

BATH & WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

Minutes of the General Committee meeting held in the Church Room, Butleigh on Saturday 5th March 2016

Officers and Central Council Representatives: Tim Hawkings (Chairman), Jenny Astridge, Julian Back, Roland Backhurst, David Bromwich, Margaret Lee, Charles Pipe-Wolferstan, Keith Prime, Jill Hansford, Michael Hansford, George Wyatt, Jay Bunyan (Secretary).

Elected Branch Representatives: Axbridge – Fran Johnson, Bath – Matthew Butler, Bridgwater – John Hallett, Cary Peter Alderson, Chew – Bernard North; Crewkerne - Lynne Smith; Dunster – Jan Swan; Frome – Matthew Higby; Glaston – Ken Brown; Ilchester – Gordon Rendell; Taunton – Bob Boulton (Attendance 23 – plus Barrie Hendry, Safeguarding Officer)

1. The Master opened the meeting with a moment of quiet and a prayer at 10.00 am.
2. The Master welcomed new members to the Committee: Keith Prime (Deputy Master), Matthew Butler (Bath Branch rep), Jan Swan (Dunster Branch rep) and Julian Back (Webmaster). Also Barrie Hendry, Safeguarding Officer, who had been invited to the meeting
3. Apologies were recorded for Richard Newman.
4. Declarations of interest – Matthew Higby is the contractor for Marksbury and Stanton Drew. Margaret Lee is project leader for Bridgwater
5. Notification of any other business – Barrie Hendry asked if he could give an update on safeguarding
6. Minutes of the previous meeting on 7th March 2015 were signed as correct.
7. Matters Arising - Way forward for the Association – see General Secretary's report, also Matthew Higby felt that as a large organisation we might work better with smaller committees targeting specific areas
8. Officers' Reports

Master	No comments
Secretary	See also above
Treasurer	No comments
Peal Secretary	Jenny Astridge highlighted the problems caused by a peal originally rung for Bath & Wells changing at a late date to non- association
¼ Peal Secretary	The Treasurer had received a query on how quarters were picked up, particularly with many ¼s not being sent to the Ringing World following their new policy on ¼-peal "donations". This point had arisen 2-3 years ago and the meeting resolved that General Secretary should ask Clifford Nicholls to extract his ¼-peal stats from Bell Board rather from the Ringing World.
Tower Adviser	No comments
Librarian	No comments
Education Officer	No comments
Bell Funds Officer	No comments – see 14 c) below re. ¼-peal month
9. Association Officers for 2016/2017

With the exception of the Master, all officers were willing to stand for re-election.

3 candidates have been put forward for the post of Master and these should be formally proposed and seconded at the AGM. Full details of the candidates, with the Terms of Reference for the post, are on the website. Candidates will be given time for questions from the floor at the AGM.
10. Standing Committee Appointment - Richard Newman was reappointed, proposed by Roland Backhurst and seconded by Mike Hansford– carried unanimously.
11. Central Council representatives - we are due to elect representatives this year for the period 2017-2019. Richard Newman is standing down and so far no nominations have been received. General Secretary to put a notice out, with details of what the job entails.
12. Honorary Life Members – 5 nominations had been received. There was again discussion on the criteria for Honorary Life Membership and it was generally felt that in awarding HLM the GC had always to apply a consistent standard. Jenny Astridge, David Yeo, Beverley Perry and Leslie Perry were elected. It was suggested that Branches could be encouraged to consider outstanding service certificates for those who have given a lot to their towers.
13. Rule change proposals

a) Reduction of Peal Fee to 5%. The Peal Secretary felt that this amount was a fair and adequate amount. Matthew Higby commented that such a reduction could promote peal ringing for Bath & Wells rather than non association. A straw poll was inconclusive.

b) Change to 6 Bell Competition rules. This raised the question of whether the rules for competitions are Association rules, as they do not form part of these at present. A suggestion to amend the 8 bell competition rules had been received as possible AOB for the AGM. After lengthy discussion, it was agreed that Lynn Smith would suggest to the Crewkerne Branch meeting on 19th March that their proposal be withdrawn. It was further agreed that a sub committee be formed (Fran Johnson, Roland Backhurst, Lynn Smith and Charles Pipe-Wolferstan) to review the rules for both 6 bell and 8 bell competitions.

