

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS
Registered Charity No. 268588

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE HELD AT
THE VILLAGE CENTRE, HURSTPEIRPOINT ON SATURDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2013 (9.30am)

PRESENT:

Master:	Christine Baldock	Librarian:	Stella Bianco
Secretary:	Marisa Hayes	Safeguarding Officer:	Sue Elrick
Treasurer:	Absent	Central Council Reps:	David Kirkcaldy
Trustees:	Val Atkins	Divisional Representatives:	
	Mike Wake	(N)	Anne Ekins, Rachel Edwards
	Peter Wilkinson	(S)	Absent
Education Officer:	Anne Franklin	(E)	David Hollands
Publicity Officer:	Kathy Howard	(W)	Jack Burton, Moya Hills
BRF Secretary:	Graham Hills		
Peal Secretary:	Alan Baldock		

The Master took the chair and asked members to stand in memory of members who had died since March: Lynda Beckingham, Ripe; Harry Conlin, Rye; Katherine Daniel, formerly of Hooe; Molly Elphick, Southover Hon Life Member; Roger Peckham, formerly of Keymer; Charles Shepherd, formerly of Partridge Green, Hon Life Member; Chris Slade, formerly of Hailsham and Peal Secretary; Fred Smeaton formerly of Brighton area. *The following deaths were also recorded between March- November 2013; to be noted for the next General Committee meeting: Keith Honeyball, formerly of Heene; Roy Kirkcaldy, formerly of Hurstpierpoint and Westham; Jean Osbon, formerly of Withyham, Margaret Binstead, formerly of Westham.*

- 1. Apologies for absence** received from Val Burgess, Andrew Barnsdale, Stephen Beckingham, Diana Day, Margaret Oram.
- 2. Minutes of the March General Committee meeting.** KathyH remarked that Under Item 8, discussion about the Long Service membership was not recorded and it was noted that in order to qualify a member must have been resident for 50 years. AlanB remarked that it was difficult to follow the minutes with use of initials and in some cases these were duplicated. Noting these remarks, it was the wish that the Master sign these as a true record of the March meeting.
- 3. Matters arising:** MarisaH explained that neither of the proposed rule changes were taken to the AGM in the light of the work being undertaken to review the Association and its rules as a whole. MarisaH also wished to record thanks to JackB and the Billingshurst ringers, the rector and the organist for a particularly successful AGM.
- 4. Updates:**
 - (a) Publicity Officer:** KathyH reported that two publicity committee meetings had taken place since March. There had been significantly less media coverage this year which was to be expected although KathyH wanted to encourage Divisional Publicity Officers to develop their own press contacts. **ACTION KATHYH**
The SCACR presence at the South of England Show had generated a few ringers, MarisaH commented that it had done a lot in terms of relations with the clergy and Bishop Martin had also visited the stand. Soundbow will shortly be available for circulation. The website continues to develop and more people have been trained to do a bit more on the site and to send emails. (GrahamH, MoyaH, JackB, DianaD, AnneF, Meg Heyworth (Southern Division Publicity Officer)). StephenB and MarisaH had met with webmaster Dave Cleworth re future developments and MarisaH proposed that the Committee approve additional expenditure of up to £100 to fund Dave's time to train Stephen in some of the more technical aspects, to work on some of the alterations over and above the original brief and to purchase and develop an additional 'plug-in' which will enable users to generate emails based around the calendar of events. This was seconded by StellaB and carried. GrahamH asked whether others would be able to share the load with Stephen and it was reported that Andrew Barnsdale had been approached for this. **ACTION StephenB, MarisaH and AndrewB**
The Master recorded her thanks to KathyH for all her work on publicity matters and in particular for continuing to make Soundbow such a success.
 - (b) Education Officer:** The Sussex Young Ringers achieved third place and fourth overall at the Ringing World National Young Ringers striking competition in York. They were superb ambassadors for Sussex. The Senior team achieved third place in the Essex Trophy 10 bell striking competition. 17 young ringers had attended the Take 9 event in the summer. AnneF thanked Rachel Edwards for her hard work in training two new ringers recruited from the South of England Show (SoE) who were now ringing at Cuckfield. There was also a youngster at Ditchling and an additional 2 youngsters at Hurst who had been at the Show. AnneF reported that the recent course had been a great success overall and she was dealing with more detailed feedback. The Master recorded her thanks to AnneF for the time spent developing the youth team and on delivering such a successful two-day course.
 - (c) Safeguarding Officer:** SueE reported there had been no comment on the latest policy regarding photography. Legislative changes this summer mean that DBS checks are now portable providing the individual registers with the

update service. This is a free service but can only be used within 14 days of receiving DBS clearance and has only been in operation since 17 June 2013. It was noticed that clearance is portable within the Diocese of Chichester. Subsequent to a discussion at the previous Education Committee it was proposed by SueE that the Annual Subscription (Yellow) Forms include a tick box to identify ringers holding a valid DBS/CRB certificate. It will help the Association identify any towers which are not covered and flag up the importance of having at least one person with a valid certificate within the tower. This proposal was seconded by AnneF and carried. The Master recorded her thanks to Sue for keeping on top of the legislation. **ACTION MarisaH**

(d) Librarian: StellaB and Judy Stokes had completed a stocktake and a new catalogue is almost ready to go to Church Green Books for valuation. The meeting recorded its thanks to both Stella and Judy for the work which goes unseen. In terms of an Open Morning, Stella was advised to pick a date and circulate details. **ACTION StellaB**

(e) Divisional updates:

South: nothing to report.

