.org/en/> – alternatively, interested persons should speak to NJ.
- b) PJ pointed out that ART training fees (currently £30pp, rising to £35pp from July) are refundable through Association expenses, for attendees of M1 or M2 courses.
- 18. Vote of thanks**
- a) The Chairman thanked the following individuals for their contributions to the AGM:
- i. The Vicar, Rev'd Lindsay Hammond (who is a KCACR member and rings when time permits) for taking the Service and for the use of the bells.
 - ii. Ian Vernon for playing the organ
 - iii. Richard Edwards and family for the use of their field for car parking and the officials at Kent and East Sussex Railway (KESR) for their cooperation, also to Richard for running the ringing at Tenterden.
 - iv. Sue Childs and the Tenterden ringers for the local arrangements and refreshments.
 - v. The Ashford District Committee – specifically Charles Sinden, Brian Butcher, Sue Atkinson – for coordinating the day.
- b) The Chairman thanked Joanne Pohl for her contribution to the Association as General Secretary for the past two years.
- c) Joanne Pohl thanked Chairman NJ and Treasurer PJ for their support, guidance and advice during her time as General Secretary, and expressed gratitude for the members of the General Committee for their contributions to the Association through their time, expertise and knowledge.

The meeting was declared closed at 14:39.

SIGNED by the Chairman as a true record, as adopted by members at the AGM 2027:

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 Chairman