

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held in the Troyte Community Hall, Huntsham on Saturday 23rd June 2007

- A07/1 Lester Yeo (President) opened the meeting with a welcome to the 65 resident members, one NRLM and one visitor who signed the register of attendance. He thanked everyone involved in the preparations for the day and the Bishop of Crediton for preaching at the Festival Eucharist, and reminded those present of the words of the Peace in the forthcoming deliberations.
- A07/2 Apologies for absence were received from Marion Baker, Derek Ballard, Tim Bayton, Richard Coley, Derek Hawkins, Mo Hawkins, Mariella Mallett, Norman Mallett, George Mudge, Tony Osborne, Mike Rose, John Steere and Meg Way.
- A07/3 Losses by death since the last AGM: Hilda Boobier (vice-president), Doreen Mudge (Tavistock), Bill Myers (vice-president) and Ron Payne (Littleham).
- A07/4 Minutes of the 2006 meeting were signed as a correct record (p: Leslie Boyce, s: Don Roberts)
- A07/5 Matters arising from the Minutes: none
- A07/6 Election of new members: Richard and Charlotte Partridge of St Marychurch (p: Martin Mansley, s: Don Roberts)
- A07/7 Officers' reports: these were received as printed in the annual report (p: James Clarke, s: Martin Mansley)
- A07/8 Adoption of accounts: as published in the annual report and examined by Saxby & Sinden. These were accepted by the meeting without further comment (p: James Clarke, s: Mike Mears). With a surplus of £1500 for the year in the general fund, Sue Sawyer proposed (s: Don Roberts) that £1000 should be forwarded to the Bell Restoration Fund. Agreed nem. con.
- A07/9 Election of Officers:
- a) President: Lester Yeo (p: Michael Mears, s: Richard Shere)
 - b) Master: Wendy Campbell (p: Martin Mansley, s: Pauline Champion)
 - c) Secretary: Wendy Campbell received gifts in appreciation of eleven years in office before standing down. There was no-one present at the meeting willing to take over the role, although news had just been received of a member indicating they might come forward. In their absence it was agreed that Wendy should continue in a caretaker role and the potential volunteer given more details to help them decide.
 - d) Treasurer: Sue Sawyer (p: Matthew Hilling, s: Leslie Boyce)
 - e) Librarian: Leslie Boyce (p: John Scott, s: Sheila Scofield). John Scott was thanked for his remarkable service as librarian since 1955.
 - f) Bells and Belfries Advisors: James Clarke (p: Leslie Boyce, s: Sheila Scofield) and John Scott (p: Mike Mears, s: Sheila Scofield)
 - g) Report Secretary: John Foster (p: Ian Campbell, s: Tim King). Wendy Campbell was thanked for her fourteen years in office.
 - h) Publicity Officer: Roger King (p: Ian Smith, s: Richard Shere)
 - i) Peal Secretary: Michael Mears (p: Don Roberts; s: Roger King)
 - j) Quarter Peal Secretary: Tim Bayton (p: Derek Hawkins, s: Lynne Hughes)
 - k) Education Officer: Tim King (p: Lynette Costello, s: Russell Chamberlain)
- A07/10 Election of DCBRF Trustees: Mary Mears, John Scott and Ian Smith (p: Geoff Hill, s: Martin Mansley)
- A07/11 Election of Central Council reps for 2008-2010: Leslie Boyce (p: Alan Edwards, s: Jean Parkinson), James Clarke (p: John Scott, s: Sheila Scofield), Martin Mansley (p: Russell Chamberlain, s: Ian Avery) and Don Roberts (p: Joan Clarke, s: Lynne Hughes)
- A07/12 Election of Devon Ringers' Council reps for 2008-2010: Ian Avery (p: Pauline Champion, s: Matthew Hilling), Lynne Hughes (p: Don Roberts, s: Mary Mack), Tim King (p: Martin Mansley, s: Russell Chamberlain), Martin Mansley (p: James Clarke, s: Don Roberts) and Lester Yeo (p: Joan Clarke, s: John Hill). Martin Mansley commended the DRC as playing a vital role in co-operation between Guild and Association.
- A07/13 Appointment of Independent Examiner: Alan Sinden of Saxby and Sinden offered his resignation because of a conflict of interests. Lester Yeo had made initial contact with Ruth Rockey, a ringer from South Tawton, who was willing to carry out the work. The meeting accepted the recommendation without demur, Sue Sawyer to follow it through.
- A07/14 Proposal for appointment of Master-elect: from the General Committee that the post of Master-elect should be put in place. Currently people were reluctant to accept election as Guild Master from the floor of the AGM each year to take office immediately, and this would allow time to plan their movements and serve twelve months hence. John Scott queried whether this would require a rule change; Lester Yeo agreed that

