



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE DEVON ASSOCIATION OF RINGERS
SATURDAY 09 NOVEMBER 2019 AT ST PETERS CHURCH, NORTH TAWTON

1. Chair's Welcome

Chairman Mr James Steer welcomed members to the 85th Annual General Meeting at 14.16.

2. Prayers led by the Reverend Nick Weldon

Reverend Weldon welcomed all present and led prayers for the Association.

3. Apologies for Absence

The secretary had received apologies from Mrs Janice Gist and Messrs Andrew Gist, John Staddon, Charles Connybeare, Phil Turner, Roger Avery, David Trout, Jereme Darke, David Trout, John Cole, Adrian Walthoe, John Dietz, Chris Lock, Ryan Trout and Roger Trout.

Apologies were received from the floor from Mrs Diane Tolley, Mrs Jane Hill and Messrs Stephen Herniman, John Orchard, Steve Facey, Ray White, Colin Avery, Claude Nicholls, Alan Watts and Dave Perkins.

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

- **AGM – 10 November 2018**

Three typographical errors were NOTED. It was PROPOSED by Mrs Christine Ley that the minutes be accepted as an accurate record. This was SECONDED by Mr Michael Adams and APPROVED.

- **Committee meetings – 21 February 2019, 07 March 2019 (Constitution meeting), 20 June 2019, 26 September 2019 (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.

Mr John Barnes PROPOSED that the accounts be accepted. This was SECONDED by Mr Roger Morley and APPROVED.

It was NOTED that Mrs Julia Jarvis had £45 in cash from raffle held at the annual dinner.

Mr Clive Ward PROPOSED £3050 be donated to the DCBRF. This was SECONDED by Mr Colin Adams 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)

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

- Chairman

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

After his report, Mr James Steer passed the duties of Chairman to Mr Ian Avery.

Mr Colin Adams reported that a regular print run of 140 copies of Devon Calls had been undertaken and a new printer was now being used, which is more cost-effective than the previous.

He reported that postage can be reduced further, but more distributors are required in South Devon (Plymouth area) and West Devon.

He asked for any thoughts, ideas or suggestions for improvements to be communicated to him.

He wished to thank all those who help with the creation and distribution of the magazine which is a huge amount of work; Dr Colin Barnes and Elinor D'Albiac. He also thanked James Grant for becoming technical editor last year.

8. Election of President and President Elect 2019/20 & Association Trustees

It was NOTED that the President for 2019/20 had been PROPOSED as Mrs Sue Husband, however she had been unable to accept the Association's offer. It was PROPOSED by Mrs Julia Jarvis that Mrs Sue Ashton be President for 2019/20. This was SECONDED by Mr John Barnes and APPROVED.

Current President Mr John Barnes had thoroughly enjoyed his year as President and had gone to as many events as possible, meeting with lots of old friends. There have also been lots of new faces, the future of the Association, which is excellent.

His highlight was not been his trip to London, which had been wonderful, but the Devon 8-Bell competition being held at Georgeham. This had happened once before, but it had been a terribly wet day. The day offered excellent weather and the event was wonderful.

He thanked the committee for their hard work on the Association's behalf. He PROPOSED a vote of thanks to James Steer for his fantastic work over his term.

His attendance of the 12-Bell had been a huge highlight. The Association put on a wonderful day, which was all down to Mrs Victoria Tucker, who had been an excellent publicity officer. She had been helped by Mr Ian Avery and the event was great. He PROPOSED at vote of thanks to Victoria.

He didn't realise how much work goes into organising competitions; he received a long to-do list from Mr William Carew and he PROPOSED a vote of thanks to all organisers of Association events.

The Presidents' sash was handed to new President Mrs Sue Ashton by Mr John Barnes. She then presented him with his Past President badge in her first job as Association President.

After consultation within the committee, the PROPOSED President Elect is Mr Keith Bavin. It was PROPOSED by Mr John Barnes that this be AGREED. This was SECONDED by Mrs Margaret White and APPROVED.

It was NOTED that Mrs Elaine Grant and Messrs James Steer and Graham Sharland are existing trustees to DCBRF. It was PROPOSED by Mr Colin Adams that these positions remain unchanged for the 2019/20 year. This was SECONDED by Mrs Margaret White and APPROVED.

9. Formal Approval by the meeting (first 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

Chair: Mr Ian Avery (as Vice Chair for the previous triennium)

Vice Chair: To be considered at the February meeting.

Honorary Secretary: It was PROPOSED by Mrs Christine Ley that Mrs Jo Tucker be elected. This was SECONDED by Mr Gerald Arscott and APPROVED.

Honorary Treasurer: It was PROPOSED by Mr Keith Bavin that Mrs Christine Ley be elected. This was SECONDED by Mr Roger Morley and APPROVED.

