

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at St Marks Church, Exeter on Saturday 21st June 2008

- A08/1 Lester Yeo (President) opened the meeting with a welcome to the 70 resident members, one NRLM and one visitor who signed the register of attendance. He thanked everyone who had come from far and wide and those involved in the preparations for the day.
- A08/2 Apologies for absence were received from Roger King (Publicity Officer), John Foster (Report Secretary), George Mudge (VP), Clare Stagg (SW) Gill Furse (Mid), Alan Furse (Mid), Fiona Rock-Evans (Mid), Nigel Birt (Mid). Lester Yeo mentioned that Heather Shorten (NNW) was in hospital at present and that our thoughts were with her and her husband Mike.
- A08/3 Losses by death since the last AGM: John Scott (Vice President), Bill Ware (Vice President), Barbara Dodd (Teignmouth), Ena Ford (Thorverton), Valerie Oates (Heavitree), David Tuppeney (Kilmington), John Butler (Chudleigh).
- A08/4 Minutes of the 2007 meeting were signed as a correct record (p: Wendy Campbell, s: Les Boyce)
- A08/5 Matters arising from the Minutes:
- Mary Mack's offer of the Garage Ring had been accepted. Ian Avery was acting as steward and Lester wanted to record our gratitude to Ian for looking after the bells, having virtually re-built the inside of his garage in order to house them.
 - Trial of the Tower Affiliation cards. 75 cards had been distributed and were on display in towers and some church porches. Martin Mansley proposed that we continue with the card, s: Tim King, carried nem con. The question was raised as to whether the cards needed to be laminated as they could then be recycled more easily as a new one would be produced each year.
- A08/6 Election of new members: Donald Carter (unattached Exe) p: John Langabeer, s: Hilary Beresford, Amy Gill and Gareth Gill (Exeter St Marks) p: Matthew Hilling, s: Janet Coles, Richard Manley, Jonathen Bellamy and Jack Gorton (Exeter St Thomas) p: Gerard Dudderidge s: Andrew Digby.
- A08/7 Officers' reports: these were received as printed in the annual report (p: Don Roberts, s: Norman Mallett)
- A08/8 Adoption of accounts: as published in the annual report and examined by Ruth Rockey. These were accepted by the meeting without further comment (p: Tim Bayton, s: Lynne Hughes). With a surplus of £1055 for the year in the general fund, Sue Sawyer proposed (s: Martin Mansley) that £1000 should be forwarded to the Bell Restoration Fund. Carried nem. con.
- A08/9 Election of Officers:
Currently a 2 year trial is running to propose a master elect. Last year it was proposed and agreed and everyone was in favour of continuing with this trial. Wendy Campbell was thanked for her year as Master.
- Master 2008/09: Russell Chamberlain (proposed and seconded last year, carried nem. con.)
 - President: Lester Yeo (p: Lynne Hughes, s: Les Boyce)
 - Master Elect 2009/2010: John Steere (p: Yvonne Porter, s: Don Roberts)
 - Vice Presidents: John Steere (SW), Robert Perry (Ayles), Roy Berry (Ayles), Bill Harvey (Ayles), John Langabeer (Ayles), John Quick (Ayles), Charlie Taylor (N/NW), John Bowden (N/NW), Jim Rich (N/NW), Wendy Campbell (Exe), Richard Bowden (unattached), Fergus Stracey (SW), Derek Hawkins (Exe), (en bloc p: Don Roberts, s: Les Boyce) agreed nem. con
 - Secretary: Janet Coles (p: Wendy Campbell, s: Joan Clarke)
 - Treasurer: Sue Sawyer (p: Peter Bill s: James Clarke)
 - Librarian: Leslie Boyce (p: Mike Hatchett s: Richard Shere)
 - Bells and Belfries Advisors: James Clarke and Ian Smith (p: Martin Mansley, s: John Langabeer)
 - Report Secretary: John Foster (p: Lynne Hughes s: Russell Chamberlain).
 - Publicity Officer: Roger King (p: Les Boyce s: Lynne Hughes)
 - Peal Secretary: Michael Mears (p: Norman Mallett, s: Tim Bayton)
 - Quarter Peal Secretary: Tim Bayton (p: Don Roberts s: Janet Coles)
 - Education Officer: Tim King (p: John Langabeer s: Lynette Costello)
- A08/10 Election of DCBRF Trustees: Mary Mears, Ian Campbell and Ian Smith (p: Geoff Hill s: Martin Mansley)

