

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

Registered Charity No. 268588

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE HELD AT
THE VILLAGE CENTRE, HURSTPIERPOINT ON SATURDAY 14 MARCH 2015 (9.30am)

PRESENT:

Master:	Graham Hills	Central Council Reps:	Stephen Beckingham
General Secretary:	Marisa Hayes		David Kirkcaldy
Treasurer:	Sue Gadd	District Representatives:	
Trustees:	Val Atkins	(N)	Stephanie & Richard
	Peter Wilkinson		Pendlebury
BRF Secretary:	David Kirkcaldy	(S)	Clare Cullen, Jo Worsley
Safeguarding Officer:	Pat Aylward	(E)	
		(W)	Jack Burton, Moya Hills
Training & Recruitment Team represented by StephenB		Communications & Events Team represented by	
		MarisaH.	

The Master took the chair and members were asked to stand in memory of members who had died: John Brinkler (Rusper); Graham Stenning (Lindfield); Joyce Marrett (Goring); Geoff Muggridge (Long Service Member, Blacklands Hastings); Michael Upton and Helen Tappenden (Burwash); Ann Friswell (Horham); Frank Lewis (Kent). He also asked that Andrew Barnsdale be remembered in prayers as he has been diagnosed with cancer.

The Master welcomed Jo Worsley and Pat Aylward (co-opted as Safeguarding Officer) as new members of the committee and introductions were made.

- 1. Apologies for absence** had been received from David Holland, Anne Franklin, Mike Wake, Andrew Barnsdale.
- 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2015:** 3 (e) – “Warnhamtrikes” was added to the sentence. 8(g) the anniversary of the Horsham peal is 250 years. With these amendments, the Master countersigned them as a true record.
- 3. Matters arising:** The oddstruckness meter had been purchased and was to be used at Horsham shortly. Members are to be made aware of this tool.
- 4. Financial Statement.** The Treasurer circulated a financial statement with commentary and this is appended to the minutes.
 - (a) BRF** - SGadd encouraged other districts to consider fundraising along the same lines as the West's Donation Bell which collects money at regular Saturday practices and other events. **ACTION SECRETARIES**
 - (b) Gift Aid** - SGadd encouraged everyone to sign up for Gift Aid and to encourage others to do so. The form is on the website and will be sent with the tower mailing with an advert / poster. **ACTION MAH / SG**
 - (c) Expenses and Gift Aid** - SGadd encouraged officers to claim expenses and if they wished to donate them with Gift Aid if possible. **ACTION ALL**
 - (d) The small donations scheme** will enable the Treasurer to reclaim Gift Aid on any collections made in public buildings. Secretaries or their nominees are asked to speak to Sue for details. **ACTION SECRETARIES**
 - (e) Collecting subs / cheque receipts.** CAF Bank now restricts paying in of cheques to 50 per month, after which a charge of 40p is made. This was discussed at length and it was suggested that if this a real cost of running the Association it would have to be accepted with an increase to subs. MAH suggested the officers are able to measure the impact of these changes for discussion at the March General Committee meeting where a recommendation on subs would be made ahead of the AGM. **ACTION MAH / SG**
 - (f)** The money ringfenced under the **Bryan Burrough legacy** for training equipment stands at £7400. It was confirmed that the grant was also intended to contribute towards the installation of dumb bells as well as simulators.
 - (g)** The Master explained that after researching the history of the Reg Johnson Fund, with the agreement of the Trustees, and negotiation with the Executor of Harold Wood's Estate, he was delighted to announce a **£10,000 legacy for the newly-named “Sussex Young Ringers Fund (The Reg Johnson and Harold Wood Memorial Fund)”**. Val Atkins had drafted a set of guidelines for administration of the Fund with grants available to all ringers under the age of 25. The fund would be administered by the Officers and Trustees.

5. Updates

BRF

- (a) **Commitments** - DavidK advised that the promised grant for Westham would be payable in December when the bells are returned to the tower ready for Christmas ringing. The grant for Lindfield was part of a longer term fundraising scheme.
- (b) **Fundraising** - David K suggested that now was the right time to focus on fundraising for BRF by perhaps challenging towers to raise £50-100 through their own event, coffee morning, etc. Geoff Rix had suggested at the AGM that a 100 or 500 club be explored but it needed the right person to set this up and promote. All were asked to consider BRF fundraising at the ADMs, raising the profile of the BRF amongst members, and perhaps finding someone to run a Lottery-style club. **ACTION DavidK / MAH to look at producing a something for the tower mailing.**
- (c) There was a suggestion that the **structure of subscriptions** could be reviewed, with a portion of subs going directly to BRF. **To put on agenda for ADMs and March General Committee ACTION ALL**
- (d) DavidK suggested the need to arrange a **bell maintenance session** in the new year and will advise of a date. All were asked to think of towers needing any extra support in this area. **Action DK / ALL**
- (e) DavidK reported that **Faculty Jurisdiction Rule** come into force in 2016 and includes a set of "De Minimus Rules" which lists the works which a tower can carry out without an Archbishops Certificate or faculty.

