



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE DEVON ASSOCIATION OF RINGERS
SATURDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2018 AT ST PETERS CHURCH, NORTH TAWTON

1. Chair's Welcome

Chairman Mr James Steer welcomed members to the 84th Annual General Meeting at 14.16.

2. Prayers led by the Reverend Nick Weldon

Reverend Weldon welcomed all present and was delighted to host the Association's AGM in the church for the second year.

Prayers for both the Association and 100 years since Armistice Day were led by Reverend Weldon.

3. Apologies for Absence

The secretary had received apologies from Mrs Victoria Tucker and Messrs Robert Brown, Lee Avery, Andrew Vincent, Jereme Darke and John Moody.

Apologies were received from the floor from Messrs Reed Partridge, Mike Pascoe, Sam Hext, Stephen Herniman, Andrew Gist and Mrs Janet Gist.

4. To approve the following minutes and to discuss any matters arising:

- **AGM – 11 November 2017**

It was PROPOSED by Mrs Margaret White that the minutes be accepted as an accurate record. This was SECONDED by Mr Ryan Trout and APPROVED.

- **Committee meetings – 15 February 2018, 21 June 2018, 27 September 2018 (in draft form)**

The minutes of the committee meetings were NOTED.

5. Treasurer's Report

Mr Clive Ward presented the annual accounts which form part of the minutes.

Mrs Julia Jarvis PROPOSED that the accounts be accepted. This was SECONDED by Mr Roger Morley and APPROVED.

Mr Clive Ward PROPOSED that the Association pay £3479 to the DCBRF (total proceeds from draw). This was SECONDED by Mrs Julia Jarvis and APPROVED.

6. Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund Report

(as item 7)

Mr Ian Smith provided a report, which forms part of the minutes.

7. Officer Reports

(As item 6)

Chairman James Steer provided the following report:

The committee had met three times during the year, where the following items were discussed:

- Teaching & Simulator
- Committee membership (numbers & regions.)
- Charitable Status
- Refurbishment of 6 bell trophies

- Devon Calls Magazine
- Use of Software by Scrutineers
- Data Protection
- Association Outreach
- Revision of Constitution & Rules.

The chairman thanked those who had hosted Association competitions this year including the vicars, organists, tea ladies & gents, judges, scrutineers and the competition secretaries for their hard work.

He went on to thank the President, all officers and committee members for their attendance and commitment during the year, especially the secretary for her tireless and efficient work.

Finally, he thanked all who had helped the Association throughout the year and on a personal note, thanked Mr David Trout for arranging the Ypres trip where he was able to lay a wreath at the Menin Gate on behalf of the Association. He extended thanks to his wife Linda for her support and help.

Reports were received from the following officers and the reports form part of the minutes:

- Honorary Secretary
- North Secretary (North and South overview)
- Publicity Officer
- Training Officer

Colin Adams reported that production of Devon Calls is going well. There are more people submitting articles, which in turn is producing a better magazine. The publication currently forms 12 pages, but this could be increased to 16.

It appears that the magazine will be going online unless individuals request Devon Calls and pay for a subscription. It was NOTED that towers would continue to get a copy with their affiliation.

Suggestions to investigate quotes for a new printer had been received, however he felt that costs are not excessive; the printer currently used is below the VAT threshold which saves considerably and free delivery to Chagford is included.

Postal charges are high, and more distribution volunteers would be beneficial. Areas where more distributors are required are Plymouth and East Devon.

He requested that the Association provide a donation to Chagford Church as distribution meetings take place there. Without this facility, hire of another location would be required and would incur a charge. He thanked all who attend the meetings in Chagford. He also thanked James Grant for becoming the new technical editor.

Finally, he thanked all who had submitted articles, but especially to David and Hilary Trout for their article on their trip for Ypres.

8. Election of President and President Elect 2018/19 & Association Trustees

It was NOTED that the President for 2018/19 had been PROPOSED at the last AGM to be Mr John Barnes. This was AGREED unanimously.

After consultation within the Committee, the PROPOSED President Elect is Mrs Sue Husband. It was NOTED that her partner had very recently passed away and should she not be able to undertake the role at the next AGM, Mrs Julia Jarvis would be willing to do so. It was PROPOSED by Mr Bob Robinson that this be AGREED. This was SECONDED by Mrs Margaret White and APPROVED.

Current President Mr Barry Osbourne reported that on behalf of the committee, he wished to perform one more duty.

An appreciation award was presented to Mr Horace Clements for 80 years of bell ringing.

Mr Barry Osbourne stated that he had known Mr Clements for over 50 years, their first meeting at the first Devon Six Bell competition at South Pool. Mr Clements is a past president of the Association and has been tower captain at Stoke Gabriel.

Mr Barry Osbourne thanked the committee and ringers for their support throughout his year as President, which he had thoroughly enjoyed. He had proudly represented the Association at the recent Buckfast Abbey centenary event. He thanked Mr Paul Hext for his work on the event, which had been an excellent event in conjunction with the Guild and had been well supported.

The Presidents' sash was handed to new President Mr John Barnes by Mr Barry Osbourne.

