

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Held at Newton St Cyres Village Hall, Saturday 18th January 2020

CO20/1 Alison Waterson (President) opened the meeting by welcoming all committee members; there were 37 members present. Nigel Birt led those present in an opening prayer.

CO20/2 Apologies for absence were received from John Foster (Report Secretary), Mike Hatchett (VP), Matthew Hilling (Webmaster), Richard Johnson (Exeter Branch Chairman), James Kirkcaldy (QP Secretary), Matt Pym (Aylesbeare Committee Representative), Fergus Stracey (VP), Lester Yeo (VP).

CO20/3 Losses by death: Robert Balman (Tiverton, St Peter), Lowrey Bell (Brixham), Lewis Cobb (Bishops Cannings), John Conduct (North/North West), John Glynn (Kelly), George Griffin (Tiverton, St Peter), Ian Hardy (Brentor), Norman Mallett (Plymstock), Maureen Smallwood (Tiverton, St Peter), Alan Spear (Cullompton), Charlie Taylor (Marhamchurch), George Tribe (Bratton Fleming), Peter Vincent (Bampton & Huntsham), Ken Wannell (Silverton), David Willis (Shirwell). The meeting stood in silence to remember them.

CO20/4 Minutes of the January 2019 meeting were approved and signed as a true record. (p: Janet Deem, s: Lynne Hughes; carried nem con).

CO20/5 Matters arising from the minutes: John Martin (Secretary) reported that two papers had been circulated for consideration in advance of the meeting.

Revised AGM and striking contest rota: John Martin introduced the paper and Alison Waterson invited comments. After a short discussion two of the options presented were proposed for adoption; option C (p: Charlotte Boyce, s: Les Boyce) and option B (p: Janet Deem, s: Mark Heritage). Alison Waterson invited members to vote and option C (appended as an Appendix to these minutes) was selected with a majority of 7.

John Martin was asked to pass the selected revised rotation to John Foster for inclusion in the Annual Report.

Date options for Guild AGM and Festival: John Martin introduced the paper and Alison Waterson invited comments. After a short discussion option E (3rd Saturday in June – no change) was selected (p: Tim Bayton, s: Geoff Hill) for recommendation to Guild members at a future meeting; none of the other options presented in the paper received a proposal of support from Committee members.

After a further discussion about the activities that take place at the AGM and Festival a proposal was received (p: Martin Mansley, s: Janet Deem) that a working party be set up to consider revising the Guild rules in order to minimise the administration that needs to be considered at a physical meeting of members. The proposal was accepted with 3 votes against.

CO20/6 Secretary's report: John Martin had circulated his report prior to the meeting. Alison Waterson invited comments and questions.

CO20/7 Treasurer's report: Draft accounts had been circulated in advance of the meeting and Charlotte Boyce presented a summary.

Rodney Horder (Mid Devon Chairman) proposed acceptance of the draft accounts; seconded by Janet Ritterman and carried unanimously.

CO20/8 Subscriptions: Charlotte Boyce recommended that although operating costs for the Guild had increased, subscriptions should remain unaltered at £6.00 for 2021.

A discussion took place about whether an increased subscription for 2021 should be presented for ratification by members at the Guild AGM in order to provide additional funds for Branch events and for the Guild to make a higher donation to the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund. Proposals were received for an increase to £10 (p: Janet Deem, s: Mark Heritage) and for a stepped increase to £8 in 2021 and £10 in 2022 (p: Nicola Jones, s: Lynette Costello).

21 votes were recorded in favour of an increase to £10 in 2021 with 5 recorded in favour of the stepped proposal. Charlotte Boyce agreed to produce an analysis of how the subscription fee is spent for publication in Ringing Round Devon in order to explain to members the reasons for proposing the subscription increase at the Guild AGM.

It was agreed to ask the working party mentioned above to consider whether a link should be maintained between the annual subscription and the Guild peal booking fee.

CO20/9 Expenses for Central Council Representatives: These were once again reviewed by the meeting. The 2020 meeting is scheduled for September in Nottingham and the consensus of those present was that the previous arrangement of reimbursing reasonable travel and accommodation expenses should apply again this year.

CO20/10 Production of Guild annual report: John Foster had produced a report which was circulated prior to the meeting.

CO20/11 Reports by other officers:

(a) Peal Secretary: Mike Mears (Peal Secretary) reported the Guild rang 217 peals in 2019, which is an increase of nine on the 2018 total. The total included 31 handbell peals, a decrease of two on the 2018 total. It was the thirteenth consecutive year that the 200 mark had been reached and at the end of the year the Guild total stood at 7312.

Kings-Ting-Tong was the leading tower followed by Thorverton and Highweek, the first time since 1990 that Thorverton has not been the leading tower.

Bristol S Major was again the leading method, followed by Seven Surprise Minor and Cambridge S Major.

