

BATH & WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

Minutes of the General Committee meeting held in Butleigh Church Hall on Saturday 2nd March 2013

Present:

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

Elected Branch Representatives: Bath – David Kelly (deputising for Tom Longridge), Cary –Peter Alderson, Chew – Bernard North); Crewkerne – Lynne Smith; Dunster – Joan Hopwood; Glaston – Andrew Pugh; Frome – Susan Haines; Ilchester – Gordon Rendell; (Attendance – 20)

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: Fred Sage (Deputy Master), Margaret Lee (Bell Funds Officer) and Joan Hopwood (Dunster Branch rep)
3. Apologies were recorded for Tom Longridge, Richard Newman and Fran Johnson
4. Declarations of interest – Matthew Higby is the contractor for Bicknoller and Winscombe (re-bushing)
5. Minutes of the previous meeting on 2nd March 2012 were signed as correct.
7. Matters Arising – Joan Hopwood reported that Glenys Tonks had tried unsuccessfully to get her sub-committee together with ideas. Dunster Branch borrowed a dumb bell from Taunton Branch and produced their own publicity material for the Dunster Show. This went very well and they will use the same in 2013. The Master felt it was important that we had professional looking publicity material and the Education team will take this forward.
8. Officers' Reports

Master	No comments
Secretary	No comments
Treasurer	No comments
Peal Secretary	Peals numbers were down on last year but more ringers had been involved
¼ Peal Secretary	No comments
Tower Adviser	Inspection numbers were down last year but this year is already busier
Librarian	The Librarian had attended the Central Council Outreach Day last weekend and found it very interesting
Education Officer	No comments
Bell Funds Officer	Little feed back had been received from the request for annual fund raising ideas. Chew and Bridgwater Branches already have Quarter Peal fortnights but more branches could take this on. It was noted that the Taunton Open Day etc was not an Association event. Both Matthew Higby and David Kelly reported negative feedback on the Taunton programme – too much ringing on too many routes. Lynne Smith felt that an Open Day in August helped to spread events out. Matthew Higby suggested an Open Day in Frome Branch this year with possibly one in Dunster branch in 2014.

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

9. Association Officers for 2013/2014

Proposed by Jay Bunyan, seconded by Mike Hansford that the Towers Advisers be re-appointed.

It was agreed to recommend the following as committee recommendations of the Annual Meeting.

Post	Nominee
Master	Tim Hawkings
Deputy Master	Walter Rice
General Secretary	Jay Bunyan
Membership Secretary	Jay Bunyan
Report Editor	Tom Harris – see note below
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	Margaret Lee
Education Officer	Jill Hansford

Dep. Ed. Officer	Janet Wyatt
Web Maintainer	David Floyd
Independent Examiner	Owen Culleck

