

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Held at Newton St Cyres Village Hall on Saturday 20th January 2024

CO24/1 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 for the coming year; he proposed a vote of thanks to those who had prepared refreshments, including sandwiches, cakes and scones. Tim also thanked all the officers who had prepared reports for consideration at the meeting. There were 31 members present.

CO24/2 Apologies for absence were received from Ian Avery, John Foster, Geoff Hill, Matthew Hilling, Sylvia Johns, Roger King, James Kirkcaldy, Pauline McKenzie, Rob Neal, Judith Reynolds, Don Roberts, John Steere, Fergus Stracey, Lester Yeo.

CO24/3 Losses by death: Andy Stevens (Exeter, St Thomas), Ernie Pryce (St Marychurch), Pat Hatchett (Bampton), William J Harvey (Withycombe Raleigh), Gay Harris (Topsham), Ann Crew (Silverton), Sylvia Gibbard (Sidmouth). A short period of silence was observed to remember them.

CO24/4 Minutes of the September 2023 meeting The draft minutes previously circulated were unanimously approved and signed as a true record. (p: Nigel Birt, s: Trevor Vercoe).

CO24/5 Matters arising from the minutes: None.

CO24/6 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.

CO24/7 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 a small increase in the number of members. Expenditure over the last year included a donation of £2,050 to the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund, £239 for printing publicity leaflets and a £75 subscription payment for the new online membership system.

Janet Deem (DCBRF Trustee) asked whether early payment of subscriptions had presented any accounting problems. Charlotte Boyce advised there was ample information available to ensure this was not a problem.

Charlotte Boyce explained that two Guild members had generously offered to underwrite the printing costs associated with the revised Guild history but requested all Guild Committee members to promote the history at events and practices to minimise the financial exposure for the underwriting members.

Tim Bayton suggested a written agreement should be drawn up with the underwriting members and asked for authorisation from the Committee members. Proposed by Martin Mansley (Vice President), seconded by Janet Deem; unanimously approved.

Charlotte Boyce provided an update on progress with moving our membership records onto the membermojo online system. Over 300 members had signed up and most had not experienced any difficulties. After a short discussion it was agreed that John Martin would make a change to enable multiple tower affiliation payments to be made in a single transaction.

CO24/8

Financial proposals:

- a) Charlotte Boyce proposed a transfer of £100 to top the Education Fund up to £500. Seconded by Les Boyce (Librarian); unanimously approved.
- b) Charlotte Boyce proposed a transfer of £222.61 to top the Library Fund up to £400. Seconded by Les Boyce; unanimously approved.
- c) Charlotte Boyce outlined a proposal to support the Devon Young Ringers team to attend the 2024 Ringing World National Youth Contest in London and proposed an additional budget of £852.75, seconded by Les Boyce; unanimously approved.
- d) Charlotte Boyce proposed that a donation of £1,485.40 should be made to support the work of the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund, seconded by Les Boyce; unanimously approved. Charlotte Boyce also noted the proceeds of sales of the Ringing World calendar amounting to £1,065 would be passed on to support the work of the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund.
- e) Charlotte Boyce explained that as the Central Council is meeting in Devon this year no expenses are expected to enable our Representatives to attend.
- f) Charlotte Boyce presented her forecasts relating to future expenditure and reserves at various levels of annual subscription. After a short discussion Rodney Horder (Mid Devon branch Chairman) proposed a subscription increase to £12, seconded by Ian Smith (Vice President); unanimously approved. This recommendation will be taken forward to the Guild AGM for endorsement.
- g) Charlotte Boyce advised there is currently a backlog of peals to be written into the Guild peal book and that as insufficient space is left, a new peal book will need to be sourced. Mike Mears (Peal Secretary) is looking at options for the hard copy recording of peals in the future and was asked to make a proposal to a future meeting. In the meantime we should plan for meeting the cost of that proposal and Charlotte proposed the peal fee should be increased to £1 per ringer, seconded by Martin Mansley; unanimously approved.

CO24/9

Reports for 2023

- a. Education Officer: Sue King 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. John Martin noted that several versions of the report had been prepared and circulated and suggested that to avoid repeated re-working the Quarter Peal Secretary consider adopting a policy of including only those quarter peals which are assigned to the Guild when submitted to BellBoard. In his absence Tim Bayton asked that James should consider this suggestion and document any revisions to the policy.
- 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.
- q. Recruitment and Retention workgroup: A report was circulated prior to the meeting and members were invited to make observations.
- r. 150th anniversary workgroup: A report was circulated prior to the meeting and members were invited to make observations.

- CO24/10 Proposals for new Vice-Presidents: Prior to the meeting proposals had been circulated that Leslie Boyce (p: Richard Shere, s:Matthew Weighell), Colin Kneebone (p: George Mudge, s:Geoff Hill) and Mary Mears (p: Ian Avery, s:Ian Smith) be nominated as Vice-Presidents; unanimously approved.
- CO24/11 Vacant Guild posts: Tim Bayton advised that a DCBRF Trustee is being sought to replace Mary Mears. The current Trustees would welcome expressions of interest particularly from those who have some knowledge of bell installations.
- Tim also advised we are looking for some assistance with administering the new membership system and asked that anyone who may wish to become involved, either as a Membership Secretary or on an ad-hoc basis should contact John Martin for a discussion.
- CO24/12 Central Council – Devon 2024: Tim Bayton explained that regular planning meetings were taking place with the Central Council Executive and outlined the plans for the weekend. He advised that a call for volunteers would be made and asked anyone who might be interested in acting as a volunteer coordinator to contact him.
- CO24/13 Arrangements for 2024 Guild Festival and AGM – 22 June (South West Branch): Preliminary plans had been circulated prior to the meeting for this year's AGM and Trevor Vercoe (SW branch Secretary) invited comments.
- CO24/14 Guild Striking Competitions – 19 October 2024 (East Devon Branch): Preliminary information had been circulated in advance of the meeting. After a short discussion Plain Bob Major and Duffield Major were proposed (p: Janet Deem, s: Charlotte Boyce) as the set methods for the 8 bell inter-Branch competition; unanimously approved. It was also suggested that a scratch team ringing Devonshire Surprise Major should be permitted to ring on this occasion.
- CO24/15 Fund Raising for DCBRF : Ringing Festival: Tim Bayton encouraged participation from towers in this year's fund raising festival.
- CO24/17 Date of next meetings: Saturday 22nd June 2024 and 18th January 2025.
- CO24/18 AOB:

- (a) Tim Bayton reported a suggestion from Michael Cannon that the Guild may wish to attend the Brixham Steam Fair as an outreach event. Anyone interested was asked to contact Michael Cannon directly.
- (b) Janet Deem announced the South West regional striking contest would take place at Withycombe Raleigh on Saturday 12th October and asked for volunteers.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.55pm.

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Tim Bayton (President)

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Date