

**THE 128th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT BILLINGHSURST
ON SATURDAY 11th MAY 2013**

The afternoon commenced with ringing at St Mary's from 2.00– 3.30pm, followed by an updated interpretation of the Association Form of Service, conducted by the vicar, Revd. Brian Pritchard, with Richard Smithers playing the organ. An excellent tea was served by the local ringers, who were thanked for their hard work, especially in dealing with approx 15 late requests. Thanks were also given to Revd. Pritchard and the organist.

THE MINUTES OF THE 128th AGM

The Association Master, David Kirkcaldy took the chair for the meeting and commenced by asking those present to stand in memory of the ringers who had died since the last AGM:

Donald Anderson (Burgess Hill), Ted Baldock (Eastbourne), Margaret Bell (Good Shepherd, Brighton), Gerald Caniford (Stoughton), Vernon Crouch (Felpham), Katherine Daniels (Hooe), Roy Fuller (Hailsham), Betty Hazelgrove (Arundel), Keith Honeyball (formerly Heene), Dick Kilner (Slinfold), John Long (Westham), Jean Osbon (formerly of Coleman's Hatch), Chris Slade (formerly Hailsham and Peal Secretary 84-95), Revd. Norman Smith, Tom Street (Pagham), Doug Taylor (Steyping), David Woodward (Westham), and Roy Kirkcaldy (Westham).

After the respectful silence, Sam Tyler asked that the Association's condolences are offered to both David Kirkcaldy and Christine Baldock on the loss of their fathers this year.

1. **Apologies for Absence were received from:** Marion Huang, Angie and Ian Hastilow, Keith and Isobel Murphy, Frances & Peter Bradford, Marion Hollands, Tim Waterman, Andrew Thompsett, John Squirrel, Gerald Sandwell, Richard Hutchings, Elaine Farrow, Peter Hurcombe, Ken Jones, Nick Cullen, Mark Dawkins, Andrew Barnsdale, Jenny Beckingham, Ian Harris, Judith and Andrew Alford, the Seaford ringers who had today embarked on a 9 day walk and ring along the South Downs Way.

The Master asked that the meeting's best wishes be sent to Gerald Sandwell, Nick Cullen and Tim Waterman, all recovering from operations.

2. **The Minutes of the 127th AGM** had been circulated. They were approved by the meeting and signed by the Master following a proposition from Ken Knight, seconded by Graham Hills.
3. **Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising.

4. **Reports for 2012:**

The Master gave a vote of thanks for all those involved in the production of the Annual Report which had been available in advance of the AGM.

- a) The adoption of the **Master's Report** was proposed by Val Burgess, seconded by Sue Elrick and agreed.
- b) The adoption of the **Publicity Officer's** report was proposed by Anne Ekins, seconded by Ruth Brown and agreed.
- c) Alan Seymour proposed the adoption of the **Librarian's Report**, seconded by Jonathan Franklin and agreed.
- d) Sandra Alford proposed the adoption of the **Education Officer's Report**, seconded by Rachel Edwards and agreed.
- d) Sue Elrick highlighted the adoption of a new policy regarding the use of photographs including young people. It requires the formal consent of a parent or guardian before publication of any pictures of young ringers. This is available on the website and on request from Officers. The **Safeguarding Officer's Report** was proposed by Anne Franklin, seconded by Jenny Frith and agreed.
- e) **The Divisional Secretaries' Reports** were taken as read. They had been approved at the ADMs.
- g) Alan Baldock remarked that two methods had been first peals for the Association: Zebedee S Major and Isleworth S Royal. He also thanked Stephen Beckingham for his work on compiling the quarter peals and Mike Foster for preparing the lists for publication. Stephen Beckingham proposed the adoption of the **Peal Secretary's Report**, seconded by Geoff Rix and agreed.

The Master thanked each of the Officers for their work during the last year.

The General Secretary wished to thank Mike Foster for sharing the burden of producing the Annual Report.

5. **Presentation of Accounts for 2012**

The Treasurer, Val Burgess, reported that the General Fund showed a surplus of £584 for the year; this was due to:

A lot of publications sold in 2012. Costs were cleared on many stock books and a profit of £222 made. Soundbow continues to make a profit.

There was a loss on the social event and £824 (within budget) was spent on the new website.

The Reg Johnson Fund provided a grant in 2012 for a student to go on the Hereford course. This fund has also been used for the young people's events.

The George Elphick Fund has been fully depreciated and is now at a nil balance.

The Treasurer wished to thank the General Secretary, all Divisional Secretaries /Treasurers, for their co-operation, help and understanding during the year. She was also grateful to Jonathan Powell at D.A. Clark & Co, Independent Examiner.

Val Burgess announced that she would not stand for office in 2014, effectively giving a year's notice. The accounts run from January to December so if someone wants to take over on 1st January 2014, this could probably be arranged. A job description will be circulated and Val invited anyone interested to approach her.

The Master thanked Val for her excellent work in maintaining the accounts and asked that members consider who could take on this important role.

The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Stella Knight, seconded by Anne Ekins and agreed.

6. **The Sussex Churches Bell Restoration Fund**

a) **Report for 2012** - Graham Hills updated the meeting on three grants offered this year: Balcombe £3000, Warbleton £5000 and Woolavington £700.

b) **Accounts** - There had been income of £3522, with no legacies in 2012. Grants of £12,500 had been paid and a further £10,800 of promised grants are outstanding which will be paid on completion of work. One of these promised grants of £10,000 expires in July because it will be 2 years since the offer was made and work has not yet started on this restoration.

Ken Knight asked what would happen with the tower concerned once the offer had expired and the Treasurer replied that they would have to re-apply in the future.

