

❖ Devon Calls ❖

Volume 1 Issue 5

October 2000

President: Mr Colin Adams

**Bring your cushion
its AGM time again!**

Well back to semi-normal with this issue. Not too many numbers and no charts! It will be a short issue due to time constraints to get the AGM papers out in time. Hopefully though you will find something of interest to you.

If any of you out there have something you think would interest others or should be talked about in the ringing world out there, please feel free to send it in. We try to include all items that people send in, whatever it is (within reason!). Send to either myself at Barries Corner, St. Giles in the Wood, Torrington, Devon, EX38 7JQ or to Jon Bint, Rushford Forge, Narrowbridge, Chagford, Newton Abbot, TQ13 8DA.

Included with this edition are copies of the minutes of the 1999 AGM, 2000 committee meetings, proposed rules and conditions for the



Apologies for the lateness of this issue. The computer and I had a disagreement! We've made up now!

Association and proposals for a Devon Ringers Council. You would be well advised to read these before coming to the AGM this year as you will need to be aware of the points raised before you can vote. We would especially ask you to look at the proposed rules and conditions, as they will affect all of us to a greater or lesser degree. The additional points raised at that meeting listed at bottom of page 8 also need consideration. The final two points

The Newsletter of the
Devon Association of
Ringers

of the "wild card" Major place, change of date, and new election for scrutineer are important new changes. All of this work has been done to try to reduce the amount of time the AGM takes and in response to the comments about this at the AGM last year. Please let us have your thoughts as to whether or not it's worked.

Janice Gist

Deanery Focus

Devon call change ringing has a long tradition of Deanery Festivals. The turn of the century therefore seems an appropriate time to take stock of activity in those parts of the Diocese where they are a regular part of the ringing calendar.... and so to kick off, we start with one of the younger ones in the middle of the county, at the hub or the Devon Association of Ringers.

In response to a letter

jointly sent out on 31 December 1968 by the Captains of North and South Tawton, Mr Brian Drake and the late Mr Percy Aggett respectively, a meeting was held on 17th January 1969 which resulted in the Okehampton Deanery Ringing Association being founded. Mr Aggett took the post of Treasurer, while the Devon Associations current Chairman Mr Brian Drake, took on a similar post here a position he retains to date. For many years the Deanery's Festival was rather like the Scottish Football League, only instead of Rangers and Celtic, it was North and South Tawton who had a monopoly on first and second places. In latter years, ever improving performances from Chagford have seen a run of third placings turned into a similar such one of runners up, culminating in this year's hot pursuit of North Tawton on their home patch.

The Okehampton Deanery's boundary has stretched during the course of its Ringing Association's history, and within it today include four 8 bell towers, ten 6's, four 5's, two 4's (and a three!), all of which are ringable. Of

these a creditable ten were represented in this year's festival, with ten teams entered in the senior section, and four in each of the Intermediate and Novice classes. It was particularly encouraging to have both South Tawton and Bridestowe towers enter teams in all three sections, for as we should all be aware, the state of ringings' health needs to be gauged by what is happening with regards to beginners in the art, in addition to the more experienced. Aside from those towers already mentioned, other teams represented in the 2000 Festival were Okehampton, Hatherleigh, Chagford, Gidleigh, Sampford Courtney and Spreyton, and over the years most of the other towers in the Deanery have been involved at some time or another.

JMGB

THANKS

I would like to thank all the Ringers and Ringing teams who showed me such kindness during my recent stay in hospital with cards, mes-

sages and visits. It is all very much appreciated.

Many many thanks
Nora Bertram
South Tawton Ringers

MOOR NEWS

The bells of two of the Associations more well known Dartmoor towers will both be ringing again by the time you read this (I hope!). As reported in the local press, Widecombe's six have been completely rehung in a new frame, and Chagford's tower is much stronger now due to the insertion of three large RSJ's under the foundation beams supporting the wooden bell frame. More news of what and how this was done will be included in the next issue.

Congratulations

Just enough space to congratulate the ringers of Buckland-in-the-Moor and Friends who rang 5040 un-repeated call changes on Saturday 30 September 2000 in 5 hours 33 minutes. Full details next time.

JRG



DEVON ASSOCIATION OF
RINGERS
NOVICE COMPETITION 2001

SATURDAY 10TH MARCH 2001
AT
BELSTONE, NEAR OKEHAMPTON

This is the 3rd year that we have held this competition and we hope that you will help us make it the success it has been in the first two years. The arrangements are similar to the previous years with Top Ringing only (No rise or fall).

It is aimed at novice teams, to encourage and promote good striking and have some fun!