West: GrahamH and JackB reported good attendance at practices and that output from the Vision meetings was being incorporated in the 2014 programme of events.

North: AnneE reported on a highly successful SCACR social event on the Wey & Arun Canal which enabled members to talk to one another and get on and off the boat. Although there were only 50 people it was most enjoyable. It was also reported that the focused Monday evening practices had been well attended.

East: DavidH reported it was a real mixed bag for attendance at meetings. The 2014 programme is in outline but avoiding a meeting every month. It includes the quiz, the outing weekend (to Exeter) and other events which are successful. There will be a number of vacancies at the ADM.

5. Financial Statement: The Treasurer's report was circulated in her absence:

- Subscription are about the same as last year
- Admin expenses are going to be a little bit up on last year
- Insurance for 2013 is about £100 more than 2012
- The extra expenses this year :-
 - The Young People's Striking Competition in York expenses were £2491.39 this will come out of the Reg Johnson Memorial Fund. At the end of 2012, the balance of this account was £4,600
 - The South Of England Show expenses were net £339.50
 - plus we bought a flag banner which can be used again £215.40
- The Course has made a slight profit as at 7/11/2013
- The very successful and enjoyable Social event made a profit of £11

BRF report

- We had no legacies but received £140 in memory of Roy Fuller
- Donations to BRF total £3,579 which includes Nigel Gale's LE-JOG Bike ride which raised £1,035 plus I have been able to claim Gift Aid on some of that amount. This also includes Seaford's South Downs Walk which raised £410
- The total Gift Aid refund was £378.29
- One grant has been paid this year; £700 to Seaford College Chapel, Woolavington.

ValA commented that the balance of the Reg Johnson Fund was in the region of £2000 and asked whether the Association should consider further fundraising? DavidH suggested that the General Fund could be used to fund attendance at national events and this was agreed by DavidK who commented that the General Fund pays for the Central Council Reps attendance at meetings.

There was some discussion as to whether Young People's ringing events should generate a profit and it was generally agreed that refreshments were self funding or donated and tower fees came from the Reg Johnson Fund.

AlanB and DavidH proposed that the Treasurer makes a recommendation re transferring from the General Fund based on year end figures. With one member against this proposal it was carried. **ACTION VALB**

6. Sussex Churches Bell Restoration Fund: GrahamH reported that so far this year, there have been two BRF committee meetings those being in January and April. At these meetings, we discussed applications for grants from Balcombe, Warbleton and Woolavington.

The proposed project at Balcombe entails overhauling or replacing the majority of the running gear, including the bearings. This was discussed and a grant of £3,000 has been offered to the PCC. This work should have been started by now, but unfortunately, the blacksmith at Whitechapel Foundry had to have an operation, so the start date has been put back to the New Year.

The work that needs doing at Warbleton is similar to that desired at Balcombe, with the addition of fitting new gudgeons to the headstocks. A grant of £5,000 has been offered to the PCC to assist with the work, and I know the ringers and friends are very busy with fundraising.

Woolavington church is situated south of Petworth, and although it is a redundant church, it is now used as the chapel for Seaford College. Nicholson Engineering was asked to supply a quote for work to re-hang the bell on a stainless steel deadstock, and equip it with an electronically controlled chiming apparatus. This would also have the benefit of enabling an hourly chime for the college. The bell is mounted in a bell cote right above the church door, and when inspected, the iron straps securing it to the headstock were in such a poor condition, that the bell was removed at that

time. The BRF committee decided to offer a grant of £700. The bell was reinstated within a couple of weeks, and was dedicated by the Bishop of Chichester, the Rt. Rev'd Dr. Martin Warner in a Choral Evensong Service on 16th May. Unfortunately the proposed major work for Twineham never got off the ground, and the grant offer of £10,000 from the BRF has now lapsed.

Although the BRF is not involved, the work on the bells at West Tarring has also been delayed as they are also having Whitechapel as the contractors. From what I understand, the late Donald Smith left a sum of money to the church, and it is this legacy that is being used for the bell work.

StellaB asked whether the lack of progress at Twineham should be cause for concern and GrahamH advised that there would probably be a new application in due course as work was necessary.

