



**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON  
THURSDAY 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021 @ 19:30 via Zoom**

**Present:** Ian Avery, James Steer, Joanne Tucker, Christine Ley, Andrew Steer, Julia Jarvis, Graham Sharland, James Kerslake, Charles Conibear, John Staddon, Ian Fielding, Michael Adams, Lee Avery, Barry Osborne and John Dietz via telephone.

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

Chairman Ian Avery opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

**Apologies** had been received from Sue Ashton, Johnny Lagdon, Colin Adams, Tim Jones, Keith Bavin, John Barnes, John Lock, James Grant and Margaret White

**2. Minutes of the Committee Meeting held via Zoom on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

Agreed nem. con. as an accurate record.

**3. Matters Arising**

None recorded

**4. Reports**

Treasurer

The Nat West Current account stands at £2,227.78 and the NSI account holds £3,087.12 giving a total of £5,314.90

Subscriptions to Devon Calls total 127 including 111 towers and 16 individuals, plus there are 6 advertisers

Despite great effort having been made, affiliation is down this year compared to last due to Covid-19 preventing ringing still.

Safeguarding Officer

Though the Job Description is still a work in progress, Charles Conibear has compiled a very thorough draft Safeguarding policy which has already been circulated to the committee. The inspiration and information for it gleaned from the Diocesan, Guild, CCCBR and NHS.

All Tower Captains and Trainers should be DBS checked and have completed the Diocesan Safeguarding training to level 2C

Lee Avery **Proposed** that the Safeguarding policy should be adopted, this was **Seconded** by Barry Osborne and agreed nem. con.

Publicity Officer

John has been busy keeping Tower Captains of both affiliated and unaffiliated towers up-to-date with the happenings within the world of ringing via email, but did express some concern that it may not always be disseminated to team members in a timely manner, if at all.

### Training Officer

The ubiquitous Covid-19 has prevented anything from happening on the training front, but Graham did express some concern about how many towers might find themselves possibly struggling to get enough ringers when we are allowed to ring all our bells due to a loss of interest and or confidence.

### Devon Calls

Colin's short report received by email along with his apologies for this meeting goes – "The deadline for the receipt of copy has passed (13th June 2021). We are working towards getting the next edition out into circulation by around mid-July."

### Bell Advisor Posts

Graham reported having undertaken an inspection at Halwell prior to a wedding and James Steer is to do one shortly at Spreacombe. It is important that any towers that haven't been rung for an extended period should make a point of checking things in the belfry before ringing again.

### Fundraising Officer

Nothing to report, but Julia did raise the question of how the Association is going to make up the shortfall on behalf of the Devon Bell Restoration Fund. The matter has been discussed by the sub-committee looking at the bi-annual constitution review who put to this meeting that the Association should be looking to replace the Annual Draw which has been held as the primary way of supporting the DBRF to date. Much discussion resulted in agreement that individuals should be encouraged to donate direct (Registered Charity No 276490)

### Central Council Representatives

Nothing beyond the information regularly sent out by the publicity officer

## **5. Committee Members Reports**

None forthcoming

## **6. Constitution Review**

It has long been felt that the DAR Committee has too large a membership to be able to function efficiently, and that with Deaneries often changing boundaries or disappearing altogether it is becoming increasingly difficult to gain a fair representation of all corners of the county and its ringers. In order to address these imbalances this bi-annual review of the Associations Constitution is looking at:

Dividing Devon into 6 areas; North West, North Central, North East, South West, South Central and South East. The demarcation lines which would be future proofed against any Deanery changes are still under discussion but the aim as far as is possible is to achieve an equal number of towers in each area and one, or at the most two representatives to join the committee. Competition qualifiers and finals would still be North/South. The AGM could move around the different areas alternately North and South as it is currently

Individual membership rather than tower affiliation has also been much discussed but there is doubt as to how well this might be received and how much people would be willing to pay subscription wise. More thought is needed on this point.

However there was unanimous agreement that 2021 should be the year that sees Section 2 (i) adhered to – it reads "The Association shall consist of ringers of towers affiliated to the Association, the aforementioned ringers being regarded as de facto members of the Association. The names of ringers considered to be members of an affiliated tower shall be listed and presented at the point of affiliation."

The publicity officer undertook to ensure that all affiliated towers are apprised of this and it was also agreed that Johnny Lagdon and Ian Fielding would liaise to create a means of recording and compiling the information.

### **7. Association Outreach**

Much of the discussion that has gone before in this meeting does actually fall under the remit of Outreach. Graham Sharlands suggestion at the last meeting that what could be considered marginal towers should be sent complimentary copies of the next issue of Devon Calls was discussed but actual numbers need to be (due to the cost) before a decision can be made. It was noted that each issue is published on the Website so therefore already available to individuals in electronic format.

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

There has been little progress with this, it being a project that needs more of a time commitment than the current secretary has available unfortunately.

### **9. Correspondence**

None received further to reports mentioned above.

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

The next sub-committee meeting will be held towards the end of July/early August and the next full Committee meeting will be Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021, venue TBC

The Chairman closed the meeting at 22:00

Joanne Tucker  
Hon. Secretary