

# GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

*Held at Crediton on Saturday 20th June 2015*

- A15/1 Lester Yeo (President) opened the meeting with a welcome to the 54 members present, noting the enjoyable sound of Crediton bells ringing for a wedding as the meeting began. He warmly thanked all those in the Exeter Branch involved in the organisation, particularly the Crediton ringers for providing lunch. He also thanked the Vicar of Holy Cross Crediton, Nigel Guthrie, for taking the service, and Ian Avery for playing the organ. Lester confirmed the meeting was quorate and led the members in an opening prayer.
- A15/2 Apologies for absence were received from: Roy Berry, Janet Coles, Neil Deem, Margot LeVesconte, Glenis Petrilli, Matt Pym, Sue Sturdy (Aylesbeare); Lisa Clarke, Richard Coley, Trevor Hitchcock, Roger Lovegrove (East); Michael Brady, Rob Franklin, Matthew Hilling (Exeter); Derek & Mo Hawkins, Martin Mansley, Fiona Rock-Evans (Mid-Devon); Dermot Elworthy, Mike & Pat Hatchett, Richard Johnston (North East); Bruce Hicks, Rachel & Stephen Taylor, David Willis (North/NorthWest); Donna Baker, Hellen Williams (South West); Norman Mallet (VP).
- A15/3 Losses by death since the last AGM: Bill Blake (Stoke Canon), Dennis Gilley (Plymouth Emmanuel), Jean Gordon (Galmpton), David Trist (Uffculme). Members stood in silence to remember them.
- A15/4 Minutes of the 2014 meeting were signed as a correct record (p: James Clarke, s: John Steere).
- A15/5 Matters arising from the minutes: none.
- A15/6 i) Election of new members: Sue Buckingham (Crediton) (p: Geoff Sparling, s: Wendy Campbell), Teresa Kendall (Crediton) (p: Lester Yeo, s: Mark Heritage), Richard Norman (Kilmington) (p: Roger Lovegrove, s: Brenda Coley).  
ii) Guild certificates: awarded to Billy Moore of the South West Branch.
- A15/7 Officers' Reports: These were received as printed in the annual report, and John Foster was thanked for producing the report. Lester Yeo noted that two Vice-Presidents (Alan Edwards and Derek Hawkins) had been accidentally omitted from this year's report.
- A15/8 Adoption of accounts: As published in the annual report and examined by Ruth Rockey. Adoption of the accounts was proposed by John Foster, seconded by Lynne Hughes and carried nem con. Lester Yeo proposed that the transfer of monies to the DCBRF and Education Fund should be postponed until Agenda item 14.
- A15/9 Subscription Review (rule 3.1): Sue Sawyer (Treasurer) proposed that the subscriptions for 2016 should remain unaltered at £6.00.
- A15/10 Election of Officers: Lester Yeo thanked all the Guild Officers for their hard work over the past year.  
a) Master 2015/16: Geoff Hill (p: Ian Campbell, s: Ian Smith). Anne Bailey then presented Geoff Hill with the Master's insignia, having thanked everyone for an amazing year in which she had met so many people and been made so welcome; she also wished Geoff Hill well in his year as Master. Geoff Hill paid personal tribute to Anne Bailey, before taking the chair to take nominations for President.  
b) President: Lester Yeo (p: Lynne Hughes, s: James Clarke). Lester Yeo informed the meeting that after ten years as President, and with his commitment to the Catholic priesthood, he would not be seeking re-election in 2016.  
c) Master Elect: Nigel Birt (p: John Foster, s: Mike Mears).  
d) Vice-President: Anne Bailey (p: Richard Coley, s: Lisa Clarke). She was elected nem con.  
e) Secretary: Clare Griffiths (p: Richard Johnston, s: Roger King). Lester Yeo confirmed that with increasing work commitments, Clare would not be seeking re-election in 2016.  
f) Treasurer: Sue Sawyer (p: Clare Griffiths, s: Ian Smith).  
g) Peal Secretary: Mike Mears (p: Robert Brown, s: Peter Bill).  
h) Quarter Peal Secretary: James Kirkcaldy (p: Charlotte Boyce, s: Tim Bayton).  
i) Education Officer: Tim Bayton (p: Lynne Hughes, s: James Kirkcaldy).  
j) Librarian: Leslie Boyce (p: Mike Tompsett, s: Robert Brown).  
k) Report Secretary: John Foster (p: Pauline Champion, s: Roger King).  
l) Bells and Belfries Advisors: Ian Campbell (p: Sue Sparling, s: Jenny Sparling), Ian Smith (p: Robert Brown, s: Andrew Digby).  
m) Publicity Officer: Rebekah Hartley (p: Ian Campbell, s: Lynne Hughes).  
n) Ringing Round Devon Editor: Ian Campbell (p: Sarah Chadburn, s: Rachel Taylor).  
o) Safeguarding Officer: Robert Brown (p: John Martin, s: Michael Mears).
- A15/11 Election of DCBRF Trustees (3): Ian Smith, Ian Campbell, Mary Mears (p: James Kirkcaldy, s: Fergus Stracey).
- A15/12 Appointment of Independent Examiner of Accounts: Ruth Rockey (p: Lester Yeo).

