

**THE 126th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT CHIDDINGLY
ON SATURDAY 14th MAY 2011**

The bells at Ripe and Laughton were available in the early afternoon and then ringing took place at Chiddingly prior to the service. This was conducted by the Rector, the Revd Phil Hodgins with 90 year old Cath Kennard (the mother of Richard and Pauline) playing the organ. An excellent tea was then served in the Village Hall and a raffle took place, the money raised being sent to Christchurch Cathedral in New Zealand.

MINUTES OF THE 126th AGM

The Master, David Kirkcaldy took the chair for the meeting. He first thanked the Rector for conducting the service and the local ringers for providing tea – this was greeted with applause. He also thanked the incumbents at Laughton and Ripe for allowing ringing to take place there. Members were then asked to stand in memory of those who had died since the last AGM: Stephen Buckley (Keymer), Reginald Tickner (Horsham), Marilyn Wright (Stoughton), Eric Knapp (Balcombe), Wendy Wheeler (Crawley), Christopher Dodds (Ticehurst), Marion Biggs (Ringmer), Marion Jenkin (Pagham), Frank Brooks (aged 100 - Life Member – Washington), Jill Dickins (Lyminster), the Ven Ron Scruby (Rogate), Stanley Arnold (Slaugham), and Geoffrey Lee (Arundel).

1. Apologies for absence were received.

2. The Minutes of the 125th AGM had been circulated. Two spelling mistakes were corrected and “at the General Committee Meeting” was added at the end of paragraph 7 (b). The Minutes were approved and were signed by the Master.

3. There were no **Matters Arising**.

4. Reports for 2010

- a) **The Master’s report** was adopted on the proposition of Godfrey Fitzhugh, seconded by Gerald Sandwell. There were no comments.
- b) The adoption of the **Publicity Officer’s report** was proposed by Sue Elrick and seconded by Stella Knight. There were no comments.
- c) The Master thanked the Education Officer (Anne Franklin) and Sandra Alford for all the hard work that they had put into getting a young people’s team ready for The Ringing World national striking competition at the end of March – the team had been placed third. The adoption of the **Education Officer’s report** was proposed by Christine Baldock and seconded by Nicholas Cullen.
- d) The Librarian reported that she had met with the Trustees and Master to discuss the disposal of duplicate library books and other items. Some of these books were on sale today along with the bellringers’ jigsaw puzzles. The adoption of the **Librarian’s report** was proposed by Roy Cox, seconded by Alan Seymour.
- e) The reports of the **Divisional Secretaries** had been adopted at the Annual Divisional Meetings.
- f) **The Peal Secretary** had nothing to add to his report, which was adopted by the meeting (proposed by Stephen Beckingham, seconded by Graham Hills).

The Safeguarding Officer (Sue Elrick) reported that she was about to produce an article containing recent updates from the Diocese and the Central Council. The Diocese had appointed a new Safeguarding Officer.

Jonathan Franklin suggested that the article be printed in the Newsletters, as these go out to all members.

5. Presentation of Accounts for 2010

The Treasurer (Val Burgess) reminded everyone that the first eight pages of the Accounts form a legal document and the appendices are explanations of these pages. She noted that there had been a slight increase in subscriptions but expenditure had increased, causing a deficit of £109 on the General Account.

The Reg Johnson Fund – there had been very little movement on this account, with a negligible amount of interest and a donation of £7 being added; expenditure had totalled £30, this being for the young people's event.

The George Elphick Fund is depreciating, as agreed in 2008.

The Treasurer thanked the General Secretary, Divisional Secretaries and Treasurers for their co-operation during the year and also the Independent Examiner, D.A. Clark.

On behalf of the General Committee, she then proposed that the subscriptions be increased in 2012 to £8 for adults and £3 for juniors. The increase was needed to cover increased postage costs from April 2011, increased insurance costs and increasing administration and officers' costs. This proposal was seconded by Jack Burton.

After some discussion, Jonathan Franklin proposed that a decision on increasing the subscription should be deferred until the insurance situation had been clarified. Sam Tyler said he couldn't understand why there was a fuss about an increase which was all of 2p per week. A vote was taken on this amendment and was defeated by a large majority. The original proposition was carried, with only two votes against.

6. The Sussex Churches Bell Restoration Fund

a) Report for 2010 – The BRF Secretary (Graham Hills) in presenting his report added that South Harting bells were now 'out'. The report's adoption was proposed by Roy Cox, seconded by Ken Knight.

b) Accounts – Income for the year totalled £7,418, of which £1,400 came from the sale of two bells. Legacies had been received from Stephen Buckley (£305) and Joan Peel (£250) with a further £525 in memory of Joan. The profit of £683 on the 125 celebrations had gone into the BRF account together with the surplus from the course and publicity. Grants totalling £12,600 had been paid to Shipley (£6,000), Woolbeding (£1,250), Glynde (£350) and Stedham (£5,000). Further grants, totalling £16,300 will be paid on completion of works.

Stella Bianco asked why the various profits went into the BRF rather than the General Account; the Treasurer replied that this had been agreed in the past. Any losses were borne by the General Account.

Alan Baldock proposed the adoption of these accounts, seconded by Nigel Gale.

7. The 125th Anniversary - The Master thanked the organisers of all the events, commenting that all had been resounding successes. Jonathan Franklin thanked all the 125 committee members for their hard work: Sonia Harriyott, Marisa Hayes, David Hollands and Peter Wilkinson. Peter then thanked Jonathan for the fantastic job he had done in chairing the 125 committee. This was greeted with applause.

8. Election of Officers

There being only one nomination for each office, the following were declared elected:

Master	David Kirkcaldy	Publicity Officer	Kathy Howard
General Secretary	Margaret Oram	Peal Secretary	Alan Baldock
BRF Secretary	Graham Hills	Education Officer	Anne Franklin
Treasurer	Val Burgess	Librarian	Stella Bianco
Trustee	Val Atkins	Safeguarding Officer	Sue Elrick

The Master commented that the only new officer was Val Atkins, who was replacing Richard Verrall. Richard had served the Association as Master, BRF Representative for the Northern Division and latterly as Trustee – he was thanked for staying on an extra year following Joan Peel's untimely death. It was also the end of Christine Baldock's term on the Central Council.

Richard and Christine were thanked for the work they had done for the Association.

9. Forthcoming Events in 2011

a) Young Ringers' Event

Tuesday 30th August

Members were asked to encourage young ringers to attend this event

b) Essex Trophy 10-bell Competition

Saturday 10th September at St Albans

The Association hoped to enter a team

c) Social Event – Quiz

Saturday 1st October at Hurstpierpoint

This would be held at the Scout HQ and all Divisions were helping with the organisation.

d) Annual Ringing Course

Friday 28th/ Saturday 29th October

Plans were well advanced for this event. Application forms would be out soon. Anyone wishing to help was asked to contact Anne Franklin.

e) Quarter Peal Week

12th - 20th November

It was hoped to give people a chance to try something new.

10. Any other business

a) The Treasurer asked for permission to add Val Atkins to the list of cheque signatories. This was agreed.

b) Nigel Gale thanked all the officers for the work they had done during the year.

At this point the master presented 50 year certificates to Christine Baldock, Godfrey Fitzhugh, Roy Fuller and Rosemary Hodge.

c) The Master noted that Fred Smeaton, a former Sussex ringer now living in Adelaide, would be 102 on the following day. He was still very active, being a very competent handbell ringer.

In the absence of any further business, the Master closed the meeting.