

# GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

*Held at Braunton Church Hall on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2010*

- A10/1 Lester Yeo (President) opened the meeting with a welcome to the 35 resident members who signed the register of attendance. He thanked everyone who had come from far and wide and those involved in the preparations for the day. As we were not quorate we would not be able to deal with any financial matters or possible rule changes, we would only be able to receive the reports from the officers, including the accounts. The Guild Report was available today for branch representatives to take away, there had been a delay in printing the report due to unforeseen circumstances.
- A10/2 Apologies for absence were received from: Ken Vingoe (Heavitree), Alan Furse (Teignmouth), Mike Brady (unattached), Matthew Hilling (Exeter St Marks), Fergus Stracey (VP), Chris & Alena Wardle (Emmanuel), Meg Way (N&NW), Russell & Caroline Chamberlain (Wolborough), Mike Mears (VP), Wendy, Amy & Gareth Gill (Exeter, St Marks), Geoff Hill (Tavistock), Martin Mansley (St Marychurch), Rob Franklin (Pinhoe), Ian Avery (Exeter Cathedral).
- A10/3 Losses by death since the last AGM: Donald Salter (Honiton), Merlyn Broadhurst (Gittisham), Jean Turner (Sidmouth), Jonathan Lear (Woodbury), John (Jack) Sims (VP), Paulinus Angold (VP), Derek Conway (Ottery St Mary), Connie Kape (Tiverton, St Paul). We stood to remember them.
- A10/4 Minutes of the 2009 meeting: were signed as a correct record (p: Don Roberts, s: Lynne Hughes)
- A10/5 Matters arising from the Minutes: there were no matters arising from the minutes.
- A10/6 Election of new members: Janet Osler (unattached SW Branch) (p. John Steere, s. Derek Hawkins)
- A10/7 Officers' reports: these were received as printed in the annual report (p: John Foster, s. Roger King)
- A10/8 Adoption of accounts: as published in the annual report and examined by Ruth Rockey. We were unable to adopt the accounts at this meeting as we were not quorate, however, they were received by the members present. There was a query as to why the Carol Service hadn't made any money for the Guild in 2009. It was pointed out that refreshments were provided in 2008 and the profits from this were given to the Guild. There were no refreshments at Buckfast Abbey. The collection is always given to Charity. (p. James Clarke, s. Lynne Hughes). Lester took the opportunity to thank all officers of the Branches and the Guild who do so much work to promote change ringing in Devon.
- A10/9 Change to affiliation fee: This could not be voted on as we were not quorate and the membership had received insufficient notice of the rule change due to the lateness of the Guild Report being issued. There was a suggestion that we should say the Tower Affiliation fee be a **minimum** of that of a full ringing member. After some discussion it was agreed that the new wording be changed to this. The membership will get a chance to vote on this at an EGM to be held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2010 (p. Mike Hatchett, s. James Clarke).
- A10/10 Election of Officers:
- Master 2010/11: Maureen Hawkins (p: Janet Coles, s: John Steere, carried nem. con.) John Steere was thanked for all he had done during his year as Guild Ringing Master he then presented Maureen with the Masters insignia. Maureen took the chair to take nominations for President.
  - President: Lester Yeo (p: Ian Campbell, s: John Foster)
  - Master Elect 2011/2012: John Foster (p: Ian Campbell, s: Wendy Campbell)
  - Vice Presidents: no new nominees had been received.
  - Secretary: Janet Coles (p: John Foster, s: James Clarke)
  - Treasurer: Sue Sawyer (p: Don Roberts, s: Alan Edwards)
  - Librarian: Leslie Boyce (p: Mike Hatchett s: Lynne Hughes)
  - Bells and Belfries Advisors: James Clarke (p: Tim Bayton s: David Willis), Ian Smith (p: John Steere, s: Mike Hatchett)
  - Report Secretary: John Foster (p: Mike Hatchett, s: Roger King).
  - Publicity Officer: to be split into two separate roles – RRD Editor Roger King (p: Lynne Hughes, s: Ian Smith). Praise was given to the continuing quality of RRD.
  - Peal Secretary: Michael Mears (p: Leslie Boyce s: Sheila Scofield)
  - Quarter Peal Secretary: Tim Bayton (p: Don Roberts, s: John Steere)
  - Education Officer: Lynne Hughes (p: Maureen Hawkins, s: Andrew Digby)  
Mike Hatchett suggested that there be an annual budget for training, Lynne felt the current system worked OK as there was sufficient money in the Education Fund currently.
- A10/11 Election of DCBRF Trustees: Mary Mears, Ian Campbell and Ian Smith (p: Janet Coles, s: Joan Clarke)

