

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

ANNUAL DIVISIONAL MEETING

Saturday 13th February 2016 at Heene.

MINUTES OF MEETING.

Paragraph numbers refer to the item numbers on the meeting agenda. The meeting was chaired by the Association Ringing Master, Graham Hills.

1. Apologies for absence were then received from Andrew Barnsdale, Hamish McNaughton, Peter Blackman, Simon King, Ian Russell, Stella Knight, Kirsten Scott, Mike & Sheila Foster, Margaret Grundy, David Stubbings, Mandie Merlin, Keith Game and Caroline Taylor.

2. The minutes of the last ADM (14th February 2013 at Aldwick) 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. They were agreed as a true record and duly signed by the chairman.

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

4. The Michael Palmer award was made to Harry Bickers and the Association Master presented the shield to Harry at the meeting to much applause.

5. Reports of Officers.

a. Ringing Master. The post remains vacant.

b. Secretary.

The Secretary's report had been circulated before the meeting. It outlined the activities over the past year. The Master explained that once adopted by the ADM, it became the report which appears for the Western Division in the Report book for the year. Acceptance of the Secretary's Report was proposed by Alan Martin and seconded by Geoffrey Rix. 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	£2489.00
Bell Restoration Fund	£789.85
Reg Johnson Fund	£15.00

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. In it they stated that the proposal at the 2015 ADM to reduce the number of full editions of Sally Forth had been

implemented. This had been mainly due to the rising costs of postage. They went on to thank everyone one who had sent in contributions and help make another very successful year with plenty of news. (A full copy of their report is held on file for reference)

e. Education Officer.

This report had been distributed before the meeting. The Education Officer reported that while there seems to be a distinct lack of enthusiasm among members of the Association to take up posts on the various committees, we were very fortunate that as soon as you ask for helpers they are only too pleased to turn up. She went on to report the various teaching events that had taken place during the year and thanked all the ringers who had helped and made it all possible. Christine observed that the two-day ringing course had not been well supported as in previous years and concluded that this was possibly due to the travelling distances involved and the improved teaching at local level.

f. Bell Restoration Officer.

In his report, Geoff Rix, detailed the work carried out by the BRF and the donations allocated. He observed that it had been a much quieter year with less activity. A copy of his report is held on file. With his report, Geoff outlined the work of the BRF rep. at district level. This was to help any possible member who may wish to replace him. Geoff moves to Devon in March this year.

All the above reports were adopted without question or comment.

6. Programme

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

12 March	Storrington	followed by Supper and Quiz Night at Pulborough.
9 April		Left clear for the ringing event at Horsham.
30 April	Southover	(5 th Saturday). 10 bell ringing.
14 May	Ardingley	Association AGM.
11 June		Ring and Walk (Details to be arranged).
9 July	Petworth	Ring, tea then evening ring at Tillington.
13 August	Felpham	Evening Practice.
10 September	Funtington	Ring, tea then evening ring at Stoughton.
8 October		To be arranged.
12 November	West Tarring	Muffled. Service and practice.
10 December	Pulborough	Practice and Carol Service.

Afterwards, Ken Knight announced details of and issued invitations to his coming Diamond Wedding celebrations.

7. Election of District Officers

a. The post of District Master remained vacant.

b. Mandie Merlin was proposed to be the new Secretary by Peter Wilkinson and seconded by Moya Hills. She was elected unopposed.

f. The post of BRF Rep. Became vacant as there were no proposals.

The following officers were re-elected unopposed as a group:-

They were proposed by Roger Watts and seconded by Ken Knight.

c. Treasurer Moya Hills

e. Education Officer Christine Butterfield

h. Committee Members John Taylor
Sue Gadd.

g. Due to his serious illness, Andrew Barnsdale has resigned his post as Central Council Rep. After some discussion on the timings of taking up the post, it was proposed by Sue Gadd and seconded by Stella Bianco that David Kirkcaldy should become the CC Rep. for the Western District. It was then proposed by Jane Wilkinson and seconded by David Kirkcaldy, that Graham Hills should replace Andrew as an interim and immediate measure. These proposals were accepted by acclamation.

d. A new Publicity Officer, Mandy Rodgers was proposed by Stella Bianco and seconded by Valerie Mourilyan. She was elected by acclamation.