There are two sections: 1) Round Ringing and 2) Change ringing, with the T H Priddle Shield and & P Rice Shield to be contested. All competing teams will receive a certificate.

All Devon Towers are eligible for entry, regardless of the number of bells in your tower, but you should be affiliated to the Devon Association of Ringers.

If you have not yet affiliated to the Association you may do so on the day. (Cost £3) There will be a nominal entry fee for the competition on the day.

Schedules for entry now available from:

J J Darke, 14 Fordhay, East Chinnock, Somerset, BA22 9EF

EARLY ENTRY IS ADVISED.

PROPOSALS FOR A DEVON RINGERS' COUNCIL

1. This body shall be called the "Devon Ringers Council".
2. It shall have as its objects:
 - a) to develop the relationship between the Devon Association of Ringers and the Guild of Devonshire Ringers;
 - b) to encourage training in all aspects of bellringing and belfry maintenance;
 - c) to further relations between ringers and Church authorities, the media and the General Public in order to promote understanding, interest and support.
3. The council shall consist of the secretaries of the Devon Association of Ringers & the Guild of Devonshire Ringers, five elected representatives from each society and a representative from the St. Petrocks Ringing Centre.
4. Elections shall take place every third year and when a vacancy occurs through resignation or death. In addition, the Council shall have power to co-opt additional members.
5. The Council shall annually appoint from amongst its number a convenor, a deputy convenor and a clerk. The deputy convenor shall be elected from the constituent society not represented by the convenor.
6. The Council shall have power to delegate to individual members the responsibility for specified functions, e.g. public relations, education.
7. The Council shall meet at intervals decided by the membership and at least once a year. The clerk shall circulate the draft minutes of the previous meeting together with the agenda for the next meeting at least two weeks before the date agreed for that meeting.
8. The Council shall hold no funds, but any project or activity organized by the Council shall be self financing or funded by the constituent societies.
9. These rules shall only be changed with the approval of the two constituent societies.

MINUTES OF 1999 AGM

The 65th Annual General Meeting of the Devon Association of Ringers was held at the Town Hall, North Tawton, on Sat 13th November 1999 at 2.15pm.

The Chairman, Mr Brian Drake welcomed approx. 70 members to the meeting and informed them that tea and biscuits would be served in the Mortimer Room following the meeting and the bells would be available for anyone wishing to ring. The meeting was opened with prayers read by Rev. Bob Southwood, who remembered those ringers who had passed away during the year and their families. (George Stephens - Ide; Bill Davis - Braunton; Edgar Bertram - South Tawton; Mrs Campion - Broadhempstone; Mike Fry - Bradford).

Apologies for absence: John Pugsley, Tony Eames, Don Roberts, Mrs Clarke, Mr Eveleigh, A Barnes, Ian Campbell, Bob Drayton, Percy Pester, Peter Phillips, Mrs Corthine, Alan Quick, John Wickett, David Conway, Andrew Gist, Pinhoe, George Mudge, Plymstock, W Avery, M Adams.

The minutes of the 1998 AGM were read by the Secretary, approved as being a true record by the members and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising: There were no matters arising.

Secretary's report: The secretary read his report which included mention of the newsletter which had been well received, and the running of the Novice competition at Throwleigh. Also he wished to pass on his personal thanks to the retiring Treasurer, Mr Norman Fanner.

Treasurer's report: The treasurer gave his report & referred to copies of the balance sheet. He informed the meeting that the balance in hand was £5458.62, a very healthy balance, although there was approx. £200 owing for certificates as the bill had not yet been received. There were 114 affiliated towers, which is probably as many as we have ever had. He was of the opinion that the competitions should be self financing and thought perhaps the entry fees should be increased if not doubled. He congratulated Julia Endacott & those people who had helped in raising the income from the Annual Draw, & he suggested that £3000 be handed over to the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund. With reference to charity status, he had been unable to get a definite answer from the Charity Commissioners as to whether or not we should seek charitable status. He thanked all the committee for their help over the years & a special thanks to Ray Capps, who has audited the books for a number of years. It was agreed that Ray Capps should receive the usual bottle for his work. Mr Hookway asked if it was in order for one charity to give money to another charity. Norman replied that it was. He then said that for personal reasons, & his involvement in other time consuming personal work, he was sorry that he had to give up the position of Treasurer that he had held for the past 13 years. He referred to comments made by his predecessor & he had tried to maintain the same standard. He wished every success to the Association during the 21st century.

The president, Mr C Crocker thanked Mr Fanner for his work over the past 13 years and said it was a great pleasure to present him with a decanter and bottle of port. Mr Fanner thanked everyone for the parting gift.

