

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at Teignmouth Baptist Church on Saturday 18th June 2011

- A11/1 Lester Yeo (President) opened the meeting with a welcome to the 58 resident members who signed the register of attendance. He thanked everyone in the Mid Devon branch who had organised a very enjoyable day especially John Martin. He commented that it was nice to see faces from all over the Guild and that we were quorate this year. We had an opening prayer.
- A11/2 Apologies for absence were received from: Dermot Elworthy (NE), Matthew Hilling (Exeter), Sue Sawyer (Treasurer), Mike Rose (NNW), Russell & Caroline Chamberlain (Mid), Bill Ford (VP), John Langabeer (Ayles), Sue Sturdy (Ayles), Gareth Gill (Exeter), Peter Clements (Mid), Mary Mears (Mid), Kate Jennings (SW), Sharon Lawrence (Mid).
- A11/3 Losses by death since the last AGM: David Row (Topsham), Ken Buckingham (Topsham), Jack James (Pinhoe), Bill Ridgman (VP), Ann Peach (Clyst Honiton), Dick Sloman (Huntsham & Bampton), Chris Shere (Huntsham & Bampton). We stood to remember them.
- A11/4 Minutes of the 2010 meeting: were signed as a correct record after 2 minor typos were pointed out! (p: James Clarke, s: Don Roberts)
- A11/5 Matters arising from the Minutes: there were no matters arising from the minutes.
- A11/6 Election of new members: there were none
- A11/7 Officers' reports: these were received as printed in the annual report (p: Lynne Hughes, s: John Foster) Thanks was given to John Foster for producing the report.
- A11/8 Adoption of accounts: as published in the annual report and examined by Ruth Rockey. Sue Sawyer proposed in her absence that we give £1,000 to the DCBRF, a further proposal was made by Margaret Elms to split this between the DCBRF and the Guild Instruction Fund. After some discussion this was amended to topping up the Instruction Fund to £500 and giving the DCBRF £1,000. (s. Don Roberts) carried nem con. The senior officers of the Guild will confirm what the Instruction Fund should be used for and clarify to members what they can request funding for. Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Michael Cannon, seconded by James Clarke, carried nem con.
- A11/9 Change to affiliation fee: This item was left in in error and was not discussed.
- A11/10 Election of Officers:
- a) Master 2011/12: John Foster (p: Ian Campbell, s: Wendy Campbell, carried nem. con.) Maureen Hawkins was thanked for all she had done during her year as Guild Ringing Master she then presented John with the Masters insignia. John took the chair to take nominations for President.
 - b) President: Lester Yeo (p: Lynne Hughes, s: Richard Shere)
 - c) Master Elect 2012/13: Mike Hatchett (p: Fergus Stracey, s: Martin Mansley) Mike declined to take up the post, Ian Campbell (p: John Foster, s: Janet Coles). Ian agreed to take this on.
 - d) Vice Presidents: Ian Campbell (p: Janet Coles, s: General Committee) carried nem con
 - e) Secretary: Janet Coles (p: Sheila Scofield, s: Nigel Birt) Lester gave thanks to Janet for all she does.
 - f) Treasurer: Sue Sawyer (p: Michael Cannon, s: James Clarke)
 - g) Librarian: Leslie Boyce (p: Lynne Hughes s: Mike Hatchett)
 - h) Bells and Belfries Advisors: James Clarke had given notice of standing down due to a conflict of interest as he is also Diocesan Bells Adviser. Ian Campbell (p: James Clarke, s: Tim King), Ian Smith (p: John Steere, s: Peter Bill). Thanks was given to James for all this hard work and knowledge.
 - i) Report Secretary: John Foster (p: Leslie Boyce, s: Janet Coles). John thanked the branch secretaries and other officers for sending in their copy so promptly. He will e-mail files next year for amendments which will hopefully be easier for all concerned.
 - j) Publicity Officer: Roger King (p: Lynne Hughes, s: Amy Gill). Roger thanked all the correspondents to RRD. He has given notice that this is his last year in the post.
 - k) Peal Secretary: Michael Mears (p: Ian Smith, s: Peter Bill)
 - l) Quarter Peal Secretary: Tim Bayton (p: Nigel Birt, s: Anne Bailey)
 - m) Education Officer: Lynne Hughes (p: Tim Bayton, s: Janet Ritterman) Lester said how impressed we all were with Lynne's hard work and organisational skills and thanked her for such a successful education program.
- A11/11 Election of DCBRF Trustees: Mary Mears, Ian Campbell and Ian Smith (p: Janet Coles, s: Tim King)

A11/12 Appointment of Independent Examiner: Ruth Rockey (p: James Clarke, s: Janet Ritterman)
A11/13 Travel expenses for CC representatives: This was discussed at the Guild Committee meeting in January and the proposal was to raise the mileage from 25p to 40p per mile. We must note that the Guild does not pay for accommodation for its reps. It was queried whether rail costs would be paid. It was confirmed that the reps currently compare rail fares with driving and use the cheapest method and if that's by rail the Guild will pay the train fare instead of mileage. Carried nem con.

A11/14 Report from the Central Council meeting at Hereford: The Guild was represented by two new members, Lynne Hughes and Ian Smith, along with old stagers, James Clarke and Les Boyce. Two technical motions on the naming of methods and what constitutes a "call" (to accommodate "Variable Treble" compositions) were passed, as was the motion to raise Council subscriptions from £20 to £25 per representative from next year. All committee vacancies were filled and several members were unable to get a place on a committee, including Lynne Hughes who narrowly missed a place on the PR committee.