10. Standing Committee Appointment - Richard Newman was reappointed, proposed by M Higby, seconded by Jenny Astridge
11. Central Council representatives for the 2014-2016 period. Mathew Higby is standing down and felt it would be good to involve someone younger. David Kelly will mention this to Tom Longridge.
12. Honorary Life Members
- a. Jill Hansford asked if there was any facility for electing members who had not held association/branch office but had done untold amounts of work for the Association at a local level. After an interesting discussion it was agreed to maintain the present criteria but to remember that the term association included branches and towers.
- b. Taunton Branch had proposed the election of Mike and Jill Hansford as Honorary Life members of the Association. This was formally proposed by Fred Sage and seconded by David Bromwich. Carried nem con.
13. Rule change proposals.
- The proposed change to Rule 3 is straightforward and clarifies the present situation. Feedback from the branches indicated that the amendment to the proposed change to Rule 4 was preferred.
- Joan Hopwood asked if the Bell Fund terms of reference should be extended to cover new rings/installations. This would require a formal rule change as Rule 12 is the governing instrument for the Bell Fund. Precedents have been set in the past in supporting new or replacement rings – e.g. Highbridge (the Association Centenary Project), South Petherton, Chilcompton, Tolland and Bath St Stephen.
14. Review of overall financial situation – see accounts in annual report
15. Financial
- a. Education budget: Jill Hansford had circulated a document citing how her budget had been spent and why an increase was necessary. The installation of a simulator at Barton St David is on hold pending resolution of problems with the treble (and possible rehang). Matthew Higby asked who actually owned the simulator equipment. Was it gifted to the PCC or owned by the Association? Who pays for repairs? Mike Hansford said it should be covered by EIG insurance and would be inspected as part of any quinquennial inspection. Installation must have PCC approval and would be covered by an Archdeacon's certificate. The Education Officer's request for a budget of £2,500 was recommended.
- b. CC Representatives expenses - it was recommended that these remain as a maximum of £150 per representative
- c. Recommended subscriptions and fees from 1 November 2013 – The Treasurer felt that an increase in subscriptions might be necessary as the increased Education budget and the possibility of increased costs on the annual report (professional typesetting etc.) could affect the amount transferred to the Bell Fund each year. It was proposed by Matthew Higby and seconded by David Kelly that subscriptions be increased to £8 per adult member and £4 for those in full time education. Carried with 2 abstentions. Jenny Astridge pointed out that the peal fee was linked to the annual subscription.
16. Bell Fund
- a. Existing projects:
- Pitcombe is currently on hold, Nailsea has started though paperwork has not been received. Matthew Higby had heard nothing from Wookey since January and the bells are still in his workshop. Keltek Trust have purchased back the three bells previously offered. This is a prime example of a project being taken over by non-ringers to the exclusion of the local band.
- b. New applications:

Tower	Details	Cost	Grant	Faculty
Bicknoller	Add new treble (from Keltek 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) Rebush clappers (except 3 rd) Contractor – Mathew 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, on the proposal of Jay Bunyan, seconded by Mike Hansford, that a decision should be deferred to next year when more

information regarding the faculty (there is a problem over an inappropriately listed bell), planning and practicalities would be available. The Master felt it might be useful to have a discussion at the AGM on the general policy of scrapping old bells, emphasising that this would be general, not relating to Wedmore.

A retrospective request for assistance had been received from Burrington, where work had been carried out to strengthen the frame. No initial inspection had been requested and Mike Hansford will check whether a faculty has been granted. Fred Sage suggested that pending faculty information the Committee could meet after the AGM (a quorum of 8 is required) to discuss. See also post meeting note.

It was agreed that a section regarding faculties should be inserted into the Bell Fund grant application form.

17. The 2013 AGM will be on Easter Monday 1st April in Axbridge Branch, based on Axbridge. Details are on the website and have sent to individual towers via the Branch Towers mailing lists.
18. Striking Competitions
The 2013 6 bell competition will take place on 15th June in the Chew Branch. The 2014 competition will be on 21st June in the Crewkerne Branch.
The 2013 8 bell competition will take place on 28th September in the Ilchester Branch, at Hardington Mandeville. In 2014 it will be on 27th September in the Taunton Branch.
19. Any other business
 - a. The Master read a letter from Bishop Peter on his retirement. The General Secretary will post this on the website and the Master will make a suitable reply.
 - b. Joan Hopwood asked if the Maintenance course promised last year had been organised. Mike Hansford and Roland Backhurst apologised that these had not taken place. Roland Backhurst mentioned that the CC Towers & Belfries committee were updating the maintenance handbook and would be rolling out courses nationwide based on this.
20. Next meeting - 7th March 2014 at Butleigh.
21. 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 12.55

Signed

Date

Post meeting notes:

Tom Harris is now unable to take on the role of Report Editor – a further “Job Vacancy” has been posted.

Tom Longridge is considering being a CC rep.

An article on the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme is being prepared by the Central Council Bell Restoration Committee and will appear in the Ringing World within the next few weeks.

Burrington – Mike Hansford has not seen any application for a faculty for this work.

See Burrington. A letter has been received from the Vicar of Dulverton asking if a grant application had been made for work carried out there. General Secretary has replied “No, nor had there been a request for an initial inspection”