

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held Lamerton Community Centre, on Saturday 13th June 2009

- A09/1 Lester Yeo (President) opened the meeting with a welcome to the 50 resident members 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.
- A09/2 Apologies for absence were received from Wendy Campbell (VP), Ian Campbell (Heavitree), Peter Bill (Exeter Cathedral), Mary Mack (VP), Brian Horrell (Withycombe Raleigh), James & Joan Clarke (N/NW), Robert Perry (VP), Rob Franklin (Pinhoe), Heather Somerwill (Pinhoe), John Langabeer (VP), Dennis & Mary Beresford (N/NW), The Waterson Family (N/NW), Matt Hilling (Exeter, St Marks), Andrew Digby (Newton St Cyres), Robert Brown (unattached), Roy Berry (VP), John Foster (Report Secretary), John Mitchelmore (SW), Louise James (N/NW), Martin Dodd (Teignmouth).
- A09/3 Losses by death since the last AGM: Ann Harris (Sidmouth), Geoff Blackmore (Feniton), Deanne Coward (St Marychurch), Denis Thompson (Okehampton)
- A09/4 Minutes of the 2008 meeting: were signed as a correct record (p: Norman Mallett, s: Les Boyce)
- A09/5 Matters arising from the Minutes: there were no matters arising from the minutes.
- A09/6 Election of new members: there were no new members elected.
- A09/7 Officers' reports: these were received as printed in the annual report (p: Martin Mansley, s: Don Roberts)
- A09/8 Adoption of accounts: as published in the annual report and examined by Ruth Rockey. Lynne Hughes pointed out that the Mid Devon branch had donated £50 to the DCBRF but this was not showing in the accounts. Sue Sawyer explained that this had been sent direct to the bell restoration fund and had not gone through the Guild so would therefore not show in the Guild accounts. The accounts were then accepted by the meeting. (p: Tim Bayton, s: Lynne Hughes). With a surplus of £1270 for the year in the general fund, Sue Sawyer proposed (s: Pauline Champion) that £1000 should be forwarded to the Bell Restoration Fund. Carried nem. con. Lester then thanked Sue and all the Branch and Guild officers for all their hard work.
- A09/9 Change of subscription and affiliation fee: The subscription has been £5 for the past 8 years and Sue Sawyer proposed (s: Lynne Hughes) that they should be increased to £6.00 with concessions and the tower affiliation fee rising to £3.00. It was felt this was a good idea as any surplus made was always forwarded to the DCBRF. The question of the affiliation fee no longer being in line with the subscription was raised but it was agreed to discuss it further alongside the Guild Review (item 15 on the agenda) as this would involve a rule change if adopted. The proposal to raise the fees as above was carried nem con.
- A09/10 Election of Officers: Russell Chamberlain was thanked for all he had done during his year as Guild Ringing Master he then presented John Steere with the Masters insignia. John took the chair to take nominations for President.
- a) Master 2009/10: John Steere (proposed and seconded last year, carried nem. con.)
 - b) President: Lester Yeo (p: Derek Hawkins, S: Les Boyce)
 - c) Master Elect 2010/2011: Maureen Hawkins (p: Nigel Birt, s: Wendy Gill)
 - d) Vice Presidents: Michael Mears (p: Norman Mallett, s: Ian Avery) carried nem con. Alan Edwards (P: North East Branch) carried nem con.
 - e) Secretary: Janet Coles (p: Don Roberts, s: Derek Ballard)
 - f) Treasurer: Sue Sawyer (p: Nigel Birt s: Tim Bayton)
 - g) Librarian: Leslie Boyce (p: Martin Mansley, s; Sheila Scofield)
 - h) Bells and Belfries Advisors: James Clarke and Ian Smith (p: Janet Coles, s: Roger King)
 - i) Report Secretary: John Foster (p: Martin Mansley, s: Maureen Hawkins).
 - j) Publicity Officer: Roger King (p: Tim Bayton, s: John Steere)
 - k) Peal Secretary: Michael Mears (p: Pauline Champion, s: Don Roberts)
 - l) Quarter Peal Secretary: Tim Bayton (p: Don Roberts, s: Sheila Scofield)
 - m) Education Officer: Lynne Hughes (p: Janet Coles, s: Roger King)
- Lester thanked Tim King for his time in office as Education Officer.
- A08/11 Election of DCBRF Trustees: Mary Mears, Ian Campbell and Ian Smith (p: Martin Mansley, s: John Hill)