A15/13 Report from Central Council Meeting at Kingston upon Hull: Lynne Hughes presented her report on the attendance of the Guild representatives, describing the ringing and social events over the weekend, before the main business meeting held on the May Bank Holiday Monday. This had been fairly routine, taking in reports and elections to Committees, but a proposal to move the meeting to a smaller, two day conference in September was rejected. The precarious financial state and future of the Ringing World was also discussed.

Leslie Boyce then detailed more fully the follow up discussions on Change Ringing for the Future, which had been formulated into seven proposals, with feedback gauged across the regions. Most points were considered laudable and to be pursued; a new format for Central Council meetings; a new website for learners; a full census to survey the state of ringing; the development of leadership training; a new learner pack; and strengthening links with ART. One proposal proved less popular, that of regional clustering and cooperation. Within the South West region, one Association was strongly opposed to the idea; however, enhanced regional contact was generally felt to be worthwhile, and it was agreed to moved forwards in a more informal fashion.

A15/14 DenMisch Simulator: Ian Campbell spoke fully to the members about the DenMisch ring, a set of 10 Saxilby simulators donated by Mischa Thompson to the Guild. A new location for the bells had finally been found at Exeter Cathedral School, where, after extensive work, the bells had been installed in a smart and refurbished room. They provided an excellent opportunity for the existing school bellringing club, and for the Guild to develop valuable teaching opportunities, with the equipment still belonging to the Guild and available to be used at any time out of school hours. Ian praised the support of the Cathedral School, who had even provided a tea for the opening and blessing of the bells later in the afternoon. He also detailed the extra costs incurred by the school when installing the bells and subsequently insuring them. The installation costs totalled £1,089.65 plus £24.73 per annum for insurance. Ian Campbell suggested a donation from the Guild towards these costs would be appropriate.

Lester Yeo recorded the Guild's formal thanks to Mischa Thompson for her generous donation, and to Ian Campbell and all those involved who had helped to install them. He invited everyone to the official inauguration at Exeter Cathedral School at 4.30pm, where the Dean of Exeter Cathedral would bless the bells, and everyone could enjoy the opportunity to ring them.

Members then discussed financial proposals. The Founders' Company had already donated £200. Members wanted to see a management group set up, to formalise the Guild's loan of the bells to the school and to ensure there were sufficient funds in the future to maintain the bells. The Officers agreed to pursue this informally.

It was proposed by Richard Norman and seconded by James Kirkcaldy that £1,000 be donated from Guild funds to Exeter Cathedral School, to cover costs incurred during installation of the DenMisch bells, and the insurance of them. This was carried nem con.

Following financial advice from Sue Sawyer, James Kirkcaldy proposed and Nigel Birt seconded transferring £1,000 to the DCBRF; this was carried nem con.

Sue Sawyer had also received a donation of £100 to the Education Fund from the North East Branch.

A15/15 Guild Review – Assessment: Five years ago the Guild had conducted a review of activities, and Lester Yeo detailed how, late in 2014, members from the original working parties had met again to discuss the effective progress of the Review, and whether set targets had been met. It was felt that nearly all the targets had been met during the timescale, and Lester confirmed that the original report and recent full review document, were all available from the Guild Secretary.

A15/16 Fundraising: Date of Quarter Peal Fortnight – 23rd October – 8th November 2015: James Kirkcaldy encouraged Branches to ensure as many members as possible take part in quarter peal attempts.

A15/17 Guild 6 and 8 Bell Striking Competitions: Lester Yeo confirmed that the Guild Striking competitions would be held on Saturday 17th October, and hosted by the North/North West Branch. James Clarke then spoke to the meeting, informing members that the 6-Bell competition would be held at Shirwell, a suitable tower was yet to be found for the Novice competition, and the 8-Bell competition would be held at Braunton. The methods for the 8-Bell competition were confirmed as St Clements College Bob Triples, or Grandsire Triples, with touches available on the Guild website. Lester Yeo then detailed the judges for all three competitions; Geoff Hill for the 6-Bell, John Hill for the Novice, and Christine & Peter Hill for the 8-Bell. He encouraged teams to take part.

A15/18 Guild Festival and Annual General Meeting 2016: Alena Wardle (South West chair) told the meeting that the South West Branch would be hosting the event on Saturday 18th June 2016, based at St Andrew's, Plymouth. Some limited parking was available, but there were also good public transport links.

A15/19 Any other business:

- a) Leslie Boyce drew members' attention to the next ITTS Module One Teaching Training Course, to be held at Black Torrington, in West Devon, on Saturday 8th August.
- b) Geoffrey Williamson of Upton & Kingskerswell highlighted the recent award of the British Empire Medal to Don Roberts, for services to young people in swimming, and bellringing. Lester Yeo warmly congratulated Don Roberts on this, and his outstanding contribution, and Don Roberts thanked the meeting.
- c) Wendy Gill reminded the meeting of the 2015 First Peal initiative, to mark 300 years since the first recorded peal, and Lester Yeo encouraged members to ring their first peal this year, congratulating those who already had, and wishing well those that were planning to do so.
- d) Geoff Hill encouraged members to come into Exeter to ring on the DenMisch bells, thanked Anne (and Jeff) Bailey, and thanked Lester Yeo for all his work as President.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3:42pm.

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Lester Yeo (President)

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(Date)

**GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

*Held at Crediton on Saturday 20th June 2015*

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 2016. (p: Clare Griffiths, s: Don Roberts BEM). Meeting closed at 3:45pm.

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Lester Yeo (President)

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(Date)