

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held at Fremington on Saturday 17th June 2023

- A23/1 Tim Bayton (President) opened the meeting with a prayer. Tim welcomed the 66 members present and it was confirmed the meeting was quorate. Tim thanked John McKee for making the arrangements and the team who provided refreshments.
- A23/2 Apologies for absence were received from: Susie Allen, Anne Bailey, Nigel Birt, Lisa Clarke, Phil Dunn, Jane Dunn, Mark Heritage, Geoff Hill, Matthew Hilling, Barbara Hocke, Rodney Horder, Sheila Horder, Susan Illing, Jinny Jeffrey, Jenny Jones, Roger King, John Langabeer, Rowena Mansley, Stuart McDonald, Chris Meijburg, Tom Mitchell, Lucy Neal, Rob Neal, Janet Ritterman, The Rev'd Jon Rose, Jenny Sparling, Gabrielle Stook.
- A23/3 Losses by death since the last AGM: Pam Anthony, Sarah Collins, Jane Doidge, Keith Fursdon, Nigel Jackson-Mack, Brian Mountjoy, Yvonne Porter, Madeline Reeder, Derek Rogers, Jennifer Rowlandson, Peter Sawyer, Terry Summersby. A short period of silence was observed to remember them.
- A23/4 Minutes of the 2022 meeting and the June 2022 Committee meeting were unanimously agreed as a correct record (p: Michael Cannon, s: Martin Mansley).
- A23/5 Matters arising from the minutes: None noted.
- A23/6 Election of new members: Patrick and Kate Wills (Appledore), proposed by Christine Harris, seconded by Mike Wigney. Neil Eatough, David Owen and Linda Pickard (Credon), proposed by Sue Sparling, seconded by Geoff Sparling. Elected *nem. con.*
- A23/7 Guild certificates: A Guild certificate for Jenny Rose was passed to Martin Mansley for presentation at a future Mid Devon branch event.
- A23/8 Officers' reports: These were received as printed in the annual report; no comments or questions had been received.
- A23/9 Adoption of accounts: The accounts were as published in the annual report and had been examined by Tim Payne. Charlotte Boyce (Treasurer) presented the highlights and invited questions. Adoption of the accounts was proposed by John Foster, seconded by James Kirkcaldy and carried unanimously.
- Charlotte Boyce (Treasurer) explained that several financial proposals would be considered, which had all been shaped by discussions at the Guild General Committee meeting in January.
- Charlotte Boyce proposed that the MemberMojo online subscription system recently trialled by members of the Guild General Committee be made available to all members from the start of 2024 to enable the secure storage and maintenance of member information alongside the ability to manage and track subscription payments. After a short discussion this was seconded by Janet Deem and carried unanimously.
- A23/10 DCBRF fundraising: Tim Bayton noted that fundraising to enable the upkeep of bells is one of the stated Guild objectives and that the effectiveness of the Ringing Festival as a fundraising tool had declined in recent years.
- Tim invited all members to consider ways of increasing donations on an individual, group, tower or branch basis, and some discussion took place.
- David Hird asked whether the Devon Ringers' Council could assist with fundraising and it was agreed this would be brought to the attention of the DRC Clerk.
- A23/11 Update from the Guild 150th anniversary workgroup: Leslie Boyce (Librarian) presented a progress update on the Devon-themed 2024 Ringing World calendar. Members were advised that pre-publication orders could be made for a limited period at a special, reduced price.

Lester Yeo (Vice President) spoke about progress on the revised Guild history, which had reached the first draft stage and was to be reviewed before typesetting. Lester invited anyone with anecdotes about Guild “characters” or events to send them for inclusion in the final draft.

James Kirkcaldy (Quarter Peal Secretary) spoke briefly about the anniversary weekend of 15th March 2024, which would include a dinner on Friday 14th.

Lester enquired whether there were any plans for ringing over the anniversary weekend and Tim Bayton advised that the Guild Committee would receive updates at a meeting in September, after which more information would be made available to members.

- A23/12 Publicity: Nicola Jones (Publicity Officer) presented the results of a survey into the state of ringing at affiliated towers, which had been carried out by the Guild Recruitment and Retention workgroup. Some discussion took place and it was agreed that the survey report would now be published on the Guild website for members to read.

Martin Mansley (Vice President) congratulated members on their response to the national Ring for the King initiative.

Nicola Jones proposed that the Guild purchase some roller banners at a cost of up to £250, which could be used to supplement the Guild publicity materials at events; seconded by Elena Brake and carried unanimously.

Tim Bayton encouraged members to make use of the publicity resources and Alena Wardle (Central Council Representative) mentioned a new, one-page member “Welcome” document which had been developed by the South West branch to hand out to all new learners.

The recent Bell Sunday initiative from the Central Council also received positive feedback, although it was noted that many towers had been fully committed with preparations for the Coronation and so had not taken part on this occasion.

- A23/13 Subscription review: Charlotte Boyce reported that the Guild Committee had recommended the subscription rate for 2024 should remain unchanged and comments were invited. It was noted that, with the current high inflation rates and some expected expenditure associated with the Guild 150th anniversary, an increase might be prudent. Margot le Vesconte proposed a subscription fee of £11; seconded by Mike Burrow, and carried with six votes against.

- A23/14 DCBRF transfer: Charlotte Boyce proposed a transfer of £100 to the Education Fund; seconded by Roz Withrington.

Charlotte Boyce proposed a transfer of £410 to the Library Fund; seconded by Martin Mansley.

After a brief discussion Margot le Vesconte proposed a transfer of £2,050 to the Bell Restoration Fund; seconded by Margaret Elms.

All three proposals were carried unanimously.

- A23/15 Election of officers: Tim Bayton invited nominations for Guild Master.

- a) Master 2023/24: David Hird (p: Richard Shere, s: Charlotte Boyce, carried unanimously). Michael Cannon then presented David Hird with the Master’s insignia. David took the chair and asked for nominations for President.
- b) President: Tim Bayton (p: Mike Mears, s: Wendy Campbell), carried unanimously.
- c) Master Elect: Peter Bill (p: Sheila Scofield, s: Mike Mears), carried unanimously.
- d) Vice-Presidents: At the January General Committee Meeting the following proposals for the election of new Vice Presidents had been received:

Peter Bill (p: Mike Mears, s: Wendy Campbell)
Pauline McKenzie (p: Mike Mears, s: Wendy Campbell)
Michael Rose (p: Mike Mears, s: Robert Brown)

The proposals were carried unanimously.

- e) Secretary: John Martin (p: Robert Brown, s: Mike Mears), carried unanimously.
- f) Treasurer: Charlotte Boyce (p: James Kirkcaldy, s: Peter Richards), carried unanimously.
- g) Education Officer: no nominations received.
- h) Young Ringers Coordinator: Elena Brake (p: Alena Wardle, s: Barbara Hocke), carried unanimously
- i) Safeguarding Officer: Wena Mansley (p: Jeanette Thompson, s: Martin Mansley), carried unanimously.
- j) Publicity Officer: Nicola Jones (p: Robert Law, s: Katie Law), carried unanimously.
- k) Peal Secretary: Michael Mears (p: Charlotte Boyce, s: James Kirkcaldy), carried unanimously.
- l) Quarter Peal Secretary: James Kirkcaldy (p: Mike Mears, s: Robert Brown), carried unanimously.
- m) Librarian: Leslie Boyce (p: Mark Heritage, s: Tom Mitchell), carried unanimously.
- n) Report Secretary: John Foster (p: Jenny Jones, s: Leslie Boyce), carried unanimously.
- o) Ringling Round Devon Editor: Ian Campbell (p: Paul Pascoe, s: Peter Bill), carried unanimously.
- p) Bells and Belfries Advisors: Nominations had been received as follows:
Ian Campbell (p: Paul Pascoe, s: Matthew Hilling), carried unanimously.
Ian Smith (p: Paul Pascoe, s: Matthew Hilling), carried unanimously.
- q) Central Council Representatives (4): Nominations had been received as follows:
Charlotte Boyce (p: Sheila Scofield, s: Mark Heritage)
Lynette Costello (p: Sue Sparling, s: Sheila Scofield)
Barbara Hemsley (p: Tim Bayton, s: Roz Withrington)
James Kirkcaldy (p: Paul Pascoe, s: David Hird)
Alena Wardle (p: Elena Brake, s: Ian Smith)

A ballot was held and Tim Bayton announced the successful candidates were Alena, Barbara, Charlotte and James.

- r) Devon Ringers' Council Representatives (5): Nominations had been received as follows:
Ian Avery (p: Martin Mansley, s: Lester Yeo)
Lynette Costello (p: Sue King, s: Margaret Elms)
David Hird (p: Tim Bayton, s: James Kirkcaldy)
Nicola Jones (p: Tim Bayton, s: Mike Mears)
Martin Mansley (p: Alena Wardle, s: Janet Deem)
There being no others, these nominees were duly elected.
- s) DenMisch Management Committee (7): Nominations were received as follows:
Oliver Coldrick (p: Paul Pascoe, s: Patricia Slade)
Ian Campbell (p: Paul Pascoe, s: Richard Shere)
David Hird (p: Paul Pascoe, s: Sue Sawyer)

The proposals were carried unanimously. Ian Campbell then spoke briefly about the need to find an alternative location for the DenMisch ring.

A23/16 Election of DCBRF Trustees (3): Nominations had been received as follows:

Ian Smith (p: Mike Mears, s: Neil Deem)
Janet Deem (p: Roger King, s: Margot le Vesconte)
Mary Mears (p: Sue Sawyer, s: Mike Burrow)
The proposals were carried unanimously.

A23/17 Appointments:

a) Independent examiner of accounts	Tim Payne (p: Charlotte Boyce)
b) Insurance officer	Will Carew (p: Tim Bayton)
c) Webmaster	Matthew Hilling (p: Tim Bayton)

A23/18 Guild 6 and 8-bell striking competitions: Janet Deem provided an update from the Aylesbeare Deanery branch on preliminary planning for this year's striking competitions, scheduled for 21st October.

A23/19 Date of next meeting: Tim Bayton announced that the next meeting would take place in the South West branch on Saturday 15th June 2024.

A23/19 Any other business: None notified.

Tim Bayton declared the meeting closed at 4:10pm.

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Tim Bayton (President)

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(Date)