

# The Hertford County Association of Change-Ringers

Established 29th October, 1884  
Registered Charity No. 1037400

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Hitchin on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2017

The meeting began at 6:30pm with 58 people present.

1. **Welcome by the President:** The President, Mark Hall, welcomed the members present and thanked them for attending the AGM. In his year of office he had met many new people and received a warm welcome.
2. **Apologies for absence** were received from:  
Mary & Fred Bone, Veronica Brand, Natalie Chalcraft, Valerie Clark, Astrid Davies, Geoff Fielding, Mike Franklin, David & Jeanette Harris, Pam Harris, Chris Hoare, Roy Hornby, Ro Kelsell, Pat & Graham Lay, Val Mills, Clive Moore, Margaret Padgett, Alan Padgett, Fiona Scofield, Bill & Beverley Tapper, Andrew Westwood
3. **Loss of members by death:**  
Members known to have died during the year included David Redfearn of Watford/Bushey, Charlie Jordan of Much Hadham, Fred Ellis, David Pearce, and Henry Blake. Marc McDonald spoke of David Redfearn, Nick Hughes talked of Charlie Jordan's life. The meeting stood in silence in their memory.
4. **Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting:** The Minutes of the AGM held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at Hertford were taken as read (prop: Claire May, sec: Don Salisbury). The minutes were approved by the meeting (prop Claire May, sec: Brian Watson) and signed by the President as a correct record.
5. **Matters arising:** There were no matters arising.
6. **Officers' reports for 2016:**
  - a) **Secretary's report:** The Secretary, David Gambling, proposed the acceptance of his report, which was seconded by Ann Evans and approved by the meeting.
  - b) **Librarian's report:** Richard Sales proposed the acceptance of his report; this was seconded by Claire May and approved by the meeting.
  - c) **Peal Secretary's report:** Brian Watson proposed the acceptance of his report; this was seconded by Tracey Coley and approved by the meeting.
  - d) **Bell Restoration Fund Trustees' report:** Hugh Thomas proposed the acceptance of the accounts and his report; mentioning the grants of £2500 to Stanmore, £250 to Thorley and £5000 to Broxbourne. This was seconded by Tracey Coley and approved by the meeting.
  - e) **Treasurer's report:** Hugh Thomas proposed the acceptance of the accounts and his report; he recommended a transfer of £5000 from the General Fund to the BRF. This was seconded by Tracey Coley and approved by the meeting.
7. **Election of new members:**
  - a) **Life members (50 years):** In recognition of over 50 years of service to the Association the following members were awarded Life Membership:  
Elizabeth Cranfield of Hitchin, Peter Cranfield of Hitchin, Gillian Falder of Essendon, Jill Griffin of Watford, and Priscilla Watt of Berkhamsted. Certificates were passed to the members or their representatives.
  - b) **Life members (elected):** None
  - c) **Resident members:** The following new members were proposed:  
Euan Thomas of Rickmansworth to be full member, Nick Brown to be re-elected as full member.
  - d) **Ratification of Non-Resident members:**  
The provisional elections of the following Non-Resident members prior to peals in 2015 were ratified by the meeting:  
Bardsley, Oliver P                      Davies, Gareth                      Fisher, Jason M                      Wood, Stephen C  
Bradford, Andrew P F                      Edwards, Simon W                      Vant, George J
8. **Award of the Ursula Fergusson Bequest:** The President announced that Daniel Gregory of Cheshunt had been selected to receive the award.