Competition Secretary (South): It was PROPOSED by Mrs Christine Ley that Mr William Carew be elected. This was SECONDED by Mr Colin Adams and APPROVED.

Competition Secretary (North): It was PROPOSED by Mr James Steer that Mr Andrew Steer be elected. This was SECONDED by Mr Colin Adams and APPROVED.

Publicity Officer: To be considered at the February meeting as there were no candidates.

Devon Calls: It was PROPOSED by Mr Michael Adams that Mr Colin Adams be elected. This was SECONDED by Mr Graham Sharland and APPROVED.

Training Officer: It was PROPOSED by Mr Colin Adams that Mr Graham Sharland be elected. This was SECONDED by Mrs Margaret White and APPROVED.

Fundraising Officer: It was PROPOSED by Mr Graham Sharland that Mrs Julia Jarvis be elected. This was SECONDED by Mrs Margaret White and APPROVED.

Guild Liaison: It was PROPOSED by Mr Graham Sharland that Mr Ian Avery be elected. This was SECONDED by Mrs Margaret White and APPROVED.

Webmaster: It was PROPOSED by Mr Michael Adams that Dr James Kerslake be elected. This was SECONDED by Mr Colin Adams and APPROVED.

Safeguarding Officer: It was PROPOSED by Mr Mervyn Way that Mr Robert Brown be elected. This was SECONDED by Mrs Zoe Bradshaw and APPROVED.

Mr Colin Adams suggested that there may be a need for a membership secretary, especially if the Association moves to individual membership. This was NOTED.

10. Committee Membership Approval

It was NOTED that the secretary had received four resignations: Messrs Mervyn Way, Stuart Bennie, Adrian Walthoe and Andrew Vincent.

It was NOTED that as per the constitution review, it was anticipated that all deaneries would be requested to elect and send a representative. However, it would be required that a letter be sent to all deaneries prior to the next AGM. This was AGREED.

It was RESOLVED that the following individuals would be elected to service on the committee:

NORTH: Messrs Gerald Arscott, Keith Bavin, John Barnes, Ian Fielding, Tim Jones, John Lock, James Steer and Mrs Margaret White (one vacancy).

SOUTH: Messrs Michael Adams, Lee Avery, Charles Connybeare, John Dietz, James Grant, Paul Hext and Barry Osbourne (two vacancies).

11. Association Bell Advisors update

Mr Graham Sharland reported that if any tower requires assistance regarding fundraising and advice, the committee is willing to help and support this. It was NOTED that he would be submitting an article in the next edition of Devon Calls.

12. Competitions Review 2019

There was nothing further to discuss.

13. Invitations to Association Competitions 2020 (to include national competition)

Mr Ian Avery reported that the following nominations for competitions had been received as follows and no vote was required:

South Devon Qualifier (09 May 2020): East Portlemouth

Minor Final (23 May 2020): East Ogwell

It was NOTED that two tower nominations had been received for the North Devon Qualifier (09 May 2020) and Major Final (06 June 2020) and a vote was taken to determine the locations:
North Devon Qualifier (09 May 2020): Burlescombe
Major Final (06 June 2020): Molland

It was NOTED that three tower nominations for the 8-Bell competition (19 September 2020) had been received- Kingskerswell, Plympton St Maurice and Ugborough. Kingskerswell had been discounted by the committee due to the logistical constraints due to work being undertaken.
A vote was taken, and it was RESOLVED that the 8-Bell competition would be held at Plympton St Maurice.

It was NOTED that there was no information available regarding plans for the National Competition.

It was NOTED that the Novice competition would be held at High Bickington, using the back six bells on Saturday 14 March 2020.

14. Constitution Review findings and to approve changes

Further to a constitution review in March and the committee's consideration of the findings at the June and September meetings, the points were considered in the same order as the committee meeting minutes:

Point 1 – Individual membership: It was generally agreed that the committee should consider the move from tower-based membership to individual (or both) and that a full review of membership should be undertaken by the committee.

Point 2 – Additional role of Safeguarding Officer should be included, and Assistant Secretaries be renamed Competition Secretaries: It was PROPOSED by Mrs Christine Ley that this be accepted. This was SECONDED by Mr James Steer and APPROVED.

Point 3 – CCCBR affiliation: It was PROPOSED by Mr Graham Sharland that CCCBR affiliation be reinstated. This was SECONDED by Mr James Steer and APPROVED.

Point 4 – Recognition awards: It was PROPOSED by Mr Michael Adams that this be accepted. This was SECONDED by Mrs Julia Jarvis and APPROVED.

Points 5 and 6 – Voting: It was PROPOSED by Mr Colin Adams that this be accepted in principle. This was SECONDED by Mr Graham Sharland and APPROVED. However, it was NOTED that this links to point one, and affiliation requires consideration prior to a decision being made on voting at the AGM.

