

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

held virtually on the Zoom teleconferencing service on Saturday 16th January 2021

- CO21/1 Alison Waterson (President) opened the meeting by welcoming all committee members and outlining how the virtual meeting would be conducted; she thanked Tim and Lynne for helping with the administration for the meeting. There were 39 members present.
- CO21/2 Apologies for absence were received from Clare Stagg (VP) and Lester Yeo (VP).
- CO21/3 Losses by death: Roy Berry (Topsham), John Dallen (Broadclyst), Audrey King (Kingskerswell), Jean Parkinson (Tiverton, St Peter), Canon Gordon Ruming (Stoke Damerel), David Vince (Bampton). A short period of silence was observed to remember them.
- CO21/4 Minutes of the January 2020 meeting Two small corrections had been notified to the draft minutes previously circulated and with these changes the minutes were approved and signed as a true record. (p: Lynne Hughes, s: Janet Ritterman; 33 in favour, 1 abstention).
- CO21/5 Matters arising from the minutes: Alison Waterson reported that written updates on matters arising had been circulated in advance of the meeting and asked for any further comments.
- CO21/6 Secretary's report: John Martin had circulated his report prior to the meeting. Alison Waterson invited comments and questions.
- CO21/7 Treasurer's report: Draft accounts and a financial report including a number of proposals had been circulated in advance of the meeting and a pre-meeting had taken place to give Committee members the opportunity to explore the financial proposals being considered in detail.

Charlotte Boyce presented a summary of the options for printing the 2019 Annual Report assisted by John Foster who explained the printing techniques which could be used to achieve each of the options presented. After some discussion a poll was taken and option 1 (Combined 2019 and 2020 reports) received 33 votes compared to 3 votes for option 3 (Produce a condensed report covering only 2019). Guidance will be circulated via branch Secretaries to illustrate how the combined report will be laid out.

Moving on to recommendations for the Guild AGM Charlotte Boyce presented an overview of the draft accounts and proposed their acceptance subject to amendment once the final cost for printing the 2019 Annual Report is available; seconded by John Foster (Report Editor) and carried unanimously with no abstentions.

Charlotte Boyce proposed recommending to the Guild AGM that a donation of £1,625 be made to DCBRF; seconded by Janet Ritterman. 33 votes were cast in favour, 1 against and 2 abstentions.

Charlotte Boyce proposed earmarking up to £500 to provide financial support to Young Ringer Activities and a Youth Officer in the preparations for raising a Guild team to enter the 2022 Ringing World National Youth Contest which would be held in Exeter; seconded by James Kirkcaldy and agreed with 35 votes cast in favour, 1 abstention.

Charlotte Boyce noted that observations had been made by the Independent Examiner about the lack of clear guidance issued to our Central Council representatives about what are reasonable travel expenses and proposed a budget of £600 to enable our representatives to

travel to the September meeting in Nottingham if circumstances associated with the coronavirus pandemic allowed. After some discussion this proposal was revised to £800 (p: Charlotte Boyce, s: Leslie Boyce) and accepted with 34 votes in favour and 2 abstentions.

Charlotte Boyce also announced that the Guild would be closing the advertising account with the Ringing World as notifications about events can now be circulated by email, social media or on the Guild website.

CO21/8 Subscriptions: Charlotte Boyce recommended that subscriptions should be raised to £10.00 for 2022; seconded by Tim Bayton (Education Officer).

33 votes were recorded in favour, 2 votes against and 1 abstention. Members at the Guild AGM will be asked to endorse a subscription rate of £10 for 2022.

Charlotte Boyce noted that peal fees continue to cover the costs associated with preparing and printing records in the Guild Annual Report and peal book and so proposed that the peal fee for 2022 remains at 60p per ringer. This proposal was seconded by John Foster; 33 votes were recorded in favour and there were 3 abstentions.

CO21/9 Expenses for Central Council Representatives: Recorded under item CO21/7 above.

CO21/10 Production of Guild annual report: Recorded under item CO21/7 above.

CO21/11 Reports by other officers:

(a) Peal Secretary: Mike Mears (Peal Secretary) had already circulated his report prior to the meeting and members were invited to make observations.

(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 and Janet Ritterman spoke to support the suggestion made in that report of preparing a publication to mark the Guild's 150th anniversary in 2024.

