



Ringing World AGM 06/09/2025 held in Sheffield

The accounts report a surplus of £20,061 (2023: £34,139)

2023 was a bumper year due to donations and merchandise sales

The following Directors were appointed:

Graham Bradshaw – Chartered Accountant

Gareth Davis - Retired

James Watkins – Solicitor - likely successor to Mary Bone's Secretary role when she retires

Authority was given to the Board to appoint an Independent Examiner

Planned expenditure of IT to ensure the website and Bellboard are kept up to date and safe.

There is now an ongoing threat from AI Bots.

An over-reliance on Richard Smith (digital consultant) was discussed. Cover and backups are kept to reduce this key man risk.

Basic access to Bellboard will continue to be free – this was a condition when Bellboard was built. The Board are looking into premium access which a fee could be charged for.

A question was asked about quantifying the volunteer work/expertise which keeps RingingWorld and Bellboard going. The Ringing World would probably not be a viable operation without the voluntary contribution from Richard and others.

Plenty of favourable discussion on the RWNYC held in Birmingham. A full report will be available to team leaders, and a video was made by Taylors of the 2025 competition which will be available soon.

A suggestion was made on increasing the entrance fee which has never risen from £5 and providing electronic subscriptions to attendees. Who will hopefully then become paying subscribers of the future.

The monthly publication or digital only ideas are not being actively reviewed at the moment, but are not off the table for the future

The board are focusing on customer relationship management.

It is highly unlikely the current model will be able to keep going for many more years.

A chart of subscription levels was shown. Overall subscriptions have decreased from approx. 3800 to 2400 in the last 20 years.

Various questions from the floor on how to increase subscription levels.

The room contained affiliated society representatives, representing approx. 35,000 ringers. It felt like the Ringing World were missing an opportunity to ask us to promote the Ringing World to our society membership.

A GDR rep volunteered to work with the Ringing World to remind our members that the RW is available to subscribe to. We don't ever mention Ringing World at our AGM and perhaps we

should. We have suggested we will put a link on Membermojo to the Ringing World subscription page so when our members log in next time to purchase clothing merchandise or renewing their subscription, members can follow the link to the Ringing World website if they wish.

Central Council of Church Bellringers AGM 06/09/2025 held in Sheffield

Standard AGM items (welcome, minutes, in memorium, new members etc)

Accounts were approved (subject to some minor corrections identified)

Duncan Walker appointed as Independent Examiner

3 Trustees Appointed: Ernie de Legh-Runciman, Beverley Faber & Alison Edmonds

Questions on the Business Plan

- Status of school lesson plans – all written they need assessing by teachers and the 1st plan to be addressed is the Primary School science plan
- Various questions on the income line where insufficient detail was shown in the plan
- Church closures and churches under threat – Advice and protocol being drafted
- Projects are stagnating due to a lack of volunteers
- However following receipt of a legacy, paid interns have progressed some projects forward this summer

2026 Forward Plan – Pillar I

- Develop event playbook, a Kent event has been followed up with a mini ringing school
- Finalise primary school lesson plans and incremental marketing/rollout plan
- Social media tools and templates being worked on
- Scouting and Guiding badges
- Mobile Belfries Trust have asked for volunteers who can tow the mobile belfry trailer

2026 Forward Plan – Pillar II

- Recruitment portal being developed
- Recruitment network project under development
- Young Ringers network under development

2026 Forward Plan – Pillar III

- Update existing tech resources
- Further work on the rolls of honour
- Next Dove publication is being compiled publication expected late 2026/2027

Finances:

- 2025 probably will have a £100 deficit
- 2026 will dip into reserves – expected income will only cover 75% of planned costs

Motion A voted through

This was a proposal to tidy up existing rules and standing orders for a number of anomalies and to remove transitional rules which were no longer applicable. This resulted in a renumbering of the rules.

Motion B voted through

This was a proposal for several items with the main item being:

To introduce a new membership category (Associate Member) for societies which don't collect an annual membership from all its members (eg University societies, Clerical Guild Devon Association etc). These societies would pay a reduced fee and only have 1 representative. However, this is voluntary, the society could retain its higher costing affiliation membership and have more representatives.

Future meetings will be:

2026 Coventry

2027 Litchfield & Walsall

2028 to be announced

2029 Essex

2030 St Martin's Guild

2031 Worcestershire

AOB:

Is individual membership still on the agenda? Not at the moment – current officers don't have the bandwidth and post CRAG consultations have not identified how this would be implemented

Annual Roadshow frequency – clarified as probably 3 yearly due to the efforts required by exhibitors

A closed safeguarding forum is being set up for Association Safeguarding Officers.

Thanks were recorded to Chris Ridley, Alison Hodges & Katherine Lane for their work for the CCCBR

Roadshow 07/09/2025 Sheffield

All major bellhangers, rope makers and other ringing suppliers were attending (except Taylors)

The mobile belfry wasn't present as it required maintenance following its last use.

Several mobile rings were present including the Litchfield Ring & Bicycle Ring.

Matthew Higby's new mini-ring "Pells On Wheels" was present and was very impressive.

We attended Linda Garton's talk on changing the Bedfordshire Association objectives and rules. This took 4 years. Advice was sought from a change management professional, and the Bishop of Bedford was kept informed. The process included several consultations to keep members onboard and owning the changes. Linda will be making the slides available. Whilst Bedford is a geographically small area the processes followed will provide a good roadmap to all societies considering revising their objectives rules and structure.

Other talks included:

Yorkshire Association – demographics and challenges of a large membership society

Social Media

Gareth Davis talk on his Cambridge Youths book.

The Roadshow (and other social events over the weekend) provided the opportunity to meet or catch up with other ringers and some discussions on clappers for heavy bells with the bellhangers.

Harry Andrews
Charlotte Boyce
John Martin
Alena Wardle