Mr Colin Barnes stated that he hoped to represent the Association as well as Mr Barry Osbourne and past presidents. He hoped to travel throughout Devon as much as possible and would make himself available for events as required.

It was NOTED that Mr John Barnes has resigned from DCBRF. He PROPOSED Mr James Steer as his replacement This was SECONDED by Mrs Christine Ley and APPROVED.

It was NOTED that Mrs Elaine Grant and Mr Graham Sharland are existing trustees to DCBRF. It was PROPOSED by Mr John Barnes that these positions remain unchanged for the 2018/19 year. This was SECONDED by Mrs Christine Ley and APPROVED.

**9. Formal Approval by the meeting (third year of Triennium) of elected officers:
Committee Chair, Vice Chair, General Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Secretaries (North and South), Publicity Officer, Devon Calls, Training Officer, Fund Raising Officer, Guild Liaison Officer, Web Master, Safeguarding Officer**

It was NOTED that due to Mr Stuart Bennie's resignation as North Secretary, the position was vacant. There was consideration given to the position and Mr Clive Ward had offered to support the work of the South Secretary on competition days, should the South Secretary be willing to undertake the additional work. Mr William Carew had stated to the committee that he was unable to do this, and it was suggested that Mrs Christine Ley could undertake the administrative work with Mr Clive Ward running the competitions. It was PROPOSED by Mr Ryan Trout that this arrangement be AGREED. This was SECONDED by Mrs Joanne Tucker and APPROVED.

It was RESOLVED that the remaining positions remain unchanged from 2018/19:

Chair: Mr James Steer

Vice Chair: Mr Ian Avery

Honorary Secretary: Mrs Rachel Avery

Assistant Secretary (South): Mr William Carew

Publicity Officer: Mrs Victoria Tucker

Devon Calls: Mr Colin Adams

Training Officer: Mr Graham Sharland

Fundraising Officer: Mrs Julia Jarvis

Guild Liaison: Mr Ian Avery

Webmaster: Dr James Kerslake

Safeguarding Officer: Mr Robert Brown

10. To consider the creation of new post (Association Bell Advisors) and to note removal of Central Council Representatives

Mr James Steer reported that the committee had resolved to cease affiliation of CCCBR on the recommendation of the two Association representatives, Messrs Robert Brown and Mervyn Way.

Mr Graham Sharland stated that the Association is always requesting affiliation from towers within Devon but are not prepared to affiliate to the appropriate body itself.

Mr William Carew expressed concerns that if there is an issue with regards to safeguarding or health and safety, CCCBR would be able to provide additional resources. It was NOTED that the committee had been assured by Mr Robert Brown that such resources would still be available.

Mr James Clark stated that there are many issues affecting ringers and it would seem wise to continue with the affiliation to ensure that support to the Association is available.

Mr John Barnes reported that the CCCBR appear to be a very remote organisation. Even with their attempt to restructure, they do not support their members appropriately.

Mr Mervyn Way stated that attendance to meetings is at representatives' own expense and he couldn't see any reason to maintain the affiliation. Mr Michael Adams agreed that there appears to be no positive gain from the continuation of affiliation.

Mr Graham Sharland PROPOSED that the Association reinstate the subscription to CCCBR. This was SECONDED by Mr Michael Webster. A vote was taken, and the proposal was not carried (17:12).

Consideration to the new post of Association Bell Advisor was considered. It was PROPOSED by Mr Colin Adams that this role be accepted. This was SECONDED by Mr Ryan Trout and APPROVED. It was NOTED that the number of supporting officers in this role would be considered at the February committee meeting, along with a description of what the role would entail.

Colin Adams PROPOSED that Graham Sharland should be an officer in this role. This was SECONDED by Margaret White and APPROVED.

11. Committee Membership Review

A review was undertaken. It was NOTED that attendance of current members has been excellent. One member had been lost through non-attendance and there had been one resignation.

Mr James Steer stated that he saw no reason to add to membership but was aware of need to recruit for areas where there is no representation.

Mr Stuart Bennie suggested that the general membership should be challenging their representatives. He stated that there are committee members who do not speak, and the committee must make sure that views are heard from those that are affiliated. He stated that there should be a serious review with a view to restructure.

Mr Clive Ward stated that there are 18 deaneries in the county, with 6 not represented.

Mr William Carew stated that Mr Stuart Bennie had provided a huge contribution to the committee and PROPOSED that he continue as a North committee member. This was SECONDED by Mr Gerald Arscott and APPROVED.

12. Competitions Review 2018

There were no further comments.

13. To consider a trial year whereby any 6-Bell team can enter the 8-Bell competition and any 8 or 10-Bell team can enter the 6-Bell competition

This item had been brought forward to the AGM from the competition secretaries to encourage more teams to compete in the Devon festivals.

Mr Barry Osbourne expressed concerns over the loss of history and the rules should not be amended.

Mr Maurice Sharland stated that the magnificent trophies had been given at a time when six bell teams rang in six bell towers and eight bell towers were the same. He PROPOSED that there should be no trial and festivals should continue as they do. This was SECONDED by Mr Brian Drake.

