

BATH & WELLS DACR - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT COSSINGTON
EASTER MONDAY 6th APRIL 2015 at 3.00 pm
AGENDA

(Page numbers refer to the 2013/4 Annual Report)

1. Prayer and Chairman's Introduction.
2. Losses through death – see p2
3. Apologies for absence
4. Presentation of the Young Ringer of the Year trophy, Young Ringer awards and ITTS certificates
5. Items previously notified for inclusion under Any Other Business
6. Minutes of 2014 AGM at Freshford (p17)
7. Matters arising and not agenda items
8. Presentation of Officers' Reports for the year 2013 - 2014

Master (p.6)	Tower Adviser (p12)	Quarter Peal Secretary (p67)
General Secretary (p6)	Librarian (p 12).	Peal Secretary (p69)
Treasurer (p.7) [there is a misprint and the line showing the transfer to the Bell Fund is missing]		
Education Officer (p13)	Membership Secretary (p7)	
Bell Funds Officer (p11)		
9. Election of Officers for 2015-16 *General Committee recommendations in brackets*

Master	(<i>Rev T Hawkings</i>)	Tower Adviser	(<i>J Hallett</i>)
Deputy Master	(<i>K Prime</i>)	Asst Tower Advisers	(<i>R Backhurst,</i> <i>B North</i>)
General Secretary	(<i>Miss JM Bunyan</i>)	Librarian	(<i>D Bromwich</i>)
Membership Secretary	(<i>Ms J M A Astridge</i>)	Bell Funds Officer	(<i>Mrs M Lee</i>)
Report Editor	(<i>Ms JMA Astridge</i>)	Education Officer	(<i>Mrs J Hansford</i>)
Treasurer	(<i>C Pipe Wolferstan</i>)	Deputy Education Officer	(<i>Mrs J Wyatt</i>)
Peal Secretary	(<i>Ms JMA Astridge</i>)	Independent Examiner	(<i>O Cullwick</i>)
Quarter Peal Secretary	(<i>C Nicholls</i>)	Web Master	(<i>J Back</i>)
Safeguarding Officer		
10. General Committee Decisions:
 - a. Standing Committee Appointment: Richard Newman was appointed
 - b. Bell Fund grants – see overleaf
 - c. It was agreed to set up a sub committee to look into whether the Association's structure is the best possible in today's changing world and to make appropriate recommendations
11. Proposed changes to 8 Bell Striking Competition rules – this has been withdrawn
12. Financial
 - a. Subscriptions & Fees from 1 November 2015 –General Committee recommend that the annual subscription is raised to £10 per year; and Affiliation Fee from £15 to £20
 - b. Education budget. £4,000 requested by Education Officer and recommended by General Committee
 - c. Central Council Representatives' Expenses 2015 - GC Recommendation: That these remain at a maximum of £150 per Representative (meeting is in Hull).
13. Branch Bell Maintenance Contacts – see draft Terms of Reference overleaf
14. Association 125th anniversary update
15. Integration of EGMEF into the Association – see paper from David Kelly overleaf with advance notice of rule change required. Recommended by General Committee that this goes forward
16. Proposed Association mobile belfry – discussion
17. Ratification of election of non resident life members elected prior to peals – see p2
18. Association Inter-Branch Striking Competitions
 - a. Agreed dates for 2015
6 bell – 20th June in Dunster Branch, 8 bell – 26th September in Axbridge Branch
 - b. Proposed dates for 2016
6 bell – 18th June in Frome Branch, 8 bell – 24th September in Bath Branch
 - c. Young Ringers Inter Branch competition – Sunday 13th September 2015
 - d. Ringing World National Youth Contest 2015
19. 2016 AGM - Easter Monday, 28th March in Cary Branch
20. Any other business
21. Vote of thanks.

Grants from the Bell Fund :

