

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION HELD IN  
THE VILLAGE HALL, COSSINGTON ON EASTER MONDAY 6th APRIL 2015**

**Present:** The Attendance Book records 103 people. Branches were represented as follows: Axbridge 22, Bath 5, Bridgwater 18, Cary 7 Chew 9, Crewkerne 3, Dunster 6, Frome 2, Glaston 9, Ilchester 11, Taunton 11.

1. The Master opened the meeting with a moment of quiet and prayer at 3.03 pm and welcomed members, especially those attending for the first time.
2. Members who had died since the last AGM had been remembered during the earlier service.
3. **Apologies for absence** were received from: Eddie Hancock, Stephen & Pam Campbell, Tom & Chris Mitchell, Julie Oliver, J J Banton, John Crocker, Matthew Higby, Joe King, Paul Feast, Robert Davis, Richard Newman, David & Christine Sworder, Clifford Nicholls, Albert Winter, Christopher Marshall
4. **Young Ringer of the Year and Young Ringer Awards**  
The Young Ringer of the Year trophy was presented to Nathan Bartin of Ilchester Branch with his brother Mark as runner up. A large number of young ringers were presented with their Young Ringer Awards. ITTS and ART certificates were also presented. Jill Hansford was encouraged to see the good numbers of young ringers about, some of whom were taking branch office, others acting as teachers.
5. **Notification of Any Other Business** no items had been notified in advance
6. **Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting** - these were signed by the Master as a correct record
7. **Matters Arising that are not agenda items** - none
8. **Officers Reports**

**Master** – Tim mentioned the need to support and encourage new ringers and hoped to see as many new peal ringers as possible this year, the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first recorded peal

**Secretary** - Jay asked members to consider the structure of the Association – is it what we need today

**Treasurer** – there is a line missing on p7, being the transfer to the Bell Fund. Totals are correct. “Other” covers the purchase of car stickers, peal book plus binding/pages, deposit for the Anniversary lunch. Marilyn Floyd asked that in future such expenditure should be itemised.

Keith Beale asked why “only” 10% had been allocated in grants – there was only sufficient in the Bell Fund for the amount. He also asked what happened when a grant lapsed – it was returned to the pot.

**Education** – David Purnell asked if the budget was being well spent. Jill Hansford outlined why and where the money was being spent.

**Bell Funds Officer** –The Quarter Peal month has been moved to May/June to accommodate the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Association. Some towers may like to ring 125 changes and make a donation.

All reports were accepted on the proposal of Mike Hansford, seconded by Janet Wyatt and carried nem con.

**Election of Officers for 2014/5**

Proposed by Robert Perry and seconded by Mike Hansford that the General Committee recommendations for officers be accepted. Carried with abstentions from the listed officers and the following were therefore elected:

Master	Tim Hawkings
Deputy Master	Keith Prime
General Secretary	Jay Bunyan
Report Editor	Jenny Astridge
Membership Secretary	Jenny Astridge
Treasurer	Charles Pipe-Wolferstan
Peal Secretary	Jenny Astridge
Quarter Peal Secretary	Clifford Nicholls
Tower Adviser	John Hallett
Assistant Tower Advisers	Roland Backhurst and Bernard North
Librarian	David Bromwich
Education Officer	Jill Hansford
Deputy Education Officer	Janet Wyatt
Bell Funds Officer	Margaret Lee
Web Master	Julian Back
Safeguarding Officer	Barrie Hendry
Independent Examiner	Owen Cullwick

David Kelly then handed over the Deputy Master’s chain of office to Keith Prime. The Master thanked David for his work, providing vital support to the Master.

The Master presented the outgoing Webmaster, David Floyd, with a book as a small token of appreciation for giving us what is probably the best association website in the country.

The Master indicated that he would be standing down next year.

#### 10. General Committee decisions

- a. Standing Committee Appointment: Richard Newman was appointed
- b. Bell Fund grants were allocated as shown:

Tower	Details	Contractor	Cost	Start date	Grant
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	£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	April 2015	£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	£3,000
South Petherton	Replace clapper bearings, secure crown staple bolts, inspect main bearings	M Higby & Co	£2,100	March/April 2015	£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	£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	£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	£2,750
<b>Total</b>					<b>£19,500</b>

11. **Proposed change to 8 Bell Striking Competition rules.** This has been withdrawn as Rule 3 is perfectly clear on the definition of a Resident member – one who pays an annual subscription.

