



**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 17th September 2020 by Zoom**

Present: Sue Ashton, Ian Avery, James Steer, Joanne Tucker, Christine Ley, Andrew Steer, Graham Sharland, James Kerslake, Gerald Arscott, Keith Bavin, John Barnes, Ian Fielding, Lee Avery, Charles Conibear, with John Dietz via telephone. Margaret White joined the meeting at 20:15

1. Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Chairman Ian Avery welcomed all members in attendance and opened the meeting at 19.38

Apologies had been received from Tim Jones, Barry Osborne, Jim Grant, Mike Adams, John Lock, Paul Hext, Will Carew, Colin Adams and Julia Jarvis

2. Minutes of the Committee Meeting held via Zoom on 18th June 2020

Following an amendment to item 5. Competitions 2020, to read 'Will congratulate Andrew on a well-run competition' it was RESOLVED to APPROVE the minutes and the Chair duly signed them as a true document. (*Nb: the signed copy, still with the Chair needs to be filed in the minutes book at some point*)

3. Outstanding Items

a) Trophy Refurbishment

Ian Avery reported there are now new Thomas Oatway and Ted Priddle shields – both made by Ken Arnold at a cost of £57. It was unanimously agreed that Ian should send the invoice to Chris Ley for payment. **Action: Ian Avery and Christine Ley**

b) Publicity / Fundraising Vacancies

The possibility of combining these vacancies along with the Education Officer into a subcommittee is under discussion and remains a work in progress. Ian A will convene a further meeting prior to the AGM to discuss further

4. Reports

a) Treasurers Report

Christine Ley reported the number of members which includes Advertisers, Single members and Affiliated towers currently stands at 141. She had been approached with a proposal that perhaps given the circumstances (C-19) affiliation fees could be reduced for the next year, it was her opinion that they should remain as they are; James Steer pointed out that it would be prudent for the Association to build up a reserve of funds if possible given that the Association celebrates its centenary in 2025.

There was unanimous agreement that fees should remain as they are for 2021.

The Nat West Current account stands at £2,549.63 and the NSI account holds £3,064.80 giving a total of £5,614.43

Outgoings of £415.52 include: Printing of Devon Calls, envelopes and postage costs for the distribution of the same

b) Training Officer

Graham had little to report outside of a couple of virtual talks.

How to achieve the aims of being able to provide a cohesive training program alongside the promotion of the Association and Devon Call Change Ringing is an ongoing action connected to item 3b above.

c) Devon Calls

Colin Adams submitted his report via email which was read to the meeting by Ian A:

The March/April 2020 edition of the magazine contained 16 pages. Following circulation a proposal was made by James, our Technical Editor, to replace the months stated on each issue, i.e. March/April 2020 with "Early" for the spring edition, "Mid" for the summer edition and "Late" for the autumn edition. This came into effect during the summer when a magazine, which contained 12 pages, was produced. 155 copies were ordered and the cost for this batch amounted to £178.00. (£1.76 approx. per copy).

A decision was made by the committee at its February 2020 meeting to post future copies "on a trial basis for one year." Our Treasurer Chris kindly offered to take on the responsibilities for doing so. In view of the Corona virus pandemic the postal decision has proved to be a wise one. The printing and postal charges for the March/April edition, as well as the postal charges for the Mid 2020 edition, are matters best left for Chris to deal with. (Nb. Postage costs per copy is 83p (54p more when year card included)

We are working towards the publication of a Late 2020 edition. Although some articles have been received these are unlikely to fill 12 pages. This is probably the result of Covid 19 and its impact on ringing activities, particularly in terms of the traditional summer ringing festivals.

Attracting articles from West Devon is difficult and seems to have coincided with some 'key' people in that area becoming ill. By contrast articles from East Devon, where the association has in the past not been particularly strong, are welcomed; Chardstock being one such tower. Taking into account that there are currently more than 100 affiliated towers it is surprising that more articles aren't being submitted.

Devon Calls cannot compete with the immediacy of social media and it is not intended to do so. The magazine provides some news, but its main aim is to focus on ringers and ringing events both past and present. By so doing it provides a permanent record of the contribution which ringers make, and not only to ringing but also to the church. Prior to the inception of Devon Calls just over 20 years ago, to the best of my knowledge the only written record of the Devon Association of Ringers that existed was in the form of minutes recorded at its AGM. This valuable record i.e. the minute book was severely damaged by flood water whilst in the hands of a previous secretary.

In just 5 years' time the Devon Association of Ringers will celebrate its centenary. Whatever shape or form the celebrations will take remains to be seen. Now however will be a good time to encourage dialogue and debate. The magazine lends itself to this purpose and I look forward to the possibility of receiving material. Hopefully the Covid pandemic will be history long before 2025.

Colin E. Adams

17 September 2020.

d) Bell Advisor Posts

John Dietz said he would email Graham and Ian A with his thoughts about the role of Bell Adviser and asked if there was a job description and what the situation was regarding the need or otherwise of insurance. ONGOING. **Action: Graham to approach the Guild re job description**

e) Central Council Church Bell Ringers

Jo Tucker reported having attended the AGM (via Zoom) on the 5th September and informed the meeting that it is available on YouTube for anyone's delectation. Members of the council have been very pro-active in this year of Covid-19 in getting the people that matter around a (virtual) table with ringing on the agenda. The CCCBR are having to keep up with the times and are going through the processes of change including considering membership organisation and executive committee size. They are very interested in Devon Call Change ringing and see it as a way of improving recruitment and retention as well as improving striking; Jo feels we should be embracing that interest.

5. Safeguarding Officer Vacancy

Robert Brown has emailed both the Chair and Secretary stating his intention to resign his post as of the AGM in November. He has however offered his support to the person who takes on this very important role. Lee A agreed to produce an advertisement in poster form to go onto the web site and Facebook to aid recruitment to this vital role and Jo T is look into whether or not the Association actually has a current Safe Guarding Policy. *Action: Lee A and Jo T*

6. AGM – Saturday 14th November 2020

It was agreed that 2020's AGM will have to be held on Zoom as it's very likely that the Covid-19 situation won't have improved at all by then. It's possible the Association will have to 'purchase' a licence for this to happen.

7. Competitions

With only the Novice having taken place in 2020 it was thought that the towers who were selected for the Association competitions this year could just go forward to 2021. Andrew is to contact them all before the AGM to make sure this is okay. Given that the Novice is held early in the year it is likely that Covid-19 will cause that to be cancelled in 2021 as well but Andrew is going to sort out what he can in time for the AGM. *Action: Andrew Steer*

8. Deanery Boundaries and representative arrangements for Nov 2020 onwards

Given that in this 21st century keeping pace with the changes happening with deanery boundaries and the fact that there is currently an imbalance and some uncertainty about who is representing where, it was suggested, by more than one person that it might be better to concentrate on aiming to have active and motivated representatives from different areas of the county rather than one deanery:one representative as the constitution stands at the moment. This will of course involve a great deal more discussion and it was decided to look at it in the coming year so any proposed changes to the constitution can be discussed when it is reviewed in 2021. *Action: Constitution review*

9. Correspondence

Robert Brown's resignation (email)

10. Committee Members Reports

Charles Conibear bought up the subject of the Worldwide celebration of the invention of the Ellacombe Chimes due to take place June 26th 2021. In the first instance he is keen to find out what churches in Devon have them, how many might be using them as a way of 'ringing the bells' in this year of Covid. *Action: Charles Conibear*

11. Date and venue of next committee meeting

The next committee meeting will be held on Thursday 20th February 2021 via Zoom.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20:49

Joanne Tucker
Honorary Secretary