Minutes of the last two committee meetings: The secretary read the minutes of the Committee meetings held in February and August 1999.

Matters arising: 1. Proposed D Trout, seconded Rev R Southwood: that the Association pay half the amount for recruitment leaflets to be printed. All in favour.

2. Jerome Darke gave a resume on the Novice Competition. 28 entries had been received but only 21 teams actually took part. He proposed that the event be held again next year. This was carried by the meeting. The Chairman thanked Jerome & Colin for their efforts in organising and running the competition & wished them success for next year.

Election of officers:

President 1999/2000: The chairman thanked the retiring President Mr C Crocker for all his efforts and support give to the Association during the year. In reply Mr Crocker thanked the Chairman & members of the committee for all the hard work they do for the Association. He said that he had enjoyed his year in office & hoped that the new President would enjoy the position as much. Mr Crocker then handed the Presidential Sash to Mr Colin Adams. The Chairman welcomed Mr Adams and in reply he said he wished to thank his proposer and seconder for their nomination. It is an honour and privilege and he would do his best to support everything during the coming year.

President Elect 1999/2000: The Chairman stated that Mr M Phillips had been nominated by the committee as President Elect for 1999/2000. The meeting was all in favour.

Treasurer: Proposed: Mr Drake; Seconded: Mr Phillips - Mr I Hookway. There being no other nominations Mr Hookway was elected Treasurer. He said that he would do his utmost but Mr Fanner was a difficult act to follow, and would like to thank him in advance for his help.

Chairman: Prop. Miss Bradshaw; Sec. Mr Hookway - Mr B Drake. Carried.

Secretary: Prop. Mr Darke; Sec. Mr R Trout - Mr W F Bye. Carried

Assistant Secretary: Prop. Mr J Lock; Sec. Mr J Bint - Mrs J Gist. Carried.

Publicity Officer: Prop. Mrs J Endacott; Sec. Mr C Adams - Mr J Bint. Carried.

North & South Committees: Prop. Mr M Phillips; Sec. Rev R Southwood - both committee to be re-elected en- bloc. Members are: **North:** Messrs. M Philips, C Nicholls, E Cole, G Arscott, G Knight, J Bale, J Enderson, S Cooper.

South: Messrs. J Rhymes, B Osborne, C Adams, D Trout, G Boucher, J Darke, M Sharland, R Mogridge.

The chairman pointed out that although there is a rule in force that if a committee member misses two meetings they are automatically removed from the committee, it was felt unfair to remove Mr G Knight from the committee under the circumstances. Mr Pascoe asked if it was known how George is & Mr Adams was able to tell the meeting that he was in a nursing home in Wellington & occasionally he has lucid moments but his mind tends to wander very frequently.

Annual Dinner: The Chairman said the Annual Dinner had been booked for Saturday 18th March 2000 at the Devon Hotel, Matford, Exeter. He said that there had been mention of dancing which would obviously incur extra expense. Jerome Darke said that following the dinner the evening goes a bit flat & that something like dancing would help to make the evening. When put to the vote it was agreed to have Dinner and Dancing. The Chairman said that the Church Service

had not been well attended & therefore should we have a service. After some discussion Mr R Trout proposed, Rev R Southwood seconded that we do not have a service before the Annual Dinner. This was carried.

Competitions 2000: As agreed at the last committee meeting the Chairman asked the meeting that as next year is the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the association, would it be in order for us to go to Zeal Monachorum for the Major Final. A short discussion took place and when put to the vote 3 towers were in favour: 8 against.

8 Bell: One nomination had been received - ASHBURTON. Prop. J Darke; Sec. C Adams. Date to be Saturday 29th April.
North Qualifier: 3 nominations had been received: Zeal Monachorum, Bratton Clovelly, & Morchard Bishop. When put to the vote 3 towers in favour of Zeal Monachorum; 6 for Bratton Clovelly and 7 for of MORCHARD BISHOP. Date to be Saturday 13th May.

South Qualifier: One nomination - IDEFORD. Prop. Mr R Trout; Sec. Mr B Osborne. Date to be Saturday 13th May.

Major Final: One nomination - CHURCHSTOW. Prop. Mr R Trout; Sec. Mr J Darke. Date to be 27th May.

Minor Final: 2 nominations - Zeal Monachorum & Bratton Clovelly. When put to the vote 21 towers were in favour of ZEAL MONACHORUM and 4 for Bratton Clovelly. Date to be Saturday 10th June.