#### 12. Financial

##### a. Subscriptions and fees from 1 November 2015

The General Committee recommended that affiliation fees rise to £20 and that the annual subscription rises to £10. The Peal Fee is linked to the annual subscription and a further rule change would be needed to change this. Proposed by John Hallett, seconded by David Purnell and carried – 2 votes against and 8 abstentions.

- b. **Education Officer's budget.** This was agreed at £4,000 on the proposal of David Bromwich, seconded by Anna Piechna and carried with 4 votes against and 6 abstentions. In response to queries on how this would be spent, Jill Hansford outlined her proposals. It was evident that many wished to see the figures in advance and the General Secretary agreed to publish the proposed budget with the agenda in advance of next year's AGM.

- c. **Central Council Representatives' expenses.** The General Committee recommendation was that these remain at up to £150 per representative for the 2015 meeting in Hull. On the proposal of Mike Hansford, seconded by John Hallett this figure was agreed with 3 abstentions and no votes against. On behalf of the Central Council representatives the General Secretary thanked the membership for their generosity.

#### 13. Appointment of Branch Bell Maintenance Contacts.

The draft terms of reference were not accepted by the General Committee and Roland Backhurst reported that problems regarding insurance (professional indemnity) had now been encountered. Keith Beale asked that a guarantee be given that no BMCs are appointed until suitable insurance cover is in place. The Master agreed and the Treasurer will investigate cover further.

#### 14. Association 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Some tickets for the lunch 30<sup>th</sup> May are still available. Joan Hopwood outlined the reasons for choosing the Walnut Tree at North Petherton and was warmly thanked for her hard work.

#### 15. Integration of EGMEF into the Association.

A paper from David Kelly and notice of the required rule change had been circulated and the General Committee recommendation was that the plan goes ahead. David Purnell felt that EGMEF has nothing to do with the Association and asked why we propose this route. As EGMEF secretary and a trustee, Andrew Howard explained the background and outlined the benefits – tax relief on donations, more scope for the Education Officer's budget, wise expenditure. There

was an animated discussion on sources of funding, charitable status, tax relief, election of trustees. Mike Hansford felt that there were too many ramifications to agree today. Roland Backhurst therefore proposed that a decision was deferred until next year. Seconded by Mike Hansford. The vote was very close but not enough to give a mandate to go forward now. Marilyn Backhurst asked that a very clear document could be circulated with the pros and cons. The Master warmly thanked David Kelly for all the effort he had invested in this project.

**16. Proposed Association mobile belfry**

Robert Perry felt that the Association lacked a facility to use in schools, at shows, for teaching etc. The cost for something similar to the Charnborough ring (i.e. not a mini ring) would be approx £20,000. Whilst no one thought this was a bad idea, it was appreciated that sponsorship was required to fund and maintain such a belfry. Robert Perry to investigate further.

**17. Ratification of election of non resident life members prior to peals (2013/4)**

The belfry elections of Andrew M Bull, Jane D Bull, Michael Chester, Simon W Edwards, Thomas W Griffiths, Robin O Hall, Julian J Hemper, Simon E Lipscombe, Andrew C D Mayes, Sarah J Quentin, John G Riley, Russell N Scudamore, Alex W Tatlow, Paul Tiebout, Christopher H Wardle, Michael P Wilby were confirmed on the proposal of Christine Andrew, seconded by Jenny Astridge.

David Floyd had heard that some people had rung peals without paying a subscription. Jenny Astridge confirmed that subscriptions had been paid.

**18. Association Striking Competitions**

6 bell – 20<sup>th</sup> June in Dunster Branch

8 bell – 26<sup>th</sup> September in Axbridge Branch

c. Inter Branch Young Ringers competition: This will take place on Sunday September in the Cary Branch and Jill Hansford will let branches know when the arrangements are confirmed.

d. Ringing World National Youth Competition.

A team will be entered for the competition in Oxford but participation is dependent on being successful in the ballot of entries.

**19. 2016 AGM**

This will be held in the Cary Branch on Easter Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2016

**20. Any other business**

Wally Rice announced that Association ties were now available.

**21. Votes of thanks.**

The outgoing Deputy Master thanked all those involved in the arrangements for the day, ringers, clergy and PCCs and looked forward to the tea prepared by the Bridgwater Branch.

There being no other business the Master closed the meeting with a prayer at 4.50 pm.

Post meeting note: the raffle in aid of the Bell Fund raised £168.

Signed .....

Date .....