

THE 127th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT TURNERS HILL
ON SATURDAY 12th MAY 2012

In a change to the usual format, there was an opportunity for members to attend a Safeguarding Training session which was presented by the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer, Colin Perkins, at Turners Hill from 1.00 – 3.00pm. This followed a light lunch provided by the local ringers. Ringing took place at Ardingly and Balcombe from 2.00 – 3.00pm and then at Turners Hill, where ringing was hindered by a clapper dropping out of the 5th bell; however, call changes and various Triples methods were rung until service time.

At 4.30pm the Association Form of Service was conducted by the priest-in-charge, Father Tim Tregunno, with John Higgins playing the organ. They were both impressed with the quality of the singing! An excellent tea was served by the local ringers, who were thanked for their hard work. Thanks were also given to Father Tim and the organist.

THE MINUTES OF THE 127th AGM

The Association Master, David Kirkcaldy took the chair for the meeting and commenced by asking those present to stand in memory of the members who had died since the last AGM:

Miranda Bard (Hailsham), Keith Walsh (Pagham), Muriel Lambert (Hurstpierpoint), Robin Burchett (Slaugham), Derek Eastell (Itchingfield), Malcolm Parry (Frant), Harold Reynolds (Life Member, Eastbourne, St Mary), Donald Smith (Long Service Member, West Tarring), Dennis Elliott (Hurstpierpoint), Albert Berry (Barcombe), Tim Andrews (Thakeham), Michael Swift (Long Service Member, Bexhill), Revd John Greene (Life Member, Hurstpierpoint), Julian Morley (Bexhill), Andrew Parrott (Shoreham). Also Wally Binsted (a former ringer at Westham), two former Worth ringers, Heather Church and William Barter and a non-ringing supporter of the Association, Joan Morris (Rowena Watson's mother).

1. **Apologies for Absence were received from:** Angie and Ian Hastilow, Keith and Isobel Murphy, Frances Gilbert, George Cockman, Nicky Twort, Marion and David Hollands, Tim Waterman, Margaret Bennett, Paul and Helen Wells, Kevin and Erica Pritchard, Simon, Judith and Andrew Alford, Alan Seymour, Pauline Kennard, Andrew Barnsdale, Kat Matthews, Graham Burling, Richard Pendlebury and Adele Potton.

The Master asked that best wishes be sent to congratulate Paul and Helen Wells on their marriage earlier in the day.

2. **The Minutes of the 126th AGM** had been circulated. They were approved by the meeting and signed by the Master following a proposition from Ken Knight, seconded by Jack Burton.
3. **Matters Arising:** Ken Knight thanked the Safeguarding Officer, Sue Elrick, for arranging the training session held earlier and the one held at Southover in March. They had been excellent.
4. **Reports for 2011:**
 - a) The adoption of the **Master's Report** was proposed by Anne Franklin, seconded by Pat Hunter and agreed.
 - b) Gerald Sandwell proposed the adoption of the **Education Officer's Report**. This was seconded by Anne Ekins

- c) The Master thanked the project group who had worked hard in setting up the Association web site; they were Dave Cleworth, Simon King, Jenny Dearie, Kathy Howard and Stephen Beckingham. The adoption of the **Publicity Officer's** report was proposed by Jack Burton, seconded by Marisa Hayes and agreed.
- d) Stella Bianco, the Librarian, had bound copies of 125 peals rung for the 125th anniversary on display in the church. There were still a number of duplicate library books on sale; a list was available from Stella.
Jonathan Franklin proposed the adoption of the **Librarian's Report**. This was seconded by Geoff Rix and agreed.
- e) Roy Cox proposed the adoption of the **Safeguarding Officer's Report**, seconded by Ken Knight. It was noted that only two training sessions had been held as the Diocesan Officer had not been available for any further sessions.
- f) **The Divisional Secretaries' Reports** were taken as read. They had been approved at the ADMs.
- g) The adoption of the **Peal Secretary's Report** was proposed by Stephen Beckingham and seconded by Jonathan Franklin. The Peal Secretary, Alan Baldock, thanked Stephen Beckingham for compiling the Quarter Peal section of his report and Michael Foster for formatting the peals.

5. Presentation of Accounts for 2012

The Treasurer, Val Burgess, reported that the General Fund showed a surplus of £1,128 for the year; this was due to:

- a profit on the production of Soundbow (thanks to Kathy Howard for making this such a success).
- a reduction in the costs of the newsletters, a lot of work having been done to find cheaper printers and encouraging members to receive their copies by email.
- a number of expenses claims had not come in when the books were closed.
- the bill for the new website had not been received until late in January 2012.

The Reg Johnson Fund had provided a grant for a student to attend the Hereford Course and had also been used to fund other young peoples' events.

