

BATH & WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

Minutes of the General Committee meeting held in Butleigh Church Hall on Saturday 3rd March 2012

Present:

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

Elected Branch Representatives: Axbridge – Fran Johnson, Bridgwater – Margaret Trimm, Cary – Peter Alderson, Chew – Bernard North; Dunster – Glenys Tonks, Glaston – Andrew Pugh; Frome – Susan Haines, Ilchester – Gordon Rendell; (Attendance – 19)

The Master thanked David Floyd, who was distributing the annual reports for all his hard work with both the report and the website.

1. The Master opened the meeting with a moment of quiet and a prayer at 10.00 am.
2. The General Secretary welcomed new members to the Committee: Roger Fox (Deputy Master) and Peter Alderson (Cary Branch rep)
3. Apologies were recorded for Tom Longridge, Richard Newman and Lynne Smith
4. Declarations of interest – Matthew Higby is the contractor for Wookey.
5. Minutes of the previous meeting
The minutes of the meeting on 2nd April 2011 were signed as correct.
7. Matters Arising – there were none
8. Officers' Reports

Master	No comments
Secretary	Roger Fox had not seen the survey on why people give up ringing. The Secretary agreed to post this on the website.
Treasurer	No comments
Peal Secretary	It was encouraging to see so many peals recorded – Matthew Higby asked if this was a record number. The number of ringers participating has also increased slightly
¼ Peal Secretary	Matthew Higby asked if people were really bothered about sending quarter peals to the Ringing World although it was very easy to do so via Campanophile. The Treasurer noted that quarter peal details (not sent to the RW) could be sent to the QP Secretary direct.
Tower Adviser	The Tower Advisers are now able to carry out sound assessments which is especially useful for checking when acoustic work has been carried out. There is still a lack of basic maintenance, especially in the more isolated towers
Librarian	350 copies of Church Bells of Somerset had been printed, of which 250 had been sold. Matthew Higby asked if there was any way of keeping this updated, especially as there may be work done via an Archdeacon's certificate without George Massey's knowledge. Perhaps an errata sheet? David Bromwich commented that this would involve a vast amount of work and Matthew Higby stated that he would be happy to work with the Librarian on this. The Association website and Dove are being updated from the information in Bells Of Somerset.
Education Officer	Jill Hansford commented that the standard of the Young Ringer of the Year was improving. Roger Fox asked how many entries there were in the Young Ringer Awards scheme - 10 – 15. Fran Johnson on a scheme with Sidcot School where an ex-ringing teacher has asked for bell ringing lessons for a group of 17 year olds. This was working well.

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

9. Association Officers for 2011/2012

The role of Bell Funds Officer was discussed and no firm decision made regarding whether to advertise the post or keep it under the General Secretary's wing. The General Secretary felt she could offer advice on grant giving bodies and general fund raising ideas but could not organise events to raise money for the Bell Fund. This is an important area as there are major projects in the offing. Branch reps were asked to make enquiries to see if anyone was interested in taking on this role.

After discussion it was agreed to recommend the existing officers as nominations to the Annual Meeting.

Proposed by M Hansford, seconded by J Bunyan that the Towers Advisers be re-appointed.

Committee recommendations were therefore as follows:

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

10. Standing Committee Appointment - Richard Newman was reappointed, proposed by M Higby, seconded by David Bromwich
11. Election of Honorary Life Members – The Standing Committee wished to propose David Floyd for Honorary Life Membership. This was agreed nem con
12. Review of overall financial situation
The accounts are in a reasonably healthy state
13. Financial
- a. Subscription and Fees - the Treasurer proposed that there should not be any increase in subscriptions which had remained at £6 since 2011. There was no strong move from the committee to recommend an increase.
However he proposed that affiliation fees be reviewed as those PCCs paying by cheque often cause problems. He recommended that the fee be raised to £20 with a £5 discount for those PCCs paying by standing order. A counter proposal from Michael Hansford, seconded by Matthew Higby, that affiliation fees rise to £20 for payment by standing order and £25 for payment by cheque was carried by 7 votes to 5 with 6 abstentions. The Treasurer felt that he would not have the time to write to all PCCs and several offers of help were made.
- b. Education
- i. Jill Hansford was hoping that each branch would be able to establish a ringing teaching centre which would cost approximately £2000 each to fit out. Some branches already have them (at South Petherton, Chilcompton, Minehead, Lydeard St Lawrence) and several towers have a simulator on a single bell. The possibility of sharing a centre between branches should be investigated. Matthew Higby reminded the committee that a similar project had been suggested for the millennium but never happened. The consensus was that such a project should be funded from the General Fund, perhaps aiming at one centre per year.
- ii. Glenys Tonks put forward a proposal from Dunster Branch that professional looking display boards or roller banners for recruitment and publicity purposes should be purchased by the Association. Roller banners cost @£200 each. These could be held centrally (where?) for use by the branches. In the past branches have organised their own material but this is not always very professional looking. Jill Hansford pointed out that the Central Council actually had this sort of material which was available for download from their website and update to make branch/tower specific.
An alternative to a central set of boards was proposed, viz. a centrally held software file of the display material which individual branches and/or ringing centres could use and adapt if necessary to have their own boards produced.
A working party was set up, consisting of Glenys Tonks, Bernard North and Andrew Pugh, to explore the options, estimate costs etc. and report to the committee, with a view to obtaining funding to be able to proceed in the production of display material
General Secretary to ask Tom Longridge what happened to the material he designed for the Recruitment Week. Mike Hansford felt we should capitalise on the publicity ringing had received in recent TV programmes.
- c. CC Representatives expenses - proposed by the Treasurer and seconded by Gordon Rendell, that these be increased to £150 per representative. Agreed
14. Bell Fund
- a. The General Secretary gave an update on existing projects: Pitcombe is currently on hold, as is Nailsea. Wookey have submitted a new, 100% conservation compliant application.
- b. New grant applications:
Michael Hansford queried the choice of Colin Freeman for the work at East Brent. Fran Johnson responded that as most of the work was carpentry the tower felt he was a sensible person for this project.
Matthew Higby gave the background to the revised plans at Wookey and wondered if this is the sort of project we should be supporting, as it involved rehanging the bells in a repaired frame (after the discovery of rot) and following extreme conservation constraints. Roland Backhurst had been to the CBC conference on bell frames that had produced better ideas as examples of good practice and the present plan was contrary to good practice and professional advice. The DAC had previously approved a new H frame with the old frame (4 bell part)

