

The Hertford County Association of Change-Ringers

Established 29th October, 1884
Registered Charity No. 1037400

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in The Bengoe Club on Saturday 26th April 2014

The meeting began at 7:10pm with 72 people present.

1. **Welcome by the President:** The President, Stephen Coley, welcomed the members present and thanked them for attending the AGM. He had toured around the County in his presidential year, and found some meetings and practices well attended, some not so, and he commended the efforts of those who are determined to make them work. They are at the core of our role as an Association. Sometimes it is a struggle but the President emphasised that it is vital that we come together on a regular basis, both to ring and to connect with one another.
2. **Apologies for absence** were received from:
Trevor Chapman, Amy Coburn, Nick Gill, Sue Gill, David Hibbert, Carole Higgins, Ro Kelsell, Michael Marsh, Peter Scott, Diana Scott, Suzanne Warren, and Stephanie Willcocks,
3. **Loss of members by death:** The meeting stood in silence in memory of Richard Atkins of Barkway, George Austin of Hatfield, Ron Berry of Great Amwell, Alison Carey of Stanmore, Wayne Flintham of Braughing, Gillian Humphreys of Ridge, Denis Kent of Sandon, Trisha Owden of Kings Langley. Peter Glazebrook read out the obituary of Wayne Flintham of Braughing (omitted from the 2013 Annual Report)
4. **Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting:** Elizabeth Bowen proposed and Chris Hoare seconded that the Minutes of the AGM held on 27th April 2013 at Standon be taken as read, and the motion was carried. The minutes were approved by the meeting and signed by the President as a correct record.
5. **Officers' reports for 2012:**
 - a) **Secretary's report:** The Secretary, David Gambling, proposed the acceptance of his report, which was seconded by Valerie Clark and approved by the meeting.
 - b) **Librarian's report:** Richard Sales proposed the acceptance of his report; this was seconded by Tony Crowther and approved by the meeting.
 - c) **Peal Secretary's report:** Brian Watson proposed the acceptance of his report; this was seconded by Chris Forster and approved by the meeting.
 - d) **Bell Restoration Fund Trustees' report:** Hugh Thomas proposed the acceptance of the accounts and his report; this was seconded by Chris Hoare and approved by the meeting.
 - e) **Treasurer's report:** Hugh Thomas proposed the acceptance of the accounts and his report; this was seconded by Charles Pocock and approved by the meeting.
6. **Election of new members:**
 - a) **Life members (50 years):** In recognition of over 50 years of service to the county the following members were awarded Life Membership:
Katherine Hardy of St Albans St Michael, Valerie Mills of Great Gaddesden, Rosemary Pateman of Knebworth and Susan Rees of Essendon.
 - b) **Life members (elected):** Trevor Chapman of Standon, proposed by the Bishop's Stortford district and seconded by the President, who spoke of Trevor's ringing career.
 - c) **Resident members:** The following new probationary members were proposed
Cecilia van der Heijden, proposed by Rhiannon Atkins and seconded by Tracey Coley
Ella May, proposed by Claire May, seconded by Tracey Coley
Euan Thomas, proposed by Renny Thomas and seconded by Sue Morton

d) Ratification of Non-Resident members:

The provisional elections of the following Non-Resident members prior to peals in 2013 were ratified by the meeting:

Austin, Siân E	Palling, F Neville	Smith, Kathryn J	Thompson, Oliver H J
Campling, Pauline	Salter, Colin F	Smith, Richard C	Thorley, Katharine M
Foddering, Linda S	Salter, George M	Southerington, Emma J	Towler, Yvonne A
Green, Sarah M	Smith, Alistair J E		

7. **Award of the Ursula Fergusson Bequest:** The President announced that Carsten Schäfer of St Ippolys had been awarded the bequest and was currently attending a ringing course

8. **Election of Officers etc for 2013:** No other candidates were put forward at the meeting, so the following were elected or re-elected *nem. con.* on a show of hands:

<u>Office</u>	<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Proposed by</u>	<u>Seconded by</u>
President Nicholson	John Ford	St Albans District	Claire
<i>At this point the new president took the chair</i>			
Hon. Secretary ¹	David Gambling	Geoff Horritt	Chris Forster
Hon. Asst Secretary ²	Chris Hoare	Charles Pocock	Su Gambling
Hon. Treasurer ³ Bowen	Hugh Thomas	Guy Morton	Elizabeth
Hon. Librarian	Richard Sales	Chris Hoare	Chris Forster
Hon. Peal Secretary	Brian Watson	Valerie Clark	Su Gambling
Hon. Ind. Examiner ⁴	Michael Main	Claire May	Tracey Coley
Ringling Co-ordinators Bowen	Richard Sales & Sue Morton	Margaret Horritt	Elizabeth
Child Protection officer	Carolyn Crawley	Renny Thomas	Val Mills
Book Service Manager	Valerie Clark	Sue Morton	Julia Forster

