



**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON  
THURSDAY 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021 @ 19:30 on Zoom**

**Present:** Sue Ashton, Ian Avery, James Steer, Joanne Tucker, Christine Ley, Andrew Steer, Johnny Lagdon, Julia Jarvis, Graham Sharland, James Kerslake, Charles Conibear, Colin Adams, John Staddon, Keith Bavin, John Barnes, Ian Fielding, John Lock, Michael Adams, Lee Avery, James Grant, Barry Osborne with John Dietz via telephone.

**1. Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

Chairman Ian Avery opened the meeting and welcomed all present with particular reference to the two new recruits John Lagdon and John Staddon.

**Apologies** had been received from Paul Hext and Margaret White

**2. Minutes of the Committee Meeting held via Zoom on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

Colin Adams pointed out that item 3 referred to the **Ted** Priddle shield which is incorrect – it is as he pointed out, the **Terry** Priddle Shield.

**3. Matters Arising**

None recorded

**4. Safeguarding Officer**

With his consent Charles Conibear was **Proposed** by John Staddon and **Seconded** by John Barnes and agreed nem. con, to fill the vacancy and take on the role of Safeguarding Officer for the Association. His first tasks will be to draft a job description and a Safeguarding Policy for the committee's consideration at the next meeting. Ian A reported that the Guild is happy for us to make use of and amend their SG policy and there is a wealth of information to be found on the CCCBR and Diocesan web sites. James K updated the web site during the course of the meeting to reflect this new appointment. The chairman made a point of assuring Charles that he has the backing and support of the committee in this role.

**5. Reports**

Treasurer

Christine Ley reported that we have so far received fees from 15 individual members, 6 advertisers, and 102 towers since 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020. (123 total) More expected this week. Donations of £570 have been made to the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund, with a further £20 due to be sent.

The Nat West Current account stands at £2,833.51 and the NSI account holds £3,087.12 giving a total of £5,920.63

Training Officer

Nothing to report

**ACTION**

**Secretary**

**Charles  
Conibear**

### Publicity Officer

John Staddon had sent a comprehensive report of his observations to the committee prior to the meeting which everyone had read; anything centred around the Constitution will be taken forward to inform the review meeting, but as far as the web site goes and as he pointed out, it needs to be both up to date and relevant 'if we wish [it] to remain a viable and sole representation of Devon Call Change Ringing.'

James K pointed out that while he is the Web Master it is not just he who can edit the information therein.

The PO has compiled a list of as many tower email contacts as he can, both affiliated and non-affiliated, using information gleaned from the DAR web site and from Tim Bayton's latest edition of 'Bells of Devon' but there does remain a small number he will only be able to reach by Royal Mail.

Nb. Positive confirmation is needed in order to use an email address for sending publicity – James K suggested amending the Affiliation form so it requests consent. (Note from Sec: who holds the proforma for this form, and is it currently being used? Also should I be uploading the minutes from meetings as they are agreed?)

Publicising through Social Media is not something to be overlooked as pointed out by Ian F – Ian A to ask Victoria Tucker if she would be willing to assist with posting information on Facebook if sent to her, and as James G said, the more often a web site is updated the better as it encourages people to make return visits.

John requested and was granted permission to send out after each committee meeting a brief resume of any notable points, remembering that nothing is set in stone until they are ratified at the next meeting.

### Fundraising Officer

Little to report, the Annual Draw, if it is to happen, will likely have to be towards the end of the year. Printers aren't even open at this point.

### Bell Advisor Posts

John Dietz had emailed both Ian A and Graham S his thoughts on what this role might involve, for which he was thanked. It included some safety aspects to think about and to be mindful of whom you are giving what advice to, as some people they'd be dealing with might not be too knowledgeable about bells and ringing.

Graham did say that the necessary Insurance cover is certainly something that needs to be considered and investigated; he has approached but hadn't got much of a response from the Guild on this matter so far. Our Treasurer holds the Associations Insurance Policy which she will post to Graham to look at, plus Jo T suggested that our membership of the CCCBR might include some level of 'indemnity' which Graham can investigate too.

### Devon Calls

Colin reports that for the first time since he took over as Editor in 2013 the next edition of Devon Calls will contain 20 pages! He feels that receiving so many articles stands testament to the value and commitment which each and every one places on their bell ringing hobby. Contributor's efforts in putting an article together have not only helped to make the magazine interesting, but it indirectly conveys the regard which each one has for the Devon Association of Ringers. He hopes the example set by the number of people forwarding articles this time will encourage others to do so in future.

The two proof readers, Colin and Elinor, have worked really hard scrutinising and commenting on a total of twenty two articles; and similarly, James our technical editor has worked hard to ensure that all the articles have been accommodated. He is extremely grateful to them all, particularly when it's taken into account that they give their time so freely. Colin has personally thanked all three but, and with respect, requests that a letter of thanks on behalf of the committee is sent to them.

