

AN EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING HELD AT HURSTPIERPOINT  
ON SATURDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014

The Association Master, Christine Baldock, called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for attending. There were 30 members present,

**1. Apologies for absence were received from:** Tony & Jo Woodliffe, Pat Hunter, Janet Wilson, Sandra Titherly, Colin & Lindsey Pritchard, Hilary & Klaus Buell and Rogate/Milland ringers, Jenny Dearie, Bexhill Ringers, Hamish McNaughton and Chichester band, David Perkins, Frances Gilbert, Richard Hutchings, Anne Ekins, Patsy Whiteside, Angela Cash, Jo Faircloth, Mike & Sheila Foster, Nigel Gale, Stephen Beckingham, Linda Perkins, Isobel Murphy, May Littleton, Jo Worsley, Rob Lane, Debbie Evans, William Stafford, Tessa Pacey, Pat Aylward, Sue Hemington, Marion & David Holland, Frances & Peter Bradford, Geoff Rix, Christine Butterfield, Elaine Farrow, Val Burgess.

**2. SCACR Rule Changes:** Jane Wilkinson spoke in favour of the draft rules presented stating that the second working group (comprising Rachel Edwards, Sam Tyler, Mark Dawkins and herself) had merely done a tidying job on the hard work presented by the main group at the AGM. She proposed **that the draft rules as tabled be accepted**. This was seconded by Sam Tyler and the Master opened the meeting for discussion.

a) Alan Baldock remarked that the current wording of Rule 25 (re the election of non-resident members prior to a peal) was not something he would wish to see the Association adopt. There had been at least one example of a peal in 2014 where the band was made up of 7 non-resident ringers, each of whom had a long connection with Sussex. He remarked that there had been a fear that whole bands of ringers would come and claim peals for the Association, but in fact this does not happen.

After some discussion Alan Baldock proposed, seconded by Ian Oram, **that, in Rule 25, the sentence: "At least 50% of the band must be resident members" be deleted**. This was passed by 18 votes for, 2 against and 5 abstentions.

Alan Baldock subsequently proposed **that the following sentence be inserted into Rule 25. "In order for a non-member to become a member prior to a peal attempt, 50% of the band must be resident members"**. This was seconded by Peter Wilkinson after debate over the proposed new mechanism for becoming a member - completion of a form and payment of one year's subscription.

There were 8 votes in favour, 3 against and 12 abstentions meaning that the motion was carried.

b) Ian Oram proposed, seconded by John Norris, **that a line from the Membership Guidance Note be incorporated within Rule 3 after ...in Sussex. "They should be able to ring rounds unaided and to lower a bell safely."** Following discussion that this item was not within the remit of this meeting, a vote was taken. There were 8 for and 19 against this motion with 1 abstention and the motion was defeated.

However it was felt that a debate on minimum standards for membership should be encouraged at the AGM 2015.

c) Ian Oram proposed **that Rule 3 should include: "Members may be elected at any practice or meeting of the Association"**. This was seconded by Alan Baldock. In debate, it was stated that at the AGM there was a clear understanding that the 'election' procedure would be done away with. The vote count was 2 in favour, 17 against with 4 abstentions and the motion was defeated.

d) Val Atkins remarked that the Aims of the Association had been changed since the draft presented to the AGM and asked why: Jane Wilkinson commented that the Aims indicated ways in which the Association could be of service to the Diocese in ways it had means to control.

Val Atkins proposed, seconded by David Kirkcaldy, that **"for the purpose of ringing in churches" be deleted from Rule 2(d)**. This was defeated.

- e) Val Atkins asked whether Rule 13 meant unattached members should be 'attached' to a district. It was felt that most have a link with one district and could pay their subscription to whichever secretary they chose.
- f) The issue of District finances was raised at this point with Treasurer, Sue Gadd, bringing it to the meeting's attention that she was so far unable to report on the total Association finances. It was agreed that a Finance Committee meeting would take place to formalise a financial policy for the Association.
- g) Ian Oram proposed **that Rule 15b (*Encourage and support the development of ringing networks and network leaders.*) should be deleted** as he found no other reference in the rules. This was seconded by Eric Headleand. A vote was taken and defeated by a majority with one abstention.

Ian Oram also asked who would convene the meetings of the Teams without appointed leaders. It was noted (Rule 16 refers) that these would be convened by the General Committee.

- h) Eric Headleand queried whether a tower should be able to change districts without a vote and it was felt that this would be acceptable for whatever reason and a rule for this eventuality was no longer necessary.

After the Master confirmed that everyone present had had opportunity to contribute, Jane Wilkinson and Sam Tyler reiterated the proposal that the draft rules as tabled and amended be accepted. This was put to the vote and carried by the required two-thirds majority of those present.

Jonathan Franklin wished to record his thanks to all those who had contributed towards the development of a new set of rules. This was met with applause.

**At the close of the meeting, Marisa Hayes spoke about the future development of the Vision for SCACR.**

"During the course of last summer we heard and reported on the views of members from across the county. It was a valuable exercise and one which I would urge districts to repeat. It became clear to the Vision Group and to all of us that the Association needed to deliver more at the grassroots.

However, it was apparent that change could not be imposed from the top down and that changes needed to evolve naturally and at their own pace. The structure we have in place now allows for this to happen. I urge everyone to go forward to make our Association welcoming and inclusive by encouraging and supporting local initiatives and helping those at the grassroots to get involved.

The district structure is such that local representatives should be able to come together to lead ringing which is relevant to their ringers. There should be no set Saturday practice, replaced instead by a variety of practices and workshops designed to suit the needs of local ringers.

This is not for everyone - we know that - but the rewards that come from a focused practice with good support set the benchmark for a strong association - one which takes the needs of its members seriously."

**With no further comments nor questions, the meeting closed and was followed by ringing at Hurstpierpoint.**