Key points from the committees were:

- The Admin Committee has picked up widespread concerns about the lack of young ringing recruits. A report from Andrew Wilby on a Healthy Future for Ringing, together with the work of the Ringing Foundation, has led to a national conference being arranged to push the project forward.
- Public relations: The committee is promoting involvement in ringing for the Olympics, particularly when the Olympic torch is passing through an area.
- Publications: The 10th edition of Dove is due to go to press shortly
- Ringing Trends: Further work has been done on gathering detailed data on young ringers and what recruitment and training methods have proved successful.
- Library: A presentation was made to John Eisel to mark his retirement as Council Librarian after 19 years in which John has made a significant contribution to research into ringing history.
- Biographies: A lot of work has been done in collecting information about deceased ringers and our own Guild member, David Willis, has done a lot of work on this.

Kate Flavell is Chair for the next three years. Next year's meeting is to be held in Chester.

The Ringing World meeting outlined attempts to reverse the decline in readership of the paper. Tower subscriptions, prolific quarter peal ringers make block donations of £25 or more which can then be gift aided. Looking to the future, there was a hint of significant changes ahead; the continuance of a weekly print journal has to be under scrutiny and possible electronic delivery of some content will be considered. The key issue of recruiting young ringers was again picked up in the Ringing Foundation meeting. The Foundation's business plan aims to support young ringer groups and to promote the Integrated Teacher Training Scheme as a key plank in getting enough new ringers trained in the next ten years. Not all Council members are convinced of the need to spend money in this way, but the article in *The Ringing World* dated 15th April 2011 should give all ringers pause for thought as to whether there is a serious alternative.

Martin Mansley commented that the publications from the CCCBR are now excellent and recommended the new learner book. The Guild had received permission to include their maintenance booklet in the Guild Handbook for a small charge. Les confirmed that the membership could review any CCCBR publication from the Guild Library. It was queried whether any of our reps were on committees, James Clarke is chair of the Towers and Belfries Committee, Les Boyce is on the Ringing Centres Committee and Lynne Hughes narrowly missed out on being elected to the Public Relations Committee.

A11/15 Guild Insurance – Public Liability & Personal Injury: The Mid Devon Branch had requested that the Guild look into the cost of providing Insurance for its members. Janet obtained quotes from Ecclesiastical for both PL and PI insurance that came to £1,038.80 for the Guild per annum. The PI insurance only covered members between the ages of 16 and 75, this would exclude several of our members. The cover was limited with benefits being very low by today's standards, i.e. Death £2,500. The PL insurance only came to £318 for the year that covered up to £2M in liability and would cover all members. Alan Furse recommended that we take out the PL Insurance and for this to be included in the subscriptions. John Steere supported this recommendation. It was agreed that Janet would approach Ecclesiastical to request cover start from 1 July, p: Les Boyce, s Alan Furse. After some discussion as to whether we needed to increase subscriptions now, it was agreed that this year's premium would be covered by Guild funds and it would be looked at by the General Committee at their meeting in January 2012. Carried nem con.

A11/16 Guild AGM Format & Date: Attendance is still not as good as it should be. The question was raised as to why the AGM is in June. The reason being that we have to have enough time to prepare the Annual Report and to put the accounts together and have them audited. Lester, Martin Mansley and Leslie Boyce have

been tasked to look at the format etc but wanted to gain the thoughts of the members at the AGM before making any suggestions for change. Ideas were floated including splitting the Festival and the AGM. Lester asked for people to e-mail himself, Martin or Janet with ideas or suggestions so that these can be put before the committee and the next AGM. Congratulations were given to the organisers of this year's AGM as it was quorate, which many haven't been in recent years.

- A11/17 Safeguarding Officer : The new Government has yet to put in place new legislation on this matter therefore making it difficult to know what this role will entail. It was agreed to keep the post vacant with Janet monitoring the situation in the meantime.
- A11/18 Fund raising and quarter peal week: to be held from Friday 28th October – Sunday 6th November inclusive, Tim Bayton to collate the information for publication in *The Ringing World*.
- A11/19 Striking competitions: to be held on Saturday 15th October in the SW branch: 6-bell at Whitchurch, 8-bell at Lifton (choice St Simons Bob Triples or Stedman Triples) and novice 6-bell at Sampford Spiney. The draw for the 8 bell competition will be held at 2.00 pm at Lifton.
- A10/22 2012 Festival: It was agreed to leave next year's AGM as the 3rd Saturday which would be 16 June 2012. This is due to be held in the Aylesbeare branch and John Foster reported that Withycombe Raleigh church and hall had been booked for that date. We have been given use of the hall for free.
- A10/23 Any other business:
- (a) The Devon Ringers Carol Service is due to be held at Buckfast Abbey again. The question arose regarding under 16's being able to ring there. Peter Bill also mentioned that the tenor clapper was broken. This will be discussed at the next DRC meeting. The Guild felt that if under 16's couldn't ring there then the service should be held elsewhere.
 - (b) John Foster questioned whether there was an easier 8 within the SW branch where the striking competition could be held as he didn't feel his branch would be capable of ringing to any reasonable standard at Lifton. After much discussion it was agreed that Lifton would remain the tower of choice but we would add Grandsire Triples as an alternative method which may help a bit.
 - (c) The question was raised as to whether the competency level required to become a member of the Guild was sufficiently high. At the moment all that is required is to ring rounds competently. It was felt this was adequate but the new member should attend the meeting they are being proposed at so that the branch can confirm that the person in question is ready to join.
 - (d) Les Boyce mentioned that he had some CCCBR recruiting leaflets if anyone would like some and also surplus Guild Reports.

The meeting was closed at 4.35 pm.

.....
Lester Yeo (President)

.....
(Date)

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Held at Teignmouth Baptist Church on Saturday 18 June 2011

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 21st January 2012. (p: Tim Bayton, s: Tim King). Meeting closed at 4.40 pm.

.....
Lester Yeo (President)

.....
Date