this was quite probable but since it was still an election from the floor, it would fulfil the spirit of the post. After some discussion, the meeting voted by a show of hands in favour of the proposal being trialled for two years, during which time the wording of a rule change could be properly formulated to take into account the possibility of the Master-elect failing to take up the Mastership for any reason. Lester then announced that he would receive nominations for the post under AOB.

- A07/15 Travel expenses for CC representatives: a suggestion from the 2006 AGM that reps should be paid a lump sum instead of mileage was referred to the General Committee; however, the reps preferred to keep with the mileage rate, and it was also easier for the Treasurer to budget each year. A rate of 20p per mile was proposed by Mary Mears (s: Roger King) and accepted by the meeting.
- A07/16 Report from the Central Council meeting at Cheltenham: James Clarke reported on the open meeting where a decision was taken to establish a Ringing Foundation to raise money for, and the profile of, ringing recruitment and training. A number of qualified and interested persons were elected to serve as trustees, not all of them members of Council. It is intended that the Foundation will act independently of the Council. Other motions: a proposal to combine the Redundant Bells Committee with the Bell Restoration Committee, which was lost. Also lost was a proposal to base Central Council's affiliation fees on each society's actual membership, rather than the current system of basing it on numbers of representatives. A proposal to formalise quarter peal ringing so that methods (on 7 or more bells) could be named by ringers of quarter peals, was also lost. Currently these are put on an informal list in the hope that peal ringers will honour the name when the method is rung to a peal. It was felt generally that to formalise this arrangement would mean defining the nature of a quarter peal and how it is rung, and that this was not necessarily what ringers wanted. David Pope drew the meeting's attention to an announcement at the CC meeting, to the effect that the Troyte Ringing Centre had won this year's 'Founders' prize for outstanding achievements and developments during the past year.
- A07/17 Future of the Frank Mack garage ring of bells: Mary Mack had made an offer of the garage ring to the Guild and this was received by the meeting with much interest and appreciation. Ian Avery was appointed as steward (p: Sue Sawyer, s: Lynne Hughes) and he would hang the bells in his garage for ringing, maintain them in good order and oversee their loan to interested parties for events when required. On behalf of the Guild Lester expressed to Mary his pleasure that the bells would stay in Devon and be available to all.
- A07/18 Award of novice striking competition trophy: the salver had now been engraved with a suitable inscription in memory of John Longridge, and was presented to Kate and Oliver Tucker on behalf of Exeter St Mark, the winners of the first competition.
- A07/19 Proposal for tower affiliation card: Lester Yeo suggested that the former practice of issuing an affiliation card be revived, and he circulated to those present an updated and informative sample. The suggestion was well received, with discussion taking place on the content and format and whether two different designs were required, one as a porch card and another for the belfry. It was decided to trial the idea for a year and ask for comments from the membership.
- A07/20 Fund raising and quarter peal week: to be held from Saturday 27th October to Sunday 4th November inclusive, Tim Bayton to collate the information for publication in *The Ringing World*.
- A07/21 Striking competitions: to be held on Saturday 20th October in the Mid Devon Branch: 6-bell at East Ogwell, 8-bell at Wolborough (choice of Grandsire Triples or Hereward Bob Triples) and novice 6-bell at Stokeinteignhead.
- A07/22 2008 Festival: to be held in the Exeter Branch on Saturday 21st June.
- A07/23 Any other business: Russell Chamberlain was elected as Master-elect, to become Master for the year 2008-9 (p: Lester Yeo, s: Martin Mansley).

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Held in the Troyte Community Hall, Huntsham on Saturday 23rd June 2007

The President, Lester Yeo, opened the meeting that followed the Annual General Meeting of the Guild. It was agreed that all business should be deferred to the next meeting of the General Committee on Saturday 19th January 2008 in Exeter (p: Ian Campbell, s: Tim King).