JUDGES: **8 Bell:** Messrs. I Hookway, M Philips, J Darke, G Whiddon. Scrutineer: Mr S Adams; **North Qualifier:** Messrs. B Drake, I Hookway, J Ward, S Facey. Scrutineer: Mr J Wickett; **South Qualifier:** Messrs. I Avery, W Avery, J Cole Mrs P Johnston. Scrutineer: Mr S Martin; **Major Final:** Messrs. B Drake, I Hookway, I Avery, Mrs P Johnston. Scrutineer: Mr J Cole; **Minor Final:** Messrs. S Facey, J Ward, J Rhymes, H Bardens. Scrutineer Mr J Wickett.

Correspondence: 1 A letter of thanks was read from Mrs. Nora Bertram thanking everybody for their cards and kind thoughts following the death of her husband Edgar.

2. A Letter from D Trout was read regarding the incident of the adjustment of the ropes at Morebath in last years Major Final. It was agreed that no further discussion was necessary as this had been adequately dealt with previously.

Central Council of Church Bell Ringers: Mr M Way attended the AGM in Lincoln where approx. 220 people attended. There was not much of interest to the Association except that it had been suggested that Juniors (Under 16s) should not be trained on their own, there should be others in attendance as a safeguard. He hoped to attend the next meeting in Bury St. Edmunds.

Annual Draw 1999: Mr J Bint spoke on behalf of Mrs Endacott who was unable to speak due to a throat infection. He thanked Julia for all the effort she had put in. Approx. 3500 books had been sold and a few unsold books had been returned. It would be helpful if the tickets could be folded before being returned to the person from whom they got them. The Chairman thanked Julia and Jon for their efforts and the Association was indebted to them for their hard work. The Meeting agreed to allow Julia to set the prize money as she thinks fit.

Ring in 2000: Mr M Mansley, chairman of the joint committee said that now it had been agreed to go ahead with the leaflet, things could move forward. The text had been done by David Trist with ideas from other Guilds around the Country. The distribution had to be decided upon. If any help is required on "The Day" then people should get in touch with him. Mr Mansley said he felt the liaison between Guild & Association was good and should be maintained & co-operation continued.

Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund: Mr Mack listed the towers that had been promised money and £5974 was in the kitty. £6500 had been promised, so they were hoping to get a grant from the Association, as there were a further 9 applications to be considered on top of the £6500 already promised. He said that Mr Tom Wright had been unable to attend meetings for some time and it was felt that he should be replaced. Proposed. Mr J Bint: Sec. Rev R Southwood - Mr D Trist: Prop Mr D Trout; Sec. R Trout - J Darke: Prop. Mr M Philips; Sec. Mr J Bale - Mr M Way. When put to the vote: Mr Trist 17 votes; Mr Darke 20 votes; Mr Way 9 votes. Mr Darke was elected to serve on the DCBRF.

Any Other Business:

1. Mr Hookway asked about the recommended increase in entry fees. It was agreed by the he meeting that the matter should be referred to the Committee to discuss and report back to the next AGM.

2. Rev R Southwood started by saying the score was England 2 Scotland 0. The Annual Carol Service is to be held on Saturday 18th December at 4.30pm.

3. Rev R Southwood said he wanted to see the format of the AGM put on the agenda for the next meeting and fully discussed. He was concerned about the future of the Association. There are no young people at the meeting and quite honestly he had been bored stiff. The Chairman said that the letter sent by Rev. Southwood had been read out at a committee meeting and it had been agreed to leave things as they are. Rev Southwood said that if the Association went for Charitable Status then we would have to have individual membership and not towers as at present, therefore it would be easier to send out the minutes to each member in advance of the meeting. It was agreed to refer this to the Committee.

4. Mrs Nora Bertram said she had problems recently in organising a ringing trip. Towers were getting "iffy" and limited visiting ringing to a certain number of days a year when wishing to ring peals. The Chairman said he felt that there was little the Association could do about this. Mrs White said that she had found no problem but perhaps she had been lucky. Mr Bint said that special arrangements had been made for them to ring recently in the Midlands. Rev. John Scott said that we must give clarification as to what we mean by "Peal". Rev Southwood said that speaking as an incumbent, he felt that ringing a 3 hour "Peal" was like a clock ticking - after a while you didn't notice it but with call change ringing there were frequent breaks.

5. The meeting agreed to hand over £3000 to DCBRF.

6. Mrs Gist said that 40 items of clothing with the Association badge had already been sold & an order for a further 50 was now ready. Mrs Gist was thanked by the Chairman for her efforts.

7. Mr R Trout asked if there were to be special certificates for the Millennium. It was agreed that the Secretary would look into this and report to the committee.