Because of her work with the training Team, Helen Vickers was proposed by Moya Hills and seconded by Erica Pritchard to become a member of the District Committee. This was also agreed by acclamation.

8. Nominations for the General Committee.

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

Master:

General Secretary: There were no nominations for this coming vacant post.

Treasurer:

BRF Secretary:

Trustee: Jack Burton by Moya Hills.

Safeguarding Officer: Pat Aylward by Stella Bianco.

12. Under "A.O.B.", Roger Watts of Thakeham gave details of his tower outing on 23 May.

13. Date of next meeting will be 11th February 2017; the venue has yet to be arranged.

Jack Burton
Secretary.

These minutes are accepted as a true record.

Chairman.
11th February 2017.

WESTERN DISTRICT - SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2015.

Last year was a steady but never the less a productive year. The District made good progress on the training front and also on the inter-tower practice sharing. The membership has dropped by 15 which equals 3% of the total for the District. This was in spite of the large number of new members over the year of 14. It reverses the trend over the last few years.

Our regular practices have continued on the second Saturdays of each month and the programme has continued in the same vain as last year with more morning gatherings. The Walk and Ring day was just as popular as ever. The first and third Friday practices have been at Arundel, Felpham and Westbourne as in other years alas, Arundel was again out of action in the latter part of the year. Colin Spencer must be thanked for his leadership in this area and his ability to keep us ringing when the odds seem to stack against him when towers become unavailable.

The popularity of the fourth Saturday Surprise Minor practice at Walberton continues to do well with a slight increase in numbers if anything. At the other end of the practice scale, Christine Butterfield continues, at the beginning of each month, with her workshops for beginners with no shortage of candidates wishing to improve their skills. Each meeting is set to the level required for the particular candidates for that month. This fits in well with the increase in help between towers where more share a practice night.

The enthusiasm for Sally Forth has been great although the number of full editions in the year has decreased. The main edition now alternates with a more simplified version which just gives the programme for the next couple of months. The present Publicity Officers have stated that they do not wish to stand for re-election at the next ADM and therefore will stand down. Their work on Sally Forth has been superb and they have greatly enhanced the content and presentation of the publication. They will be a hard act to follow.

Although the post of Secretary is now the only post which, according to the rules, has to be formally elected at each ADM, the Western District has continued to elect officers for Education, Publicity and as Committee members. The post of Ringing Master remains vacant at present. On a more personal note, I also do not wish to stand for re-election as Secretary at the next ADM in February. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Secretary but now feel it is time to pass the task onto someone else. I would like to give a very special thanks to all those people who have helped me over the last five years and a special thanks to all those ringers who have come forward to help me over the past year with the management without a District Ringing Master.

Jack Burton.

Education Officer's Report for 2015

While there seems a distinct lack of enthusiasm among members of the association to take up posts on the various committees, we are very fortunate that as soon as you ask for helpers for any sort of training session, experienced ringers are only too pleased to turn up and lend a hand, which has made the practices mentioned below so much easier to arrange.

As well as the regular monthly Saturday morning elementary practices at Washington, which are still proving to be popular, there have also been training mornings at Billingshurst in May for a 'Kaleidoscope' course run by Elaine Farrow and at Shipley in June for a 'Ringing Up and Down' course. The first kaleidoscope course was so successful that Elaine has agreed to run a follow-up morning which at the time of writing this report is scheduled for Saturday February 6th.

I say this every year, but it needs saying – A very big THANK-YOU to all the ringers who turn up to help the not-so-experienced ringers, these practices couldn't happen without you.

Other specific practises have been held in other parts of the county, please remember you are very welcome to join these, just check with whoever is running it that there is space for you.

The two- day Association Ringing Course at the end of October was not as well supported as in previous years, this could be due to the distances people had to travel, I like to think it's because we are doing better at a local level than before.

The 6 bell advanced practices held at Walberton on the last Saturday of the month are gaining numbers, with ringers coming to perfect the basic treble bob methods while stretching others to learn some of the not- so- basic ones. The 8 bell practices, although they have moved around a bit due to work on the tower at Arundel, are still attracting good numbers.

Please let me or any other member of the committee know if you or your tower have any particular requests for training and we will do our best to arrange it.

Christine Butterfield