

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION HELD IN THE CHURCH HALL,
CHILCOMPTON ON EASTER MONDAY 13th APRIL 2009**

Present: The Attendance Book records the names of 107 people. Branches were represented as follows: Axbridge 19, Bath 4, Bridgwater 9, Cary 4, Chew 11, Crewkerne 1, Dunster 7, Frome 28, Glaston 2, Ilchester 12, Taunton 9, Visitors 1.

1. The Master opened the meeting with a moment of quiet and prayer at 3.00 pm.
2. Members who had died since the last AGM were remembered during the service and again at the meeting with the addition of Charles Langdon (West Huntspill).
3. **Apologies for Absence** Apologies were recorded from: Carol Hardwick, Andrew Pugh, Jeremy Dugdale, Eddie Hancock, Isaac and Joseph Wills, Janet Wyatt, Shirley Long.
4. **Notification of Any Other Business** - See item 20.
5. **Young Ringer of the Year Award** George Wareham presented his trophy together with a cheque to the Association Young Ringer of the Year Matthew Martin of South Petherton. In second place was Joseph Wills and third, Isaac Wills, both from South Petherton.
6. **Minutes of the 2008 Annual General Meeting** The minutes as printed in the 2008 Annual Report were approved and signed by the Master.
7. **Matters Arising** Keith Beale enquired about progress of the new CD. The General Secretary would request an update from Janet Wyatt. He also asked what the Treasurer considered a "worthwhile" project. The Treasurer agreed to discuss this outside the meeting.

8. **Officers' Reports**

Treasurer - David Floyd asked what prizes were given to the Young Ringer of the Year from EGMET (in addition to the cash prizes). Andrew Howard confirmed that this was for a place on a ringing course and needed to be applied for.

Keith Beale asked if the commitment to Bell Fund grants exceeded the amount of money available. The Treasurer confirmed that grants were within the monies available and that some £25,000 was in hand, held in the CBF deposit account.

The Treasurer also mentioned that Branch Secretaries/Treasurers can now have paying-in books.

All other reports were accepted without comment.

9. **Election of Officers for 2009-2010:**

Master Proposed by Jay Bunyan and seconded by Derek Livesy that Rev Tim Hawkings be re-elected. Carried unanimously.

Deputy Master On the proposal of Chris Cawood, seconded by Helen Parkin, Michael Horseman, Honorary Life Member of Farmborough, was elected. The retiring Deputy Master Anne Stenning, invested Michael with the chain of office and he gave a brief speech of acceptance.

Richard Newman proposed that the remaining officers be re-elected en bloc as per the General Committee recommendations. Seconded by Michael Horseman and carried with 4 abstentions. The following were therefore elected:

General Secretary	Jay Bunyan
Assistant Secretary - Report	David Floyd
Assistant Secretary - Membership	Jenny Astridge
(the General Committee having agreed to split the Assistant Secretary post on Carol Hardwick's retirement)	
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
Bell Funds Officer	Janet Wyatt
Education Officer	David Purnell
Deputy Education Officer	Janet Wyatt
Independent Examiner	Paul Treby

10. **General Committee decisions**

i. **Appointment to Standing Committee** - Richard Newman

ii. **Grants from the Bell Fund.** The following grants had been made:

Martock - Rehang bells in all new modern fittings. Retune and part turn bells. Remove cast-in staples. Tighten/clean/paint bell frame.

Grant £6,000 (based on costs of £40,000)

Porlock - Rehang on metal headstocks with clapper adjusting pins, refurbishment or replacement of headstock bearings, refurbishment of wheels, improvements to roping and painting of frame. Removal of cast in crown staples and retuning of all 6 bells.

Grant £2,000 (based on costs of £13,043)

- iii. Preb C J B Marshall was elected a Vice President of the Association. Chris thanked members for this honour, which he said was like being elevated to the peerage. He also thanked members again for their generous retirement cheque which had been used to purchase a very fine 1782 Bristol silver watch for his collection.
- iv. David Purnell and George Wareham were elected Honorary Life Members of the Association.

11. Financial

a. Subscriptions and fees from 1 November 2009

The General Committee recommendation was that these remain unchanged - proposed by Michael Horseman and seconded by David Floyd that subscriptions and fees are unchanged - this was carried unanimously.

Keith Beale asked if any thought had been given to splitting the subscription so that Gift Aid could be claimed on a proportion to the Bell Fund. George Massey stated that donations for Gift Aid needed to be voluntary to qualify. David Purnell said this proposal would work if the General Fund had charitable status. It was agreed that the officers would investigate although this proposal has been put forward before and rejected.

- ##### b. Central Council representatives expenses
- the recommendation was that these revert to £100 per representative. George Massey proposed that the expenses remain at £120 per representative. This was seconded by David Purnell with 10 abstentions and no votes against.

12. Proposed Rule Change

Richard Newman introduced proposals to remove ambiguity from Rules 3 and 14. These were proposed by Richard Newman, seconded by Helen Floyd and carried with one abstention.

