

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Held at Newton St Cyres Village Hall on Saturday 21st January 2023

CO23/1 Tim Bayon (President) opened the meeting at 2.30pm with a prayer, welcomed all committee members and outlined the priorities he saw for the Guild; he proposed a vote of thanks to those who had prepared refreshments, including sandwiches, cakes and scones. There were 37 members present.

CO23/2 Apologies for absence were received from Geoff Hill, Rodney Horder, Sylvia Johns, James Kirkcaldy, Fergus Stracey and Lester Yeo.

CO23/3 Losses by death: Sarah Collins (Sidmouth), Keith Fursdon (St Marychurch), Nigel Jackson-Mack (Withycombe Raleigh), Yvonne Porter (Stoke Damerel), Derek Rogers (Stokeinteignhead), Jennifer Rowlandson (Stoodleigh), Terry Summersby (Woodbury). A short period of silence was observed to remember them.

CO23/4 Minutes of the January 2022 meeting The draft minutes previously circulated were unanimously approved and signed as a true record. (p: Lynne Hughes, s: Michael Cannon).

CO23/5 Matters arising from the minutes:

- a) The new David Willis trophy had been awarded to the Aylesbeare Deanery branch, winners of the 2022 novice 8-bell striking contest. The trophy was available at the meeting for Committee members to view.
- b) A breakdown of the uses to which the Guild subscription is put will be published annually in Ringing Round Devon.
- c) Nicola Jones had been co-opted as Guild Publicity Officer from the end of November.

CO23/6 Secretary's report: John Martin (Secretary) had circulated his report prior to the meeting. Tim Bayton advised that no comments or questions had been received.

CO23/7 Treasurer's report: Draft accounts, a financial report and a forecast including several proposals had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Charlotte Boyce (Treasurer) presented a summary of the key items from the draft accounts including an increase in Ringing Round Devon printing costs arising from producing all colour editions. She proposed that each edition of the newsletter should be in colour in future and outlined the forecast for 2023 – 2025.

Robert Law (Mid Devon branch Representative) asked about library attendance and was advised there are often off the street walk-in visits during each monthly open afternoon. It was noted the library costs recorded in the accounts include the use of the storage facility at St Petrock's.

CO23/8 Financial proposals:

- a) Charlotte Boyce proposed a transfer of £100 to top the Education Fund up to £500. Seconded by Christine Harris (Education Officer); unanimously approved.
- b) Charlotte Boyce outlined a proposal to support the Devon Young Ringers team to attend the 2023 Ringing World National Youth Contest in York. It was anticipated the support would be used for transport and accommodation costs. Elena Brake (Young Ringers

Coordinator) proposed an additional budget of £708, seconded by Alena Wardle (South West branch Chairman); unanimously approved.

- c) Charlotte Boyce presented her forecast indicating that the 2024 subscription fee should remain at £10, with the peal fee remaining at 60p per ringer; accepted without discussion or comment.
- d) Charlotte Boyce explained that the Guild Central Council Representatives had been asked to provide an estimate of the expenses they would incur to attend the 2023 Central Council meeting in Ipswich. After a short discussion about the value of attendance at the CC meeting, specifically the benefit of sending 4 representatives rather than fewer, Alena Wardle proposed a budget of £275 per representative, seconded by Lynette Costello (Central Council Representative); unanimously approved.
- e) Charlotte Boyce proposed that a donation of £1,600 should be made to support the work of the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund, seconded by Roger King (Aylesbeare branch representative); unanimously approved.

CO23/9

Membership system proposal: John Martin provided an update on the small scale trial of an online membership system reported at the 2022 Committee meeting and proposed extending that trial to other members of the Guild Committee. A paper had been circulated in advance of the meeting and after a short discussion John Martin proposed a budget of £250 to carry out an extended trial of the membermojo system, seconded by Alena Wardle; unanimously approved.

CO23/10

Reports for 2022

- a. Education Officer: Christine Harris had circulated her report prior to the meeting and members were invited to make observations.
- b. Young Ringers co-ordinator: Elena Brake had circulated her report prior to the meeting and members were invited to make observations.
- c. Safeguarding Officer: Rowena Mansley had circulated her report prior to the meeting and members were invited to make observations.
- d. Peal Secretary: Mike Mears had circulated his draft report prior to the meeting and members were invited to make observations.
- e. Quarter Peal Secretary: James Kirkcaldy had circulated his report prior to the meeting and members were invited to make observations.
- f. Report Secretary: John Foster had circulated his report prior to the meeting and members were invited to make observations.
- g. Librarian: Leslie Boyce had circulated his report prior to the meeting and members were invited to make observations.
- h. RRD Editor: Ian Campbell had circulated his report prior to the meeting and members were invited to make observations. Michael Cannon proposed a vote of thanks to Ian Campbell for his work in preparing the Guild newsletter.
- i. Insurance Officer: Will Carew had circulated his report prior to the meeting and members were invited to make observations.
- j. Bells and Belfries Advisors: Ian Campbell and Ian Smith had circulated their report prior to the meeting and members were invited to make observations.
- k. Frank Mack Bells: Ian Avery had circulated his report prior to the meeting and members were invited to make observations.
- l. DenMisch Management Committee: Ian Campbell and Oliver Coldrick had circulated their report prior to the meeting and members were invited to make observations.
- m. Webmaster: Matthew Hilling had circulated his report prior to the meeting and members were invited to make observations.
- n. Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund: Janet Deem had circulated her report prior to the meeting and members were invited to make observations.

