

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION HELD IN
THE TOWN HALL, AXBRIDGE ON EASTER MONDAY 1st APRIL 2013**

Present: The Attendance Book records 119 people. Branches were represented as follows: Axbridge 37, Bath 4, Bridgwater 9, Cary 7, Chew 14, Crewkerne 4, Dunster 3, Frome 10, Glaston 3, Ilchester 10, Taunton 15, Visitors 3. It is felt that more were actually at the meeting and tea than signed the book.

1. The Master opened the meeting with a moment of quiet and prayer at 3.02 pm.
2. Members who had died since the last AGM were remembered during the earlier service.
3. **Apologies for absence** were received from: Henry Warren, Roy Cave, Susan Mew, Ronald Brightman, Stephen Powell, Margaret Taylor, Derek Livsey, Lynne Livsey, Shirley Long, Gill Hipwood, Chris Harvey, Margaret Tibbs, Marjory Legg, June Legg, Jenny Astridge, Pam Bellamy, Brian Dodd, Abby Tibble, Craig Rendell, Ivan Rendell, David Hammond, David Leger

4. **Young Ringer of the Year and Young Ringer Awards**

The Young Ringer of the Year trophy was presented to George Wyatt of Portishead, (1592 points). Runners up were Tobias Dando (1231 points) and Lily Carswell (568 points), both from Templecombe. Several young ringers were presented with their Young Ringer Award certificates and monetary rewards. ITTS and ART certificates were also presented and Jill Hansford outlined the content of the modules. Pam Ebsworth, Paul Ebsworth and Annette Organ are training to be mentors.

5. **Notification of Any Other Business** Somerset Ringing Festival (Elizabeth Lane), Marketing (Martin Pearson), Quarter Peal Fortnight (Margaret Lee).
6. **Minutes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting** Keith Beale asked why his recommendation that David Bromwich be considered for honorary life membership had been omitted from AOB. The secretary explained that she had approached David following the meeting and he did not wish to be nominated whilst still in office. This was omitted from the minutes to save embarrassment. The minutes as printed in the 2012 Annual Report were then approved and signed by the Master.

7. **Matters Arising that are not agenda items** - none

8. **Officers' Reports**

Treasurer - £41 had been incorrectly attributed to the Deputy Education Officer. This covered web hosting fees and DPA expenses incurred by the Web Maintainer.

Bell Funds Officer - Margaret Lee was thanked for her efforts and ideas in this role

Education Officer - Jill Hansford noted that the number of young ringers had almost trebled and the number of Young Ringer Awards had increased from 21 last year to 40 this year. We have 38 new teachers and 14 mentors. We need more ringing centres and are supporting one per year. For example, Hilfarrance is offering 60 courses per year. An inter branch young ringers competition is planned for the autumn

Membership - this report highlights double payers and attempts to show actual numbers rather than subscriptions paid.

The Master thanked Association and Branch officers for their work, mentioning especially Paul Treby (Independent Examiner) who has left the area. David Floyd questioned the credentials of the incoming Independent Examiner and received a satisfactory reply from the Treasurer.

All reports were accepted on the proposal of Jay Bunyan, seconded by Charles Pipe-Wolferstan and carried without dissent.

9. **Election of Officers for 2012 - 2013**

Proposed by Michael Hansford and seconded by Michael Horseman that the General Committee recommendations for officers be accepted. Carried with abstentions from the listed officers and the following were therefore elected:

Master	Tim Hawkings
Deputy Master	Walter Rice
General Secretary	Jay Bunyan
Report Editor	Jenny Astridge
Membership Secretary	Jay Bunyan
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 Maintainer
Independent Examiner

David Floyd
Owen Cullwick

Fred Sage then handed over the Deputy Master's chain of office to Walter Rice who said he was encouraged by the number of young ringers present. There had been Rices at Banwell since the 1830s and the Banwell ringers had presented the Association with the Master's badge.

10. Election of Central Council Representatives

Matthew Higby is standing down as a Central Council Representative. He proposed that George Wyatt be elected to replace him for the 2014-2016 triennium, seconded by Philip Kinsman and carried. Roland Backhurst, Jay Bunyan, Mike Hansford and Richard Newman were re-elected on the proposal of John Hallett, seconded by Christine Andrew..

11. General Committee decisions

- a. Standing Committee Appointment: Richard Newman was appointed
- b. Mike and Jill Hansford were elected honorary life members. They were presented with their certificates at this meeting.
- c. Bell Fund grants were allocated as shown:

Tower	Details	Cost	Grant	Faculty
Bicknoller	Add new treble (from Keltex Trust) to create a ring of 6. Contractor – Matthew Higby	£9,871	£1,250	Yes
Worle	Rehang bells in new fittings. Retune to listed fourth. Contractor - Nicholsons	£33,124	£4,150	Yes – work started
Winscombe	a) Provide safe access platform Contractor - Whitechapel	£3,916	£550 total	
	b) Rebus clappers (except 3 rd) Contractor – Matthew Higby	£595		
Yeovil	Rehang, augment to 12 plus 2 semitones Contractor - Whitechapel	£156,988 after deducting work to Sanctus bell and chiming hammers	£12,000	Yes

The proposal to install a new 15cwt ring of 10 at Wedmore was discussed and it was agreed that a decision should be deferred to next year when more information regarding the faculty, planning and practicalities would be available.