After agreeing that the next AGM will be held on the 2nd Saturday in November 2000, and there being no further business the Chairman thanked all members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 1700 hours.

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

1st 2000 BI-ANNUAL COMMITTEE MEETING

The Bi-Annual meeting of the Devon Association of Ringers was held on Thursday 10th February 2000 in the Mortimor Room at North Tawton Parish Church.

Present: President - Mr C Adams, Messrs. S Cooper, M Philips, J Darke, D Trout, J Bint, J Bale, B Osborne G Boucher, B Drake, F Bye, I Hookway, J Rhymes, E Cole, R Mogridge, C Nichols and Mrs J Gist.

Apologies for absence: Maurice Sharland, Jack Bale.

Not present: J Enderson.

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed our new Treasurer and said he hoped that Mr Hookway would have a pleasant time doing the job and that he would enjoy it.

The Secretary had not brought the minutes of the previous meeting so they could not be read.

Millennium Festival: The Secretary mentioned that suggestions had been made regarding the holding of a Millennium competition during the year. Mr Trout said that if this was done all the work was left to the Secretary. Mr Hookway said that it would be very difficult to find a free date to hold such an event. The President Mr Adams said that the 2nd Saturday in September he held a competition in aid of the Devon Churches Trust. Mr Trout said how would we decide on entries as there would be both 6 and 8 bell towers involved. The Chairman said that it was a nice gesture on the part of the President but how did members feel about the idea. Mr Philips suggested that we continue as we were. Mr Cole asked how many entries there were at this competition normally. Mr Adams replied approx. 12 to 15. Mr Cole stated he felt that to be enough. Mr Adams said that the length of ringing time could be restricted. Mr Philips proposed, Mr Nichols seconded that "We stay as we are". Mr Trout proposed, Mr Darke seconded an amendment "Do something to celebrate the Millennium". When put to the vote 9 in favour 6 against the amendment. The amendment was carried. Mr Adams said "let's give it a go". He suggested he was talking off the top of his head but would ask the PCC if the 8 bell could be held at Exminster and the 6 bell at Powderham and he was quite sure we could succeed. Mrs Gist said could we make it a Festival rather than a competition, this was agreed. Mr Trout suggested we look into the possibility of awarding a plaque to every team entering. Mr Adams said that he was prepared to give it a go. It was agreed that there should be a small sub-committee to help Mr Adams.

Correspondence: A letter had been received from Lt. Comdr. David Row regarding the Devon Association making some observations. Mr Adams said that Mr Row had raised some good points because he could see the Association with fresh eyes. The WWW should be considered as it is growing by the minute, we should find out more about it and give it a go. Mr Philips said we should nominate somebody to look into this. The Secretary said it was not that easy and it would probably be time consuming to set up. Mr Hookway asked who would continue it after it was set up. The Chairman suggested the Secretary look into the feasibility of such a project and report back to the Committee Meeting in August. The Chairman asked the Secretary to send an appropriate reply to Mr Row.

Annual Dinner: The Chairman said that he had looked into getting some music as requested and this would cost £60, and the dinner would cost £15 per head. He suggested charging £16 per head. There would be no guests to pay for as there would be no service, therefore no clergy. The date is Saturday 20th March 2000. Time 7.30pm for 8.00pm. The President thanked the Chairman for all the work he does for the Association. Mr Trout asked if it was possible to have a team of handbell ringers to ring after the meal and suggested that Lamerton had a very good team and perhaps they could be asked. Mr Osborne agreed to look into this.

Any other Business:

1. Mrs Gist suggested that Captains should check with respective PCC's and check if there is adequate Public Liability Insurance provided.
2. Mr Hookway stated that at the last AGM the retiring Treasurer suggested a possible increase in affiliation fees. In 1989 the fee was raised from £1.00 to £2.00 and in 1997 it was raised to £3.00. Mr Hookway was asked about the state of our finances and he replied that the balance was approx. the same as last year with some bills to be paid. Approx. £2000 in the Account. After some discussion it was agreed to leave as it is unless it is raised at the AGM.
3. Mr Bint reported that there were problems with the frame at Chagford and therefore Chagford bell were at present unringable.
4. The Chairman thanked Janice and Jon for preparing and sending out the newsletter which appeared to be very well received.
5. Mr Darke reported that arrangements were well in hand for the Novice Competition which was to be held on Saturday 11th March at Dunsford and he had received 18 entries.

There being no other business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 2100 hours.

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE MEETING 22.5.00

An emergency committee meeting was held on 22nd May 2000 at 15 Essington, North Tawton.