Training & Recruitment

- (f) StephenB reported that since the last meeting, **Sussex Young Ringers** performed extremely well at the RWNYS at Oxford, achieving a joint 2nd place. Congratulations and thanks to all involved in the team.
- (g) The Sussex team came 5th out of 6 teams at the **Essex Trophy**.
- (h) Sussex hopes to be drawn for the **Tewkesbury Shield 2016** and SB plans a **regular 10-bell practice** which will be run through invitation to extend the potential pot of 10-bell ringers for these competitions.
- (i) The **ringing up and down workshop** at Chailey was well attended with 7 students
- (j) The **minor workshop** had been cancelled
- (k) The **ringing course** delivered 21 students across 4 courses with thanks to Anne Franklin, Mary Burr and Sue Gadd for organising and the tutors and helpers. Feedback given from the meeting would be taken to the Training Team meeting on Friday 20 November. **ACTION SB / SG / GH**
- (l) There is to be a **survey of ringers** -both online and postal which will help guide future planning. **ACTION SB**
- (m) The team is now focusing on a few **more half day workshops**. The next on **30 Jan** covering call changes and conducting. More details to follow. **ACTION TRAINING TEAM**
- (n) **Recruitment** will be high on the next agenda where new initiatives might be considered. DavidK mentioned that Shipley would be holding a two-day summer recruitment drive in 2016. He also stressed the importance of understanding how a potential new recruit or learner feels about entering the church the ringing environment, etc. **ACTION TRAINING TEAM**

Safeguarding

- (o) Pat Aylward had agreed to be co-opted to the role as a temporary measure and would be happy to hand over the role if anyone else comes forward. **ACTION SECRETARIES AT ADMs**
- (p) PA reported that the Association has a robust set of guidelines and that there was still work to be done where there are towers with juniors and it appears no DBS-checked ringers. StephP asked that "vulnerable adults" should also be referred to more overtly within our documentation.
- (q) PA intends to liaise with Kim Nash at the Church House where she feels that ringers are perhaps being overlooked by the Parish Safeguarding Officer. **ACTION PA**
- (r) MAH reminded everyone that we only ask for DBS dates as an awareness raising tool to encourage at least one person in each tower to have the appropriate checks.
- (s) PA also reminded everyone that there must be two people present at all times when teaching children, young people and vulnerable adults. This was for the protection of ourselves as much as the individuals to avoid the opportunity for any accusations to be made. PA to draft a circular to towers. **ACTION PA**

Communications & Events

- (t) The group had not met since it was reformed at the AGM. There had been some volunteers and it was suggested that an open meeting be advertised and plans developed from there. **Saturday 30 January** was suggested. **MAH to take forward with venue and ringing offered.**
- (u) DavidK reported that the distribution of **Soundbow** as still an issue and appreciated any help. **ACTION ALL**
- (v) The **South of England Show** had been a fun event and excellent PR as always. There had been donations to the value of £18.

- (w) There had been no progress with the **website**. StephenB will be focusing on his role as training and recruitment chair and GrahamB will contact Matthew Jones (previously commissioned to develop new site) to see where we stand with it. **RichardP offered to pick up some of the work from StephenB.**

Admin and Library

- (x) Stella Bianco asked MAH to report that a revised catalogue listing is ready to go on the website, she plans to dispose of surplus books at the CCCBR Library Outreach Day in Feb 2016, she will be lending books to the Horsham Museum and a planned West Sussex Records Office afternoon will take place on Saturday 23 January.
- (y) MarisaH reported that there was lot to be done to prepare the **annual subs mailing** and asked anyone who wanted to send anything out to send it through (**Deadline 30 November**). **MH, SB and SG to liaise over a new set of forms.** MarisaH would also be focusing on getting the message out to members that they must see the mailing and to ask their tower correspondents if they do not see it.

North

StephP said that the Monday practices were reducing to two per month from January, focusing on Advanced 8 bell and 10-12 bell. Additional practices would be arranged according to demand.

CCCBR

DavidK reported that there was a mood of change in the CCCBR. The national survey has been postponed, Sussex is still being regarded as an example of an association in the process of change. There may be an open meeting regarding change ringing for the future at CCCBR May 2016, Portsmouth. There has been no further drive for joint working in the South East at the moment.

6. Future Events

- (a) **Horsham Festival of Bells - 9 April 2016.** StephP updated that plans were coming along well with Bell Meadow in the bandstand, roving handbell teams in the town centre, rope making, activities in the Barn, an exhibition in the church and tune ringers. Mike Cattell had emailed Officers with a request for funding just a few days before the meeting and it was agreed that the Association would look at financing some or all of the publicity materials with the exact amounts to be agreed by the finance committee. StephP to take on the exhibition boards and liaise with ValA.
- (b) There was an additional discussion about the **George Elphick exhibition material** and ValA agreed to get hold of the boxes currently as Chichester Cathedral tower and to revisit the contents.
- (c) **AGM Day- Saturday 14 May, Ardingly.** Everything is in hand with morning ringing at Cuckfield and Balcombe and at Ardingly, Service at 12.00, lunch at 12.30, meeting at 1.15/1.30pm.
- (d) **General Committee** meets again on 5 March at Hurst Village Centre
- (e) **Quarter Peal Week runs from 23-31 January** to mark the Association's Birthday
- (f) It was agreed not to promote the Ring for England campaign and to leave to individual towers. MoyaH also reminded everyone that the Queens' 90th birthday was also that month.

7. Any Other Business

(a) **A number of vacancies will need to be considered in 2016:** General Secretary, Trustee (Mike Wake standing down), DAC Bells Advisor (Geoff Rix moving away) and a further CCCBR Rep as Andrew Barnsdale would be unable to complete his term.

(b) The Master asked all officers to submit their reports for circulation ahead of the next meeting by **14 February.**
ACTION ALL

(c) Steph P queried the need to scrutinise the reports at both General Committee and AGM and it was agreed that all reports would be taken as read at both meetings but they did require formal adoption at the AGM. Members are welcome to query the content of any report and these are recorded against the AGM minutes.

The Master thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 12.40.