14. Review of overall financial situation – see accounts in annual report

Education budget – John Hallett asked if money was carried forward from one financial year to the next – yes, which was why only £1,000 had been requested this year.

Fundraising activity Margaret Lee reminded members that the Quarter Peal month will run from 16th May to 18th June to coincide with the official 90th birthday of HM the Queen. There will be a prize for the person ringing the most quarter peals in this period. The Master reminded the meeting of the need to build up funds

Central Council representatives expenses for 2016 in Portsmouth. Bernard North proposed that these remain at £150, seconded by Jenny Astridge and carried.

Fees and subscriptions from 1 November 2016 The Treasurer did not feel that an increase was required. The Affiliation fee had been raised to £20 but it would take a while before this would be fully implemented. A possible qualifying period of affiliation before a grant could be made was discussed and rejected.

15. Bell Fund

- a. Review of current projects: grants have been paid to Templecombe and Evercreech. Kilmersdon still require a little tweaking and no progress has been made at Whitestaunton or Badgworth. Taylors start their work at Taunton St Mary on 3rd May but local work is under way. The grant offered to Wedmore expires on 15th March and whilst the offer of a grant was a great help, it is now unlikely that the project will go ahead in the near future. The grant offered to Backwell also expires on 15th March and an updated grant application has been received – see below.
- b. Grant applications – proposed by John Hallett and seconded by Mike Hansford that the following grants are offered. Agreed.

Tower	Details	Contractor	Cost	Start date	Grant agreed
Bridgwater	Augment to 12 + flat 6 th . Reconfigure frame, overhaul existing fittings, remove crown staples on 6 & 7, replace clappers on 6, 7 & 8. <i>Install sound control – not included in total</i>	Taylors	£130,607	2016/17	£12,000
Marksbury	Remove cast in crown staples, retune, rehang in partly new fittings	M Higby	£26,826	Dependent on structural work to tower	£2,680
Stanton Drew	General refurbishment, remove cast in crown staples, inspect main bearings	M Higby	£6,436	Spring/summer 2016	£650
Taunton St Mary Magdalene	Request for further funding				£2,000
Backwell	As previous request – re refurbish and augment to 10. Withdraw previous offer of 10% up to a maximum of £8,546	Taylors	£61,821	Late 2016	£6,200
Totals					£23,530

16. Branch Bell Maintenance Contacts – update on insurance issues

Personal accident cover is in place. The Treasurer has at last had a response from the Central Council Tower Stewardship Committee who are of the opinion that if it is made clear that the advice is not being given in a professional capacity, (see terms of reference for BMCs – they do not provide professional advice), and the advice is not being paid for, then professional indemnity insurance is not required. If the membership decide that this insurance should be taken out it will be funded from the education budget as the Education Officers are leading the project.

17. Possible invitation to Central Council. Venues are being sought for 2019/2020 and hints have been made that an invitation from Bath & Wells would be appreciated. However there are 5 or more associations who have not hosted a council meeting since before 1990 (our most recent) and it was felt that these should be considered first. An additional problem is a suitable venue.

19. 2016 AGM

a). this will be on Easter Monday 28th March in Cary Branch. Details are on the website and have been sent to individual towers via the Branch Towers mailing lists. The agenda will be posted on the website and sent to towers early next week. Supporting papers are also on the website

b). Agenda/AOB items – none notified except item 16 above, which was known in November.

20. Striking Competitions

The 2015 Association Young Ringer competition will take place on Sunday 11th September at Kewstoke.

The 2016 6 bell competition will take place on 18th June in the Frome Branch with the final at Nunney. The 2017 competition will be on 17th June in the Glaston Branch.

The 2016 8 bell competition will take place on 24th September in the Axbridge Branch (at Corston). The method will be Grandsire Major. In 2017 the 8 bell competition will be on 30th September in the Bridgwater Branch. There was comment that the competition should be a test of striking not the ability to learn a method and that in any competition there should be an element of enjoyment and achievement..

21. Any other business. Barrie Hendry gave an update on his work as Safeguarding Officer and reminded tower captains of the questionnaire recently send out. He is happy not to be a member of the General Committee, but willing to attend when necessary.

22. Next meeting - 4th March 2017 at Butleigh.

23. 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 Church Room.

The meeting closed at 12.50

Signed

Date