

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Held at Newton St Cyres Village Hall, Saturday 20 January 2018

- CO18/1 Alison Waterson (President) opened the meeting by welcoming all committee members and handed over to Charlotte Boyce (Treasurer) who explained that Ali had lost her voice. Charlotte asked for expressions of interest in chairing the meeting and in the absence of any volunteers took the chair; there were 33 members present. Nigel Birt led us in an opening prayer.
- CO18/2 Apologies for absence were received from Ian Avery (Frank Mack Ring Steward), Julia Brett (Mid-Devon Branch Sec), John Foster (Report Editor), Mark Heritage (CC Rep), Matthew Hilling (Webmaster), John MacKee (NNW Branch Secretary), Lilly Neal (Aylesbeare Branch Rep), Mike Rose (NNW Branch Chairman), Clare Stagg (VP), John Steere (VP), Fergus Stracey (VP), Lester Yeo (VP).
- CO18/3 Losses by death: John Bowden (Bridgerule), Cyril Deem (Littleham), Wilf Dunn (Tiverton), Geoffrey Holton (Sidbury), John Martin (Sidmouth), John Pugh (Sampford Spiney), John Seymour (Offwell). The meeting stood in silence to remember them.
- CO18/4 Minutes of the January 2017 meeting were approved and signed as a true record. (p: Don Roberts, s: Lynne Hughes, carried nem con).
- CO18/5 Matters arising from the minutes: John Martin (Secretary) reported there were no matters arising that would not be covered under other agenda items.
- CO18/6 Secretary's Report: John Martin had circulated his report prior to the meeting. Charlotte Boyce invited comments and questions.
- CO18/7 Treasurer's Report: Draft accounts had been circulated in advance of the meeting and Charlotte Boyce presented a summary.
- Having highlighted a couple of small errors in the draft Charlotte invited comments and questions.
- Rodney Horder (Mid Devon Branch Chairman) proposed acceptance of the draft accounts subject to the amendments as outlined and circulation to Committee members by email. Seconded by James Kirkcaldy and carried unanimously.
- CO18/8 Subscriptions: Charlotte Boyce recommended that subscriptions should remain unaltered at £6.00 for 2019.
- CO18/9 Expenses for Central Council Representatives: These were once again reviewed by the meeting. Lynne Hughes noted the Central Council had proposed a scale of charges for attending some of the activities planned over the weekend in Lancaster. After some discussion it was suggested (p: Alena Wardle, s: Janet Deem) the Guild could fund four day rate attendances in addition to reimbursing reasonable travel and accommodation expenses; this proposal was agreed by those present.
- John Martin reported he had received a letter of resignation from Mark Heritage (CC Rep) in advance of a planned move to France. Mark would be unable to attend the meeting in Lancaster and Mike Hatchett (North East Branch Chairman) proposed the officers should approach potential candidates to temporarily represent the Guild at Lancaster prior to electing

a new representative at the AGM in June; this was seconded by Leslie Boyce (Librarian) and agreed unanimously.

CO18/10 Production of Guild Annual Report: John Foster had produced a report which was circulated prior to the meeting. John Martin recorded the thanks of the meeting to John for producing the 2016 report in good time for the AGM. There was some discussion about changing the format of the report in preparation for the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and it was agreed that the full address of any NRLM members elected should no longer be published.

CO18/11 Reports by other Officers:

(a) Peal Secretary: Mike Mears (Peal Secretary) reported that the Guild rang 230 peals in 2017, a new record, including 23 hand bell peals, again a record, and at the end of the year the Guild total stood at 6887 so the 7000th is likely to be rung sometime in 2018.

Thorverton was the leading tower, for the 27th consecutive year, followed by Kings-Ting-Tong, Wobbly Bobs Campanile and Pinhoe. Withycombe Raleigh had its 300th Guild peal and Wolborough became the 10th tower to have 100 Guild peals.

There was a three way tie at the top of the method table with Cambridge S Major, 41 Spliced S Minor and 7 Surprise Minor, followed by Bristol S Major, Cambridge S Royal and Yorkshire S Major.

There were no first pealers in 2017 which is a bit disturbing, however, there were good signs of progress with Oliver Bates ringing his first peals of London and Bristol Major, Rebecca Harrison her first of Spliced S Royal and there were first peals of Bristol S Maximus for Charlotte Boyce and Sarah Chadburn and first of Spliced S Maximus for Charlotte Boyce and Roger King (impressive for a 75 year old-rung for his golden wedding anniversary).

There were some big steps forward on hand bells with firsts of Bristol S Royal for Andrew Digby, Sue Sparling, Oliver Coldrick and Tim Bayton and firsts of Cambridge S Maximus for Andrew Digby, Sue Sparling, Oliver Coldrick and Lynne Hughes.

Congratulations are due to Matthew Hilling on becoming the 512th person to ring 1000 peals-an non Guild peal at Westminster Abbey, and some chap called Mears became the 10th person to ring 5000 peals.

There were several peals of note including the first resident peal of Cambridge S Maximus on hand bells and peals to mark the 70th wedding anniversary of the Queen and Prince Philip.

(b) Quarter Peal Secretary: James Kirkcaldy (Quarter Peal Secretary) had already circulated his report prior to the meeting and members were invited to make observations or ask questions.