- o. Central Council Reps: Their report was circulated prior to the meeting and members were invited to make observations.
- p. Clerk to the Devon Ringers' Council: Ian Avery had circulated his report prior to the meeting and members were invited to make observations. Tim Bayton noted that adopting the changes in representation proposed in the report would require a rule change. Janet Deem commented that a similar rule change for the election of DCBRF representatives would be helpful.
- q. Recruitment and Retention workgroup: A report was circulated prior to the meeting and members were invited to make observations. Nicola Jones (Publicity Officer) proposed a budget of £239 for printing a revised recruitment leaflet, seconded by Don Roberts; unanimously approved.
- r. 150th anniversary workgroup: A report was circulated prior to the meeting and members were invited to consider a suitable date to hold an anniversary dinner. After some discussion Friday 15th March was selected, proposed by Charlotte Boyce, seconded by Lynette Costello.

A service of thanksgiving would follow on Saturday 16th March at a venue to be decided.

Some discussion took place on the associated Guild Calendar project and the likely costs involved. Members were asked to seek expressions of interest and/or orders for the 2024 calendar, so that an appropriate number can be ordered; this will help to meet the costs of production. Leslie Boyce proposed a budget of £472 including expenses to cover the up-front costs, seconded by Richard Shere (NE branch representative); unanimously approved.

- CO23/11 Proposals for new Vice-Presidents: Prior to the meeting proposals had been circulated from Mike Mears that Michael Rose (s:Robert Brown), Peter Bill (s:Wendy Campbell) and Pauline McKenzie (s:Wendy Campbell) be nominated as Vice-Presidents; unanimously approved.
- CO23/12 Vacant Guild posts: Tim Bayton noted that Lynne Hughes would be stepping down as a Central Council Representative at this year's AGM as she will be leaving Devon. Charlotte Boyce proposed a vote of thanks to Lynne who has also served as Guild Education and Publicity Officer in recent years.
- CO23/13 Central Council – Devon 2024: Tim Bayton spoke about the Central Council visit to Devon in 2024 and asked for volunteers to help with investigating possible venues for the weekend events. Tim also mentioned that we need to identify areas for development and improvement where our members may benefit from the presence of Central Council members in the area.
- CO23/14 Arrangements for 2023 Guild Festival and AGM – 17 June (North North West Branch): Preliminary plans had been circulated prior to the meeting for this year's AGM and John McKee (NNW branch Secretary) invited comments. Tim Bayton asked whether there were any suggestions or requests for workshops or events to take place on the day.
- CO23/15 Guild Striking Competitions – 21 October 2023 (Aylesbeare Deanery Branch): Preliminary information had been circulated in advance of the meeting. After a short discussion Single Oxford Bob Triples and Hunslet Bob Triples were proposed as the set methods for the 8 bell inter-Branch competition, seconded by Lynne Hughes; unanimously approved.
- CO23/16 Fund Raising for DCBRF : Ringing Festival: Tim Bayton noted the declining amount raised for the DCBRF over recent years and invited comments and suggestions. After a short discussion it was suggested that a themed set of performances during the Festival period might refocus our fund raising for DCBRF; members were asked to consider dedicating their practice night to

DCBRF fundraising during the period of the festival this year. Janet Deem offered to update the promotional material prepared for the 2022 Festival.

CO23/17 Date of next meeting: Saturday 23rd September, venue to be decided.

CO23/18 AOB:

- (a) Michael Cannon advised his wife was able to lead services at Branch and Guild meetings if needed.
- (b) Charlotte Boyce reported that we had an opportunity to purchase the data projector used during the meeting from the East Devon branch at a cost of £50 and proposed going ahead with this, seconded by Michael Cannon; unanimously approved.
- (c) Janet Deem proposed a transfer of £410 to the Library Fund so that the presentation of library finances is clearer in future, seconded by Charlotte Boyce; unanimously approved.

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

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Tim Bayton (President)

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Date