12. Financial

a. Subscriptions and fees from 1 November 2013

The General Committee's proposal that subscriptions increase to £8 with a reduced rate (£4) for those in full time education was discussed. It was appreciated that there was an increased demand on funds, e.g. Education budget. Keith Beale asked why two levels were needed - he would be happy to pay £12. David Purnell pointed out that many young ringers were today taking home more than sufficient to pay the full subscription.

A flat rate of £8 was proposed by Robert Perry, seconded by David Floyd and carried unanimously. This will also apply to Non Resident Life members as a one-off payment.

Peal fees would therefore rise to 80p per ringer. Ray Haines felt that this might result in a decrease in peals rung for the Association. Jeff Knipe pointed out that all peal information is available online - do we need it in the report as well - the general consensus of the meeting was: yes!

Affiliation fees will remain at £15.

- b. **Central Council Representatives' expenses.** The General Committee recommendation was that these remain at £150 per representative. This figure was agreed with 5 abstentions and no votes against. The General Secretary thanked the membership for their generosity
- c. **Education Officer's budget.** This was agreed at £2,500 Andrew Howard asked if this was enough. He felt that the Association needed to spend more money on training and less on bell restoration.

13. Proposed changes to Association Rules 3 and 4

The change to Rule 3, proposed by David Floyd and seconded by Michael Horseman was carried without dissent. The words "...notify the Membership Secretary" are deleted and replaced by "General Secretary or appointed deputy".

Change to Rule 4: The proposal from David Floyd, seconded by Michael Horseman provoked a lively discussion, especially on matching membership numbers to subscriptions received. It was generally agreed that members elected after 1st September should pay a subscription valid until 31st October the following year. Charles Pipe-Wolferstan put the amendment, seconded by John Dunstone, to the meeting and this was clearly carried. The substantive motion, as amended, was also carried.

Rule 4 now reads: “All annual subscriptions fall due on election and subsequently on 1st November each year, and should be paid to the designated Branch Officer within five months. However, the subscription of any member elected between 1st September and 31st October shall run until 31st October of the following year. Re-election is necessary if a lapse in payments exceeds one year. Membership may be suspended or withdrawn at the discretion of the General Committee, in which case there shall be a right of appeal to that body.”

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

The belfry elections of Jennifer C M Hancock (2006-7), Susan L Apter (2010-11), Richard Barclay, Graham A Duke, Julian N Ferrar, David W Grimwood, Katharine A Hill, Josie S Irving, Nigel R D Orchard, Timothy R Palmer, Guarang Patel, Lee Pinnington, Stephanie J Rueff, Simon Walker, Andrew J Withers, Alison D Yearsley (now Orchard), Katherine E Young (all 2011-12) were ratified.

It was felt useful for the home towers of NRLMs to be listed

15. Association Striking Competitions

a. Agreed dates for 2013

6 bell - 15th June in Chew Branch - heats at Ubley, East Harptree and Chew Stoke; final at Compton Martin. following tea at Big Rich's

8 bell - 28th September in Ilchester Branch, on the middle 8 at South Petherton

b. Proposed dates for 2014

6 bell - 21st June in Crewkerne Branch

8 bell - 27th September in Taunton Branch

c. Inter Branch Young Ringers competition: Jill Hansford will let branches know when the arrangements are confirmed.

16. Ringing World National Youth Competition 2013

Janet Wyatt proposed that a team is entered and offered to act as coach/coordinator. This could be a wonderful opportunity for our young ringers and could get a lot of people involved. Agreed with thanks to Janet

17. Replacement, refurbishment, remodelling and augmentation - a guide to the faculty process

Mike Hansford outlined the process and pitfalls in applying for a faculty. This led to a general discussion on listed buildings, what constitutes a heritage ring and the terms of reference for the Bell Fund. Some members of Dunster Branch felt that Rule 12 did not allow for the Bell Fund to support the replacement of existing rings. Obviously each application to the Bell Fund should be considered on its merits by the Trustees. In summing up, the Master felt that this had been a useful as well as informative discussion.

18. 2014 AGM

This will be held in the Bath Branch on Easter Monday, 21st April 2014.

19. Any other business

a. Elizabeth Lane invited members to support the Somerset Ringing Festival on 28th April, in support of St Mary Magdalene, Taunton Bell Fund.. Programmes were available.

b. Martin Pearson felt that the Association could do more to get ringing into the public eye. The Master confirmed that this would be discussed by the General Committee.

c. Margaret Lee reminded members of the Association Quarter Peal Fortnight in aid of the Bell Fund would be from 21st September to 5th October.

d. Jay Bunyan and Matthew Higby outlined changes to the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme.

20. Votes of thanks

Fred Sage proposed the vote of thanks to: Rev Tim Hawkings for taking the service, Martin Latham for playing the organ, Charles Pipe-Wolferstan for reading the lesson, Judith and her team for tea, Jude, John and their team for making all the local arrangements.

There being no other business the Master closed the meeting with a prayer at 5pm.