

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION HELD IN
THE CHURCH OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, CHARD ON SATURDAY 12TH May 2018**

Present: The Attendance Book records 83 people. Branches were represented as follows: Axbridge 12, Bath 2, Bridgwater10, Cary 3, Chew 5, Crewkerne 17, Dunster 2, Frome 8, Glaston 2, Ilchester 8, Taunton 15 plus 2 visitors.

1. After Ken Hallett (Crewkerne Branch Secretary and Chard Churchwarden) had initially welcomed the assembled company and covered health and safety issues, the Master opened the meeting with a moment of quiet and prayer at 3.05 pm and welcomed members, especially those attending for the first time. He thanked Ken Hallett and his team for their hospitality.
2. Members stood to remember serving and past members who had died since the last AGM.
3. **Apologies for absence** were received from: Gordon Rendell, Jenny Astridge, Andrew Howard, Peter Bartin, Mike Palmer, Richard & Marion Newman, Margaret Taylor, John Gilbert, Chris Marshall, Derek Livesey, Anna Joyce, Clare & Peter Leavold, Angie Hodges, Jenny Llewellyn, Bob Stenhouse, Jill Hansford, Tim Hawkings, Mick Howes, Mike \hebden, Jan Swan, Felicity Mussell, June Legg. The General Secretary asked members not to confuse this with the attendance register which was circulating (very slowly; it made its way back to the top table during AOB).
4. **Young Ringer of the Year and ART Awards**
 - a. Les Boyce (ART Trustee & Tutor) on behalf of his fellow trustees Stephanie Warboys and Stephanie Pattenden), presented the 2nd place award for best progress in recruitment and retention of new ringers to the Dunster Branch. He emphasised the importance of teamwork and commented that the Dunster Branch had ten ART accredited and other good teachers. They had trained up 30 new ringers, all of whom were now Association members. A new simulator had been installed at Sampford Brett and another would be installed soon at Carhampton. Susan Mew then received the award on behalf of the Dunster Branch. Les Boyce then presented an individual award for the most progress at level 5 of “learning the ropes” to Yuka Jones who, in her first two years of ringing, had rung 44 quarter-peals. Les commented: “She does her homework”, an example to us all.
 - b. Then The Master, with assistance from Mike Hansford (standing in for Jill Hansford, the Education Officer), presented The Young Ringer of the Year trophy William Hooper (Ashwick), with 2nd and 3rd places to Melissa Hunt and Eddie Hodgson respectively. Alex Durrant was placed fourth and Isabel Hellings fifth.
5. **Notification of Any Other Business** Two items from Keith Beale and one from the General Secretary concerning significant changes in the Central Council.
6. **Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting** - the meeting agreed (nem con) that these were a correct record and duly signed by the Master.
7. **Matters Arising that are not agenda items** – None
8. **Officers Reports** - These were all available to read in the Association Annual Report, issued to all members and available since mid-March. All the reports were accepted without further comment.
9. **Election of Officers for 2016/7**

Jay Bunyan proposed and Mike Hansford seconded, David Parfrey to the post of General Secretary Designate. This was carried nem con. Robert Perry said this was a good idea as it gave plenty of hand over time. The consensus of the meeting was in accord and accepted that this was a transitory post. Roland Backhurst was not standing for re-election as an Assistant Tower Advisor and the Master thanked him for his work in this role. Jay Bunyan proposed and Mike Hansford seconded that all the remaining officers should be re-elected en bloc. This was carried nem.con

Officers for 2018/9 are therefore:

Master	Rev Mark Jackson
Deputy Master	Jim Shepard
General Secretary	Jay Bunyan
General Secretary Designate	David Parfrey
Report Editor	Jenny Astridge
Membership Secretary	Jay Bunyan

Treasurer	Liz Lane
Peal Secretary	Jenny Astridge
Quarter Peal Secretary	Clifford Nicholls
Safeguarding Officer	Barrie Hendry
Tower Adviser	John Hallett
Assistant Tower Adviser	Bernard North
Librarian	David Bromwich
Education Officer	Jill Hansford
Deputy Education Officer	Janet Wyatt
Bell Funds Officer	Margaret Lee
Web Master	Julian Back
Independent Examiner	Anna Hallett

10. General Committee decisions

- Standing Committee Appointment: Charles Pipe-Wolferstan was appointed.
- Robert Perry and Janet Wyatt were elected Honorary Life Members.
- It was agreed that in order to comply with Charity Commission regulations, all General Committee members would hold a C1 certificate or complete a C1 safeguarding course within one year of joining the committee.
- Bell Fund grants were allocated as shown:

Tower	Details	Contractor	Cost	Start Date	Grant
Sutton Montis	Augment from 3 to 6 with new/refurbished fittings Estimated cost of additional 3 bells from Keltek Trust	M Higby	£20,238 £13, 439	2018	£5,052
Kingston St Mary	Restore & rehang in mainly new fittings incl. New cast iron headstocks/bearing. Bells 3,4,5 & 6 to have bolt holes, CIS roots and clapper indents welded	Taylors	£50,610	July/Aug 2018	£7,592
Badgworth	Repair broken 4 th bell Rehang all 5 bells in new/refurbished fittings	M Higby	£27,545		£4,132
Totals					£16,776

11. Financial

- Subscriptions and fees from 1 November 2018.** The General Committee recommended that no changes are made and this was agreed.
- Education Budget** – the details had already been posted on the website. The General Committee had recommended that the £2,000 requested by the Education Officer. This was agreed, nem con.
- Central Council Representatives' expenses.** The Master reiterated his view that CC Representatives should be adequately compensated, viz. the cost of travel and accommodation (but not food). This was agreed with one abstention.