¹ *Ex-officio Trustee and Chairman of the Trustees of the Bell Restoration Fund*

² *Ex-officio Trustee of the Bell Restoration Fund*

³ *Ex-officio Trustee and Secretary/Treasurer of the Bell Restoration Fund*

⁴ *Ex-officio Independent Examiner of the Bell Restoration Fund*

9. **Kimpton Cup Committee**

The three-year term of service expired this year. The Secretary is a member *ex officio*, Stephen Penny did not wish to stand for re-election, Barry Mack was prepared to stand. Elva Ainsworth was proposed by the Secretary and seconded by the President, and Barry & Elva were elected by the meeting.

10. **Recommendations of the Bell Fund Trustees concerning grants:** Hugh Thomas reported that the Trustees had proposed a grant to Bushey of £8000 towards their stated spend of £80,000. Sue Morton, on behalf of Bushey, explained the work to be done and that the cost had now risen to £90,000. They had £24,000 already collected and £1,400 awarded by the Watford district, and asked the meeting if they would consider a larger grant. Other proposals were made, and the for the substantive motion Julia Forster proposed a grant of £10,000 which was seconded by Charles Pocock and carried by the meeting.

11. **Ratification of Bell Fund Trustees:** The following had been elected by their respective Districts as Trustees and were ratified by the meeting:

Bishop's Stortford: Stephen Coley **Eastern:** David Harris **Northern:** Jo Schurch
St Albans: Richard Sales **Watford:** Guy Morton **Western:** Brian Watson

12. **Election of Central Council Representatives:** The current representatives are: Guy and Sue Morton and Geoff and Margaret Horritt. Guy and Sue Morton expressed their wish to step down when their term is up in 2016 and the members were asked to consider whether they would be prepared to stand.

13. **Kimpton Cup proposed rule change:** The Kimpton Cup Committee proposed a new rule that "Each competing band may not have more than two ringers who are participants in any other competing band. Any ringers in more than one competing band must ring a different bell

in each of the bands in which they compete". While the meeting did not feel that the entry criteria were ideal, the proposal was carried with one vote against.

14. **HCACR Youth Team:** Jennifer Johnson, team manager, outlined her arrangements for the National Youth contest, introduced the members of the team who were present at the meeting, and modelled the special polo shirt which she encouraged all members to buy. The meeting applauded her efforts and the team members and wished them luck for the competition.
15. **Dumb bell:** Geoff Horritt suggested that the association might like to purchase a dumb bell for training purposes and add a plaque in memory of Gill Reeves who left a generous donation to the Bell Restoration Fund. Possibilities were discussed but no proposal was forthcoming. The Committee was asked to consider this.
16. **Ringling Foundation donation:** Geoff Horritt outlined the work of the Ringling Foundation which has asked associations to consider making grants of £2 per member per year. The Secretary said that the members were encouraged to donate individually but that there was currently no proposal for the Association to make a blanket donation. The Secretary offered to read the RF business proposal (12 pages) but the meeting declined.
17. **Transfer of funds from the Association to the Bell Restoration Fund:** The Treasurer, Hugh Thomas, proposed the transfer of £4,000 to the BRF; this was seconded by Michael Main and agreed by the meeting.
18. **200 Club draw:** The two numbers drawn for the £150 prizes were 165 (Gracie Fitzsimmons of St Albans Cathedral) and 38 (Kings Langley Tower)
19. **Date & place of next Annual General Meeting:** The Secretary informed the meeting that the next Annual General Meeting will take place in the Watford District on Saturday 25th April 2015 at Rickmansworth.
20. **Any Other Business:**
Chris Forster proposed that congratulations were due the team who rang the Chandler 23atw composition.

Thanks were also made to Stephen Coley for his year as President and to Ian Cresshull, who although no longer resident in the county continued to host and maintain the county website.

Stephen Crawley proposed a vote of thanks to John Barnard for taking the service at Hatfield and to Thelma Dummer for playing the organ there, to Claire Nicholson for organising the towers and who did much of the legwork leading up to the day's organisation, to Richard Sales for running some of the towers during the day, with help from Charles Pocock, and Barry & Judith Mack, and to the St Albans District ringers, masterminded by Janet Penney who has been helped by several other ringers in providing a sumptuous tea.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8:45pm.

David Gambling
HCACR Hon Sec
14th May 2014