



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE DEVON ASSOCIATION OF RINGERS COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2019 AT WHIDDON DOWN VILLAGE HALL

Present: James Steer, Rachel Avery, Clive Ward, William Carew, Graham Sharland, James Kerslake, Ian Avery, Lee Avery, Paul Hext, John Dietz, Barry Osbourne, Gerald Arscott, Keith Bavin, Stuart Bennie, John Lock, Margaret White and Mervyn Way.

1. Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Chairman James Steer welcomed all members in attendance and opened the meeting at 19.30.

Apologies had been received from John Barnes, Victoria Tucker, Julia Jarvis, Michael Adams, Colin Adams, Sam Hext, Christine Ley, Adrian Walthoe and Andrew Vincent.

2. Minutes of 27 September 2018 Committee Meeting

It was RESOLVED to APPROVE the minutes and the Chair duly signed them as a true document.

3. Outstanding Items

a) Purchase of software for judging at Association competitions

John Dietz reported that the cost of MS Office software was £35 per year but required association with a personal account. He had found a suitable portable printer with rechargeable battery for £203. Ian Avery reported that he and Robert Brown are in the process of setting up a laptop for use with the simulator. Hopefully, this could be adapted for use at Association competitions and he would be able to provide further details soon.

James Kerslake PROPOSED that John Dietz purchase the MS Office software and printer. This was SECONDED by Lee Avery and APPROVED (all in favour).

Ian Avery reported that a stainless steel frame for the simulator will need to be purchased. He had received two quotes, both for £850. Lee Avery PROPOSED that the quote for the frame be accepted. This was SECONDED by Mervyn Way and APPROVED (all in favour).

4. To receive an update on Devon Calls

a) Update

In his absence, Colin Adams had provided a report to the secretary. The report was read to the committee and forms part of the minutes.

b) Printing requirements

James Steer asked why there are so many copies of Devon Calls still being printed. It was NOTED that the print run has reduced drastically since the committee resolved to reduce printing numbers.

It was NOTED that all personal subscribers last year have received notices for payment.

From now on, only towers affiliating to the Association will receive a copy of the magazine and the print run will be reduced further.

Ian Avery NOTED that distribution costs have been discussed, but quotes for printing should also be obtained to ensure value for money. This was AGREED.

Action: Treasurer to email Colin Adams.

5. Long Service Awards

Clive Ward recommended that perimeters need to be considered in terms of how certificates are given, with a set policy approved for future long service award presentations.

James Steer suggested multiple years' ringing, a length of time in a post were all reasons to be considered for a long service award and that acknowledgement of individual's service to ringing was important.

Paul Hext asked if these awards would be open only to affiliated towers. It was generally accepted that awards would be given to those who are linked to an Association tower.

Lee Avery suggested that the Association should not be responsible for knowing who should qualify, and towers would be required to inform the committee of qualifying individuals.

Clive Ward PROPOSED that certificates be awarded at 25, 50 and 75 years of service. This was SECONDED by Paul Hext.

Barry Osbourne PROPOSED that certificates be awarded at 50, 60, 70 and 80 years of service. This was SECONDED by Mervyn Way.

A vote was taken, and it was RESOLVED that certificates would be awarded at 50, 60, 70 and 80 years (13.2).

James Steer suggested that all committee members should ensure they are aware of anyone reaching a milestone. He also went on to suggest that people who undertake huge milestones should be nominated for a title or award.

It was AGREED that an article be added to Devon Calls promoting Long Service Awards.

Barry Osbourne reported that Horace Clements had been very pleased with his long service award.

William Carew reported that Barry Osbourne had served 50 years as tower captain at Lamerton and had been ringing for 60 years. He was congratulated on this achievement.

6. Association Outreach:

a) Event Guide, Organisation and Planning

There was nothing further to discuss.

b) Additional Events

There was nothing further to discuss.

c) Recruitment and retention of affiliated towers

James Steer expressed concerns that there are towers affiliated to the Guild, but not the Association. Whilst dual affiliation should be supported, he felt that the Association should reach out to these towers.

Clive Ward reported that there are 16 personal affiliations and 79 tower affiliations. At the end of last year's financial year, there were 110. However, many affiliation fees are received at the end of the year.

7. Treasurer's Report

A copy of the accounts forms part of the minutes.

8. Publicity Officer's Report

In her absence, Victoria Tucker had provided a report to the secretary. The report was read to the committee and forms part of the minutes. The report would be circulated to committee members.

9. Training Officer's Report

Graham Sharland reported that an ART course was held at Blackawton in January. Several people from the area had attended, which had focused on teacher training. Those who had attended had found it very useful.

He reported that training sessions are being organised, with a need for rising and lowering workshops being evident.

10. Competitions 2019

William Carew reported that the novice competition has been organised and will take place at Ideford. He asked that people spread the word that this competition is taking place. A poster has been added to the website and Facebook page, and he would contact the Publicity Officer regarding a mail shot.