The Treasurer had continued to depreciate the George Elphick Fund and this would disappear from the accounts in 2012.

Val thanked the General Secretary and Divisional Secretaries/Treasurers for their co-operation, help and understanding during the year. She also thanked Jonathan Powell at D.A. Clark & Co for his work as Independent Examiner.

The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Stella Knight, seconded by Richard Hutchings and agreed.

6. The Sussex Churches Bell Restoration Fund

- a) **Report for 2011** – in presenting his report the BRF Secretary, Graham Hills noted that Milland would be ringing again by the end of February. He was also pleased to report that a number of towers were getting estimates for work to be done.

- b) **Accounts** – The fund received a £10,861 legacy from the estate of Wendy Wheeler and with other donations and Gift Aid the total income was £15,845. Tax recovered was more than usual as this had not been claimed in the previous year.
Grants of £9,600 were paid during the year and a further £19,300 already promised will be paid on completion of work.
The adoption of the Report and Accounts was proposed by Richard Hutchings, seconded by Elaine Farrow and agreed.

7. Election of Officers.

As there had only been one nomination for each post the following were declared elected:

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

Vice President, Peter Hurcombe, was then asked to make a presentation to Margaret Oram, who was retiring as General Secretary after 29 years service. He spoke about what had happened in the Association during that time, including celebrating the Centenary, the 125th Anniversary and hosting the Central Council. Peter concluded by saying:

You, Margaret, have been the Public Face of the Association for longer than any other General Secretary, and I might say that in all that time you have been held in the highest regard throughout the ringing world.

The Association recognised your work in making you a Life Member in 1996 and further decorated you with it's highest honour, that of Vice President in 2004. So I suppose that today must seem something of an anticlimax! Nevertheless, to mark the occasion we ask you to accept these flowers and this gift of crystal, together with this book of signatures from some members, with our love and our heartfelt thanks and admiration for a job brilliantly done,

We hope that you, Ian and your family will continue to enjoy your ringing, without the heavy load of office on your shoulders, for many years to come. We wish you all well.

When the applause had died down, Margaret thanked everyone for the presents and in particular Kathy Howard for putting together the "memory book", Val Burgess for a beautiful basket of roses and Peter for his kind words.

Election of Trustee – John Norris had completed a three-year term as Trustee and did not wish to be re-elected. No nominations had been received from the ADMs. John proposed that Peter Wilkinson be elected; this was seconded by Graham Hills. On a show of hands, Peter was declared elected. The Master thanked John for the work he had done during his term of office.

8. Forthcoming Events in 2012

- The Quarter Peal week had been brought forward to coincide with ringing for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee (2nd - 10th June). Certificates would be available to mark this event.
- Olympic Torch route ringing – the torch would be in Sussex for the period Monday 16th - Wednesday 18th July. Ringing would be arranged by the local towers.
- Striking Competitions would take place at Chiddingfold on Saturday 21st July (2pm draw). Divisions were asked to try to enter teams in each section.

- d) Opening of Olympic Games on Friday 27th July; towers were encouraged to ring for this event, possibly taking part in the special ringing shortly after 8.00am. Non-ringers could be encouraged to take part if bells were chimed rather than rung.
- e) The Association was hosting the Essex Trophy 10-bell Competition on Saturday 8th September at Southover.
- f) Sussex Big Ring Day - Saturday 29th September. Arrangements would be discussed at the next Publicity Committee meeting.
- g) Annual Ringing Course - Friday 2nd/ Saturday 3rd November. Arrangements for this were underway ; the course would cost £30 and there would be 6 groups. Anne Franklin was collecting names of helpers.

9. Annual Social Event

The Master commented that "Apathy ruled in Sussex" following a lack of response for ideas. There was some discussion about the relative merits of a Quiz Night or a Barn Dance - it was pointed out that a Barn Dance was more sociable than a quiz. Marisa Hayes proposed that we have a Barn Dance; this was seconded by Elaine Farrow and the majority were in favour. As in previous years, all Divisions would be involved in the organisation.

10 Any other Business

- a) A 25 year membership certificate was presented to Elaine Farrow.
- b) Cheque signatories - Val Burgess proposed that the names of newly elected officers, Marisa Hayes and Peter Wilkinson replace those of Margaret Oram and John Norris. This was agreed.
- c) Anne Franklin, the Education Officer, reported that a Sussex Young Peoples Team would be taking part in the second Ringing World National Striking Competition in Birmingham on June 30th. Two of the ringers were present at today's meeting and the Master asked them to give good wishes to the team. He also thanked Anne and Sandra Alford for setting up the Young Peoples Group, which was going from strength to strength.

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

Signed:



Date:

11th May 2013.