Present:- President - Mr C Adams, Messrs. B Drake, I Hookway, G Arscott, M Sharland, G Boucher, C Nichols, D Trout, B Osborne, R Mogridge, J Rhymes, E Cole, S Cooper, J Darke, F Bye and Mrs J Gist.

Not present: J Enderson.

Apologies: Messrs. J Bint, J Bale and M Philips.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all members to his house. The secretary read the minutes of the previous Committee Meeting and the Chairman signed them as a true and accurate record.

Matters arising: The Chairman said that the Annual Dinner was quite well supported. Unfortunately one member had booked 5 places but only 2 turned up leaving a matter of £48.00 having to be paid because the other 3 meals had not been canceled in time. Mr Trout said that the evening had been very enjoyable. Mr Adams said it had been an excellent evening. Mr Hookway said there had been an overall loss of just £2.00.

Purpose of the meeting: The Chairman outlined the reason for the meeting which was that accusations had been made that a team had rung under time at the South Devon Qualifier held at Ideford on Saturday 13th May 2000 and asked Mr Darke who had deputised for the Secretary to explain the events leading up to the accusation.

Mr Darke stated that he had offered the scrutineer a stop watch to hold in his deliberations but the Scrutineer said that he would use his own watch to record the time and assured Mr Darke that any team ringing under time would be disqualified. At the end of the competition the Judges were aware of a team ringing under time as one of them had a stop watch. The scrutineer was asked if he was aware of a team ringing under time, he said no. Mr Martin was told that the team in question had rung 20 seconds under time. Mr Martin checked his official time and said they had rung for 20 minutes. These discussions took place before the results and team placings were disclosed. The scrutineer was told that ultimately it is the duty of the Scrutineer to disqualify any team ringing under time and he was asked if he was going to disqualify that team. He replied as it was only 20 seconds that it was not worth bothering about. A decision was made - no further actions would be taken. There had been some discussion taking place outside by competitors and there was some disquiet about it.

Mr Trout stated that there was nothing in the rules that says the scrutineer is responsible, but they do state 20 mins. for 8 bell peal and 15 mins. for 6 bell peal and that is the time they should ring. Mr Boucher asked what time any objection was raised as there is a rule which says that any objection should be made in writing within 10 minutes of the completion of ringing. The Chairman said the Judges decision should be final. Mr Trout said that the rules do not make one man responsible for time. Perhaps the Association should use 2 stopwatches and the Secretary or his deputy should also time the ringing. The President, Mr Adams said that a scrutineer was elected and his decision should be accepted and we should not undermine his/her responsibility.

It was agreed that Mr Martin had served the Association well over the years and it would be unwise to upset him now. Mr Osborne said that in hindsight maybe the person in charge should have called a committee meeting at the time with all the committee members who were present. Mr Darke replied that hindsight was a wonderful thing!

Mr Boucher suggested that perhaps we should appoint a sub-committee to look into and perhaps revise the rules to be put forward at the next AGM. Mr Sharland said that there appeared to be exceptional circumstances and that because of the uncertainty of the time keeping others took it upon themselves to do it. The Secretary made the point that it was unfortunate that discussions that had taken place between the Judges and Scrutineer in their deliberations had been made public and had been openly discussed after the competition. Any such discussions should be treated as confidential. A long discussion took place and finally Mr Adams proposed that the decision of the scrutineer be upheld. This was seconded by Mr Trout, the majority being in favour.

Proposal: Mrs Gist proposed that under the circumstances West Alvington be included in the Major Final. Mr Mogridge seconded.

1st amendment: Mr Boucher proposed an amendment that it was wrong to put 6 teams in the major final. Seconded by Mr Nicholls.

2nd amendment: Mr Trout proposed a 2nd amendment that a 6th team from the North should also be allowed to ring in the Major Final making 12 teams. Seconded by Mr Adams.

On being put to the vote the 2nd amendment received 2 votes; the 1st amendment 8 votes; the proposal 5 votes. The 1st amendment was carried.

The Secretary pointed out that a further discrepancy had occurred in the transposition of the results and in fact Eggbuckland B had now been placed before West Alvington which meant that Eggbuckland "B" would now be in the Major Final and West Alvington in the Minor.

Any other business:

1 Mr Trout asked if an objection is raised within the 10 minutes about time keeping what is the procedure. It was agreed that it was the decision of the Judges and Scrutineer as long as it was unanimous if not a Committee Meeting should be called at the Venue.

2 Proposed Mr Sharland; Sec. Mr Darke that a sub committee be formed to look into the rules and report back to the next committee meeting in August. This was carried and those elected were: Mr Sharland, Mrs Gist, Mr Trout and Mr Cole.

