

BATH & WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting held at Dulverton on Saturday 11th May 2019

1. **Opening**

The Master opened the meeting with prayer before welcoming attendees, especially those attending for their first time. The Master thanked the Dulverton Ringers for local arrangements and for their very kind hospitality.

2. **Remembering Friends**

In remembering all those members, past and present, who have died since we last met the Master read their names:

Jenny Astridge of Chilcompton
Michael Ralph of Monksilver
Margaret Tudball of Dunster
Dennis Whatmore of Pitminster

Let light perpetual shine upon them

3. **Attendance and Apologies**

These were noted having been recorded in the attendance book.

4. **Young Ringer of the Year**

The meeting celebrated all young ringers and not so young novices. The Master was delighted to presentation the Young Ringer of the Year trophy to Melissa Hunt.

5. **Items previously notified for inclusion under Any Other Business**

No items had been notified.

6. **Minutes of 2018 Annual General Meeting**

The meeting agreed unanimously that these were a correct record and they were duly signed by the Master.

7. **Matters Arising that are not agenda items**

There were no matters arising.

8. **Officers Reports**

These were all available to read in the Association Annual Report, issued to all members and had been on the website since mid-March. All the reports were accepted without further comment.

9. **Election of Officers for 2019/20**

The Following Officers were elected by the meeting having been proposed en-bloc by Matthew Higby and seconded by Margaret Lee.

Master – Rev Mark Jackson
General Secretary – David Parfrey
Tower Adviser – John Hallett
Report Editor – Jay Bunyan
Education Officer – Jill Hansford
Bell Funds Officer – Jay Bunyan
Quarter Peal Secretary – Clifford Nichols

Deputy Master – Joan Hopwood
Treasurer – Liz Lane
Assistant Tower Advisor – Bernard North
Membership Secretary – Debbie Parfrey
Deputy Education Officer – Jan Wyatt
Peal Secretary – Tony Cox
Webmaster – Julian Back

Safeguarding Officer – Barrie Hendry
Independent Examiner – Anna Hallett

Librarian – David Bromwich

10. Election of Central Council representatives for 2020-2022.

Central Council Representatives are elected for three year terms and the present term ends in 2020. The meeting therefore considered and determined those members who would represent the Association in the next term.

The present representatives are:

Jay Bunyan
Aaron Moulder
George Wyatt
Mike Hansford
Roland Backhurst

George Wyatt had indicated his wish to stand down at the end of this term, and he was thanked by the Master for his valuable contribution. Roland Backhurst also confirmed that he would be happy to stand down if someone else wished to take on this role. The following members were nominated as our representatives for the next three year term commencing 2020:

Jay Bunyan
Aaron Moulder
Mike Hansford
Charles Pipe-Wolferstan
David Parfrey

11. General Committee Decisions

- a. Roger Fox was elected to Honorary Life Membership
- b. It was agreed that there should be a review of the Association rules. David Parfrey to lead
- c. Bell Fund grants awarded (see table below)
- d. It was agreed that a further grant of £5,000 be allocated to Bridgwater

| Tower | Details | Contractor | Cost | Grant offered |
|------------------------------------|--|------------|----------------|----------------|
| Nunney | Augment to 8 | M Higby | £22,980 | £5,745 |
| Pylle | General refurbishment | M Higby | £2,162 | £540 |
| Monksilver | Rehang on modern bearings, remove cast-in crown staples (4 & 5), refurbishment of clappers, running gear etc. Fit rope guide | Taylors | £21,798 | £5,450 |
| Wincanton | Paint frame | Ian Hasman | £2,780 | £695 |
| Locking | Overhaul clapper assemblies, adjust pulley pivot bolts and dingler assemblies. General tightening up | Nicholson | £2,353 | £588 |
| Goathurst | Weld crack in crown of 5 th , drill out remaining crown staples, general refurbishment | M Higby | £18,941 | £4735 |
| Totals for new applications | | | £71,014 | £22,980 |

12. Financial

Keith Beale asked what the purpose of the Peal Fee, the meeting was informed that its intent was to cover the cost of entry in the Association's Peal Book. Matthew Higby also questioned the Peal

Fee and suggested that perhaps it was time to move to electronic recording of peals. He also noted that some associations are ending the collection of a peal fee. Charles Pipe Wolferstan reminded the meeting that the peal fee is presently linked to the membership fee (10%) and so if the latter rises then so does the former. It was agreed that the peal fee would be covered by the rules review noted earlier (propose Liz Lane and seconded Keith Beale).