- A08/11 Appointment of Independent Examiner: Ruth Rockey (p: John Langabeer, s: Sheila Scofield)
- A08/12 Travel expenses for CC representatives: a suggestion was raised at the committee meeting in January to raise this again this year due to ever increasing fuel costs. The current reps felt that 25p per mile would adequately cover the costs for this year. (p: Mary Mears, s: Matthew Hilling) carried nem. con.
- A08/13 Report from the Central Council meeting at Newcastle: Newcastle gave the CC a warm welcome and the AGM itself was relaxed and the seeds of reform were in the air. A very well presented and argued motion to make election to committees more open and speed up the business on the first meeting of the triennium was passed almost unopposed. In future 1/3 of each committee will retire each year. **Sports fund grants**: These have been available for bell installations in the past but are to be withdrawn from bells from next year. Anyone hoping to make a claim on that fund needs to work fairly quickly as all applications must be in by April 2009. **Insurance**: The CC has negotiated a very good deal with EIO for insurance for Guilds but take-up has not been very good. The CC would like to encourage Guilds and associations to use the service or the good deal may get withdrawn. Perhaps we need to re-visit insurance as a Guild and check these rates. **Dove database**: The online "Dove" is now a phenomenal resource for ringers. The Tower Stewardship Committee highlighted that emergency services prefer to have a Post Code when answering a call. Tower Captains should take note but it would be useful for organisers of outings to be prepared – better to be safe than sorry. **The Ringing World** is very keen to promote Tower copies as a means of boosting circulation. The Guild is always well represented at the CC and has sent a full compliment of members for many years. This year we congratulate Leslie Boyce on election to the Ringing Centres committee and James Clarke on not only being re-elected to Towers and Belfries but on becoming its chairman.
- A08/14 Proposed Guild Review: Lester Yeo has proposed that we carry out a review of the workings of the Guild as it was felt that currently it was not relevant to all ringers and may not fulfil its role as we would all like it to. It is hoped that a review will help the Guild to meet its aims for the future. Working parties have been set up and will meet to propose changes which will form a strategic document to be brought before the next AGM. Not everyone can be on the working parties but we welcomed ideas from everyone within the Guild which should be forwarded to Janet who will then pass on to the relevant group. We need to look at it as a chance to think what we would like if we were setting up the Guild today.
- A08/15 Guild Library – an update: John Scott's bequest was safely installed with Les Boyce waiting with the rest of the library to find a new home. John Martin has given bound copies of the RW to the library from 1970 – mid 1990's. The search for new premises was continuing, one local PCC had turned down our application, and two other options that had been looked at were not suitable. Les would like us all to see if there are any unused rooms in any of our Guild churches which could be put to use. We have received formal notice to clear Exeter University of our Guild items. Les has written to all the branches to find out how they think the library should be used and will ask the Committee in January to make his proposal policy. Further articles from the archive material within the library will be published in RRD. Les had 2 proposals to put before the AGM
- (a) Acquire 60 meters of library shelving, which is extremely versatile for £250. Les will buy this back if it is not suitable when a new home for the library is found, (p: Les Boyce, s: Mike Hatchett)
 - (b) Immediate repairs were required on some of the books, he requested a budget of £250 for the first year for binding and acquisitions, lowering to £100 per year after that, (p: Les Boyce s: Pauline Champion). Both proposals carried nem. con.
- A08/16 Proposed Budget for Printing RRD: Roger had requested this be brought before the AGM during the committee meeting in January. The cost of printing had risen as the newsletter was now being printed professionally rather than photocopied. Sue Sawyer proposed £350 net would be sufficient for printing and circulation, s: Les Boyce, carried nem. con.
- A08/17 Fund raising and quarter peal week: to be held from Friday 24th October to Sunday 2nd November inclusive, Tim Bayton to collate the information for publication in *The Ringing World*.
- A08/18 Striking competitions: to be held on Saturday 18th October in the North/North West branch: 6-bell at Abbotsham, 8-bell at Appledore (choice of Little Bob Major or Cambridge Surprise Major) and novice 6-bell at Littleham.
- A08/19 2008 Festival: to be held in the South West Branch, Saturday 13th June.
- A08/23 Any other business:
- (a) All parishes and bell ringers have been informed that a request has been made to have the bells rung on Sunday 24 August at 3.45 pm as the Olympic flag is passed from China to Britain in readiness for London 2012.
 - (b) 12 bell striking competition at Crediton in 2010 – we have not received any formal request to help with this but the Guild will inform Howard Egglestone that we will support where required.

- (c) It was suggested that all towers should have a visible record of their location, including grid references and post codes in case of emergency which would be particularly useful for visiting ringers. This may be able to be incorporated on the Tower Affiliation Card.

The meeting was closed at 2.55 pm.

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Held at St Marks Church, Exeter on Saturday 21st June 2008

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 17th January in Exeter (p: Matthew Hilling, s: Janet Coles).