There was a first peal as conductor for Nathan Evans and John Martin became the third person to call 200 peals for the Guild. John also completed the calendar as conductor, only the 26th person to do so.

There were six first pealers in 2019 – Elena Brake, Nellie Croft (on handbells), Steve James, Liz Chadwick (on handbells), Peter Simpson and Richard Barker (in a Devonshire Society peal).

Peals of note were mainly in celebration of significant birthdays or anniversaries and a peal was rung in memory of Guild Vice President Norman Mallett.

(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.

(c) Librarian: Leslie Boyce had already circulated his report prior to the meeting but wished to extend his thanks to all those who had attended the library open day in December. Members were invited to make observations or ask questions and Geoff Hill thanked Les for the efforts needed to move the library to St Petrock's.

(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 Representatives: Lynne Hughes had previously circulated his report from the 2019 Central Council meeting at London and members were invited to make observations or ask questions. Lynette Costello had brought various Central Council papers to the meeting for members to inspect if they wished.

(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. Tim Bayton and Janet Deem noted a reference in the report to the number of page accesses to the Cathedral ringing diary and asked whether the Guild is subsidising the cost of hosting Cathedral-specific information. Alison Waterson agreed to ask Matthew Hilling for further information to clarify the situation.

CO20/12 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.

CO20/13 Frank Mack Bells Report: Ian Avery had already circulated a report and members were invited to make observations or ask questions.

CO20/14 Proposals for new Vice-Presidents: No proposals were received.

CO20/15 Guild Library rationalisation and Friends scheme proposals: A paper containing two proposals ([i] to dispose of duplicate copies of library stock *and* [ii] Admit non-Guild members to the Friends scheme) had been circulated prior to the meeting and Les Boyce provided background information, invited questions and proposed adoption of both proposals; this was seconded by Janet Ritterman and agreed by all those present.

CO20/16 Vacant Guild posts: John Martin reported no vacancies as far as the officers are aware at the current time.

CO20/17 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.

Alison Waterson thanked all those who had produced reports for the year.

CO20/18 2019 first peal certificates: Six first peals were recorded in 2019; certificates would be awarded at the Guild AGM and Festival in June.

CO20/19 Special ringing for 2020: Members were told of the 75th anniversary of VE Day, to be marked by a Bank Holiday on Friday 8th May, and the Mayflower 400 celebrations.

CO20/20 Arrangements for 2020 Guild Festival and AGM – 27 June (East Branch): Judith Reynolds (East Branch Secretary) spoke about arrangements for the 2020 Guild AGM which would be held at Sidmouth. Towers in the area would be available for ringing, including quarter peals, and light lunches would be provided at the meeting venue. Workshops would be offered and Judith asked to be advised of topics that members would find useful; Steve Coleman would also be giving a talk.

CO20/21 Guild Striking Competitions – 17 October 2020 (Aylesbeare Branch): Janet Deem announced that the towers to host this year's striking competitions would be Topsham (novice 6 bell), Aylesbeare (inter-tower 6 bell), Woodbury (inter-branch 8 bell) and an as yet unconfirmed tower for the novice 8 bell competition. After some discussion, the methods for the 8-bell competition were decided: Spliced Surprise Major (Cambridge and Yorkshire) and Little Little Little Little Penultimus Little Place Major.

John Martin asked whether the Guild could encourage striking contest entry by making a donation to the towers hosting the striking contests, rather than asking members to pay an entry fee. After some discussion Tim Bayton proposed and Don Roberts seconded that the Guild should support the annual competitions by removing entry fees and instead donating from Guild funds; this proposal was agreed.

CO20/22 Fund-raising for DCBRF – Guild Ringing Festival: It was noted the amount raised for the DCBRF during the 2019 Ringing Festival had been rather low; after some discussion it was suggested that more advertising be carried out in advance of the 2020 fund-raising event.

CO20/23 Date and venue of next meeting: Confirmed as Saturday 27th June, immediately after the AGM.

CO20/24 AOB:

(a) John Martin asked Branch Secretaries or other Branch representative to collect tower affiliation certificates and copies of an appeal letter from the Loughborough Bellfoundry Trust for distribution around their Branches.

(b) Janet Ritterman asked whether any consideration had been given to carrying on with David Willis' research to find Devon ringers who lost their lives in the First World War for addition to the national Rolls of Honour. John Martin agreed to ask Alan Regin whether there had been any materials on loan to David prior to his death.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.47pm.

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Alison Waterson (President)
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Date

APPENDIX

Draft rotation C

Year	Annual General Meeting	Striking Competitions
2017	North / North West	North East
2018	Mid	South West
2019	Aylesbeare	East
2020	East	Aylesbeare
2021	North East	South West
2022	Exeter	Mid
2023	North / North West	Aylesbeare
2024	South West	East
2025	Mid	North East
2026	Aylesbeare	Exeter
2027	East	North / North West