



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE DEVON ASSOCIATION OF RINGERS
COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 16 JUNE 2022 AT WHIDDON DOWN VILLAGE HALL

Present: Ian Avery (Chairman), Rachel Avery (Honorary Secretary), Keith Bavin, James Steer, Andrew Steer, Julia Jarvis, Tim Jones, Ian Fielding, James Grant, John Dietz, James Kerslake, Barry Osbourne, Charles Connibear and John Staddon.

Prior to the start of the meeting, President Keith Bavin presented Long Service Awards to Julia Endicott (60+ years), John Collins (60 years+), Ian Avery (50+ years) and Mike Jeffrey (50 years+).

1. Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Chairman Ian Avery welcomed all members in attendance and opened the meeting at 19.42. Apologies had been received from Colin Adams, Christine Ley (Honorary Treasurer) and Lee Avery.

2. Minutes of 24 February 2022

It was **resolved** to approve the minutes and the Chairman duly signed the minutes. (Proposed by James Steer, seconded by Andrew Steer).

3. Outstanding Items from the AGM:

a) Election of Vice President

It was **noted** that Suzanne Driscoll had accepted the offer of being Vice President for this year, to become President in 2022/23.

4. Long Service Awards

Ian Avery expressed concerns regarding how the awards are administered and how it was important to ensure all eligible ringers receive awards.

John Staddon reported that he had emailed all towers, asking for people to be nominated. The Association can only act on the information received and the publicity that is generated after the awards given tonight may result in more nominations.

Ian Fielding suggested that nominations could be tied in when affiliation is due

It was agreed that names of people who have received a Long Service Award should be added to the website.

Consideration was given to categories for other awards, other than long service, for further discussion at the next committee meeting. *Action: John Staddon to propose list of categories.*

5. To discuss the changes to the Okehampton Diocese and to consider the North/South division

Due to Diocesan changes, the Okehampton Deanery has incorporated Moretonhampstead, North Bovey, Lustleigh and Manaton. Clarification had been requested as to whether the Association will now view them as North Devon towers given that the divide is based on deaneries.

It was **noted** that this would not be an issue as the new constitution will amend the areas, where deaneries will not be considered as part of the recognised areas.

6. To receive an update on the constitution and to agree any further actions

It was **resolved** that a sub-committee meeting would be held to undertake a review of amendments to the constitution, removing the rules from the constitution and making it a separate document. It was **noted** that it was integral for this work to be undertaken as soon as possible to ensure that it is dealt with prior to the Annual General Meeting. It was **agreed** that the amended constitution would be presented to the committee at the next meeting for consideration. *Action: Ian Avery to arrange sub-committee meeting.*

7. To discuss affiliation fees to the CCCBR

Consideration was given to the proposed 20p per person based on 500 members. It was resolved to approve affiliation at a cost £100.

There was discussion around the attendance of representatives to the CCCBR AGM. It was agreed that a reimbursement policy should be created to ensure that they are not out of pocket when representing the DAR. *Action: Rachel Avery to draft policy for consideration at next meeting.*

8. To discuss future proofing/reenergising the Association post-Covid 19

Discussion took place around ensuring that there is increased attendance at the AGM, offering a fuller programme of events through the day.

Ian Fielding supported the intermediate competition but felt that the focus should be on how to recruit and retain ringers.

Andrew Steer reported that the Young Ringers group intends to restart.

It was suggested that more advertising should be undertaken on how people can learn to ring, and to consider further collaboration between Association and Guild.

Graham Sharland reported on the success of the open day at South Brent.

9. To receive an update on the '300 Club'

Julia Jarvis thanked John Staddon for publicising the new initiative. 151 numbers have been purchased, by 110 individuals.

Further advertising will be in the next edition of Devon Calls.

John Staddon requested that the details of the winner be provided to him to publicise to the mailing list. *Action: Julia Jarvis to email John Staddon with results.*

10. Treasurers Report

In the Treasurer's absence, the bank balances were provided by the Secretary.

11. Publicity Officers Report

John Staddon reported that he continues to send out information, including the CCCBR weekly report but only passes on what is relevant to the Association. He has not received the details of the competition result. *Action: Rachel Avery to provide results.*

12. Training Officers Report

Graham Sharland has received enquiries from Marlborough and Dittisham for support. There has been requests for workshops on maintenance and splicing. The training bell was well used as South Brent.

13. Devon Calls Report

In Colin Adams' absence, the secretary reported that an abundance of articles has been received, mainly because of the recent Platinum Jubilee. The two proof-readers have been kept busy and they have worked very hard. As many of the articles will be published as possible and hopefully make the next edition into a souvenir copy.

14. Competitions 2022

Many people had commented on what a wonderful job Andrew Steer had done in organising the Major Final.

Comments on the 6-Bell competitions included:

- An additional 8th certificate is required
- The Minor Final shield needed to be found and it had been very disappointing that silverware had not be presented at the Minor Final
- Judge's position at Major Final not good acceptable through the entire course of the day.

James Grant stated that the Molland bells were challenging, and a lot of teams struggled. Whilst he appreciated that it is a competition, only two or three teams had a good attempt and towers should be considered more carefully. Ian Fielding stated that this is a fundamental issue where bells aren't regularly rung. James Steer stated that the bells should be checked before the AGM. It was agreed that future towers should be considered carefully, but a lack of towers willing to hold competitions could make this difficult.

15. Correspondence

There was no further correspondence.

16. To agree agenda items for September Committee meeting

It was requested that items for the next agenda be sent to the secretary no later than Thursday 01 September. It was requested that the DAR Centenary year be added to the agenda.

17. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

The next committee meeting would be held on Thursday 15 September 2022 at Whiddon Down Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.19.

Rachel Avery - Honorary Secretary