Point 7– Date and location of AGM: It was PROPOSED by Mr Colin Adams that the location of the AGM move around the county. This was SECONDED by Mr Michael Adams. It was PROPOSED by Mr John Barnes that the AGM continue to be held at North Tawton. This was SECONDED by Mr Mervyn Way. It was RESOLVED that the AGM would continue to be held at North Tawton (22:7 (2 abstentions)).

Point 8 – Wording regarding bulletins and newsletters: It was PROPOSED by Mr Michael Adams that this be accepted. This was SECONDED by Mr Colin Adams and APPROVED.

Point 9 - Biennial review of constitution: It was PROPOSED by Mr Martin Sharland that this be accepted. This was SECONDED by Mr Lee Avery and APPROVED.

Points 10 and 11 – Competition practices: It was PROPOSED by Mr Colin Adams that no competition practices be allowed for any Association competitions. This was SECONDED by Mr Tim Jones and

APPROVED. There were concerns raised that not allowing practice may reduce the standard of ringing, so it was RESOLVED that a two-year trial take place, with a review in 2021.

Point 12 – Competition rules within constitution document: It was PROPOSED by Mr Michael Adams that this be accepted. This was SECONDED by Mr Colin Adams and APPROVED.

Point 13 – All placed teams receive a certificate: It was PROPOSED by Mrs Margaret White that this be accepted. This was SECONDED by Mr Colin Adams and APPROVED.

Point 14 – Once winning the novice competition, the same team will not be allowed to enter with the same team: Mr William Carew PROPOSED that an intermediate section be included within the novice competition, to bridge the gap between the novice and 6-Bell and 8-Bell competitions. This was SECONDED by Mr Colin Adams and APPROVED.

Point 15 – It was agreed that the 8-Bell peal time should be reduced to 18 minutes: Mr William Carew PROPOSED that the peal time remain at 20 minutes. This was SECONDED by Mr Colin Adams. Mr Tim Jones PROPOSED that the peal time be reduced to 18 minutes This was SECONDED by Mrs Julia Jarvis. It was RESOLVED that the peal time would be reduced to 18 minutes (9:8 (7 abstentions)).

Point 16 – Affiliation to the Association should only be open to church towers within Devon: It was PROPOSED by Mr Clive Ward that this be accepted. This was SECONDED by Mr Colin Adams and APPROVED.

Point 17 – Amended wording should be that all competitors should be regular ringers of the tower that they represent: Mr Graham Sharland stated that a ringer should represent their ‘home tower’, which is the tower that they ring at most often. Several people present disagreed with this statement, as many people ring at several towers more often than what they would call their ‘home tower’.

Mr Michael Adams stated that this particular rule is irrelevant and unenforceable.

A letter from Mr David Trout was read out by the Chairman in his absence and the letter forms part of the minutes. Mr Clive Ward stated that whilst he did agree with the sentiments of the letter, he could see no way of enforcing this rule.

Mr Tim Jones recommended that this point be considered further by the committee, linking it with the idea of individual membership.

Mr Graham Sharland PROPOSED that all competitors must represent their home tower – the tower that they ring at most often. This was SECONDED by Mr James Steer. Mr William Carew PROPOSED that this rule remain unchanged. This was SECONDED by Mrs Jo Tucker. It was RESOLVED that the rule would remain unchanged (17:14 (2 abstentions)).

15. To consider offering financial support to Taylor’s Bell Foundry, Loughborough

Mr James Steer suggested that Taylor’s bell foundry is a company. However, it was NOTED that this fundraising is by the Trust.

As outgoing treasurer, Mr Clive Ward recommended that no more than £200 be offered to this fund.

Mr Colin Adams PROPOSED £200 be given to this project. This was SECONDED by Mr Bob Robinson and APPROVED.

16. Correspondence

There was nothing further to discuss.

17. Any other business

Mr Barry Osbourne stated that there should be consideration given to the payment of honorariums to some officers. It was NOTED that this could be further discussed by the committee.

Tim Bayton reported that he had directories available for sale.

It was asked if the production of Devon Calls makes money. It was NOTED that most towers do not ring in the Devon Association competitions, and Devon Calls offers something to those towers that do not get anything else from their affiliation. This year's changes have reduced costs hugely. Mr Colin Adams suggested that the reduction of postal costs would be beneficial. Some volunteers take a lot of magazines and more people taking batches to distribute would make a tremendous difference.

Mrs Zoe Bradshaw thanked the Association for the AGM information booklet which was distributed with Devon Calls.

Mr James Steer reported that it would be the Association's Centenary year in 2020 and thoughts on how to celebrate this would be required.

18. Date and Venue of AGM 2020

It was NOTED that the next AGM would take place on Saturday 14th November 2020 at St Peters Church, North Tawton.

Chairman Mr Ian Avery declared the meeting closed at 16.51.

Mrs Rachel Avery
Honorary Secretary
Devon Association of Ringers
12 November 2019