retained above with the 3 clock bells. It was proposed by Gordon Rendell and seconded by John Hallett that we should back away from this project and withdraw previous grants (which are no longer relevant anyway being for the original rehang then a new frame). Carried – 4 abstentions and no votes against. General Secretary is to draw up a suitable letter to send to the vicar and circulate this for approval.

The Standing Committee had met to discuss the grant applications and recommended that grants be offered at 12.5%. This figure was proposed from the chair and all were in agreement. Figures are therefore:

Pitney - rehang with new/refurbished fittings, retune, replace 2nd bell (for re-use as service bell, clean and treat frame. Grant £2,000

Timberscombe – Overhaul bearings on 1 & 2, rehang 3 – 8 on new metal headstocks, refurbish wheels, overhaul bearings, fit new stays, sliders and runners. Grant £1,200

Milborne Port – rehang on new headstocks and bearings with new fittings, retune. (note – no grant was made towards acoustic work proposed) Grant £6,000

Crewkerne – Clean/paint frame, replace clappers on 1-6, drill out cast in staples on 3,4,& 8, replace bearings, sliders on 1-7, clean running boards and replace ground pulleys. Grant £800

East Brent – overhaul pulleys, wheels clappers and sliders. Tighten wheels on headstocks and provide chute guides/slapper boards. Grant £500

c. Future work. Yeovil have plans to augment to 12 (or 13 or 14). Wedmore plan a new ring of 10, with associated teaching centre. Plans to do major work at St Mary Magdalene Taunton have re-surfaced. There are plans to augment Bicknoller to 6.

Michael Hansford pointed out that not all the projects discussed had faculty approval.

15. The 2012 AGM will be on Easter Monday 9th April in Taunton Branch, based on Bishops Lydeard. Details are on the website and will be sent to individual towers via the Branch Towers mailing lists.
16. Striking Competitions
The 2012 6 bell competition will take place on 16th June in the Cary Branch. Peter Alderson outlined the arrangements. The 2013 competition will be on 15th June in the Chew Branch.
The 2012 8 bell competition will take place on 29th September at Butleigh (Glaston Branch). In 2013 it will be on 28th September in the Ilchester Branch.
17. Basic tower maintenance courses Both Michael Hansford as DAC adviser on bells and our Tower Advisers were concerned at the lack of basic maintenance being carried out in some towers. Michael Hansford and Roland Backhurst will put together a short presentation for the AGM. It is hoped to make the Bell Maintenance contacts more pro-active, possible holding regular meetings. Guidelines will be put together.
18. Any other business
 - a. Proposed rule change (for 2013). The Treasurer is proposing that new members elected after 1st September annually enjoy “free” membership until 31st |October. This would save a lot of queries on why names do or do not appear in the annual report and is in line with practice in most other associations. It was agreed that this would be a sensible move.
 - b. The General Secretary reminded the committee that 2015 would be the 125th anniversary of the association and would provide an opportunity for a dinner and lots of ringing.
19. Next meeting - 1st March 2013 at Butleigh.
20. A Vote of Thanks was extended to Roland Backhurst for making the local arrangements, to Marilyn Backhurst for providing refreshments and to Butleigh PCC for use of the hall.

The meeting closed at 12.45

Post meeting notes:

Fred Sage nominated by Taunton Branch as Deputy Master

Margaret Lee (Bridgwater) has expressed an interest in the post of Bell Funds Officer

Publicity maetrial - Tom Longridge distributed everything equally to branches. He has some posters left from Bath Branch but these have the dates of the recruitment week on them.