

# GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

*held virtually on the Zoom teleconferencing service on Saturday 19th June 2021*

- A21/1 Alison Waterson (President) opened the meeting by inviting Nigel Birt to lead the members in an opening prayer. Alison welcomed the 68 members who had joined the meeting and it was confirmed the meeting was quorate. Alison thanked all in the North East Branch who had made preliminary preparations to host the meeting at Tiverton which we sadly had been unable to join them for due to the current restrictions on group gatherings as a result of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Alison also thanked John Martin and Charlotte Boyce for their efforts in arranging virtual events during the last year and drew attention to the newly established workgroups. These workgroups would be providing an update later in the meeting.
- A21/2 Apologies for absence were received from: Roger Avery, Donna Baker, Derek Ballard, Michael Brady, Will Carew, Anne England, Christine Harris, Kathy Hayes, Mark Heritage, Susan Illing, Richard Johnston, Mary Mears, Mike Mears, Billy Moore, Gabrielle Stook, Bill Thirtle, Jeanette Thompson, Lester Yeo.
- A21/3 Losses by death since the last AGM: John Dallen, Martin Dodd, Bill Ford, Audrey King, Mary Mack, Derek Norrish, Jean Parkinson, Canon Gordon Ruming, David Vince. A short period of silence was observed to remember them.
- A21/4 Minutes of the 2020 meeting and the June 2020 Committee meeting were agreed as a correct record, with one small correction to the circulated draft, both by those present and those using a proxy vote (p: Alison Waterson, s: Janet Ritterman; 65 in favour, 3 abstentions).
- A21/5 Matters arising from the minutes: None noted.
- A21/6 Election of new members: None on this occasion.
- A21/7 Officers' Reports: These were received as printed in the annual report; no comments or questions had been received.
- A21/8 Adoption of accounts/transfer of monies to DCBRF: The accounts are as published in the annual report and have been examined by Tim Payne. Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Fergus Stracey, seconded by Steph Hills and carried unanimously, both by those present and those using a proxy vote. Charlotte Boyce (Treasurer) proposed that a budget of £500 maximum should be set to provide support for Young Ringers activities; this was seconded by Alena Wardle and carried with 66 votes in favour and 2 abstentions, by those present and those using a proxy vote. Charlotte Boyce (Treasurer) then proposed that £1,625.00 be transferred to the DCBRF; this was seconded by Martin Mansley, and carried with 64 votes in favour, 3 votes against and 1 abstention, by those present and those using a proxy vote.
- A21/9 Subscription Review (rule 3.1): Charlotte Boyce (Treasurer) explained that members of the Guild General Committee had spent a considerable time discussing financial matters earlier in the year and that it was agreed by the Committee that members be asked whether they would support an increase in the Guild subscription rate. Charlotte Boyce (Treasurer) proposed on behalf of the Guild Committee that the annual subscription rate should increase to £10 per member and the tower affiliation fee should also increase to £10; this was seconded by Alison Milne, and carried with 66 votes in favour, 1 vote against and 1 abstention, by those present and those using a proxy vote.
- A21/10 Election of Officers: Alison Waterson thanked all the Guild Officers for their hard work over the past year and explained that to streamline the flow of the meeting members would on this occasion be invited to vote *en bloc* for the elected officers and that the officers listed had indicated their willingness to continue with their current role or to be proposed for election, as listed below:

Master 2021/22  
President  
Master Elect for 2022/23  
Secretary

**Neil Deem**  
**Alison Waterson**  
**Michael Cannon<sup>1</sup>**  
**John Martin**

Treasurer	<b>Charlotte Boyce</b>
Peal Secretary	<b>Michael Mears</b>
Quarter Peal Secretary	<b>James Kirkcaldy</b>
Education Officer	<b>Tim Bayton</b>
Librarian	<b>Leslie Boyce</b>
Report Secretary	<b>John Foster</b>
Bells and Belfries Advisor(s)	<b>Ian Campbell, Ian Smith</b>
Ringling Round Devon Editor	<b>Ian Campbell</b>
Safeguarding Officer	<b>Rowena Mansley<sup>2</sup></b>
DenMisch Management Committee	<b>Oliver Coldrick, Ian Campbell, David Hird, Neil Deem, Tim Bayton</b>
DCBRF Trustees	<b>Janet Deem, Mary Mears, Ian Smith</b>

Notes indicating proposer and seconder for incoming officers:

- 1 Proposed by Janet Ritterman, seconded by Ian Campbell
- 2 Proposed by Mike Tompsett, seconded by Catherine Saunders

The re-election of existing officers listed above was proposed by Martin Mansley and seconded by Lisa Clarke. The election was carried with 66 votes in favour, 1 vote against and 1 abstention, by those present and those using a proxy vote.

Alison Waterson encouraged those present to consider whether they might be interested in taking up the currently vacant post of Publicity Officer and Lynne Hughes (retiring Publicity Officer) spoke briefly about what is involved.

Alison Waterson also noted that Ian Smith and Tim Bayton had indicated they wished to stand down and that she would also not be seeking re-election at next year's Annual General Meeting.

A21/11 Election of DCBRF Trustees (3): Also included in the *en bloc* election recorded in point A21/10 above.

A21/12 Election of Vice Presidents: At the January General Committee Meeting the following proposals for the election of new Vice Presidents had been received:

- Sylvia Johns (p: Janet Deem, s: Neil Deem)
- Sheila Scofield (p: Mark Heritage, s: Mike Mears)
- Tony Williams (p: Janet Deem, s: Neil Deem)

These proposals were carried with 67 votes in favour and 2 abstentions, by those present and those using a proxy vote.

Janet Ritterman (retiring Master) welcomed Neil Deem into office and expressed her hopes that he would receive as warm a welcome as she had done during her time as Master. She also extended her warm congratulations to the members of the South West branch who had embraced the opportunities available for virtual ringing and thanked Ian Campbell for keeping all members informed through the pages of Ringing Round Devon. Janet also thanked John Martin and Charlotte Boyce for their efforts through the pandemic, including the activities which had taken place week by week at the Internet Arms. A presentation box was delivered and Charlotte Boyce responded by thanking all members who had given their time to make the weekly Internet Arms events possible.

A21/13 Election of Central Council Representatives: During the year Fergus Stracey had stepped down as one of our Guild Central Council Representatives and James Kirkcaldy and Alena Wardle had volunteered to represent the Guild for important discussions with the Central Council. It was now proposed by Ian Smith, seconded by Catherine Saunders that James and Alena should be ratified as Guild CC representatives for the 2021 and 2022 Central Council meetings. The election was carried with 66 votes in favour, 1 vote against and 1 abstention, by those present and those using a proxy vote.

A21/14 Appointment of Independent Examiner of Accounts: Tim Payne (p: Alison Waterson).

A21/15 Ringling Recovery workgroup: Phil Dunn gave members an update on the work of the Guild Ringling Recovery workgroup since its formation after January's General Committee Meeting.

A21/16 Fund raising: Ringing Festival: Alison Waterson encouraged members to take part during the Ringing Festival between 23rd October and 7th November to celebrate our return to ringing. Some examples of the sort of performances which members might consider were presented.

A21/17 Guild 6 and 8-Bell Striking Competitions: Alison Waterson provided an update from the South West branch on preliminary planning for this year's striking competitions, scheduled for 16th October.

A21/18 Young Ringing Activities: Alison Waterson provided an update on Guild plans to start a programme of sessions for young ringers in Devon. Charlotte Boyce clarified that our new Guild Youth Co-ordinator was looking for volunteers to help with all aspects of the Young Ringer programme.

A21/19 Guild 150th anniversary workgroup: James Kirkcaldy provided an update from the Guild 150th anniversary workgroup. Plans involve an anniversary weekend to include the exact anniversary date of Saturday 23rd March 2024, publication of a revised Guild history and attendance at a range of agricultural shows across the county.

A21/20 Any Other Business:

- a) Charlotte Boyce announced that a trophy would be purchased and awarded to the winner of the Guild novice 8 bell striking competition. This trophy has been given in memory of David Willis.
- b) Charlotte Boyce reminded members that the Ringing World National Youth Contest would be held in Exeter on 2nd July 2022 and that members would be updated nearer the time.
- c) Alison Waterson thanked Robert Brown for his help as Guild Safeguarding Officer and for his offer of assisting with the handover to Rowena Mansley.

There being no further business, Alison Waterson declared the meeting closed.

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Alison Waterson (President)

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(Date)