

**THE 131ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT ARDINGLY
ON SATURDAY 14th MAY 2016**

Towers available for morning ringing were: Balcombe, Cuckfield and Ardingly however attendance was low. Approximately 20 members attended the short service conducted by the Revd John Crutchley, Rector of St Peter's Ardingly. A ploughman's lunch, arranged by Northern District committee members and Lynn and Pat Wilson was enjoyed by 30 members before the meeting which was attended by 40 members.

The Association Master, Graham Hills, took the chair and asked members to stand in memory of those ringers who had died since the last AGM: Andrew Barnsdale (Fernhurst); John Brinkler (Rusper); Alison Denley (Turners Hill); Ann Friswell (Horsham); Frank Lewis (Kent); Joyce Marrett (Goring); Geoff Muggridge (Blacklands); Colin Nicholson (Bexhill); Ann Rothon (Salehurst), Helen Tappenden & Michael Upton (Burwash).

- 1. Apologies for absence were received from:** Ken and Stella Knight, Mary Burr, Pip Pawley, Roy and Rosemary Cox, Jenny Dearie, Jo Worsley, Frances Bradford, Val Burgess, John and Diana Day, Hamish McNaughton, Ian and Angie Hastilow, Debbie Evans, Chris Shaw, Gerald Sandwell, Mike and Brenda Etherington, Christine Butterfield, Roger Watts, Brenda Cox, Tim Waterman, Helen Goldstar, Tom White, David Kirkcaldy, Rachel Mahoney, Rosie Gregory, Judith and Andrew Alford.
- 2. The Minutes of the 130th AGM** held on 9 May 2015 at Hastings had been circulated. Item 6a) was corrected to read *the working balance stands at £30,000* and were subsequently approved and signed as a correct record; proposed by Nick Cant, seconded by Stella Bianco.
- 3. Matters Arising:** Jonathan Franklin asked whether further consideration had been given to an accreditation / mentoring scheme for teachers. Anne Franklin replied that a train the trainers course in October had only been subscribed to by 2 ringers, one of whom pulled out last minute.
- 4. Reports for 2015:** The officers' reports had been available to view on the website as the Annual Report had only been available that day. There were no objections to having the reports taken as read and Jack Burton and Ian Oram proposed that the reports be accepted en bloc. All in favour.
 - a) Christine Baldock spoke as the leader of the Training & Recruitment Team to explain she had taken the chair as a temporary measure only.** The team had met recently and decided that the traditional ringing course had run its course for the time being. A series of day workshops (10am-4pm) were proposed between June-October and details were being circulated via the website. Christine stressed that each of the teams needed fresh faces and new ideas and invited members to get involved. *The next training team meeting will take place on October 14 at 7.30pm in Hurstpierpoint church.*
 - b) Christine also mentioned the training-needs survey** to be circulated and urged ringers to complete it and encourage others to respond. Jeremy Alford offered feedback on the previous course in a request for more advanced courses and this was to be considered for future workshop sessions.
 - c) Jonathan Franklin asked how many handbell ringers rang peals in 2015.** Alan Baldock offered to respond to this and to provide more detail in the next report.
 - d) Jeremy Alford asked about a verbal report on the Central Council and discussion followed:** It was agreed that this meeting was the perfect time for Sussex reps to canvas the views of members ahead of the Annual Meeting and this is to be added to the 2017 agenda. Jonathan Franklin queried why Sussex needed 5 reps (at a cost of £900 to attend the 2015 meeting in Hull) and it was explained that the number reflected the size of the Association's membership. John Norris said that

we ought to take an interest in the CCCBR and to send reps who were keen and able to help work towards reform. As part of Item 7) Election of Officers, Peter Wilkinson asked whether Alan Baldock would be prepared to represent Sussex which Alan politely declined as he had been co-opted to the council in his own right. John Norris suggested that Jonathan Franklin might consider representing Sussex to help bring about reform but this too was declined as he considered the Annual Meeting to be a bit of a jolly but wished to recognise the excellent work happening in many of the CCCBR committees. Marisa Hayes said it was a pity that David Kirkcaldy was not at the meeting as he is closely aligned with the Central Council and Ian Oram suggested that considerable changes could be anticipated from 2018 onwards. Jeremy Alford asked that the Association be more proactive in keeping members up to date with changes at CCCBR and that the question of representation be revisited at ADMs and the AGM in 2017.

- 5. Presentation of Accounts for 2015:** The Treasurer, Sue Gadd was unable to attend the meeting at short notice and the Master offered to take questions from the floor for Sue to respond in writing alongside the minutes. The Master explained that Sue had worked with the auditors to answer questions about the restricted funds and this had caused some delays in their completion.
- a) Jeremy Alford asked for clarification of the figure quoted for insurance in the management accounts circulated with the AGM papers. Ian Oram (who continues to handle the SCACR insurance renewals) explained that costs had not increased significantly. The Treasurer's additional report is appended to these minutes.
 - b) **Marisa Hayes thanked everyone who had completed a Gift Aid form** and explained that a submission would be made in due course.
 - c) **Appointment of Independent Examiner:** Alan Baldock proposed that Knill James be re-appointed, this was seconded by Steph Pendlebury and agreed by all.