Certificates are being designed by James Kerslake and it was AGREED that the secretary would print them.

He went on to report that there would be no practice available for South Devon Qualifier at Combe Raleigh.

It was NOTED that Christine Ley has the North competitions in hand.

Stuart Bennie asked if everyone had been happy with the quality of the certificates after last year's change. It was AGREED that they were acceptable, and the Association would continue with the new company.

Ian Avery provided information on the Open Day, which will be held on Saturday 27 April. It was NOTED that the 10-Bell would be held (10.00), the 8-Bell would be held at Laira (14.00) and the 6-Bell would be held at St Budeaux (16.00). A meal would take place after the competitions (location to be confirmed).

Ian Avery circulated a poster regarding the National 12-Bell competition. Anyone wishing to volunteer on the day should sign up at 12bell.devonringers.org.uk.

11. AGM items

a) Bell advisor posts

Graham Sharland provided background on the process of when a PCC considers undertaking work to bells. He reported of an incident at Cornworthy where they were given a price and detail, but with no provision for the replacement of wooden headstocks. Since the 1930s, there has been no improvement and it is likely that they money could have been better spent.

It was NOTED that the Association doesn't see details of work and having Advisor posts would be beneficial. The Diocese consider work from a conservation view, with bell hangers having a commercial angle. PCCs should be aware of all options.

It was also suggested that the Association should have the opportunity to comment as DCBRF payments are made after these details have been considered.

It was NOTED that Graham Sharland was elected as a bell advisor at the AGM.

James Steer reported that David Trout has expressed an interest in holding a post, along with Keith Bavin and himself.

Keith Bavin stated that it is incredibly important that the Association supports PCCs undertaking such work and having someone to support PCCs would be a great asset.

William Carew also stated the importance of quality of work, providing the best options for towers and bells.

Barry Osbourne PROPOSED that David Trout, James Steer and Keith Bavin also be elected as Bell Advisors. This was SECONDED by John Lock and APPROVED.

Ian Avery asked if the bell advisors would work alongside the Guild advisors. It was AGREED that this would be a good idea.

It was NOTED that a Bell Advisor policy should be created.

b) Constitution Review

It was NOTED that a constitution review would take place on 7 March.

Since the meeting held with some members on 24 October, comments had been raised regarding committee membership. It was requested that should committee members have any comments regarding the constitution, they submit them to the secretary prior the constitution review meeting date.

12. Correspondence

It was NOTED that David Trout had resigned from the committee.

James Steer reported that the Cadbury Deanery is getting together once a month for social evenings and ringing, after a break. 28 people had attended the last event. He is aware of 5 people learning within the deanery.

Margaret White reported that the Barnstaple and Shirwell Deaneries have merged and are meeting once every other month. Several people attend and there are some learners from various towers. She reported that West Down have new ropes and a new learner, and practice takes place on most Fridays.

Keith Bavin reported that there has not been a lot of activity in the South Molton Deanery. The AGM will be held next week, and Christine Ley has stated that she wishes to ensure that meetings are held once a month.

John Lock reported that there were no learners currently in Dolton but other towers in Torridge had learners. They hold two social evenings a year, along with an AGM and competition Graham Sharland reported that the Totnes Deanery is currently running its Winter League, which is going well. He is personally teaching at Cornworthy, Harberton and Ugborough.

Stuart Bennie reported that some Okehampton towers are very active, but others need to be contacted and some outreach is required. He stated that the deanery will be celebrating 50 years this year, and a celebratory event is being organised.

James Kerslake reported that Kenn Deanery meetings take place monthly and are well attended.

Lee Avery reported that the NAIT deanery is holding its Gilbert Shield Competition this Saturday.

Unfortunately, it is not well supported, with around 4/5 towers engaging with the deanery. He had attempted to arrange monthly meetings, but there had not been a lot of enthusiasm. There are several Guild towers in the area, and this influences the lack of deanery support.

John Dietz reported that the Woodleigh Deanery held monthly practices years ago and still take place as far as he is aware. However, it is generally the same group of ringers at several towers since many villages don't have resident ringers. The main issue is finding young learners.

Paul Hext reported that Moretonhampstead Deanery is active. A lot of towers have learners but are not interested in competitions. He had tried to arrange evening meetings, but they had dwindled away due to lack of interest.

Barry Osbourne reported that the Tavistock Deanery is lacking in communication and requires some coordination, but three towers ring every Sunday. Work at Milton Abbot is due to take place.

Clive Ward reported that the Hartland Deanery annual competition will take place in May, with a tour in October. Back in the 1970s and 1980s there were lots of social events, but these no longer take place. He hopes to start these again in April. There are quite a few learners, which is great. The work on Torrington tower has been completed but it is likely ringing will not commence until Christmas

13. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

The next committee meeting would be held on Thursday 20 June 2019 at Whiddon Down Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.51.

Rachel Avery
Honorary Secretary