Rule 3 (i) will now read:

Ringling members may be elected if they have satisfied the Branch Ringing Master or Secretary that they can raise and lower a bell and ring rounds accurately. They shall be classed as Resident or Non-resident and may be elected at any Branch Meeting. Non-members, who are standing in a peal attempt, may be elected in the belfry prior to the attempt provided that at least half the band are elected resident members of the Association. Belfry Elections must be ratified at a subsequent Association meeting. Resident members shall subscribe annually and may transfer to non-resident status if fully paid-up on leaving the Diocese after three years of subscriptions have been paid. Non-resident members shall make a single subscription and may ring peals for the Association but shall take no part in running its affairs. They shall be transferred to resident status in the appropriate branch on taking up residence in the Diocese.

The last sentence of Rule 14 will now read:

Booking fees shall be 10% of the Membership Fee per ringer..

13. Ratification of election of non resident life members prior to peals

The belfry elections of Rachael Aland, Hadden Arrowsmith, Marian J Batty, Owen J Borlase, Morley Bray, Andrew Chinn, Stephen A Croxall, Thomas D Dawson, Elizabeth Hill, Malcolm T Johns, Thomas A Lawrance, Peter A Sharp, Liam Sims, Stuart B P Talbot, Eleanor G W Wallace and Thomas Waterson were ratified on the proposal of Michael Horseman, seconded by Michael Hansford.

Branch Secretaries are reminded that resident members may transfer to non-resident status on moving out of the Diocese if fully paid-up after three years of subscriptions have been paid. The Assistant Secretary (Membership) should be notified of such changes of status.

14. Role of Deputy Master

The role of Deputy Master had been discussed at both Standing and General Committees, the questions being:

- do we need a Ringing Master
- and if so, should this be the Deputy Master
- or should the Deputy Master post remain as it is with someone else as Ringing Master

Some of the duties for such a post could include:

- Arranging special practices
- Co-ordinating quarter peal fortnight
- Assisting Training Officer with Association training days, recruiting helpers etc.
- Organise or liaise with branches re Association ringing events, Striking Competitions etc.
- Run the ringing at Association events

Stephen Powell asked if the Master could lead the ringing as well as the spiritual side of the association.

Keith Beale asked who had made the proposal originally. Richard Newman replied that the standing Committee felt that as the new Master was a busy cleric, some assistance might be required.

It was agreed that the General Secretary should write to branches to see if there was a need for such a post and it would be discussed at the next General Committee meeting.

15. Home for Association library

The General Secretary reported that despite pursuing many possibilities no home had yet been found for the library. Members were asked to give this more thought and inform the General Secretary if they could think of a suitable place to house the library.

16. Life Members Day

Having seen an announcement for a Life Members Day in the Yorkshire Association, Roland Backhurst suggested that we should hold a similar event. The Honorary Life Members present thought this was an excellent idea and the Master offered to host the gathering which, if successful, could become an annual event. Richard Newman asked who would pay for this and the Master confirmed that there would be no cost to the Association. The Master would therefore make the necessary arrangements to include some ringing at a light ground floor ring, followed by lunch and further ringing if required.

17. A Bell for Zambia

The General Secretary had received a letter from Father Peter Martin at Cannington asking for assistance with replacing the cracked bell at Chipili Cathedral in Zambia. This project had been discussed by the General Committee, who agreed that it was outside the remit of the Bell Fund. Michael Horseman suggested that the bell could be welded but Matthew Higby confirmed it would be uneconomically expensive to ship it back to England for welding. John Gilbert mentioned that Colin Lewis had arranged the casting of bells in South Africa. Keith Beale felt that this would be a good project for the 1100th anniversary of the Diocese and the meeting was in agreement in principle. At George Massey's suggestion the General Secretary agreed to contact Father Martin to ascertain exactly what was required/expected by the cathedral authorities in Zambia. Once this information had been received she would write to the branches for their support.

18. Association Striking Competitions

Dates for 2009:

6 bell	Axbridge Branch	20 th June
8 bell	Crewkerne Branch	26 th September

dates for 2010:

6 bell	Bath Branch	19 th June
8 bell	Dunster Branch	25 th September

19. 2010 AGM

This will be held in Glaston Branch on Easter Monday, 5th April 2010.

20. Any other business

- a. Use of electronic information. Andrew Howard felt that the Association needed driving into the 21st century and that the website should be the lifeblood of the Association. The annual report should be available on line and subscriptions should be paid by direct debit. He also felt that the Master should post his diary on the website showing when he was visiting various branch events. This provoked some lively discussion and it was suggested that if Andrew subscribed to the Association News list he would see that we were making good use of modern technology.
- b. Keith Beale reminded members that there was a unique situation in that the new Master of the Ancient Society of College Youths was a Somerset man. He asked that our Master should write to Peter Valuks offering our congratulations on his appointment to this prestigious post.

21. Votes of thanks

The General Secretary thanked the Rev North for the use of Chilcompton church and hall, Charles Pipe-Wolferstan for playing the organ, the Postlebury group of ringers for the excellent tea (including Margaret Glasgow's 1100th anniversary cake), and all those involved in organising the ringing and other local arrangements. There being no other business the Master closed the meeting with a prayer at 4.35 pm.