PeterW asked whether Nigel Gale had been formally thanked for his superb fundraising efforts. The meeting recorded its thanks and the Master would write a personal thank you. **ACTION MARISAH**

7. **(a) Brian Burrough Legacy** – funding training equipment such as simulators in Towers: Despite publicising in newsletters and on the website only one application had been received to date. DavidK proposed, seconded by GrahamH that a grant of £300 be paid to Ringmer as a contribution towards the simulator costs (the current cost of eight sensors being £580). DavidK remarked that there would be an application to follow from Steyning and RachelE commented that Lindfield would be likely to apply in the course of their work. After discussion about shared expertise and encouraging towers to make use of the resource, DavidK offered to co-ordinate a list of people with knowledge of simulators to advise towers interested. MarisaH offered to write a short piece re costs and process of setting up the Ringmer simulator. **ACTION DAVIDK & MARISAH**
- After some discussion, ValA proposed that the £8000 continues to be ring fenced within the Bell Restoration Fund and is administered by the Treasurer, Trustees and Education Officer without necessarily coming before the BRF or General Committee. This was seconded by DavidK and carried.
- (b) Reg Johnson Scholarships:** No applications had been received although AnneF reported that eight junior members had had their two-day course fees paid from the Fund. It was noted that the March General Committee meeting would also consider applications for a scholarship.
8. **Future Events:**
- 15 November Stedman 300** There was minimal interest in the anniversary this month.
- 18-26 January – Quarter Peal Week.** It was agreed that quarters be submitted individually to ensure earliest possible publication. **ACTION ALL SECRETARIES TO ADVISE PUBLICITY OFFICERS**
- February – Divisional ADMs.** Divisions had little to report.
- Saturday 1 March – General Committee:** date noted. **ACTION SUEE**
- Saturday 10 May – AGM.** To be organised by the Southern Division. After discussion about guest speakers, timings, the church service, more ringing opportunities and pre-arranged quarter peals it was suggested that the Southern Division Committee consider a morning service and meeting followed by lunch and various ringing opportunities. **ACTION MarisaH to liaise with Clare Cullen.**
- 5-7 June – South of England Show.** It is proposed that the Association continues to have a small presence in the church tent at the SoE Show 5-7 June with handbells. All to send details of Sussex tune ringing bands to MarisaH to broaden the scope. **ACTION ALL**
- 6 September – Ringing Roadshow.** Attendance at the Ringing Roadshow came under scrutiny at this meeting. MarisaH reported that a stand (3m x 3m) would cost £40 and day tickets £10. MarisaH suggested that the Association meet the costs of the stand space but would not be covering travelling subsistence for members attending the event. The purpose of an Association stand was questioned and ValA and StellaB remarked that it kept the profile of Sussex up and it was good for Sussex ringers to attend and see their own association represented. DavidK proposed, seconded by KathyH, that the Association DOES NOT have a presence at the Ringing Roadshow. There were 4 in favour of this, 6 against and a further 6 abstentions (lack of information being the key). The Master proposed that the situation is reviewed at Publicity Committee in January and there should be a clear purpose and plan for the Association's attendance. **ACTION KATHYH**
9. **SCACR Vision.** The Master reported that as the Northern and the Southern Divisions had not yet had an opportunity to comment on the Vision proposals it would not be appropriate to be discussed further at this meeting. There had been some feedback that Northern Division members were not aware of the Newick meeting (16 November) but the date has been widely circulated as a joint meeting and with the lack of any other available Saturdays was the best option in the circumstances. Both the Western & Eastern Divisions had held business meetings in October.
- DavidK commented that Minutes of the Special General Committee meeting had been placed on the website and were incorrect. After reading the Minutes aloud, the Secretary noted the following changes: Sue Gadd was in attendance as a Western Division representative; Graham Holland (Mayfield) note no 's' and there had been 4 votes Against the proposals being taken further. With these amendments, ValA and PeterW proposed and seconded that these minutes be signed as a true record. All who were present were in favour.
- The Working Party suggested that an extra General Committee meeting take place on the morning of 11 January (venue tbc) with the Vision work the only item on the agenda. **ALL TO NOTE**
- DavidK also asked that paperwork relating to future planning be circulated in advance of the next meeting and this was noted by the working party.

10. Any other business. GrahamH asked whether the yellow forms could ask for members' postal addresses, in the light of the proposed changes to the Association he felt that each member should be personally consulted for and against the changes. MarisaH followed this up by saying that the Yellow Forms this year would include all the details we currently hold on members and ask them to update accordingly but during the last year we have not automatically collected members' home addresses if they are happy to receive emails. MarisaH commented that it was not necessary to have both email and home addresses on the Database. No formal decision was made.

StellaB had received an email from one of George and Molly Elphick's daughters, Janet Macey, offering some items of historic interest. Stella offered to follow this up and report to the next meeting in March. **ACTION STELLAB**

DavidK remarked on the success of the ringing course and identified the Divisional Education Officers' prime role being to arrange training based on need. There was some discussion about local and divisional requirements but the need for more basic level training was highlighted across the county as a result of the Vision meetings. **ACTION ALL DIVISIONS TO CONSIDER**

MarisaH mentioned that the College Youths' Annual Meeting takes place on Tuesday 12th November and although she didn't want to speak out of turn, it was likely that their new Master will be Simon Meyer of Shipley and congratulations are to be offered to him on this achievement. **ACTION MARISAH**

There being no other business, the Master thanked SueE and those who made the refreshments for their help and closed the meeting at 11.50.