Tower	Details	Contractor	Cost	Start date	Amount raised	Grant 10%
Croscombe	Refurbish fittings, refit headstock to tenor, inspect/replace bearings, housing etc. swap treble and second in their pits to improve access, fit new headstock to treble. Clean down and paint all appropriate metalwork	Taylor's	£22,525	March 2015	£19,210	£2,250
Curry Rivel	Urgent repairs to clapper and other fittings, de-rust/paint frame, restore wheels, refurbish bearings, roller boxes	Taylor's	£19,188 eligible (from total of £30,000)	April 2015	£24,000 + £2,400 promised to total	£1,900
Evercreech	Rehang back 8 on cast iron headstocks, overhaul/convert/replace existing fittings. Treat/repair corroded supporting beam	M Higby & Co	£30,961	July/August 2015	£10,600 + £2,000 promised	£3,000
South Petherton	Replace clapper bearings, secure crown staple bolts, inspect main bearings	M Higby & Co	£2,100	March/April 2015	None yet	£200
Templecombe	Rehang in all new fittings, strengthen supporting beams, retune bells 1-5 to tenor, remove cast in crown staples	Taylor's	£40,412	2016	£10,000	£4,000
Whitestaunton	Replace old frame with cast iron 6 bell frame, remove crown staples, re-tune, fit modern headstocks and fittings. Augment to 6 if funds permit.	Whites	£54,728 (excluding new treble)	2016	£6,000 + £1,470 towards new treble	£5,400
Badgworth	Refurbish/replace bells and fittings, clean and treat bell frame, fit tie rods to frame side	M Higby & Co	£27,545	When funding is assured	£2,000	£2,750
Totals						£19,500

Incorporation of EGMEF into Bath & Wells Diocesan Association of Change Ringers

Over the last two years our training budget has risen considerably. Unlike the B&WDACR Bell Fund there is no way that tax relief can be claimed on donations used for training. The Edna Grabham Memorial Education Fund (EGMEF) is a registered charity, can claim tax relief on donations and has given considerable financial support to the B&WDACR for training. The charity is independent of the B&WDACR but its trustees comprise of the Association's Education Officer and other B&WDACR members.

A review of the Association's training needs and how funds can be raised tax efficiently has been conducted by the Deputy Master, the trustees of EGMEF, the Education Officer and other B&WDACR officials. Our findings are:

The B&WDACR cannot claim tax relief on donations made for Education and Training. If we could claim tax relief the value of eligible donations would be increased by 25%.

EGMEF can claim tax relief on donations made for Education and Training but its governing document specifically states "to provide annual support for young bell-ringers to allow them to go on development courses." Its charitable objects do not cover "older" ringers or training equipment. EGMEF would benefit from full and complete access to B&WDACR resources e.g. mailing lists.

Our training needs have changed since EGMEF was founded in 1994. We need to focus on recruits of all ages and not just young ringers. Simulators are now considered an important tool for training; they were unheard of when EGMEF was founded and are not eligible for grants from EGMEF or the B&WDACR Bell Fund. This also applies to other training equipment such as dumb-bells.

Our conclusion is neither EGMEF nor the B&WDACR meet our current & future needs. They could be met by a new charity for Education and Training operated in similar way to the successful *Bell Fund* thus allowing donations for training to be eligible for tax relief through Gift Aid and the Small Donations Scheme. The trustees of EGMEF are in agreement and once the B&WDACR charity is up and running may decide to windup EGMEF and transfer their funds to the new charity.

Our recommendation is that the B&WDACR should apply to the Charity Commissioners to register a charity for Education and Training known as the "Edna Grabham Education Fund"; its name in recognition of Edna's practical and financial support for the training of ringers within the B&WDACR. Its objects:

- to provide support for the recruitment and training of bellringers and
- to contribute towards the funding of training equipment and facilities.

David Kelly, Deputy Master

To accommodate the above, the following is required
Renumber existing rules 13-15 to 14-16 and add:

Education & Training

13. The Education & Training shall be known as the "Edna Grabham Education Fund" and be administered by its trustees. Its objects are: The advancement of religion and of education within the Diocese of Bath & Wells through the encouragement and promotion of bellringing and the continuing education of bellringers and in particular:

- (1) To provide support for the recruitment and training of bellringers.
- (2) To contribute toward the funding of training equipment and facilities.

The earliest we can alter the rules is the AGM for 2016 as otherwise we would not comply with existing rule 15.

BRANCH BELL MAINTENANCE CONTACTS
Proposed Terms of Reference

- Be able to demonstrate a practical ability and knowledge of Belfry Maintenance as outlined in the Central Council publication 'a Handbook of Regular Maintenance'.
- Be willing and able to give practical advice on the day to day routine maintenance of bells, frames, fittings and ropes to Towers within their own Branch
- Be prepared to visit Towers within their Branch to assist with maintenance or to offer onsite maintenance training.
- To redirect non-routine maintenance issues to the church's PCC and advise that they should request an inspection by the Tower Advisory Service (TAS) and/or relevant professional organisations such as bell hangers or church clock maintenance companies.
- To "network" with other Association BMCs through any meetings or training sessions that are organised.
- The Bell Maintenance Contacts do not have the authority to perform inspections or write reports on behalf of either the Association or the Branch.