

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS.
WESTERN DIVISION**

ANNUAL DIVISIONAL MEETING

Saturday 14th February 2015 at Aldwick.

MINUTES OF MEETING.

Paragraph numbers refer to the item numbers on the meeting agenda. The meeting was chaired by the Divisional Ringing Master, Graham Hills but the Association Ringing Master took the chair for the voting and nominations.

1. Before apologies for absence were taken the meeting stood in silence in remembrance of Myra Cheeseman, John Carter and Lila Gordon. Apologies for absence were then received from Geoff Rix, Brenda Cox, Adele Potton, Hamish McNaughton, Ian Russell, Stella Knight Liz Beadle Margaret Grundy and Roger Watts, plus the Ringers from Chichester who were welcoming a new Dean to the Cathedral.

2. The minutes of the last ADM (9th February 2013 at Storrington) had been distributed to members by e-mail, with the agenda and some reports, prior to the meeting. Additional hard copies were available at the meeting but because a number of members had not received the email, the chairman read out the last minutes before they were agreed as a true record and duly signed by the chairman. Christine Butterfield's name was corrected in paragraph 8 and the Secretary apologised to Christine for this mistake.

3. There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last ADM.

4. The Michael Palmer award was made to Ewan Grant-Richardson of Chichester and the District Master presented it to Ewan at the meeting to much applause. A copy of the citation, which was initiated by Hamish McNaughton, is held on file for future reference.

5. Reports of Officers.

a. Ringing Master.

The Master welcomed all present at the meeting and thanked all the ringers who had helped in the various training activities in the District over the last year and also for all the other people who behind the scenes had made the practices and social side of ringing go so well. He went on to outline the events over the past year and commented on how well they had been attended.

He went on to state that he did not agree with all that had happened this year and that the new rules had been pushed through at a lowly attended Emergency General Meeting, held at Hurstpierpoint, where there were only around 30 people present. He reported that he had spoken to many members who wished to have nothing to do with the new guidelines and just wished to carry on ringing. He stated that the Western Division (sorry District) would continue to be managed in the same way as at present although he did call for volunteers to step forward to represent the District on both the training and communications teams.

Graham stated that he wished to step down this year and would not therefore be standing for re-election and he also indicated that the two Publicity Officers wished to step down which will have serious effects on the publishing of "Sally Forth".

b. Secretary.

The Secretary's report had been circulated before the meeting but because of the number of members who had not received the email, the Secretary read out his report. It

again outlined the activities over the past year and covered much of the same ground as the Master's report. The Secretary explained that this was necessary as once adopted it was this report that would eventually appear for the Western Division in the Report book for the year. Acceptance of the Secretary's Report was proposed by David Kirkcaldy and seconded by Christine Butterfield. The motion was passed by acclamation. (A full copy of this report is held on file for reference and will appear as the formal Secretary's Report in the next Annual Report).

c. Treasurer.

The Treasurer reported what monies she had received and passed on to the Association Treasurer. They were as follows:-

Subscriptions	£3251.00
Bell Restoration Fund	£730.50
Reg Johnson Fund	£50.00
Sale of Ringing Books	£185.90

A detailed table of all transactions for the past year was also given to the Secretary and is retained on file for future reference.

d. Publicity Officers.

Copies of their report were distributed at the meeting and the report was read out to the members. In it they stated that 2014 had been another very successful year with plenty of news and reports to be included in Sally Forth. The printing of labels had been a problem which had been solved by them printing them themselves. They reported that the service they received from The Sun Alliance Co. For printing was good and still at a very reasonable price. The cost of postage was steadily increasing in spite of decreasing numbers dispatched. The Publicity Officers also outlined their proposal to reduce the work load of their office. This item was tabled and discussed in agenda item 9 below. (A full copy of their report is held on file for reference)

e. Education Officer.

As with the previous reports this, was distributed and read out at the meeting. The Education Officer reported on the various practices which had taken place on a regular basis and gave a big thank you for all the helpers who had turned out on each first Saturday of the month and gave a special thank you for those who helped with the all day practice for Milland in January. Special one off practices had also been arranged and these were mixed in with the regular 6 bell and 8 bell regular set events. She expressed a hope that in spite of the number of officers wishing to step down, business would continue as usual. (A full copy of this report is held on file for reference)

f. Bell Restoration Officer.

The BRF report was compiled by Graham Hills, circulated and read out by the chairman. It was a full and comprehensive report of work which mostly consisted of work on single and other chiming bells in the district. The most significant donation, of £3,500 from the BRF was to Arundel for the work on their bells, here work started in January and is expected to last 8 weeks. (A copy of this very full report is held on file for reference).

All the above reports were adopted without question or comment.

6. Programme

a. The Divisional Master gave a brief outline of the programme for the coming months as follows:-

4 March	Pagham	Striking Competition (Call Change and Method)
11 April	Pulborough	Morning Practice.
9 May	Hastings	Association AGM.
13 June	Milland	Morning Practice.
11 July	Ring & Walk	Details to be arranged.
8 August	Heene	Evening Practice.

