

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Held at Newton St Cyres Village Hall, Saturday 19 January 2019

- CO19/1 Alison Waterson (President) opened the meeting by welcoming all committee members; there were 36 members present. Nigel Birt led us in an opening prayer.
- CO19/2 Apologies for absence were received from Ian Avery (Frank Mack Ring Steward), Marion Baker (VP), Mike Hatchett (VP), Richard Johnson (Exeter Branch Chairman), James Kirkcaldy (QP Secretary), John MacKee (NNW Branch Secretary), Norman Mallett (VP), George Mudge (VP), Clare Stagg (VP), John Steere (VP), Fergus Stracey (VP).
- CO19/3 Losses by death: . Alan Edwards (Tiverton, Vice President), Sharon McCabe (Cullompton), Frank Shepperd, (Brixham), Phil Smart (Tiverton, St Paul), Tony Woodville (Dawlish), Betty Wright (Littleham). The meeting stood in silence to remember them.
- CO19/4 Minutes of the January 2018 meeting were approved and signed as a true record. (p: Lynne Hughes, s: Don Roberts; carried nem con).
- CO19/5 Matters arising from the minutes: John Martin (Secretary) reported there were no matters arising that would not be covered under other agenda items.
- CO19/6 Secretary's Report: John Martin had circulated his report prior to the meeting. Alison Waterson invited comments and questions.
- CO19/7 Treasurer's Report: Draft accounts had been circulated in advance of the meeting and Charlotte Boyce presented a summary.
- Martin Mansley (VP) proposed acceptance of the draft accounts; seconded by Les Boyce (Librarian) and carried unanimously.
- CO19/8 Subscriptions: Charlotte Boyce recommended that subscriptions should remain unaltered at £6.00 for 2020.
- CO19/9 Expenses for Central Council Representatives: These were once again reviewed by the meeting. The 2019 meeting is scheduled for September in London and the consensus of those present was that the previous arrangement of reimbursing reasonable travel and accommodation expenses should apply again this year.
- CO19/10 Production of Guild Annual Report: John Foster had produced a report which was circulated prior to the meeting. Rodney Horder (Mid Devon Branch Chairman) queried whether the amount of personal data published in the report could be reduced. After a brief discussion it was agreed Branch Secretaries could invite correspondents to include only that information which they were comfortable with being published in the report.
- CO19/11 Reports by other Officers:
- (a) Peal Secretary: Mike Mears (Peal Secretary) reported the Guild rang 208 peals in 2018, a reduction of 22 on the 2017 total, however hand bell peals were up by 10 to 33 which is a new Guild record. It was the 12th consecutive year the 200 mark has been reached and at the end of the year the Guild total stood at 7095-the 7000th was rung on 21st June at Kings-Ting-Tong and was 41 Surprise Minor.

Thorverton was the leading tower, for the 27th consecutive year, followed by Kings-Ting-Tong and Wobbly Bobs campanile. Thorverton's Guild peal total at the end of 2018 stood at 968, so hopefully the 1000 mark will be passed early in 2020. The first peal was scored on the new six at Combe Raleigh.

Bristol S Major proved to be the most popular method, followed by Yorkshire S Major and 41 Surprise Minor.

There were three first pealers, Daisy Atkins on handbells and Trevor Hitchcock and Stanley Thompson in the first peal at Combe Raleigh. Some of the younger members continue to make big strides with Rebecca Harrison ringing her first of Bristol S Maximus and Oliver Bates ringing his first on twelve and his first in hand, as well as completing the standard eight Surprise Major methods. Lisa Clarke and Oliver Bates scored their first peals as Conductor.

Congratulations are due to Pauline Mckenzie who became the 55th person to ring 3000 peals and to John Foster and Mike Hansford who became the 522nd and 534th respectively to ring 1000 peals. Mike Hansford is not a resident member but has rung about half his peals for the Devon Guild.

(b) Quarter Peal Secretary: James Kirkcaldy (Quarter Peal Secretary) had already circulated his report prior to the meeting and members were invited to consider possible alternative layouts for inclusion in the 2018 Guild report. The alternative layouts would require less space when printed. It was agreed (p: Don Roberts, s: Janet Deem) the layout used in the 2017 report would be retained.

(c) Librarian: Leslie Boyce had already circulated his report prior to the meeting and members were invited to make observations or ask questions. Tim Bayton (Education Officer) asked whether there was a budget dedicated to rehoming the library. It was agreed once a possible location was identified a costed proposal would be presented for discussion.

(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.

(e) Education Officer: A report detailing the Education programme carried out over the year had been circulated by Tim Bayton before the meeting and members were invited to make observations or ask questions.

(f) Clerk to the Devon Ringers' Council: Ian Avery (DRC Clerk) had already circulated his report prior to the meeting.

(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.

(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.