9. **Election of Officers etc for 2016-17:** No other candidates were put forward at the meeting, so the following were elected or re-elected unopposed on a show of hands:

<b>Office</b>	<b>Nominee</b>
President	Don Salisbury
<i>At this point the new president took the chair</i>	
Hon. Secretary <sup>1</sup>	Tony Crowther <i>Geoff Horritt thanked David Gambling for his 8 years of office</i>
Hon. Asst Secretary <sup>2</sup>	Chris Hoare
Hon. Treasurer <sup>3</sup>	Hugh Thomas
Hon. Librarian	Richard Sales
Hon. Peal Secretary	Brian Watson
Hon. Ind. Examiner <sup>4</sup>	<i>none. Post-meeting Trevor Groom volunteered to be the IE.</i>
Ringling Co-ordinator	Richard Sales
Child Protection officer	Carolyn Crawley
Book Service Manager	Valerie Clark

<sup>1</sup> *Ex-officio Trustee and Chairman of the Trustees of the Bell Restoration Fund*

<sup>2</sup> *Ex-officio Trustee of the Bell Restoration Fund*

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

<sup>4</sup> *Ex-officio Independent Examiner of the Bell Restoration Fund*

10. **Transfer of funds:** dealt with in item 6

11. **Grant recommendations:** dealt with in item 6

12. **Rules changes:** Stephen Coley proposed and Claire May seconded the abolition of the Probationer class of membership. After some discussion the motion was passed by 36 votes to 6. David Gambling proposed and Marc McDonald seconded that the paragraph 9.3.b requiring receipts to be issued to members for their subscriptions should be deleted. After some discussion a vote was taken with 26 for, and 14 against, an insufficient majority to be carried. (*rule 13.4—a two thirds majority of those present and voting required for a rule change*). District Secretaries/Treasurers were reminded of the rule.

13. **Badges:** The meeting was strongly in favour of a new Association lapel badge. Designs of the proposed new badge were circulated and discussed. The favoured design to be ordered by S Coley.

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

<b>Bishop's Stortford:</b>	Stephen Coley	<b>Eastern:</b>	David Harris	<b>Northern:</b>	Phil Barron
<b>St Albans:</b>	Richard Sales	<b>Watford:</b>	Jean Machin	<b>Western:</b>	Brian Watson

15. **Election of Central Council Representatives:** No volunteers were forthcoming at the meeting. *Post-meeting Trevor Groom volunteered and was therefore co-opted.*

16. **Kimpton Cup & Coburn trophy arrangements:** As the experiment in 2016 to enable more teams to enter, by making the draw for the time of ringing take place a week prior to each competition seemed to be successful, the meeting agreed it should continue.

17. **Ypres Memorial:** A peal of bells for the Ypres WWI memorial had been publicly funded, and John Rank proposed that the Association donate £250 towards the cost of ongoing maintenance. This was seconded by Tracey Coley and approved by the meeting with 2 votes against.

18. **HCACR Youth Team:** Jennifer Johnson, team manager, outlined her arrangements for the National Youth Contest, the meeting applauded her efforts and the team members and wished them luck for the competition. Only one team from each Association was permitted this year. The open day organised by JJ was a financial success, raising over £1400 which more than covered any outlay on team polo shirts etc. Julia Forster expressed the thanks of the Association to JJ, which the meeting warmly applauded.

19. **Fund raising:** The meeting was reminded of the simple way of raising funds for the BRF by making online purchases through [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk). There is no cost or inconvenience to the user. Members should register with the site that their preferred charity is the BRF and money would automatically be sent to the BRF. £329 had been raised in the previous year by this means.

20. **200 Club draw:** The two numbers drawn for the £150 prizes were 146 (Stephanie Willcocks of St Stephens St Albans) and 147 (Claire May of Bishop's Stortford)
21. **Date & place of next Annual General Meeting:** The next Annual General Meeting will take place in the Western District on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

22. **Any Other Business:**

- The (ex) Secretary had been contacted by Oxford Diocesan Guild asking if the Association could provide a judge for a striking competition the following Monday. No volunteers appeared.
- Don Salisbury proposed a vote of thanks to the incumbents of the towers which had been rung at; to Mark Hall, for his year as President; to the ringing masters at the various towers en route; to Rev Melanie Crowley for taking the service; to Robert Crowley for playing the organ; and to the Northern District for organising the towers and providing a sumptuous tea.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7:56pm.

David Gambling  
(ex) HCACR Hon Sec  
1<sup>st</sup> June 2017