12 September	Upper Beeding	Afternoon and evening at, Henfield.
10 October	Westbourne	Afternoon Practice
14 November	Kirdford	Muffled. Service and practice.
12 December	Steyning	Practice and Carol Service.

7. Certificates were presented to those new members who had recently joined the Association on the occasion of their towers return of subscription forms. There were 3 new members present from Pulborough; the remainder were distributed to other tower representatives and visitors who will deliver them to the respective new members.

8. The New Rules.

This item on the agenda had been included to explain to members how the new rules would be interpreted in the District and to give the opportunity for members to comment on and question the direction given by the District Committee. Simply, the management of the Division, now to be called a District, would continue just as before. The same officers would be elected to the committee as before, the programme drafted by them as before and the various groupings of towers throughout the district encouraged and enhanced as much as possible. Although there were very minor comments made at the time, there were no comments of any significance and the meeting passed on to the next item.

9. For this item, the chairman turned over the meeting to the Secretary. He started by outlining the two problems caused by the standing down of the District Master together with the Publicity Officers wishing to reduce their work load considerably. He then explained the solutions proposed by the committee. Firstly the loss of a Master; the Secretary would now lead from a programme detailed by the Committee but would seek help to set up and run each separate event from ringers who had quietly and separately volunteered their services to him. He may have to ask more directly for help in some cases. This would be done on a personal basis. The publishing load on the Publicity Officers would be reduced by having only 3 full copies of "Sally Forth" a year instead of the present 6. There would be 3 much simplified copies consisting mainly of items in the ringing programme and would be distributed by email only. Separate notices for single events would be sent out by email as and when required. There were only minor comments and observations made at the meeting, the most significant of which were from David Kirkcaldy who stated that the main point of the Secretary being the one elected officer according to the rules, was to act as a point of contact. The other was from Jane Wilkinson who was encouraging other to get involved. Ken Knight then proposed and David Kirkcaldy seconded a motion to accept the Secretary's solutions. The motion was accepted by acclamation.

10. Election of Officers.

- a. The Ringing Master, there were no candidates and so the post was left empty.
- b. The Secretary, Jack Burton, proposed by Stella Bianco, seconded by Sue Gadd and re-elected unopposed.
- c. The Treasurer, Moya Hills, proposed by Jack Burton, seconded by Christine Butterfield and re-elected unopposed.
- d. The Publicity Officers, Margaret Grundy and Liz Beadle, were proposed by Moya Hills, seconded by Sue Gadd and re-elected unopposed.
- e. The Education Officer, Christine Butterfield, proposed by Moya Hills, seconded by Ruth Brown and re-elected unopposed.
- f. The BRF Representative, Geoff Rix, proposed by Graham Hills, seconded by Moya Hills and re-elected unopposed.

h. Two Members, Sue Gadd, proposed by Moya Hills, seconded by Christine Butterfield and John Taylor, proposed by Jack Burton, seconded by Graham Hills they both were re-elected unopposed.

The Association Master then briefly outlined the work of the 4 management teams and called for volunteers to come forward and join a team. She went on to explain that great ringing expertise was not required and that there are usually only three meetings of each team per year. No volunteers were forthcoming.

11. Nominations for the General Committee.

The following nominations were made for General Officers of the Association.

- a. Master: Graham Hills by Sue Gadd and Jack Burton.
- b. General Secretary: Marisa Hayes by Peter Wilkinson.
- c. Treasurer: Sue Gadd by Jack Burton.
- d. BRF Secretary: Graham Hills by Sue Gadd. (But it was recognised that there may be a conflict if Graham is subsequently elected master.
- e. Education Officer and Peal Secretary are now part of the Admin, Records and Library team and nominations not considered by the Association Master as being required.
- g. Trustee: Peter Wilkinson by Jack Burton
- h. Safeguarding Officer: The chairman announced that Sue Elrick wished to stand down therefore there was no nomination. He went on to announce that Sue had recently written two policy papers entitled "Child Protection Policy" and "Looking After Children in the Belfry" and encouraged members to read them. After the above nominations, Peter Wilkinson proposed that Sue Elrick should be thanked for all her hard work. This was accepted by acclamation and the Secretary undertook to write to her on behalf of the Western District.

12. Under "A.O.B.", the Secretary reported that he had been asked to advertise the Second Seminar/Discussion Meeting at Penfold Hall, Steyning on Friday 13th March 2015 from 7pm to 9pm. Saturday 6th September 2014.

13. Date of next meeting will be 13th February 2016; the venue has yet to be arranged.

Jack Burton
Secretary.

These minutes are accepted as a true record.

Chairman.
(signed) 13th February 2016.

WESTERN DISTRICT - SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2014.