12. Bell Maintenance Contacts (BMCs) : - Training Issues

Mike Hansford reported (on Jill's behalf) that each Branch now had a BMC and that they had been provided with a copy of the Central Council's manual on belfry maintenance. He said that training was available on request and urged all tower captains and steeple keepers to contact their BMC as a little TLC should keep bells in order a bit longer.

- General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR):** Julian Back reported that the GDPR replaces the Data Protection Act and, as we are already DPA compliant, we didn't need to do too much. He also said that he had updated the consent form to comply with the new regulations, not least, the need for permission from members to print their names in the Annual Report, and for new members to sign when they were elected. Julian also reminded Branch officers that they would need Branch members' written permission (an email would suffice) to keep them on the mailing list. A suitable form was available on the website. For the future Julian warned that if the manner in which we communicated was to change then

this would involve a lot of work and a survey of all members would be necessary. The General Secretary also referred members to the CC website for information.

14. Centenary of the WW1 Armistice: Advice had been sought on whether or not ringing should be half-muffled. The Central Council guidance was that ringing in the morning should be half-muffled but, after midday, it should be open. The General Secretary reminded the meeting that new ringers recruited for the Armistice were eligible to sign up for “New Ringers Remember”. Further details are available on the CC website.

The Master said that it was important that we do as much ringing as we can as it would raise the profile of ringing in the community and promote the importance of bells in celebrating major national events.

15. Ratification of election of non resident life members prior to peals (2016/7)

The belfry elections of John J Bissell, Robert D Crighton, Barbara R Fewster, Benjamin J Kipling, Harm Jan de Kok, Michael O’Hagan, Peter M C Richards, George M Salter, David L Sparling and Jennifer R Sparling were confirmed.

16. Association Striking Competitions:

- a. 6 bell – 16th June in the Ilchester Branch.
- b. 8-bell – 29th September in the Cary Branch (Wincanton), and would possibly be 168 of Triples in *any* method; this decision to be confirmed or otherwise soon. Ray Haines expressed doubts about the availability of parking but Paul Wotton advised the meeting of the significant availability of parking reasonably close to the church. Details would be posted nearer the time.
- c. Young Ringers Inter Branch competition: Details would follow.
- d. Ringing World National Youth Competition. A team will be entered for the competition on 7th July. Competitors need to be less than 19 years old on the day of the competition. The Treasurer said that it was hoped to ring a touch of Grandsire Triples instead of call changes as in previous years.

17 Date for 2019 AGM

This would be hosted by the Dunster Branch (possibly at Dulverton). After a little discussion the meeting agreed that the date should be the second Saturday in May (11th) but the decision to have the date in May would be reviewed at next year’s meeting.

18. Any other business:

- a. Keith Beale suggested that communication with members should be direct rather than through the Branch Secretary or the Announcement List. Julian Back replied that it might be possible but that it was advisable first to find out if members were happy with the present lines of communication. If not, a revamp of the website would be involved generating a lot of work. There followed some discussion on subscription payments and the Treasurer confirmed that Branches were generally paying via BACS.
- b. Keith Beale proposed that the eight bell competition should be any method that the band chose, the only stipulation being a minimum of 168 changes. Jim Shepard agreed in principle but suggested a minimum of 160 changes which would allow touches of Major. He also asked for the rules of the six bell competition to be looked at again. Charles Pipe-Wolferstan pointed out the problems faced by judges if they were faced by different methods of different lengths and on different numbers of bells (viz. Triples or Major), but Keith Beale felt this was irrelevant.
- c. The General Secretary reminded the meeting of the radical changes taking place in the Central Council, including the formation of Work Groups. She said that anybody could go to the meeting and in future guilds/associations may not have representatives. Mike Hansford said that CC Reps didn’t just put forward their own views but those of the membership and hence they needed members to be aware of upcoming CC decisions so that they could be mandated appropriately.

19. Janet Wyatt then handed over the Deputy Master’s chain of office to Jim Shepard.

20 Votes of thanks.

The outgoing Deputy Master thanked all those involved in the arrangements for the day, Chard ringers, clergy and Churchwarden (Ken Hallett), and those who prepared and served the tea. She also thanked The Rev Catherine Hawksley for taking the service, The Master for preaching the sermon and Patrick Rendell for playing the organ.

The meeting closed at 4.15 pm

Signed

Date