- A09/12 Appointment of Independent Examiner: Ruth Rockey (p: Sue Sawyer, s: Martin Mansley)
- A09/13 Travel expenses for CC representatives: The reps felt that the current rate of 25p per mile would adequately cover the costs for this year.
- A09/14 Report from the Central Council meeting at Worcester: The AGM was held in Worcester on 25 May 2009. Ian Oram retired as General Secretary and was thanked for his outstanding contribution to the work of the Council. The new secretary is Mary Bone. Four motions were put to the meeting. The first 3 proved to be non contentious and were passed unanimously. One was to change the terms and conditions of the Peal Compositions Committee to provide compositions of other lengths besides those of peals. The Biographies Committee are now empowered to maintain an account of the work and general ringing activities of past and present ringers and not restricting its work to those who were or are council members. The fourth motion proved controversial and sparked a lively debate. It sought to make the appointment of Honorary Members more democratic. The motion fell on the grounds that it did not receive the necessary 2/3rds majority of those voting. An excellent presentation was given by Chis Mew on the state of legislation on Child Protection. He clarified the position of bell ringers and teachers of children and vulnerable adults citing the bodies responsible for appointment and vetting such teachers. It became clear that our Guild will have to appoint a Child Protection Officer although local responsibility remains with the PCC's. Plans are in hand for the celebration of the centenary of the Ringing World. The Dove Database stewards reported that 4 changes a day are made to the database for which they were grateful, but it was hard work. The publication of another edition of Dove in hardback is being considered. The 2010 meeting will be held in Derby.

Tim Bayton asked if we should elect a Child Protection Officer at this meeting. It was agreed to discuss it at the Committee Meeting in January 2010 as it may involve a rule change. Fergus Stracey informed the meeting that an issue he had with a minor in Plymouth was dealt with through the Diocesan Child Protection Officer. The Guild currently operates through the Diocese for such matters. Changes are coming in which we will need to be aware of including the creation of a new body the ISA.

- A09/15 Guild Review: The Working Parties have now all submitted their findings and a final draft report had been issued to the membership in order to discuss the Review at this meeting. Lester requested general comments first and then to look at each groups recommendations.

General Comments

- (a) Mike Brady asked why Tavistock wasn't included as a ringing centre. We were informed that the facility was still there, however, it has been established that the tower no longer promoted itself as a Ringing Centre.
- (b) John Hill queried why there was no mention of the recruitment of lapsed ringers. The members of the working party present confirmed this had not been discussed and felt it was oversight.
- (c) Tim Bayton was still concerned about setting up a database of people willing to help with training. He felt that everyone would say they were willing to help despite ability. The members of the working party explained that it was unlikely that would be the case and that we wanted to ensure people of all abilities were on the list.

Group A (Recruitment & Publicity)

- (a) Les Boyce pointed out that some of the ideas were already being dealt with at a national level by the Ringing Foundation and it may be worth finding what they were doing so as not to duplicate anything.
- (b) Martin Mansley asked how we were going to put it all into place. This section would come under the remit of the Publicity Officer but would probably be too much for one person. The Guild Committee will need to put together an action plan.
- (c) Mike Brady asked when we would look to see if the review had been effective, it was agreed this would be carefully monitored with a major review within 2 years.
- (d) A draft of the proposed Guild Information Pack was circulated to those present, it was agreed that one person should be responsible for keeping the contents up to date.
- (e) Roger King had received a suggestion for promoting bell ringing in all the Libraries in Devon, there are 32 of them and he was still trying to work out whether this would be a viable option or not.

Group B (Support & Development of Ringing Skills)

- (a) Lynne Hughes requested clarification on point 8, did the two or three ringing centres include the current two or did we mean finding more towers to become ringing centres. It was agreed that we required more to work alongside the existing towers.
- (b) Tim Bayton asked what the training programme will include, will it be individual days or a series of targeted sessions. It was explained that the programme would be made up depending on what the branch Education Officers felt their members required at any given time.

- (c) Russell Chamberlain asked why Training the Trainer was not mentioned. However, within the body of the working party's report it was one of the suggested courses that could be offered by the Education Group.

