

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION HELD IN
THE CHURCH HALL, TEMPLECOMBE ON EASTER MONDAY 28th MARCH 2016**

Present: The Attendance Book records 121 people. Branches were represented as follows: Axbridge 25, Bath 3, Bridgwater 8, Cary 17 Chew 7, Crewkerne 1, Dunster 3, Frome 14, Glaston 8, Ilchester 11, Taunton 17 plus 5 visitors.

1. The Master opened the meeting with a moment of quiet and prayer at 3.02 pm and welcomed members, especially those attending for the first time.
2. Members who had died since the last AGM had been remembered during the earlier service.
3. **Apologies for absence** were received from: Jan Swan, Ken & Helen Brown, Mike & Pauline Whittaker, Matthew Higby, the Exton ringers, Jill Hansford, Brian & Barbara Wylde, Jill & Marjorie Legg, Nathan Bartin, Philip Kinsman, Naomi, Tom and Abigail Mills, Alex Wahab, Stuart Reeves.
4. **Young Ringer of the Year and Young Ringer Awards**
The Young Ringer of the Year trophy was presented to Matthew Salthouse of Cary Branch. A large number of young ringers were presented with their Young Ringer Awards. ITTS and ART certificates were also presented. The Master was encouraged to see the good numbers of young ringers about, some of whom were taking branch office, others acting as teachers. He congratulated those acting as teachers for all their hard work.
5. **Notification of Any Other Business** 8 bell striking competition (A Howard)
6. **Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting** - these were signed by the Master as a correct record., Derek Livesey having pointed out that 8 members from Frome Branch attended.
7. **Matters Arising that are not agenda items** - Keith Beale asked what progress had been made to amalgamate EGMEF into the Association. The General Secretary understood that this was being taken forward by the Education Officer and her team.
8. **Officers Reports** - these had been available on the website for some weeks.
.Jenny Astridge pointed out that it was the responsibility of conductors to collect peal fees.
All the reports were accepted without further comment.

9. Election of Officers for 2016/7

There were 3 candidates for the post of Master: Rev Mark Jackson, proposed by Gordon Rendell and seconded by Peter Bartin; Keith Beale, proposed by Mark Davis and seconded by Rosemary Tuhey and Robert Perry, proposed by David Purnell and seconded by David Marshall. All nominations had been circulated with the agenda and posted on the website. Each candidate spoke about themselves and how they saw the post and answered questions from the floor. A ballot was taken which resulted in Rev Mark Jackson being elected.

Independent Examiner – Anna Hallett, proposed by John Hallett, seconded by Mike Hansford and duly elected

Deputy Master - Anna Joyce, proposed by Jay Bunyan and seconded by Paul Feast – elected

Proposed by Mike Hansford and seconded by Richard Newman that all other officers be re-elected en bloc. Carried
Officers for 2016/7 are therefore:

Master	Rev Mark Jackson
Deputy Master	Anna Joyce
General Secretary	Jay Bunyan
Report Editor	Jenny Astridge
Membership Secretary	Jenny Astridge
Treasurer	Charles Pipe-Wolferstan
Peal Secretary	Jenny Astridge
Quarter Peal Secretary	Clifford Nicholls
Tower Adviser	John Hallett
Assistant Tower Advisers	Roland Backhurst and Bernard North
Librarian	David Bromwich
Education Officer	Jill Hansford
Deputy Education Officer	Janet Wyatt
Bell Funds Officer	Margaret Lee
Web Master	Julian Back
Safeguarding Officer	Barrie Hendry
Independent Examiner	Anna Hallett

The Treasurer reminded members that he would be standing down at next year's AGM and offered to give a year's guidance to his successor, with a view to achieving a smooth handover. Hence it would be desirable to have a volunteer to stand for this post sooner rather than later.

Keith Prime then handed over the Deputy Master's chain of office to Anna Joyce. The outgoing Master thanked Keith for his work, providing vital support to the Master.

10. Election of Central Council Representatives for 2017/19

With the exception of Richard Newman, all representatives were prepared to stand again though Roland Backhurst stated that this would be his last triennium. Aaron Moulder was elected on the proposal of Janet Wyatt, seconded by Robert Perry. The remaining 4 representatives (Roland Backhurst, Jay Bunyan, Mike Hansford and George Wyatt) were re-elected on the proposal of Fred Sage, seconded by Richard Newman.

Andrew Howard felt that the representatives did not liaise with the members and there should be better communications between the Central Council and associations. He felt that many of our members did not even know who our representatives were (note that these are in the annual report and on the website) and what the Council did.

