



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CONSTITUTION REVIEW GROUP**  
**THURSDAY 07 MARCH 2019 AT THE POST INN, WHIDDON DOWN**

Present: William Carew, Julia Jarvis, Christine Ley, Andrew Steer, Jo Tucker, Kathy Wyke and Rachel Avery

**1. To elect a Chair**

The meeting was opened at 19.46.

Julia Jarvis PROPOSED that Christine Ley chair the meeting. This was SECONDED by William Carew and APPROVED.

Apologies had been received from Andrew Vincent.

**2. To consider the suggested changes put forward by Steering Group (Committee)**

The document with recommended changes was considered on a point by point basis, with the following comments being made:

Point 1 – It was generally agreed that whilst individual membership was a good idea, the feasibility of this would require careful consideration and whether the increased administration would provide an increase in income. The addition of a new membership secretary may not be required if the treasurer felt that the extra work involved in this was negligible. *Action: Secretary to speak to Treasurer regarding administration.*

It was recommended that an increase in affiliation fees should also be considered by the committee.

Point 2 – Additional role of Safeguarding Officer should be included, and Assistant Secretaries be renamed Competition Secretaries.

Point 3 – Whilst it was accepted that the constitution should be amended to remove the CCCBR points, concerns were raised regarding the decision to unsubscribe. It was suggested that affiliation of one committee member would be acceptable, without the need for them to attend meetings and events. The Association would remain affiliated to the CCCBR and have their support and resources in difficult situations, should they arise.

Point 4 – It was agreed that the recommendation from the February committee of recognition for years' service should be accepted. There was discussion around additional awards for exceptional service, which have been presented in the past. *Action: Secretary to liaise with Publicity Officer regarding awards.*

Points 5 and 6 – It was agreed that affiliated towers should be entitled to one vote on tower locations for Devon Festivals, with any additional votes at the AGM being undertaken on an individual basis.

Point 7 – It was agreed that the date and location of the next AGM should be considered and that the AGM should move around the county.

Point 8 – Amended wording was agreed to bulletins instead of newsletters and to remove Publicity Officers requirements to support the Web Master with the website.

Point 9 – It was agreed that the constitution should be reviewed annually by a sub-committee.

Points 10 and 11 – There was consideration given to practices for some competitions such as the Major 6-Bell not being allowed, however this suggests that all competitions are not equal in terms of prestige which is not the case. It was also stated that towers must be informed on whether practice is allowed prior to nomination. It was noted that information on the website contradicts this and needs amending. *Action: Secretary to contact Webmaster.*

It was proposed that all towers should be open for practice for all Devon Competitions until 1<sup>st</sup> May. Constitution wording will depend on the approval of these points.

Point 12 – It was agreed that all competition rules should form part of the constitution document.

Point 13 – It was agreed that all placed teams should receive a certificate.

Point 14 – It was proposed that should a team enter the call change section of the Novice competition and come first or second, the same team shall not be entitled to enter with the same ‘novices’ again. The teams should also not proceed to the Minor Final, as they are not included in the main competition. There was discussion regarding allowing novice teams to enter the Minor Final and be judged alongside the other teams, however this was discouraged as it could lead to teams entering the Novice competition in a guise to reach the Minor Final. All competing teams in the Novice competition should be encouraged to enter the appropriate qualifiers. It was also agreed that an intermediate competition would require additional organisation for the Competition Secretaries, with diary dates already filled with invitationals and other Devon Competitions between March and June.

Point 15 – It was agreed that the 8-Bell peal time should be reduced to 18 minutes.

Point 16 – It was agreed that affiliation to the Association should only be open to church towers within Devon.

Point 17 – It was agreed that the amended wording should be that all competitors should be regular ringers of the tower that they represent.

Point 18 – Considered in agenda item 3.

### **3. To consider further amendments to be put to Committee**

The additional points had been made by committee members and members of this review group as follows:

#### Stopwatches (6v)

It was requested that stop watches should be provided by the Association to scrutineers for Association competitions, which should be calibrated prior to the first competition of the year.

#### Committee member term

It had been requested that consideration be given to a maximum time for representative to sit on the Association Committee. It was suggested that a maximum two terms’ (six years) would be appropriate.

#### Deanery Representation

It was noted that the number of representatives relates to the number of deaneries within Devon. It was proposed that should a deanery not elect a representative to sit on the committee, the seat would remain vacant. There had been an additional recommendation that the vacancy could be filled, an additional committee member could be co-opted, however it was agreed by the review group that it should remain vacant, with regular reminders that the deanery can elect and send a representative.

#### Duties of Committee Members

It was suggested that all representatives should be held accountable to their deaneries and should participate at meetings.

A handbook could be created for representatives for guidance, and should representatives not adhere to the requirements, they should be removed from the committee.

#### Deanery Representatives/Post Holders

It was noted that committee meetings are attended by both committee members (deanery representatives) and post holders (Devon Calls, Fundraising etc). It was recommended that anyone in attendance at a meeting who holds a post or is a member, should be entitled to voting rights.

#### Borrowing

Concerns had been raised around the use of borrowed ringers. It was suggested that should a team be short on one ringer on the day, a ringer from the hosting tower could be used. However, it was accepted that the issue of borrowed ringers may be dealt with by the changes around the term of 'regular ringer' and the constitution did not require amendment

#### **4. Date and Venue of Next Meeting (if required)**

It was agreed that an additional meeting was not required.

The meeting was closed the meeting at 21.25.

**Rachel Avery**

**Honorary Secretary**