Group C (Bell Restoration & Tower Maintenance)

- (a) Mike Brady felt the recommendations were interesting and constructive but queried whether the questions raised for the group had been answered. Ian Smith replied that it had been difficult to polarise on just Guild towers and what was really required, but felt the final recommendations were what was needed at this time. It was suggested that perhaps the questions could be discussed by the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund as some of the issues raised were county wide and not just at Guild level.

Group D (Guild Administration)

- (a) Derek Ballard suggested that having a maximum term of office could cause problems if there was no suitable person to replace the outgoing officer.
- (b) Lester suggested that 10 years should be an absolute maximum for any senior office. John Hill suggested (tongue in cheek) that perhaps this should be extended to Tower Captains.

It was then suggested that the working parties meet again to discuss the above and to put together an action plan with a timetable to move the recommendations forward. This will be brought before the General Committee.

Lester thanked all those who had worked on the Review. He felt it was an excellent and far reaching report which was long overdue and agreed it was something that needed to be done on a more regular basis going forward. He then asked the members present to accept the recommendations. (P: Derek Ballard, S: Geoff Hill), 30 in favour with no objectors.

It was suggested that there is a conference set up for the working parties to get together to move this on perhaps followed by recommendation D4, the thank you event for Guild and Branch officers. Derek Ballard requested that the new Guild Folder be put together ASAP as he knew of a local tower which would very much benefit from its contents. Queries were raised about keeping it up to date. It was confirmed this would be done on a regular basis and that was why we were having a loose leaf file and not a booklet.

- A09/16 Guild Library: Les appealed to all ringers to let him know of any Devon ringers who died in service in WWI and WWII. There is a memorial book currently being put together and only a handful of Devon ringers are listed, he felt there were probably more. He would co-ordinate any responses. Les has received some ringing ephemera from Lester and would be happy to receive more of the same. He has received various requests for books from Devon ringers and beyond and was in the process of cataloguing John Scott's books. He is expecting a donation from Mary Mack soon as well. Les proposed a budget of £100 for acquisitions this year and asked for the £250 requested last year for restotation be rolled over to this year as this was not spent last year. S: Mike Hatchett, carried nem con. The search for a new home for the library continues.
- A09/17 Fund raising and quarter peal week: to be held from Friday 23rd October to Sunday 1st November inclusive, Tim Bayton to collate the information for publication in *The Ringing World*. He specifically asked for donations to be made payable to the Guild of Devonshire Ringers and not paid direct to the DCBRF as this forms part of our donation to the bell fund.
- A08/18 Striking competitions: to be held on Saturday 17th October in the Exeter branch: 6-bell at Exeter, St Marks (front or back 6), 8-bell at Heavitree (choice Plain Bob Triples or Stedman Triples) and novice 6-bell at Pinhoe (back 6).
- A08/19 2010 Festival: to be held in the N/NW Branch on Saturday 19th June 2010. Lester then proposed fixing the date for the meeting to the 3rd Saturday in June each year, s: Mike Mears, carried nem con.
- A08/20 Any other business:
- (a) Martin Mansley has proposed giving a trophy in memory of Bill Simmonds to the Guild for use in the Striking Competitions. He proposed splitting the 8 bell competition with this trophy being given to the team with the least faults ringing the easier method, s: Geoff Hill. He confirmed the trophy would be available for this year. Derek Ballard proposed that further discussion and reflection was required on this matter, s: Tim Bayton. The members present voted in favour of further discussion.
- (b) Norman Mallett commented on an excellent article written by Roger King which was in the Exeter Diocese magazine on Exeter Cathedral and its ringers. Roger commented that he always sent a copy of RRD to them, but after discussion with the editor of the magazine found that they could only deal with actual articles sent to them.

- (c) Lynne Hughes then stood up to explain that as she had just taken on as Education Officer she felt the rest of this year would be a transition period but hoped to put together 2-3 events before the year end. On 5 July she already has an event planned for Handbell Ringing at Mischa Thompson's house which she will now make a Guild Event. The Wolborough day was already planned for 11 July and would go ahead and she would also be holding a further Young Ringers event in the Autumn.

The meeting was closed at 4.23 pm.

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Held at Lamerton Community Centre on Saturday 13th June 2009

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 16th January 2010. (p: Alan Furse, s: Martin Mansley). Meeting closed at 4.27 pm.