

Summary of minutes of General Committee meeting held on 2nd April 2011

Present:

Officers and Central Council Representatives: Tim Hawkings (Chairman), Jenny Astridge, Roland Backhurst, David Bromwich, Charles Pipe-Wolferstan, John Hallett, Michael Hansford, Matthew Higby, Richard Newman, Janet Wyatt, Jay Bunyan (Secretary).

Elected Branch Representatives: Axbridge - Fran Johnson, Bath - Tom Longridge, Bridgwater - Margaret Trimm, Cary - Paul Reeves, Chew - Bernard North, Crewkerne - Lynne Smith, Dunster - Glenys Tonks (accompanied by Michael Ellicott), Glaston - Andrew Pugh, Frome - Susan Haines, Ilchester - Gordon Rendell. (Attendance – 22)

David Floyd was in attendance for discussions on the annual report. Apologies were received from Sheila Jenkins and David Purnell.

The minutes of the meeting on 6th March 2010 were signed as correct and there were no matters arising.

Annual report there had been considerable debate, both at the last AGM and on the website over the future of a printed report as some members felt it was an expensive luxury when the information was available on the website. David Floyd was thanked for reducing the cost of the report by a third over last year - achieved by doing considerably more of the work himself. David outlined the problems associated with a web-based report - a large document to download, DPA issues etc. He had contacted 5 other large associations to find out what they did. Of these, only the Oxford Diocesan Guild does not provide each member with a copy. Our costs are comparable and reducing the print run will not reduce the cost by much. An errata sheet was constantly updated from the website. A useful discussion ensued and all present were in favour of keeping the report in its present format. The Master thanked David Floyd for all his hard work with both the report and the website.

Officers' Reports

- Master The Master noted that we have lost 4 valued honorary life members in the past year.
- Secretary Revised rules on Child Protection had recently been issued via the Central Council. Everyone should be more aware of the issues involved and work closely with their PCC appointed person to ensure compliance without over reaction. The Secretary will send out details of the revised rules to towers via Branch Secretaries.
- Treasurer No Public Liability insurance payment was shown in the accounts. It had been paid but the request for payment had been received after 31st October.
- Peal Secretary No comments
- ¼ Peal Secretary The lack of quarter peal totals shown against towers in the report was queried. The Secretary explained that there had been a lot of discrepancies, as it appeared some quarter peals had appeared in Campanophile but not in the Ringing World. Both Peal Secretary and Assistant only use details from the Ringing World.
- Tower Adviser John Hallett again highlighted the problems arising from the lack of basic maintenance. Perhaps an answer would be to get more service contracts in place and we need to get to those Sunday service ringers who don't look at the website. There are grey areas regarding insurance when working in a tower but it was felt that PCCs should take more responsibility. It was suggested that a note to this effect could be sent with affiliation fee receipts. Roland Backhurst commented that we are not alone in this problem – it is universal
- Librarian The second week of June was now the target for publishing Bells of Somerset. This had the potential to be the best publication ever on bells due to the hard work of George Massey and David Bromwich.
- Education Officer No comments
- Bell Funds Officer It was felt that this post was now superfluous and led to confusion on who handled grants. If the post was left unfilled there was no need for a rule change.

The reports were accepted unanimously and the Master thanked all officers for their hard work.

Committee recommendations for Association Officers 2011/2012 were as follows:

Post	Nominee
Master	Tim Hawkings
Deputy Master	Roger Fox
General Secretary	Jay Bunyan
Membership Secretary	Jay Bunyan
Report Editor	David Floyd
Treasurer	Charles Pipe-Wolferstan
Peal Secretary	Jenny Astridge
Quarter Peal Secretary	Clifford Nicholls
Tower Adviser	John Hallett
Asst Tower Advisers	Roland Backhurst Bernard North
Librarian	David Bromwich
Bell Funds Officer	
Education Officer	Jill Hansford
Dep. Ed. Officer	Janet Wyatt
Web Maintainer	David Floyd
Independent Examiner	Paul Treby

Standing Committee Appointment - Richard Newman was reappointed

Election of Honorary Life Members - Eddie Hancock and Jim Taylor had been nominated for Honorary Life Membership and were duly elected

Review of overall financial situation, including education budget

The accounts are in a reasonably healthy state. Last year the Education Officer had been granted a budget of £1,500. As a new Education Officer was to be elected, it was agreed that the Standing Committee should allocate a budget after the AGM.

Financial

a. Insurance - The Treasurer outlined the benefits of the Public Liability insurance that is already in place and the Personal Accident insurance cover for the 3 Tower Advisers. He had been looking for better quotes and as a result had changed brokers.

Some members had called for Personal Accident insurance for all members but there seems to be a problem defining exactly what can be covered although some of the associations that he had contacted had personal accident cover with £10,000 death benefit. Under 16s and over 70s are rarely covered. The best quote received at this level was £1,400 plus tax. The Treasurer had asked those proposing this to find out what cover their own and other local PCCs held but had received no response.

In discussion, the following points were made:

PCCs should have cover for their own ringers/anyone ringing in their tower. Tower captains should check.

Any association cover for personal accident would need an increase in subscriptions

There would be duplication of existing personal/PCC policies

Churches in the care of CCT should carry public liability insurance

Because of age restrictions any policy would benefit only a proportion of members

Members were referred to Kate Flavell's article on the Central Council website.

Indemnity forms were available, as some towers required these for visiting ringers

A summary of current cover would be posted on the website and in future annual reports

It was proposed that we should not pursue this matter further. Seconded and carried.

b. Subscription and Fees - as the Committee had decided not to proceed with offering further insurance cover the Treasurer proposed that there should not be any increase in fees and subscriptions. A counter proposal that subs be raised to £8 was defeated. The original proposal was carried.

c. CC Representatives expenses - recommended that these remain at £120.

Bell Fund

Following an update on existing projects, grants were allocated as shown:

Norton St Philip	£3,250
Wrington	£2,300 pending receipt of updated application/faculty confirmation (change of contractor)
Nailsea	£3,560
Bathwick	£300
Bishops Lydeard	£2,000
Wookey	12.5% up to £1225 (further application to cover cost of new frame)

Feedback on proposed rule change - There was general support for this from the branches

Feedback from Recruitment Week - Responses had been very varied. 130 towers had organised 150 events but the response to Tom Longridge's post-event survey had been poor. Tom said that there had been a total of 320 new recruits but it was not clear at this stage how many of these would continue on to become regular Sunday service ringers. It was suggested that there could be a recruitment event every 2-3 years, perhaps during the summer. Now the need is to keep up the momentum at Branch level and to ensure that there are sufficient teachers. Tom Longridge was thanked for all his hard work on the recruitment website.

2011 AGM. Copies of the AGM programme have already been sent to Branch Secretaries and details will appear in the Ringing World of 15th April. It is also on the website. Gordon Rendell hopes to have a map available to show parking in Martock.

The 2012 AGM will be on Easter Monday 9th April in Taunton Branch, hopefully at St James, Taunton.

Striking Competitions

The 2011 6 bell competition will take place on 18th June in the Bridgwater Branch. In 2012 it will be on 16th June in the Cary Branch.

The 2011 8 bell competition will take place on 24th September in the Frome Branch. In 2012 it will be on 29th September in the Glaston Branch.

Letter from EGMET trustees - it was agreed that this should not be read out at the AGM as any of the trustees could express their views at this meeting.

Publication of General Committee minutes on Website - it was agreed that a précis of the minutes be placed on the Website, omitting anything of a personal or confidential nature.