(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: Tim Bayton had circulated a report 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. Lynne Hughes (PR Officer) asked whether the Devon Ringers' Carol Service had been omitted. Ian Avery agreed it had and offered to revise his report.

(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: Fergus Stracey had previously circulated his report from the 2020 Central Council meeting 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.

- CO21/12 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.
- CO21/13 Frank Mack Bells Report: Ian Avery had already circulated a report and members were invited to make observations or ask questions.
- CO21/14 Proposals for new Vice-Presidents: Prior to the meeting proposals had been circulated from Janet Deem that Tony Williams and Sylvia Johns and from Mark Heritage that Sheila Scofield (s:Mike Mears) be nominated as Vice-Presidents. All three nominations were agreed unanimously.
- CO21/15 Vacant Guild posts: John Martin reported that Robert Brown would not be standing again as Safeguarding Officer. Lynne Hughes also announced she would not be continuing as Public Relations Officer. Some discussion took place about finding suitable candidates and Nigel Birt (Mid Devon Sec) suggested that Alison Waterson and John Martin should circulate an official invitation to find volunteers in advance of the Guild AGM.
- CO21/16 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.
- CO21/17 2020 first peal certificates: John Rees rang his first peal in 2020; a certificate would be awarded when circumstances permit.
- CO21/18 Creation of Guild planning workgroups: Alison Waterson advised that background information had been circulated in advance of the meeting concerned with the creation of workgroups to assist with Ringing Recovery, the possible creation of a Devon School of Bellringing, the RW National Youth Contest and to begin planning for the 150th anniversary of the Guild.
- It was confirmed that volunteers were being sought with the aim that workgroups could begin meeting during February. Alena Wardle (South West branch Chairman) noted that it was desirable for the Ringing Recovery workgroup to have a volunteer from each branch.
- Rodney Horder (Mid Devon branch Chairman) asked whether it was still planned that the Central Council would visit Devon during our 150th anniversary year in 2024. Fergus Stracey (VP) advised that the Central Council are currently considering meeting each year in a location more central for all members and so it is possible our invitation to the Council might not be taken up in 2024.
- No objections were raised so John Martin was asked to begin communicating to members about these opportunities via the usual channels.
- CO21/19 Arrangements for 2021 Guild Festival and AGM – 19 June (North East Branch): A proposal had been circulated prior to the meeting and Alison Waterson announced that the venue had now been confirmed as Tiverton, St Paul if it is possible for us to gather in person for the 2021 AGM. Les Boyce highlighted that the main aim would be to allow time for socialising after the period when we have not been able to meet in person and asked if there were any objections to this proposal.
- CO21/20 Guild Striking Competitions – 16 October 2020 (South West Branch): Preliminary information had been circulated in advance of the meeting and Alison Waterson asked for any questions. Tim Bayton announced that the method choices for the inter-Branch 8 bell competition would be Grandsire Triples and Plain Bob Major. It was recognised that this might actually be the

first opportunity for Guild members to ring together again and so branches were asked to encourage entries to make use of the opportunity for members to meet.

CO21/21 Fund-raising for DCBRF – Guild Ringing Festival: Alison Waterson expressed her hopes that Guild members would be able to meet to celebrate a return to ringing for the Guild Ringing

CO21/21 Fund Raising for DCBRF : Ringing Festival: Alison Waterson expressed her hope that members would be able to meet to celebrate a return to ringing at the Guild Ringing Festival at the end of October but noted that if we are unable to meet together then the possibility of arranging virtual fund raising initiatives was still available. Committee members were urged to begin planning.

CO21/22 Date and venue of next meeting: It is expected that a short Committee meeting will be needed prior to the Guild AGM to receive information from the new Guild workgroups. Members would be canvassed for a suitable date to meet.

CO21/23 AOB:

(a) Charlotte Boyce proposed the Guild should purchase a new trophy to be awarded to the winner of the annual 8-bell novice striking contest in recognition of the work of David Willis in supporting learners in the North North West branch and his work on the Rolls of Honour for the Central Council. A budget of £150 was suggested and the proposal was seconded by Tim Bayton. The proposal was agreed unanimously. Charlotte asked for anyone with ideas on how best to word the trophy inscription to get in touch with her.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.36pm.

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Alison Waterson (President)

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Date