Jonathan Franklin noted the difference in Gift Aid between 2011 and 2012. The Treasurer answered that this was due to a large Sum of Gift Aid claimed in 2011 and a further tax recovery will appear in the 2013 accounts.

The adoption of the Report and Accounts was proposed by Nicky Twort, seconded by Jack Burton and agreed.

7. **Election of Officers**

The Master remarked that the Association was pleased to welcome the new Bishop of Chichester as its President. On accepting this position, Dr Martin Warner wrote to the Association and his words are published in the Annual Report.

As there had only been one nomination for each post the following were declared elected:

The Master thanked Mike Wake for standing for a further three years as Trustee.

Master	Christine Baldock	Publicity Officer	Kathy Howard
General Secretary	Marisa Hayes	Peal Secretary	Alan Baldock
BRF Secretary	Graham Hills	Education Officer	Anne Franklin
Treasurer	Val Burgess	Librarian	Stella Bianco
Safeguarding Officer	Sue Elrick	Trustee	Mike Wake

Election of Fifth Central Council Representative 2014-2016

At this point, Val Atkins took the Chair as Senior Trustee.

The Gen Secretary clarified the timings of the changeover, saying that David Kirkcaldy remained Southern Division rep this year and that Anne Franklin would attend the 2014 meeting. Alan Baldock would be attending the 2013 CC meeting as the 5th representative. Because the AGM takes place just a few weeks before the Central Council, it is necessary to elect our representatives a whole year in advance.

David Kirkcaldy was proposed by John Norris, seconded by Alan Seymour.

Alan Baldock was proposed by Jonathan Franklin, seconded by Stella Bianco.

A ballot took place with Mike Wake and Peter Wilkinson as tellers and after three counts and an exceedingly close result, David Kirkcaldy was elected.

The Master returned to the Chair:

8. **Election of Honorary Life Member**

Sue Elrick spoke to nominate John Norris of Hurstpierpoint and this was seconded by Stella Bianco. A ballot was taken and John was duly elected an Honorary Life Member to much applause. He did not recognise himself, as described and was (almost) speechless.

9. Forthcoming Events in 2013

- a) The Association was to be part of the Diocesan Tent at the South of England Show (6-8 June). In attendance with Dewby's Bells (mini ring from Hooe). Volunteers have been signed up and a rota to be circulated. The team would be providing stickers to everyone who rings. Two follow up mornings at towers had been planned for 29 June to encourage anyone wanting to know more about ringing to pop along and have a go.
- b) The Inter-Divisional Striking Competitions would take place at Withyham on Saturday 29 June (2pm draw). Anne Franklin thought that all Ringing Masters would be looking for volunteers to represent their Divisions.
- c) The Ringing World National Youth Striking Contest would take place on Saturday 6 July in York. Anne Franklin reported that a team and 1 reserve had been selected and that they were practising to a high standard and would be of a very high standard by July. The meeting sent their very best wishes to the band.
- d) Essex Trophy 10-bell Competition takes place on 14 September. It was hoped that Sussex would be invited to enter a band.
- e) David Perkins spoke on behalf of the Northern Division Committee to ask what the Association would prefer by way of a Social event on Saturday 5 October. A vote was taken: Two votes for a formal dinner, some votes for a night at the dogs at Hove and more votes for an afternoon tea on the Bluebell Railway. The Master asked that these be reported back and thanked the Northern Division for taking this forward.
- g) Annual Ringing Course - Friday/Saturday 1/2 November. All details to be developed over coming months by the Education Committee.

9. Any Other Business

- a) The General Secretary was pleased to announce a new funding scheme to assist towers wishing to install a simulator or dumb bell. A sum of £8000 had been set aside from a legacy received from Brian Burrough's estate some years ago for the furtherance of ringing in Sussex and this was thought to be an excellent way to enable everyone to make progress on a more local basis. An application form and guidelines would be available shortly via the website and on request.
Jane Wilkinson enquired whether funding could be retrospective and the answer was 'no'.
Anne Ekins suggested 6 bell towers should also apply and this was agreed.
Peter Blackman hoped that towers would be spread across the county. It was felt this was dependent on the towers applying for grant support.
- b) The General Secretary reported that a very successful Handbell Day had been held at Roedean School in March. Masterminded by Hamish McNaughton and Adrial Walton (Southern Division Education Officer who also teaches at Roedean), 34 had been in attendance with all skill levels and there were hopes to set up a couple of groups for development. Peter Blackman said he was pleased to see handbells taken under the wing of the Association.
- c) The Master reported that after a disappointing attendance at the last Birthday Service, the General Committee had agreed not to hold a Service in January 2014. Stella Knight hoped that the Committee would be mindful that some members would welcome a corporate communion service, perhaps at a different time of year.
- d) Adele Potton had a stock of branded clothing available for sale at reasonable rates.
- e) Margaret Oram had a stock of current books and some surplus publications available today.
- f) Jonathan Franklin raised the question of the Publicity Committee re development and management of the website. The General Secretary answered by saying it was not the intention to have a single webmaster and that the more people able and willing to contribute to the site, the better. She had a number of volunteers; it was just a matter of allocating some time for training.
- g) Jeremy Alford remarked that the meeting had had a very difficult choice to make in electing one Central Council Rep and he wished on everyone's behalf to thank Alan Baldock for his service during his time on the Council.
- h) The Trustees requested the meeting's approval to destroy the ballot papers. This was agreed.

Before closing the meeting, the Master presented the Chain of Office to Christine Baldock. John Norris asked for a vote of thanks to be recorded to David for his excellent work as Master during the last three years. This was greeted with applause.

Following the formal proceedings, a short presentation and Q & A session led by Anne Franklin took place on the Future plans for the SCACR. Notes of this discussion are recorded separately.

Signed:

Date: