



GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held at Tavistock on Saturday 22nd June 2024

- A24/1 Tim Bayton (President) opened the meeting with a prayer. Tim welcomed the 84 members present and it was confirmed the meeting was quorate. Tim thanked the team who provided lunch and refreshments during the day, the South West branch for acting as hosts, Revd Jon Rose for taking the service, the 150th anniversary workgroup members for their work in planning the day, Charlotte Boyce and John Martin for their consistent work behind the scenes. Tim also commented that members would be asked to consider the Guild rules and structure at a future meeting.
- A24/2 Apologies for absence were received from: Roger Algate, Kay Anderson, Ian Avery, Anne Bailey, Richard Barter, Steve Batt, Mark Bertram, Jane Blatchford, Julia Brett, Rachel Browse, John Buckley, Mandy Burnett, Albert Campbell, Russell Chamberlain, Richard Coley, Jason Dowling, Jane Dunn, Phil Dunn, Celia Dunsford, John Foster, Becky Fowlds, Rob Franklin, Bob Hellier, Mark Heritage, John Hill, Trevor Hitchcock, Janice Hodge, Lesley Houghton, Susan Illing, James Kirkcaldy, Tony Lane, John Langabeer, Rowena Mansley, Chris Meijburg, Gordon Milne, Tom Mitchell, George Mudge, Lucy Neal, Rob Neal, John Phillips, Judith Reynolds, Lesley Salter, Carol Sargent, Richard Shere, Clare Stagg, Fergus Stracey, Guy Thompson, Cath Thorpe, Roger Treweek, Simon Trott, Alison Waterson, Matthew Weighell, Lester Yeo.
- A24/3 Losses by death since the last AGM: Andy Stevens, Ernie Pryce, Pat Hatchett, William J Harvey, Gay Harris, Ann Crew, Sylvia Gibbard, Wilfred Reynolds, Peter Walter. A short period of silence was observed to remember them.
- A24/4 Minutes of the 2023 meeting were unanimously agreed as a correct record (p: Michael Cannon, s: Alena Wardle).
- A24/5 Matters arising from the minutes:
Publicity banners (A23/12). Nicola Jones (Publicity Officer) reported these are partially designed and will be worked on during the coming year.
Relocation of DenMisch ring (A23/15s). Ian Campbell (Vice President) reported that relocation was no longer an urgent requirement.
- A24/6 Election of new members: Owain Snaith (Heavitree), proposed by Ian Campbell, seconded by David Hird. John and Theresa Scott (Exeter, St Mark), proposed by Wendy Gill, seconded by David Hird. Mandy Plumridge (Thorverton), proposed by Jane Flaxington, seconded by David Hird. Unanimously elected.
- A24/7 Guild certificates: None on this occasion.
- A24/8 Officers' reports: These were received as printed in the annual report; no comments or questions had been received.
- A24/9 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 Don Roberts, seconded by Harry Andrews 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 a transfer of £100 to the Education Fund; seconded by Nigel Birt.
- Charlotte Boyce proposed a transfer of £225 to the Library Fund; seconded by Andrew Digby.
- Charlotte Boyce proposed a transfer of £600 to the Devon Young Ringers; seconded by Sheila Scofield.

Charlotte Boyce proposed a transfer of £1,800 to the Bell Fund; seconded by Amy Hurlock.

All four proposals were carried unanimously.

A24/10 Subscription review: Charlotte Boyce reported that the Guild Committee had reviewed a range of financial forecasts for the coming years and recommended the subscription rate for 2025 should increase to £12; seconded by Rodney Horder, and carried unanimously.

Charlotte Boyce also announced that the Guild General Committee had decided the peal fee should be £1 per ringer from the start of 2025.

A24/11 DCBRF fundraising: Tim Bayton and Charlotte Boyce made observations about fund raising activities during Guild Ringing Festival over recent years and invited members to make comments and suggestions. After a short discussion it was agreed to continue the Festival in its current form but with improved communication to members.

David Hird advised members that a letter had been sent to all parishes in Devon inviting each PCC to become a subscriber to the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund.

Revd Jon Rose suggested making more use of Bell Sunday as a fund raising occasion and Oliver Coldrick noted that the collection taken at the Cathedral morning service on Sunday 7th July would be donated to the Bell Fund.

A24/12 Central Council meeting – Devon 2024: Tim Bayton encouraged members to volunteer as helpers over the Central Council weekend.

A24/13 DCBRF transfer: See minute A24/9.

A24/14 Election of officers: Tim Bayton invited nominations for Guild Master.

a) Master 2024/25: Peter Bill (p: Sheila Scofield, s: Mike Mears, carried unanimously). David Hird then presented Peter Bill with the Master's insignia. Peter took the chair and asked for nominations for President.

b) President: Tim Bayton (p: Mike Mears, s: Ian Avery), carried unanimously.

c) Master Elect: Wendy Gill (p: David Hird, s: Neil Deem), carried unanimously.

d) Vice-Presidents: At the January General Committee Meeting the following proposals for the election of new Vice Presidents had been received:

Leslie Boyce (p: Richard Shere, s: Matthew Weighell)

Colin Kneebone (p: George Mudge, s: Geoff Hill)

Mary Mears (p: Ian Avery, s: Ian Smith)

The proposals were carried unanimously.

e) Secretary: John Martin (p: Phil Dunn, s: Sue Sawyer), carried unanimously.

f) Treasurer: Charlotte Boyce (p: Mike Mears, s: Ian Avery), carried unanimously.

g) Membership Secretary: Patricia Slade (p: John Martin, s: Ian Campbell), carried unanimously.

h) Education Officer: Sue King (p: Richard Shere, s: Sheila Scofield), carried unanimously.

i) Young Ringers Coordinator: Elena Brake (p: Charlotte Boyce, s: Janet Deem), carried unanimously

j) Safeguarding Officer: Wena Mansley (p: Martin Mansley, s: Rodney Horder), carried unanimously.

- k) Publicity Officer: Nicola Jones (p: Harry Andrews, s: Geoff Hill), carried unanimously.
- l) Peal Secretary: Michael Mears (p: Wendy Campbell, s: Ian Avery), carried unanimously.
- m) Quarter Peal Secretary: James Kirkcaldy (p: Richard Johnson, s: Sheila Scofield), carried unanimously.
Janet Deem asked for clarification about the selection of quarter peals for publication in the annual report. In James' absence John Martin explained that James had been asked to document the current policy following suggestions made at the January General Committee meeting and agreed to follow up with James about the circulation of that policy.
- n) Librarian: Leslie Boyce (p: Charlotte Boyce, s: Kevin Skillings), carried unanimously.
- o) Report Secretary: John Foster (p: Eddie Grabke, s: Ian Rees), carried unanimously.
- p) Ringing Round Devon Editor: Ian Campbell (p: Steph Hills, s: Kate Ross-Smith), carried unanimously.
- q) Bells and Belfries Advisors: Nominations had been received as follows:
Ian Campbell (p: Ian Smith, s: Oliver Coldrick), carried unanimously.
Ian Smith (p: Ian Campbell, s: Oliver Coldrick), carried unanimously.
Alena Wardle (p: Ian Smith, s: David Hird), carried unanimously.
- r) DenMisch Management Committee (7): Nominations were received as follows:
Oliver Coldrick (p: Janet Deem, s: Jenny Jones)
Ian Campbell (p: Patricia Slade, s: Janet Ritterman)
David Hird (p: Wendy Gill, s: Peter Bill)
There being no others, these nominees were duly elected.
- s) DCBRF Trustees (3): Nominations had been received as follows:
Janet Deem (p: Ian Campbell, s: Matthew Weighell)
Ian Smith (p: Kevin Skillings, s: Patricia Slade)
Alena Wardle (p: Ian Smith, s: Charlotte Boyce)
The proposals were carried unanimously.
Tim Bayton proposed a vote of thanks to Mary Mears for her many years of service as a DCBRF Trustee.
- t) Devon Ringers' Council Representative (1): Lynette Costello was not a Guild member when the AGM took place and a replacement was sought. The following nomination had been received:
Sue King (p: Jon Rose, s: Elena Brake), carried unanimously.
- u) Central Council Representative (1): Barbara Hemsley had resigned as a Representative due to changed circumstances. The following nomination had been received:
Harry Andrews (p: Trevor Vercoe, s: Elena Brake), carried unanimously.

A24/15 Appointments:

- a) Independent examiner of accounts
Charlotte Boyce advised Tim Payne was unable to continue as our Independent Examiner and that a replacement had yet to be found. After a short discussion it was confirmed by those present that Charlotte was empowered to seek a suitable replacement.
- b) Insurance officer Will Carew (p: Tim Bayton)
- c) Webmaster Matthew Hilling (p: Tim Bayton)

A24/16 Guild 6 and 8-bell striking competitions: Tim Bayton advised that preliminary information for this year's striking competitions, scheduled to take place in the East Devon branch on 19th October was available on the Guild website.

A24/17 Date of next meeting: Tim Bayton announced that the next meeting would take place in the Mid Devon branch on Saturday 21st June 2025.

Rodney Horder asked members to advise the Mid Devon branch officers of any requests for activities which could be included in the schedule for next year's AGM.

A24/18 Any other business: None notified.

Tim Bayton declared the meeting closed at 3:10pm.

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Tim Bayton (President)

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(Date)