3 The Chairman said that he had received a phone call from Mr Pugsley stating that the Trophies owned by the Association are insured against burglary but what about theft from an open Church. The Treasurer agreed to look into the matter.

4 Mr Osborne asked if the Secretary or Deputy could check the Clock in the tower prior to ringing commencing and remind teams that they must ring for 15 or 20 minutes as appropriate.

5 Mr Hookway said that West Alvington should be commended as to the way they accepted the decision re the corrected results.

6 Mr Hookway pointed out that there were teams not paying their affiliation and entry fees at the AGM and leaving it at the last minute, paying the Secretary on the day which in his view was not satisfactory.

7 Mr Hookway said that a vote of thanks should be passed to Maureen Drake for providing refreshments during the meeting and to Brian Drake for allowing the meeting to be held at this house.

8 Mr Adams said he felt our thanks should go to Jereme Darke for running the South Devon Qualifier and he was sure we had learned from the experience.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 2140 hours.

2ND 2000 BI-ANNUAL COMMITTEE MEETING

The 2nd 2000 Bi-annual committee meeting of the Devon Association of Ringers held at 1930 hrs on Thursday 17th August 2000 at the Mortimore Room, St. Peters Church, North Tawton.

Present: President - Mr C Adams, Messrs. Boucher, Osborne, Rhymes, Enderson, Cooper, Philips, Bale, Cole, Sharland, Arscott, Darke, Hookway, Drake, Nicholls, Bint, Trout, Bye and Mrs Gist.

Apologies: Mr R Mogeridge.

The Chairman welcomed all members to the meeting.

The minutes of the last Committee Meeting were read by the Secretary, approved by the members and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising: Mr Hookway reported that he had spoken to our insurers and they informed him that the trophies were completely covered from burglary or theft, except when left in an unattended car.

The Secretary outlined the proposal for the "ringing Council for Devon" which had been unanimously accepted by the Guild of Devonshire Ringers at their recent AGM. It was agreed to send the terms of reference with the notification of the AGM and recommend it to the meeting.

Annual Dinner: Mr Drake asked the Committee if they felt we should hold a Dinner in 2001. A long discussion took place with Mr Hookway stating that the dinner made a loss of £2.40 and whilst this was only a small amount., the event should be self supporting. Mr Drake said that 5 meals had been booked at short notice but only 2 persons turned up, but the extra 3 meals had to be paid for. Without this the event would have made a profit. Mr Philips said that the best dinner ever was when it was held in North Tawton Town Hall. Mr Sharland said there was a woman in Okehampton that does outside catering and this may be worth looking into. Mr Adams suggested a show of hands. There were 8 in favour the remainder abstained.

Venues for Competitions 2001: The secretary reported that written invitations had been received from Shirwell for the Minor Final; Kingston for the South Devon Qualifier; Chardstock for the Minor or Major Final, together with a verbal invitation from Broadwoodkelly for the North Qualifier or Major Final. A letter had been received from Braunton but this was for 2003. No invitation had been received for the 8 bell although North Tawton was always available. Mr Arscott said he had hoped to get an invitation from Great Torrington and would look into it. Mr Darke said that he had organised the Novice Competition at Belstone for Saturday 10th March 2001.

Mr Hookway suggested that all affiliation and entry fees must be paid before competing as some teams during 2000 appeared not to have paid one or the other. As Treasurer he was not prepared to see this sort of thing happen and the Secretary shouldn't be expected to collect money on the day of the competition as he has enough other things to worry about. All teams should pay at or by the AGM and certainly before the day of the competition. Mr Trout asked Mr Hookway if he was implying that teams had not paid., Mr Hookway replied Yes. The Chairman thanked Mr Hookway for his views.

President elect 2000/2001: Mr Darke proposed Mr Horace Clements. Mr Adams proposed Mr Ken Raddenbury. This was put to a paper vote and the result was Mr Clements 5 votes: Mr Raddenbury 14 votes. It was agreed that the Secretary should write to M Raddenbury asking if he would accept the position.

New committee member (North): As George Knight had passed away, a vacancy existed on the North Committee. Mrs Gist proposed Clive Ward, Mr Bint proposed David Trist. When put to the vote, 6 were in favour of Clive Ward with 9 in favour of David Trist.

Devon Association and the WWW: The secretary stated that he had been unable to collate much information but was aware that John Enderson may be able to assist. Mr Enderson outlined the fact that he designed Web pages. The cost depended on what was required, £30.00 per page was about an average price to pay. Jon Bint said that he had visited other Ringing Web sites and some were very elaborate and some very basic but he felt it was the way forward. He would like to see the history of the Association published on the Web. Mr Hookway asked what advantage there would be to the Association. Mr Enderson said it was the way to sell your products and to advertise the Association to the World. Mr Adams felt we should give it a go. Mr Drake asked who we would pay. Mr Enderson replied that we would pay the person who does the work. Mr Adams suggested that at sub-committee should look into this and it was proposed that Mr Enderson, Mr Bint, Mr Trout and Mr Bye be appointed. Agreed.

Report of the Rules Sub-committee: Mrs Gist handed out copies of the proposals, which were basically some rules and some conditions. The idea was to have a minimal number of rules but keep everything tight. A discussion took place on some aspects of the proposals. Mr Hookway was not happy with the proposal that all qualifying teams receive a certificate at £5.00 each. The Chairman felt that everybody should be given time to fully read the proposals and themn be discussed at the AGM. It was agreed that a copy should be sent out with each letter of notification of the AGM.

Any other business:

- 1 Mr Hookway gave a resume of the accounts and said he was going to recommend £2,500 was passed to the DCBRF.
- 2 Mr Philips said would everyone please fold their counterfoils when handing back sold draw tickets as it is a thankless task for the organisers on the day.
- 3 Mr Osborne said that teams backing out of competitions should give the Secretary more notice so that other teams could be invited to make up any shortfall.
- 4 Mr Adams said that with reference to the Millennium competition this was all in hand and he handed out details to each member of the committee.
- 5 The Secretary informed the committee that it was his intention not to seek re-election at the AGM in November 2001.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 2143 hours.

DEVON ASSOCIATION RULES AND CONDITIONS

RULES

1. All competitors must be regular church service ringers of the competing team. In the event of any team entering these competitions and finding themselves short of a ringer they may borrow a substitute except Treble or Tenor ringer, from any affiliated tower. NB 8 bell tower two ringers, 6 bell tower one ringer only, but no one may ring more than once in any competition. The 6 bell area and final are deemed one competition.
2. All teams competing in the 8 bell competition shall be allowed to have only eight ringers in each team enter the church and belfry for the contest, and only six ringers in each team for the 6 bell competitions shall be allowed in the Church and Belfry during the contest. The only exception to this rule is where the use of a strapper is permitted at the discretion of the committee. All changes in the competitions must be called by one of the competing ringers.
3. Competing teams shall not ring less than twenty minutes in the 8 bell competition and not less than fifteen minutes in each of the 6 bell competitions. The stopwatch provided by the Association to be used by the Scrutineer to time each peal.
4. ALL competing Teams must be present at the Tower prior to the commencement of the competition in order to make the draw. Teams must be present to ring in order drawn.
5. Towers selected to host annual competitions to be closed to competing towers from the date of the AGM.

FAILURE TO ABIDE BY THESE RULES WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION.

CONDITIONS

1. The 6 and 8 bell competitions are confined solely to the affiliated Towers of the Devon Association of Ringers. The 6 bell competition to be open to towers with 6 bells or less; 8 bell to towers with 7 bells or more. Affiliation fee and entry fee must be paid prior to ringing.
2. The winners of the shields, cups and trophies will hold them for twelve months. These items will be insured against Fire and Theft by the Association.
3. In addition to the Shields and Cups, six certificates will be awarded in the Eight Bell Competition, and ten certificates in the North and South Devon Six Bell Competitions and four certificates in the final six bell competitions.
4. Any protest must be lodged, with the Competition Secretary within ten minutes of the completion of the competition. The competition secretary, together with the committee, shall be responsible for all decisions and discretions exercised on that day.
5. The decision of the judges, scrutineer and committee shall be final.
6. The Devon Association of Ringers will not be held responsible for any accident or loss occurring to a Ringer taking part in any competition organised by the Association, or to anyone attending these Competitions.
7. The scrutineer shall be elected independently of the judges.

Additional points raised at sub-committee meeting.

- Current insurance value of trophies to be looked at. How often are they valued?
- Does Burglary and theft mean the same thing in law. If not what cover do we actually have?
- Would it be possible for all teams competing in Major and Minor finals to receive certificates?
- Could we rearrange the seating at the next AGM. Committee to be at stage end of hall with members facing stage. Would be easier for latecomers to enter and not disrupt meeting.
- Could we hold the Minor final before the Major with a "Wild card" for the Major being given to the team placed first in the Minor. This would stop the Minor final being an "also ran" competition and give competing teams additional incentive to win.
- The separate election of the scrutineer to be used to bring in members of the association who are not be prepared or ready to judge a peal, but who would like to be involved with the process.