(j) Webmaster: Matthew Hilling had previously circulated his report as webmaster and members were invited to make observations or ask questions. Rodney Horder noted with thanks the mention of the Mid-Devon branch in the report and reported this activity had been made possible due to the appointment of a Branch officer to take responsibility for keeping the Branch information on the Guild website up to date.

- CO19/12 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. There was a short discussion about increasing the amount and frequency of information made available to members. Ian Smith advised members about forthcoming work at towers including Milton Abbot and Oakford.
- CO19/13 Frank Mack Bells Report: Ian Avery had already circulated a report and members were invited to make observations or ask questions.
- CO19/14 Proposals for new Vice-Presidents: Two proposals had been received; David Wills (p: Janet Deem, s: Roger King) and Sue Sawyer (p: Richard Shere, s: Lester Yeo). The meeting unanimously endorsed both proposals which will be considered at the AGM.
- CO19/15 National 12 bell striking contest: Matthew Hilling spoke about the national 12-bell striking contest which would be hosted by Exeter Cathedral on Saturday 22nd June and asked for volunteers to help on the day.
- CO19/16 Vacant Guild Posts: John Martin reported no vacancies as far as the officers are aware at the current time.
- CO19/17 DenMisch bells Management Committee: Ian Campbell and Oliver Coldrick had circulated a report prior to the meeting and members were invited to make observations or ask questions. A short discussion took place about the failure of the laptop computer needed for the facility to work.
- Janet Deem proposed the purchase of a replacement computer if necessary; the proposal was seconded by Leslie Boyce and unanimously accepted.
- CO19/18 First Peal 2018: Three first peals were recorded in 2018; certificates would be awarded at the Guild AGM and Festival in June.
- CO19/19 Review of Armistice 2018 recruitment campaign (Ringing Remembers): Tim Bayton provided a summary of the recruitment campaign and the training activities which followed. Alison Waterson thanked Tim for all his efforts on this project throughout the year.
- CO19/20 Special ringing for 2019: Martin Mansley spoke about the centenary of the setting up of Branches within the Guild which began in 1919.
- CO19/21 Tower Handbook Updates: John Martin reported the Branch “master” paper copies of the Handbook were available for collection after the meeting.
- CO19/22 World War Rolls of Honour: David Willis (CC Rep) had circulated an update prior to the meeting and members were invited to make observations or ask questions. Leslie Boyce thanked David for his continuing efforts in this endeavour.
- Alison Waterson thanked all those who had produced reports for the year.
- CO19/23 Arrangements for 2019 Guild Festival and AGM – 15 June (Aylesbeare Branch): Janet Deem (Aylesbeare Branch Secretary) spoke about arrangements for the 2019 Guild AGM which would be held at Withycombe Raleigh. Towers in the area would be available for ringing and light lunches would be provided. It was also proposed that a rope splicing course would take place prior to the business meeting and that an evening activity including supper would be available.
- CO19/24 Date for 2020 Guild Festival and AGM: Judith Reynolds (East Branch Secretary) outlined preliminary plans for inviting Steve Coleman to speak at the 2020 Guild AGM and explained

that Steve was available on 27 June 2020 but not on the previous Saturday. Judith proposed the 2020 Guild AGM should be held on 27 June 2020; seconded by Mark Heritage and agreed with one objection. This recommendation will be put forward at the 2019 Guild AGM for ratification by members.

Matthew Hilling asked the Committee to consider whether the AGM should move to a different date to avoid a clash with the Cathedral open practice on the third Saturday in June.

Martin Mansley suggested some research be carried out to establish whether a suitable alternative date could be found.

CO19/25 Guild Striking Competitions – 19 October 2019 (East Branch): Judith Reynolds announced that the towers to host this year’s striking competitions would be Feniton (novice 6 bell), Farway (main 6 bell), Sidbury (novice 8 bell) and Honiton (main 8 bell). After some discussion the methods for the 8-bell competition were decided: Grandsire Triples (a simple touch) and Double Grandsire Triples.

CO19/26 Fund-raising for DCBRF – Guild Quarter Peal Festival: A discussion took place about whether focusing on ringing quarter peals is the best way to raise much needed funds for the DCBRF. It was noted BellBoard was used to record many different ringing performance types to mark the 100th anniversary of the Armistice and it was suggested that members be encouraged to link different performance types to the BellBoard event this year with a donation being made to the DCBRF for each linked performance. Janet Deem proposed the event be renamed the “Ringing Festival fortnight”; seconded by Alena Wardle and accepted unanimously.

CO19/27 Date and venue of next meeting: Confirmed as Saturday 15th June, immediately after the AGM.

CO19/28 AOB:

- (a) John Martin encouraged Branch Secretaries to make use of the Guild website to publicise Branch events and also to keep the information about Branch towers up to date.
- (b) Leslie Boyce announced there were books from the Guild library available to browse at the back of the hall.
- (c) Janet Deem asked whether the rotation of AGMs and striking contests between Branches could be looked at to avoid them occurring ion consecutive years.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.30pm.

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Alison Waterson (President)

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Date