The magazine is ready for printing and dependant on lockdown restrictions it is hoped it can be circulated by the middle of March. Last Springs edition print run was 167 and in spite of all

Website content going forward:  
**ALL**

Updating current content:  
**James K**  
and  
**John S**

To approach Victoria:  
**Ian A**

**Chris L** to send  
**Graham** the Insurance Policy

Write letters of thanks and compile Year card:  
**Secretary**

Chris's hard work of reminding towers who have not renewed their affiliation to think about doing so, it is doubtful we will require the same number of copies to be run off this time. He awaits confirmation from Chris L regarding the actual number needed.  
Regarding the Year Card for 2021, this won't be detailing any of the usual competitions - the Secretary requested that suggestions from committee members for what might be on the reverse side to be emailed to her please a.s.a.p so she can compile and submit to Colin (it is sent out with the first copy of Devon Calls each year)

Confirm  
print  
requirements  
with Colin  
**Chris L**

#### Committee Members Reports

Charles Conibear continues with his mission to collate as much information as he can with regard to Ellacombe Chime Apparatus in Devon towers. Jo T suggested that the Publicity Officer could be drafted in to assist with the knowledge gathering using his email contacts to which he agreed he could and Colin A added that there is an article about Ellacombe Chimes appearing in the next Devon Calls

#### **6. Association Outreach**

Chris L bought up the old chestnut 'how do Towers benefit from being affiliated?' and pressed that we should be publicising what we can and do offer, and further, that this could be the first remit for the proposed new Area Representatives who, when C-19 restrictions permit, should be making contact with and visiting all towers in their area.  
Graham S suggested an article in Devon Calls and sending (or delivering) marginal towers a complimentary copy of the magazine.

**Ongoing**

#### **7. Competitions 2021**

Andrew S needs to confirm with the towers that were due to host the six bell competitions as soon as possible whether or not they will be taking place this year.  
With Covid 19 and all the associated problems of tower ventilation and sanitisation notwithstanding, it was thought that competitions wouldn't really be viable this year as people just haven't rung for so long.  
The **Proposal** by James Steer that the six bell qualifiers and finals be cancelled this year, was **Seconded** by Ian Fielding and agreed nem com.  
Ian A has been invited to join the Guild Ringing Recovery group which will be looking at all aspects around a return to ringing, including bell inspections, recruitment. He will keep us informed – first meeting due to be held next week.  
Andrew S suggested that there could be a 'Recovery/Festival of ringing held later in the year, perhaps on the day scheduled for the 8 bell competition

**Andrew S**

**Ian A**

#### **8. Long Service Awards**

These certificated awards are to celebrate an achievement of 50+, 60+ and 70+ years of ringing along with contributions made towards the furtherance of Devon Call Change Ringing.  
John S suggested a 'Role of Honour' listing recipients of these rewards on the web site which James K agreed he could facilitate.  
Many names were put forward at the meeting and the Secretary has received more via email. Certificates will be printed and sent by post with an accompanying letter of thanks. The Secretary does ask though that along with the nomination the following is included: number of years, address for postage and a brief resume of the nominee's ringing career.  
James S reminded the committee of their ability for the Associate to award 'Lifetime Vice Presidencies' which should not be forgotten. Nominations for these would ideally be received before the end of May so the committee is able to consider them in time for presentations at the AGM.  
Proposals can be put to the committee anytime for either of the above.

Website  
page:  
**James K**

Nominations  
**ALL**

Certificates:  
**Secretary**

#### **9. Association Constitution Review**

The chairman asked that members of the committee email either himself or the secretary with

ALL

suggestions of who might form a temporary sub-committee to discuss this matter. It would be good to have a small group with a mix of committee and non-committee members as there was two years ago. The remit would be to review the current constitution and if thought necessary, propose changes that help to keep it fresh and relevant; at this point Ian F and Lee A put forward that it would be prudent to have at least a suggestion of what areas should be targeted. There has already been a lot of discussion around Area Representatives as opposed to Deanery ones for example which will result in a change in committee structure and a change to Officer roles and 'titles' etc

**The Chair asked that all committee members give this subject some consideration and to either put themselves forward to take part or suggest others who might be asked, as well as a suggestion as to what needs to be addressed and email either himself or the Secretary please.**

Please note, the constitution can be found on the web site

#### **10. Correspondence**

None received further to reports mentioned above.

#### **11. Date and venue of next committee meeting**

The next committee meeting will be held on Thursday 17th June 2021 Venue TBC

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21:25

Joanne Tucker  
Honorary Secretary