6. The Sussex Churches Bell Restoration Fund

- a) **Report and Accounts for 2015:** The report was proposed by Moya Hills, seconded by Kathy Howard and agreed. The accounts proposed by Nick Cant, seconded Peter Wilkinson.
- b) The Master re-iterated the need for all districts and towers to consider fundraising for the BRF to boost fund through a raffle or social activity.
- c) **District Representatives:** Pip Pawley - East, Nick Cullen – South, Terry McGinn – North, West temporarily vacant.

7. Election of Officers:

There being no other nominations each of the following officers were elected:

Master:	Graham Hills	Treasurer:	Sue Gadd
BRF Secretary:	David Kirkcaldy	Safeguarding Officer:	Pat Aylward
Trustee:	Jack Burton		

Central Council Nominations from the West and East: David Kirkcaldy and Roy Cox were accepted and no further nominations were made.

General Secretary: Marisa Hayes outlined the duties of the Secretary which could be split between a couple of people and explained how the job had changed as would be likely to change over the coming year. The current database which was developed by Stephen Beckingham does a fine job but has one major drawback in that it can only be held in one place. It was hoped that by the time of renewals in 2017, the database could be held "in the cloud" to enable the four district secretaries to update their own areas. Richard Pendlebury confirmed that in the interim, he would be taking over the database and merging it with the new website and Marisa and others thanked Richard for offering to take this on.

Other responsibilities: a) The latest Annual report was project managed by Val Atkins to whom Marisa was extremely grateful. b) Organising and recording the two General Committee meetings and AGM. c) providing a central point of contact for other organisations and sharing information. Christine Baldock remarked that all officers should keep an eye on the scope of each role as it was easy for the job to get bigger and bigger without additional support forthcoming.

Marisa stressed that she was unable to leave this item in abeyance and the Association could not run without a General Secretary. She also expressed her thanks to husband Sean for his support and patience over the four years she had been secretary.

Sandra Alford said she was prepared to do part of the job and Moya Hills said she would help.

Sandra was proposed by Nick Cant and seconded by Anne Franklin.

Moya was proposed by Steph Pendlebury and seconded by Margaret Sherwood. *All in favour – their election was greeted by a round of applause and thanks.*

8. Alteration to Bank Account Signatories.

The Treasurer had asked that another signatory be added to the list (three Trustees, General Secretary and Treasurer) for the convenience of having cheques signed. It was suggested that any cheques be posted first class for signature as necessary with the majority being processed electronically. The only changes proposed were:

Delete Marisa Hayes, add Sandra Alford (General Secretary) Proposed Jeremy Alford, seconded Jonathan Franklin.

Delete Mike Wake, add Jack Burton (Trustee) Proposed Alan Baldock, seconded Richard Pendlebury.

9. Forthcoming Events: Details of all events available on the website and all events are open to all members regardless of District.

Sussex Young Ringers have submitted two teams to the Ringing World National Youth Competition in London on 2 July. They were winners of the South East Regional Competition in April and congratulations were sent via William and Josh with thanks to Anne Franklin and Sandra Alford for their help in building up the teams.

10. Any Other Business

- a) Stella Bianco wished to draw members' attention to a special quarter peal certificate she has devised for ringers wishing to commemorate the **Queen's 90th Birthday**. This is available via email from Stella (library@scacr.org) and district secretaries.
- b) Mike Cattell addressed the meeting thanking the Association for helping the celebrations for the **250th anniversary of the first peal rung by a Sussex band at Horsham saying:** *"I want to place on record my thanks to an immense team of people that made this event so successful. The Committee: Stella Bianco – the exhibition, Val Burgess – the catering, Steph Pendlebury – the publicity, Graham Burling - the open towers & Sandra Alford - mini-ring. The various co-ordinators: Jonathan Franklin – the hand bells, John Norris – the ropemaking and dumbbell, Isabel & Ed Woodward – the quiz night, Pete & Ann Lloyd – the sound system. George Francis for the loan of Bell Meadow and the tune bell ringers from KIPHRA & U3A. All those who volunteered to be on a rota as a helper – especially our Master for his escort duties. Nigel Gale who started the whole thing off some three years ago and David Smith for calling our anniversary peal. Hepworth brewery for beer. The very generous sponsorship from the Revd Rupert Toovey and from a member of the St Mary's Horsham congregation. Apologies if I have missed out people but the main people to thank are all the ringers who attended and helped in so many ways."*

- c) Sandra Alford remarked on the **low attendance at the ringing and meeting** and asked if anything was being done to address this. John Norris and others remarked on the apathy within the Association and highlighted the success stories in terms of recruiting and retaining the interest of young ringers. He encouraged the towers to share best practice to identify the things you can do to recruit. Mandie Merlin asked if there was a role for a coordinator across Sussex to share ideas. John Norris highlighted the opportunities of national events to recruit and Mandie said that she had tried to promote BBC World Music Day through the website and newsletters.
- d) Steph Pendlebury highlighted a few **requirements for the website** going forward trying to avoid items which go out of date quickly as the site at the moment is quite hard to edit efficiently.
- e) Alan Baldock asked where the **exhibition boards** were stored and Val Atkins said that everything is in her garage and available to borrow.
- f) Stella Bianco promoted the **Open Meeting of the CCCBR on Sunday 29 May** which is be streamed online.

11. In addition to the thanks already offered to Lynn and Pat Wilson, Sandra Alford and others for the superb lunch, the Master gave thanks to the Revd John Crutchley for taking the service and to Jill Clark for playing the organ. The Master also presented Marisa with a bouquet of flowers in recognition of her work as General Secretary in the last four years.

The meeting closed at 3.00pm.