(c) Librarian: Leslie Boyce had already circulated his report prior to the meeting and members were invited to make observations or ask questions.

(d) Towers and Belfries Advisers: Ian Smith and Ian Campbell had already circulated their report prior to the meeting and members were invited to make observations or ask questions. Rodney Horder (Mid-Devon Chairman) thanked both for their dedicated work during the year.

(e) Education Officer: A report detailing the Education programme carried out over the year had been circulated by Tim Bayton before the meeting. Tim's comment about underutilisation of the ART scheme and methods was endorsed by Leslie Boyce.

(f) Clerk to the Devon Ringers' Council: Ian Avery (DRC Clerk) had already circulated his report prior to the meeting. Martin Mansley (Vice President) spoke about the large amount of time that Ian spends each year supporting Guild's involvement with the Devon County Show.

(g) Ringing Round Devon Editor: Ian Campbell had previously circulated his report as RRD Editor and members were invited to make observations or ask questions. A proposal was received (p: Leslie Boyce, s: Ian Smith) to increase the individual RRD annual subscription to £10; this was agreed.

(h) Central Council reps': Fergus Stracey had previously circulated his report from the 2017 Central Council meeting at Edinburgh and members were invited to make observations or ask questions.

(i) Publicity Officer: Lynne Hughes had previously circulated her report as publicity officer and members were invited to make observations or ask questions. Tim asked Lynne whether she could write an article for RRD documenting what publicity and recruitment strategies had been used in the Dawlish area.

CO18/12 Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund: A report had been circulated prior to the meeting, although the accounts had yet to be finalised. Members were invited to make observations or ask questions.

CO18/13 Frank Mack Bells Report: Ian Avery had already circulated a report and members were invited to make observations or ask questions.

CO18/14 Proposals for new Vice-Presidents: None were received.

CO18/15 Vacant Guild Posts: John Martin noted we would be able to elect a Central Council Representative at the AGM to replace Mark Heritage.

CO18/16 DenMisch Simulator: Ian Campbell and Oliver Coldrick had circulated a report prior to the meeting and members were invited to make observations or ask questions.

Charlotte Boyce proposed a vote of thanks to all those who had served the Guild and produced a report for consideration at the meeting.

CO18/17 First Peal 2017: No first peals were recorded in 2017.

CO18/18 Armistice 2018 recruitment campaign (Ringing Remembers): Tim Bayton outlined a plan put together jointly between the Guild and Association to run a number of recruitment events across the county on Saturday 24th February and asked whether there were any questions. He explained the process whereby leads arising would be followed up.

CO18/19 Special ringing for 2018: It was noted that the centenary of the Armistice would occur in November 2018.

CO18/20 Tower Handbooks Update: John Martin reported that investigations at towers in the Exeter branch had showed a large variation in the status between the Guild Handbook in each tower. John suggested each Branch Secretary be issued with a paper "master copy" of the up to date Handbook in order that local arrangements be made to compare and print the necessary updates to bring all copies up to date. It was also suggested (p: Janet Deem; s: Rodney Horder) that the printing of the Branch master copies be carried out at the Guild expense; this proposal was agreed.

CO18/21 Rolls of Honour: David Willis (CC Rep) spoke about the continuing research into identifying Devon ringers who have been lost while serving their country. David was asked to write a

report for RRD about his experience of discovering a ringer who died in WW2 after speaking to an elderly ringer who remembered him.

CO18/22 Arrangements for 2018 Guild Festival and AGM – 16 June (Mid-Devon Branch): Rodney Horder (Mid-Devon Branch Chair) spoke about arrangements for the 2018 Guild AGM which would be held at St Paul’s church in Newton Abbot. Towers in the area would be available for ringing and refreshments would be provided at St Paul’s. It was also proposed that a seminar and handbell training would take place prior to the business meeting.

CO18/23 Guild Striking Competitions – 20 October 2018 (South West Branch): Trevor Vercoe (SW Branch Secretary) announced that the towers to host this year’s striking competitions would be in the Plymouth area but final confirmation had not been received. After some discussion the methods for the 8-bell competition were decided: Plain Bob Major and Lincolnshire Surprise Major.

CO18/24 Fund-raising for DCBRF – Guild Quarter Peal Festival: James Kirkcaldy announced the dates for this year’s Quarter Peal Festival and advised that he would create a BellBoard event to which successful quarter peals could be linked.

CO18/25 Date and venue of next meeting: Confirmed as Saturday 18th June, immediately after the AGM.

CO18/26 AOB:

(a) Janet Deem enquired regarding the status of Safeguarding training. Rodney Horder agreed to ask Robert Brown whether an update could be offered at the Guild AGM.

(b) Charlotte Boyce announced she had a stock of Guild badges available for purchase.

(c) John Martin encouraged Branch Secretaries to make use of the Guild website to publicise Branch events and also to use the dedicated email addresses provided.

(d) John Martin announced the Association had invited entries into a novice ringers striking contest at Black Torrington on Saturday 10th March.

(e) Charlotte Boyce thanked everyone involved in organising the meeting, especially all those who had provided and served the tea.

(f) Don Roberts (Vice President) thanked Charlotte for acting as Chairman.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 5.08pm.

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Alison Waterson (President)

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Date