The last year has been a steady but never-the-less productive year with many and varied activities, some of which were as a direct result of the findings that came from the development of the new rules. The membership continues to increase but not as much as previous years. There was an increase in membership of 14 over the year.

The regular practices have continued with some variations; for example there were two morning meetings instead of the usual afternoon ones. The Walk and Ring was just as popular, so much so that when the opportunity presented itself, a second was programmed. The twice monthly eight bell practice, lead by Colin Spencer has continued at Felpham and again at Arundel or though it will revert to Westbourne in the New Year whilst the Arundel bells are overhauled. First Saturday six bell workshops have continued at Washington with Christine Butterfield, where she plans the mornings to fit the students she has arranged.

The fourth Saturday morning Surprise minor practice has increased in popularity and has continued to be at Walberton. This seems to be just the right combination of tower and time and many members have developed their minor surprise skills at this practice.

The District Outing for the year was very memorable being a visit to the towers around Canterbury including the cathedral itself. There was a very good turn out with a waiting list for those who did not book early enough. The outing and many other events were well reported in the District Newsletter, "Sally Forth", which has continued to go from strength to strength under the editorship of Liz Beadle and Margaret Grundy. Sadly they have both indicated that they wish to be relieved at the next ADM. They will be sadly missed.

The new rules for the Association have now been adopted and the District Committee have outlined a way forward for adoption at the next ADM. It is expected that the way we do business will stay more or less the same with the emphasis on the help being given to towers as we do at present. The timing, type and frequency of our more formal practices will be open to variation. Of the 44 towers in the district 38 are linked or associated with at least one other tower and it is hoped that this association between towers will continue and develop naturally.

The prospect for the future remains very good with the activities of the district increasing in popularity together with the social aspects of being a bell ringer.

Jack Burton.

2014 BRF Report for Western District

I will start this report with a couple of items that did not involve the Bell Restoration Fund.

Early in 2014 at West Tarring all the clappers were overhauled and fitted with new Tufnell bushes and stainless steel hinge pins. All the bearings were replaced, and so were all the rope pulley blocks. One of the main changes was that the 5th bell was re-rope to bring the ringer out of the corner to make more of a ringing circle.

Again not a grant issue, Rogate commissioned the casting of a new sanctus bell to commemorate those who lost their lives in the 1914-1918 war, in time for a service in August. This bell is to be hung above the existing bells to be swing chimed. However, Taylors got it wrong and have submitted a drawing for a completely new frame, adding 2 extra bells for full circle ringing. It is hoped that the bell will be installed this year.

At Duncton, Alan Hughes from Whitechapel has visited and confirmed that the bell can be rehung for swing chiming, thereby keeping the half wheel. The original BRF grant offer lapsed in September, but a new application has been received, and a new grant offer of £1,200 has been made to the PCC. Whitechapel will restore the half wheel; fit a new headstock, bearings and clapper assembly. The old ironwork supporting the bell is to be reproduced on the headstock. There will also be some reinforcing work to the bell support beams. This work is due to start in March 2015.

At Hunston, on a visit made in July 2013, it was discovered that the steel rods fitted in the 1950's to secure the treble to the headstock, had severely corroded and had cracked the crown of the bell. An Archdeacon's Certificate had been obtained, and the bells were removed by Nicholson Engineering, who is holding them in safe keeping. It may be possible to weld the bell, but both bells would require new headstocks, support bolts and fittings. It is now down to the parish to decide the next course of action.

Apuldram. On a previous visit, the bell chamber was found to be full of bird's nest and other debris. I am now pleased to report that this has all been cleared out and the 3 bells are in chimeable order.

At Wick near Littlehampton, the single bell is hung in a bell turret, and an Inspection through binoculars showed this to be in a poor state, with the headstock badly cracked around the gudgeons. I suggested there was a danger of it falling out with potential risk to the roof, and Nicholson has now removed the bell and has it in store pending its future.

Rustington. Another single bell; cast 1671 and hung in a 3 bell frame. I visited here in 2009 and am now pleased to say that a recommendation for the bell to be refurbished for stationary chiming is now being undertaken as part of a large re-ordering of the church.

East Wittering. An interesting one this, a single bell which it was discovered came from St Andrews, in the Oxmarket, Chichester. The church is a modern 1960's style, with a tower that is more decorative than functional and could not take more bells. The parish had thought of installing a Smiths of Derby digitised bell sound system as a way to get some bells sounding from the church. After much thought and discussion suggested that a digitised sound of a light ring of 6 bells with change ringing may be a possibility, and the parish is looking further into the idea.

At a BRF committee meeting at the end of November 2014 it was decided to offer a grant of £3,500 to Arundel PCC to help with the cost of the bell work. Whitechapel Bell Foundry have been contracted to undertake the work which started on 12th January 2015, and it is expected that the bells will be out of action for between 6 and 8 weeks. In the meantime, volunteers are cleaning the bell chamber, painting the frame, and helping Whitechapel. It is also hoped that a simulator will be installed.