



GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Held at Newton St Cyres Village Hall on Saturday 18th January 2025

- CO25/1 Tim Bayon (President) opened the meeting at 2.15pm with a prayer, welcomed all committee members and reviewed the range of activities that took place during our anniversary year. He proposed a vote of thanks to those who had prepared refreshments, including sandwiches, cakes and scones. Tim thanked all the officers who had prepared reports for consideration at the meeting, those who had worked hard to make our anniversary year a success and announced the Rt Revd Dr Michael Harrison (Bishop of Exeter) had agreed to be our patron. There were 31 members present.
- CO25/2 Apologies for absence were received from Anne Bailey, John Foster, Rodney Horder, Sylvia Johns, Richard Johnson, Nicola Jones, Rowena Mansley, Pauline McKenzie, Mary Mears, Lucy Neal, Judith Reynolds, Don Roberts, Patricia Slade, Clare Stagg, John Steere, Fergus Stracey, Trevor Vercoe, Lester Yeo.
- CO25/3 Losses by death: Don Lawson (Ilfracombe), David Robertson (Teignmouth), Steve Taylor (Bratton Fleming), Gerard Duddridge (Exeter, St Thomas), John Body (Unattached), John Foulson (Topsham), Brian Stone (Bampton). A short period of silence was observed to remember them.
- CO25/4 Minutes of the January and October 2024 meetings The draft minutes previously circulated were unanimously approved and signed as a true record. (p: Martin Mansley, s: Michael Mears).
- CO25/5 Matters arising from the minutes: None.
- CO25/6 Trustees' report for the year 2024: Tim Bayton provided background information explaining the reasons for circulating a draft version of this new report and invited comments or questions.
- CO25/7 Presentation of accounts for the year 2024: 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 and noted an increase in the number of members and affiliated towers.
- Charlotte Boyce explained that guidance provided by the Charity Commission and received from our Independent Examiner indicated our accounts should in future be prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis, and the 2024 accounts had been drawn up using this approach.
- Charlotte Boyce reported a busy year and thanked Lester Yeo (Vice President) for his help in identifying a new Independent Examiner, Lester and Leslie Boyce (Librarian) for their work on the revised Guild history, Nicola Jones (Publicity Officer) with her help in co-ordinating orders for anniversary clothing and all involved with making arrangements for the anniversary dinner.

Ian Campbell (RRD Editor) asked whether the accounts included payment platform charges; this was confirmed by Charlotte Boyce.

CO25/8

Financial proposals:

- a) Charlotte Boyce proposed a transfer of £ 40.01 to top the Education Fund up to £500, seconded by Janet Deem (DCBRF); unanimously approved.
- b) Charlotte Boyce proposed a transfer of £ 279.09 to top the Library Fund up to £400, seconded by Michael Cannon; unanimously approved.
- c) Charlotte Boyce outlined a proposal to support the Devon Young Ringers team to attend the 2025 Ringing World National Youth Contest in Birmingham and proposed an additional budget of £1,200, seconded by Janet Deem; unanimously approved.
- d) Charlotte Boyce proposed that a donation of £2,000 should be made to support the work of the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund, seconded by Kate Wills (NNW branch Representative); unanimously approved.
- e) Charlotte Boyce reported a proposal had been received from John Foster (Report Editor) to produce an enhanced report for 2024. Alena Wardle (CC Representative) queried whether the information for the report had not already been recorded elsewhere. After a short discussion Tim Bayton proposed that ringing performances assigned to the BellBoard anniversary event should be printed and bound as a historical record, seconded by Janet Deem; unanimously approved.

Martin Mansley proposed that a maximum budget of £400 should be set aside for printing and binding the BellBoard event performances, seconded by Roger King (Aylesbeare Deanery Representative); unanimously approved.

- f) Charlotte Boyce presented forecasts relating to future expenditure and noted the likelihood that the Central Council subscription will increase to £1 per member in 2026. After a short discussion about the level of funds currently held by branches, Janet Deem proposed a subscription increase to £13, seconded by Margot le Vesconte (Aylesbeare Deanery Secretary); this proposal was rejected.

Tim Bayton then proposed the annual subscription should rise to £12.50, seconded by Matthew Hilling (Webmaster); unanimously approved.

This recommendation will be taken forward to the Guild AGM for endorsement.

- g) Charlotte Boyce noted this year's Central Council meeting will take place in Sheffield and that a budget would be needed to enable our Representatives to attend. Nigel Birt (Mid Devon Secretary) proposed a budget of £900, seconded by Les Boyce; unanimously approved.
- h) Charlotte Boyce proposed the peal fee should remain at £1 per ringer, seconded by Richard Shere (North East Representative); unanimously approved.

CO25/9

Fundraising for DCBRF

Tim Bayton noted the amount raised for DCBRF during the annual fundraising event has been declining over the past few years and advised the event has been removed from this year's events list. Tim suggested each branch consider arranging other fundraising events. After a break for refreshments, we heard some suggestions including externally sponsored performances, tower tours in conjunction with Bell Sunday and staging a concert,

CO25/10 Reports for 2024

Draft reports had been circulated prior to the meeting, the majority of which were accepted without comment or observation.

- a. Safeguarding Officer: Tim Bayton reminded all members of the advice to complete the Church of England Basic Awareness course. This course is available as an online resource and takes approximately one hour to complete. Rowena Mansley (Safeguarding Officer) to be asked to write a short piece for circulation to members and inclusion in a future edition of Ringing Round Devon.
- b. Quarter Peal Secretary: Some concerns were expressed about the draft report and after a discussion it was agreed James Kirkcaldy should be invited to prepare a revised version using the following criteria:
 - All quarter peals rung in Devon to be included
 - All conductor names to be left out
 - Include quarter peals rung outside Devon which are accredited to GDR
 - Include footnotes and significant milestones only for Guild members
- c. Webmaster: Tim Bayton encouraged branch Secretaries to include events on the Guild website calendar

CO25/11 Proposals for new Vice-Presidents: None received.

CO25/12 Vacant Guild posts: No notifications received.

CO25/13 Arrangements for 2025 Guild Festival and AGM – 21st June (Mid Devon Branch): Preliminary plans had been circulated prior to the meeting for this year's AGM and Nigel Birt invited comments. Tim Bayton informed the meeting that our Patron, the Rt Rev Dr Mike Harrison, Bishop of Exeter, had been invited to the service, but that he would be unavailable on 21 June.

CO25/14 Guild Striking Competitions – 18th October 2025 (North East Branch): Preliminary information had been circulated in advance of the meeting along with draft revisions to the rules for each competition. After a lengthy discussion, Tim Bayton agreed to review and produce a further draft, taking the views expressed by Committee members into account.

Middlesex Bob Triples and Stedman Triples were proposed as the set methods for the 8-bell inter-Branch competition, seconded by Martin Mansley; this proposal was rejected.

Subsequently Grandsire Triples and Stedman Triples were proposed by Janet Deem, seconded by Neil Deem; unanimously approved.

CO25/15 Date of next meetings: Saturday 21st June 2025 and 17th January 2026.

CO25/16 AOB:

- (a) Alena Wardle reported that a Devon Scouts event would be held at Bicton College and suggested the Guild may wish to support it. Alena and Harry Andrews (Central Council Representative) were asked to find out more.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.50pm.

.....

Tim Bayton (President)

.....

Date