11. General Committee decisions

- a. Standing Committee Appointment: Richard Newman was appointed
- b. David Yeo, Beverley Perry and Lesley Perry were elected Honorary Life Members. John Braine updated members on David Yeo's health.
- c. A sub committee was set up to review the rules for both the 6 and 8 bell competitions. Their initial recommendations for the 6 bell competition had been circulated and Lynne Smith outlined the thinking behind these. A straw poll was taken with 47 in favour of implementing these ideas for the 2016 competition, 22 in favour of getting views from branches first and 12 abstaining. Note – the revised rules are on the website. Andrew Howard asked if any changes had been recommended for the 8 bell competition – not yet.
- d. Bell Fund grants were allocated as shown:

	Details	Contractor	Cost	Start date	Grant agreed
Bridgwater	Augment to 12 + flat 6 th . Reconfigure frame, overhaul existing fittings, remove crown staples on 6 & 7, replace clappers on 6, 7 & 8. <i>Install sound control – not included in total</i>	Taylor's	£130,607	2016/17	£12,000
Marksbury	Remove cast in crown staples, retune, rehang in partly new fittings	M Higby	£26,826	Dependent on structural work to tower	£2,680
Stanton Drew	General refurbishment, remove cast in crown staples, inspect main bearings	M Higby	£6,436	Spring/summer 2016	£650
Taunton St Mary Magdalene	Request for further funding				£2,000
Backwell	As previous request – re furbish and augment to 10. Withdraw previous offer of 10% up to a maximum of £8,546	Taylor's	£61,821	Late 2016	£6,200
Totals					£23,530

Note – the original grant offered to Backwell expired in March 2016, as did that offered to Wedmore (£10,000)

12. **Proposed rule changes.** Both had been circulated in advance and posted on the website however the proposal to change the striking competition rule was withdrawn. Charles Pipe-Wolferstan outlined the proposal to reduce the peal fee to 5% which was defeated with 32 votes in favour and 50 against.

13. Financial

- a. **Subscriptions and fees from 1 November 2015.** The General Committee recommended that no changes are made and this was agreed.
- b. **Education Officer's budget.** This was agreed at £1,000 as requested on the proposal of Lynne Smith, seconded by David Bromwich. There is a carry over of funds from last year.
- c. **Central Council Representatives' expenses.** The General Committee recommendation was that these remain at up to £150 per representative for the 2016 meeting in Portsmouth was carried. On behalf of the Central Council representatives the General Secretary thanked the membership for their generosity.
Proposed by John Hallett and seconded by Mike Hansford that the accounts, as shown on pp 8-11 in the annual report be accepted. Agreed.

14. Appointment of Branch Bell Maintenance Contacts.

As agreed the Treasurer has investigated the outstanding insurance issues and his report had been posted on the website. Personal accident insurance for BMCs is in place and he had sought the advice of the Central Council Tower Stewardship Committee and Towergate Insurance Group regarding Professional Indemnity cover. The opinions received were that whilst Professional Indemnity cover is required for professionally given, paid advice, it is not required for the informal advice given by BMCs. Other associations had been contacted and none of these held Professional Liability insurance.

Keith Beale stated that he had spoken to EIG who had said the advice need not be professional. When put to the vote there was a clear majority against taking out Professional Indemnity insurance.

17. Ratification of election of non resident life members prior to peals (2014/5)

The belfry elections of were Colin Aked, Kathryn Arkless, Patricia Garrett, Craig Homewood, James Kirkaldy, Nicholas Lawrence, Edward Mack, Thomas Moller, Andrew Ogden, Colin Salter, George Vant, Lucy Warren were confirmed on the proposal of Jenny Astridge, seconded by Christine Andrew.

18. Association Striking Competitions

6 bell – 18th June in Frome Branch, noting that the amended rules will be used.

8 bell – 24th September in Bath Branch – at Corston with Grandsire Major as the method.

c. Inter Branch Young Ringers competition: This will take place on Sunday 11th September. Jill Hansford will let branches know when the arrangements are confirmed.

d. Ringing World National Youth Competition. A team will be entered for the competition in London on 9th July.

19. 2017 AGM

This will be held in the Chew Branch on Easter Monday, 17th April 2017

Anna Joyce asked why the AGM had to be on Easter Monday and the General Secretary replied that other dates had been tried but proved equally unpopular. Robert Perry suggested the Saturday following Easter as a possibility. The General Committee will discuss and make recommendations for 2018.

20. Any other business

Due to the ongoing review of the striking competition rules, the proposal regarding the 8 bell competition was withdrawn.

21. Votes of thanks.

The outgoing Deputy Master thanked all those involved in the arrangements for the day, ringers, clergy and PCCs, also to Rev Peter Hallett for taking the service and Charles Pipe-Wolferstan for playing the organ. Audrey Riley was presented with a bouquet in appreciation of her hard work with the local arrangements and tea.

There being no other business the outgoing Master closed the meeting with a prayer at 4.50 pm and handed over the chain of office to the new Master.

Signed

Date