A10/12 Election of Central Council reps for 2011-2013: Don Roberts had written of his intention to stand down as a CC rep having served the Guild since 1972. During this time he had chaired various committees and was thanked for his very long time in office. Martin Mansley had also given notice that he would not be seeking re-election. James Clake confirmed that anyone taking on a CC rep role should expect to be involved with one or other of the various committees. We received 5 nominations for the 4 posts available, Lynne Hughes (p: Roger King, s: Don Roberts), Ian Smith (P: Joan Clarke, s: Mike Rose), Leslie Boyce (p: Don Roberts, s: Steve Taylor), James Clarke (p: David Willis, s: John Ross), Tim Bayton (p: Janet Coles, s: Don Roberts). This meant we had to vote and the outcome means that Lynne Hughes, Ian Smith, Leslie Boyce and James Clarke are the CC Reps for the coming triennium.

A10/13 Election of Devon Ringers' Council reps for 2011-2013: Lynne Hughes confirmed she would stand down having become a CC Rep. Don Roberts (p: Tim Bayton, s: Leslie Boyce), Lester Yeo (p: Leslie Boyce, s: Roger King), Ian Avery (p: Janet Coles, s: Sheila Scofield), Martin Mansley (p: Sheila Scofield, s: Janet Coles). This leaves one place vacant and Lester and Janet will approach suitable people to fill this.

A10/14 Appointment of Independent Examiner: Ruth Rockey (p: Sue Sawyer, s: Tim Bayton)

A10/15 Travel expenses for CC representatives: The reps felt that the current rate of 25p per mile would adequately cover the costs for this year.

A10/16 Report from the Central Council meeting at Derby: The meeting was held at The Derby Conference Centre, and all four of your representatives were present. The meeting commenced with the usual formalities and then considered the application for affiliation to Council, from The Four Shires Guild. We were told that they had complied with the requirements and were duly confirmed as affiliated. If you don't know about them, they were formed in 1909 and operate in parts of Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire. The meeting stood in memoriam past members of Council, many of whom had died some years ago but whose demise had only recently come to the notice of the Biographies Committee. A long and complicated motion was put to Council in order to change the arrangements for electing Honorary members, and giving them a different name. Thankfully, after having everything explained and dealing with a few queries, the motion was passed rather more quickly than we had all feared. Honorary members will henceforth be known as Additional or Ex-Officio Members. The reports of each of the Committees were adopted and a third of each committee stood down. Members were then either re-elected or new members elected to replace them. Not all committees have a full compliment of members and we would like to draw the attention of Guild members who are thinking of putting themselves up for election to the CC. If you are successful, you will be strongly encouraged to join one of these, after all the most important work of the CC is done in committee. If anyone has any questions on the work of any of the committees, they should ask one of the Guild reps. For reference we would pass on the notice given in the meeting, that those submitting peals for publication on "Campanophile" should not expect them to be picked up by the CC Peal Records Committee. They must be submitted to the RW if you wish them to be included in the records. The Trends Committee drew our attention to the age profile of ringers currently, and asked each Association to do what it could to try to even it out. Next year, the meeting will be held in glorious Hereford.

area In the afternoon, the AGM of The Ringing World Ltd., was held. Following the usual formalities, the main of discussion revolved around how they might reverse the downward trend in sales. A number of things are being tried but so far without much success.

