

# Devon Association of Ringers

Draft minutes of committee meeting held at Whiddon Down Village Hall

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7.30pm

Members present

Ian Avery (Chairman) Christine Ley (Treasurer) James Steer, Andrew Steer, Tim Jones, Lee Avery, Ian Fielding, James Grant, James Kerslake, John Dietz, Barry Osbourne, John Staddon, Graham Sharland.

## 1. Welcome

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed members to the first face to face meeting of the committee since February 2019.

The Chairman then asked the members to stand for a minute's silence to remember John Pugsley from Molland who's funeral had been held earlier in the day.

The Chairman requested someone to take the minutes of the meeting as the Secretary was unable to attend. Graham Sharland offered to do so.

## 2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Sue Ashton, Margaret White, Julia Jarvis, Mike Adams, Charles Conibear, John Lock, Colin Adams, Jo Tucker, Paul Hext, Keith Bavin.

## 3&4. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising.

Owing to the absence of the secretary the minutes of the previous meeting were unavailable and matters arising could not be discussed.

## 5. Constitutional rule to be enforced.

The Chairman reminded the members present that it is the committee's intention to ensure all affiliated towers observe rule 2.1 of the constitution, namely that "The names of ringers considered to be members of an affiliated tower shall be listed and presented at the point of affiliation"

Tim Jones raised the point of ringers who ring at more than one tower. Ian Fielding has produced a spreadsheet which will account for ringers who ring at more than one tower and provide data as to the density and distribution of ringers across the county. There was also a suggestion that maybe we should ask towers to distinguish between 'Learners' and more experienced ringers.

**Action: All committee members**

## 6. AGM/ Devon calls notice.

John Staddon read a draft notice setting out some of the background information for the AGM with a view to sending it out with the AGM notice and publication in the forthcoming issue of Devon Calls.

The Chairman asked the meeting if they felt the Parish Church at North Tawton was a suitable venue for our AGM given the complaints that it was bitterly cold two years ago. After some discussion it was agreed to check if we could have some heating in church for the duration of the meeting, assuming the church was available, and as a back up James Steer offered the use of Bow church and guaranteed the church would be warm!

**Action: I Avery & J Steer**

Tim Jones asked if we were pursuing the move towards individual membership at this time but the Chairman responded that at this time we were not. However, there is a need for the Association to find funding for the DCBRF, which is one of our aims and objectives in our constitution, and which up to two years ago has been facilitated by the annual draw.

With the draw unable to be held owing to the pandemic and it's future uncertain, the Association is looking at alternative ways of meeting our commitment to the DCBRF. Having a list of members will give the Association a better idea of how to proceed with this issue. Graham Sharland highlighted that the 2022 will see the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the DCBRF and that it would be useful to put an article in Devon Calls linking the fact with our need to find a way of providing funds.

**Action: Graham Sharland**

#### 7. Correspondence/ New area's proposal.

The Chairman read a letter received for Reed Partridge expressing concerns over the proposal to change the representative areas for Association committee members and how it might affect the Torridge Deanery or Torridge Guild. The committee expressed the view that the changes proposed would not in any way impact upon the Torridge Deanery or Guild. The Chairman said he would contact Reed and explain the Association's position, namely that we are proposing to move to a Geographical representation rather than a Deanery representation, given that the Dioceses are altering or even removing Deaneries from the map.

**Action: Ian Avery**

There was some discussion regarding the make up of the new area's but it was emphasised that nothing is set in stone regarding the make up of the said areas.

#### 8. Non-affiliated towers.

John Staddon told the meeting that he sends the publicity emails to 200 towers although we only have 140 affiliated towers, the rest having at one time or another been affiliated to the Association, Tim Jones remarked that he is keen to get around the new proposed area in his district as he feels there is potential for more affiliation. There was some discussion around the demographic of Devon villages and how we might encourage more people to take up ringing.

#### 9. AOB.

James Grant asked what would happen if a tower affiliates but fails to provide a list of members. After some discussion the consensus was that at this time it would be difficult to enforce any sort of ruling until such time as we have full individual membership.

Andrew Steer informed the meeting that Burlescombe were unable to host the North Devon Qualifier in 2022 so an alternative would have to be found if the association competitions go ahead next year.

There was discussion around the provision of practices being allowed before the Qualifying competition's, the same having been dropped in 2019. The committee concluded that practicing was beneficial to competing teams and to the standard of ringing on the day of the competition, and should be reinstated, subject to the host tower being able to facilitate them.

Ian Avery asked the view of the meeting as to whether the Devon Ringers Carol service should go ahead at Buckfast Abbey in December, given the current Covid situation. The consensus was that a virtual service as was preferable again for this year.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.26pm.