Mr Graham Sharland stated that the Association is tower based with 110 affiliated towers. Around 30 affiliated teams entered in 2018, and there is scope to find more towers. The festivals set the 6 and 8-Bell competitions apart from all other competitions, of which there are many throughout the year. A change in the rules such as this would lead to loss of integrity.

Mr Keith Bavin suggested that most 6-Bell teams in the north struggle to enter with six ringers and it would be unlikely that they could find enough to enter with eight. He also saw no advantage to the proposal as 8-Bell teams are already likely to be ringing as or with a 6-Bell team under a different tower.

Mr Michael Adams suggested this proposal be delayed on the basis that there may have been a low amount of entries this year for various reasons for this.

Mr James Grant stated that the last time the 8-Bell competition was held at South Molton in 1965, fewer teams entered than that this year.

There was a suggestion from Mr Gerald Arscott that the date be moved back to third Saturday in April. Mr Colin Adams requested that consideration be given to location and weight to encourage less capable teams to enter; South Molton had been too heavy for many. He also suggested that a section with no rise and lower be included.

Mrs Christine Ley opposed the suggestion that the Association choose towers based on weight. The role of the Association is to engage with people and involve them in events; the Association should be teaching them how to ring any weight.

The proposal for a trial year whereby any 6-Bell team can enter the 8-Bell competition and any 8 or 10-Bell team can enter the 6-Bell competition was NOT APPROVED.

14. Invitations to Association Competitions 2019 (to include national competition)

Mr James Steer reported that one nomination for each competition had been received as follows:

North Devon Qualifier (11 May 2019): Ashwater

Minor Final (25 May 2019): Swimbridge

It was RESOLVED to APPROVE the nominations in lieu of any further nominations from the floor.

It was NOTED that three tower nominations had been received for the South Devon Qualifier (11 May 2019) and Major Final (8 June 2019)- Combe Raleigh, Lydford and Stokenham.

A vote was taken, and it was RESOLVED that the Major Final would take place at Lydford (14:2:4).

A further was taken and it was RESOLVED that the South Devon Qualifier would take place at Combe Raleigh (7:3).

It was NOTED that two tower nominations for the 8-Bell competition (21 September 2019) had been received- Chagford and Georgeham.

A vote was taken, and it was RESOLVED that the 8-Bell competition would be held at Georgeham (9:3).

15. Constitution Review Committee

Mr James Steer reported that an initial meeting regarding the constitution had taken place. He requested that three individuals from the floor be invited to review the constitution with a committee member.

It was RESOLVED that Mr Andrew Steer, Mrs Joanne Tucker and Mrs Kathy Wyke would form part of the review committee and the secretary would arrange a meeting in the new year.

16. To consider additional events and workshops held by the Association (for inclusion in new Event Guide)

It was NOTED that the Art of Devon Call Change Ringers event would take place on 13 July 2019.

It was requested that any further suggestions be sent to Mrs Victoria Tucker.

17. Correspondence

There was no further correspondence.

18. Any other business

Mr Ian Avery reported that the simulator was available to view today. He thanked Mr Michael Adams for collecting the simulator. The simulator is currently on a frame that is not suitable, and a proposal to invest in metal a frame in the future will be made to the committee.

He went on to report that the annual carol service would take place on Sunday 9 December at Buckfast Abbey.

Mr Keith Bavin reported that the national competition will be run by Mr Stephen Hernimann at Chittlehampton.

Mrs Joanne Tucker reported that Arlington didn't receive any Devon Calls this year, but it is a newly affiliated tower. Mr Les Boyce had also reported that he had not received any AGM paperwork. Mr Colin Adams apologised for this.

He stated that Devon Calls would remain in paper format for towers and individual subscribers. If people are not receiving Devon Calls, it was important that he be informed.

It was requested that information on competitions taking place in the year to ensure no clashes be published on the website or in Devon Calls. It was NOTED that there is a calendar on the website which can be used, but it was agreed that a published list would be useful.

Mr Colin Adams PROPOSED a donation of £25.00 be made to Chagford Church for the use of their facilities for Devon Calls distribution meetings. This was SECONDED by Mr John Barnes and APPROVED.

19. Date and Venue of AGM 2020

It has been suggested to the Chairman that the AGM be moved around the county, in a similar 'roadshow' format adopted by the Guild.

Mr Stuart Bennie PROPOSED that the AGM move around the county, alternating between north and south deaneries in the hope that this would encourage more people to attend.

Mrs Joanne Tucker stated that a central location was preferred, and Mrs Margaret White agreed with this statement.

Mr Barry Osbourne PROPOSED that the AGM take place at North Tawton. This was SECONDED by Mrs Joanne Tucker and APPROVED.

It was NOTED that the next AGM would take place on Saturday 9th November 2019 at St Peters Church, North Tawton.

Finally, Mr Colin Barnes thanked Mr James Steer, Mr Clive Ward and Mrs Rachel Avery for their hard work throughout the year.

Chairman Mr James Steer declared the meeting closed at 16.24.

Mrs Rachel Avery
Honorary Secretary
Devon Association of Ringers
19 November 2018