Finally, at the end of the afternoon the AGM of The Ringing Foundation Ltd., which was formed to try to obtain extra outside funding, to encourage the recruitment and training of ringers. This has not been entirely successful because there does not seem to be many teaching schemes out there to encourage. It has been decided therefore, that they would try to start some schemes and promote these. Currently they are working with Pip Penney and her Training the Trainers programme.

A10/17&18 Guild Review – Progress since 2009 AGM: The Report had been approved by the AGM in 2009 and was slowly being implemented. The Tower Handbook was available today for branch representatives to take away. Not all the sections were complete, but this is why it has been produced as a loose leaf folder so it can be added to. This also helps with spreading the cost. Further contents will be sent out as and when complete. Mike Hatchett thanked John Foster for the learner work books which had helped put things into simple terms anyone could understand. The book can be downloaded from the website and John Foster asked that a donation is given to the Bell Restoration fund if this was done. John is also going to take on the bell maintenance part of the handbook. Janet confirmed that the Branches had been asked to put an Education Officer in place as well as a Bell Advisor, some had been successful in doing this. Both of these

roles will come into their own over the coming year or two. There is to be an Education Committee meeting in October for the officers to attend to help put together a program for 2011.

- A10/19 Safeguarding Officer: The new Government had pulled the plug on the proposed register and as such we were unsure where this would leave groups such as the Guild. As we were not quorate we were not able to implement the rule change to make this role compulsory and will wait to see what new legislation the Government puts in place.
- A10/20 Fund raising and quarter peal week: to be held from Friday 29th October – Sunday 7th November inclusive, Tim Bayton to collate the information for publication in *The Ringing World*. Tim suggested donations could be maximised by sponsorship as successfully achieved by Cathy Civill of the Aylesbeare Branch in 2009.
- A10/21 Striking competitions: to be held on Saturday 16th October in the NE branch: 6-bell at Uplowman, 8-bell at Huntsham (choice Plain Bob Major or Double Oxford Bob Major) and novice 6-bell at Bickleigh. The draw for the 8 bell competition will be held at 2.00 pm at Huntsham.
- A10/22 2011 Festival: to be held in the Mid Devon Branch on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2011. As none of the branch officers were present, Janet Coles will contact them by e-mail to make arrangements. Lester asked the attendees if they felt there was any mileage in having a central venue for the AGM's rather than spreading them around the County. Mike Hatchett suggested the AGM had been poorly advertised, Janet asked where else it could have been advertised as it was in the Ringing World, on the Guild Website, in the Guild Report and also posters were sent to all the Branch Secretary's to place in each Guild Tower. There was no response. It was suggested that there were more ringing activities that required ringing members to help run as this ensured a certain attendance level. Janet and Lester will speak to the Branches at the AGM's and will discuss further at the Committee Meeting in January.
- A10/23 Any other business:
- (a) Leslie Boyce gave notice of a Central Council Ringing Centres Committee forum which was being held at Bradpole, Dorset on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July. Everyone would be welcome to attend.
  - (b) Leslie Boyce also mentioned that he had put together a travelling library of two collections, one for trainers and one for learners. He had them with him today for members to look through.
  - (c) Ian Campbell confirmed that the Carol Service was to be held at Heavitree on Saturday 11 December 2010.
  - (d) Roger King confirmed the deadline for RRD was Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June.

Lester thanked the N&NW branch for their hard work and encouraged everyone to attend the workshop by Phil Tremain in the afternoon.

The meeting was closed at 12.38 pm.

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Lester Yeo (President)

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(Date)

**GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

*Held at Braunton Church Hall on Saturday 19 June 2010*

The President, Lester Yeo, opened the meeting that followed the Annual General Meeting of the Guild. It was agreed that all business should be deferred to the next meeting of the General Committee on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2011. (p: Tim Bayton, s: John Foster). Meeting closed at 12.40 pm.

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Lester Yeo (President)

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Date