Keith Beale asked why £1,700 is unspent in the training budget. Mike Hansford, on behalf of Jill who was unable to be present, responded that this was funding earmarked for existing projects, particularly the existing simulator project.

Following these discussion points consideration was given to three General Committee Recommendations:

- a. Subscriptions & Fees from 1 November 2019 - no change
- b. An increase to £3,800 in the training budget: proposed by Jan Swan, seconded by Pearl Jeanes and carried by the meeting.
- c. Central Council Representatives' Expenses 2019 - that reasonable travel and accommodation expenses (not meals) may be claimed for the meeting in London, proposed by Derek Livesey, seconded by Matthew Higby and carried by the meeting.

13. General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

Julian Back, Webmaster and Data Controller provided the meeting with an overview of the new GDPR, a new legal obligation affecting the storage and usage of personal data. Generally we are compliant with the new regulations but noted that a small sub-committee of the General Committee would be meeting to deal with the remaining issues. Keith asked how many members are on email and whether we might increase our usage of this medium for communication, however concerns were voiced by some members concerned with increasing their digital footprint. Matthew Higby, clarifying that he intended no criticism of any officers, felt that something had changed in the functionality of the website, perhaps during a change in supplier.

14. Proposed change to Association Rule 4.

The following wording change had been suggested by Axbridge Branch:

"All annual subscriptions fall due on election and subsequently on 1st November each year, and should be paid to the relevant Branch Officer within three months"

This change was proposed by John Parsons, seconded by Matthew Higby and carried by the meeting

15. Ratification of election of non resident life members elected prior to peals – the election of those named in the annual report were ratified

16. Association Striking Competition

Agreed dates for 2019.

- Six bell – 15th June in Taunton Branch. The eliminator heats will be at Norton Fitzwarren and Combe Florey with the final round at Lydeard St Lawrence
- Eight bell - 28th September in Chew Branch at Wraxall, where the test piece will be 196 Grandsire Triples (all singles).
- Young Ringers Inter Branch competition – 10th September at Ashwick
- Ringing World National Youth Contest in Liverpool on 6th July – a B&WDACR team has been entered but one more ringer is needed (please speak to Jan Wyatt).

Proposed dates for 2020.

- Six bell – 21st June in Axbridge Branch
- Eight bell – 27th September in Crewkerne Branch

17. Date of 2020 AGM in Frome Branch.

The Master introduced this item reminding members that it had been agreed that members would review the decision to move the standard date, either confirming the second Saturday in May going forward or determining to revert to the original Easter Monday. Mark Davies spoke in favour of Easter Monday and Mike Hansford spoke in favour of the May date. Jim Shepard asked members to think about the Bank Holiday traffic, while John Gilbert reminded the meeting that the last time a different date was proposed it was trialled for three years. Joan Hopwood said that this year's meeting had been badly publicised in the Ringing World. Jay responded that the RW had not provided the publicity that had been booked and an apology had been received.

The decision was put to the meeting and a show of hands suggested a 4:1 majority in favour of keeping the change to the second Saturday in May each year. The 2020 AGM will therefore be held in Frome Branch on 9th May.

18. Any Other Business

The Master in thanking everyone for their contribution over the last year particularly drew attention to Jay's retirement as General Secretary after many years' service. He presented Jay with gifts including an Icon of St Dunston, who was responsible for the first Church Bell in the country at Glastonbury. We are of course fortunate that Jay will continue to be contributing as Report Editor and as Bell Funds Officer. Jay presented David Parfrey with a Crystal Ball, in her experience a most necessary tool for the General Secretary.

19. Vote of Thanks

The immediate past Deputy Master, Jim Shepard, gave the vote of thanks to:

- The Rev Andrew Thomas and the Rev Paul Kingdom for taking the service
- Charles Pipe-Wolferstan for playing the organ
- Emily Feldberg for the new ringers hymn
- Jan Swan and Dunster Branch Officers & Ringers for local arrangements and a wonderful tea
- Cynthia Sharpe and Ann Markivick for Dulverton liaison
- Dunster Branch Tower Masters and ringers for hosting the tower visits.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed.