

## THE 132<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT BILLINGSHURST ON SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2017

AGM day commenced with ringing at St Mary's, followed by a church service. An excellent ploughman's lunch, served by the local ringers, was then enjoyed by 41 members before the meeting which was attended by 53 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: Tony Balchin (Keymer), Jean Blackman (Chichester), Pauline Burt (Storrington), George Cockman (Steyning), John Cooper (Crawley), George Coulson (Angmering), Brenda Dart (Lindfield), Willy George (Hellingly), David Hill (Coleman's Hatch), Michael Jennings (Crawley), Margaret Large (East Grinstead), Bill Maddock (Funtington), Ted Marshall (Stoughton), Andrew Reeves (Chichester), Derek Slater (West Hoathly), Jim Smith (Horsham), Joyce Spence (St Leonards on Sea), Gilbert White (Shipley).

**1. Apologies for absence were received from:** Angie & Ian Hastilow, Hamish McNaughton, Mike Cattell, Simon Meyer, Richard Hutchings, Rev Peter Blackman, Philip & Jenny Pawley, Frances & Peter Bradford, Keith Rogers, Nigel Thomson, Marisa Hayes, Colin & Lindsey Pritchard, Mary Burr, Hazel & Tony Mottram, Diana & John Day, Jonathan Spencer, Gerald Sandwell, Valerie Mourilyan, Peter Hurcombe, Mike & Sheila Foster, Brenda & Mike Etherington, Val Burgess, Jenny Beckingham, Ken & Stella Knight, Rosalind & Roger Cowsill, Angela Dawes, Caroline Taylor, Roger Watts, Christopher Dart, Colin Brown, Karen & Adrian Miller, Debbie Evans, Alan & Louise Pink, Sue Elrick, John Taylor and Rachel Mahoney.

**2. The Minutes of the 131<sup>st</sup> AGM** had been circulated. They were approved by the meeting and signed as a correct record.

**3. Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising.

**4. Reports for 2016:** The reports had been available to view on the website and in the Annual Report ahead of the meeting. There were no objections to having the reports taken as read. As requested at the previous AGM, Anne Franklin also gave a verbal report on the Central Council meeting which had been held in May 2016 (see attached). Jane Wilkinson thanked Anne for such a detailed and positive report.

Stella Bianco proposed all reports be approved en bloc, Rob Lane seconded. All were in favour.

**5. Presentation of Accounts for 2016:** Sue Gadd informed the meeting subscriptions were down slightly from 2015 owing to more members becoming Long Service Members.

Income was higher for a few reasons. Sue had opened a new bank account giving a better rate of interest for Investment Income, therefore a total of £602 interest was received in 2016. More events had been held with profits going to SCACR, for example Horsham Festival of Bells and SCACR Barn Dance. Sue explained that, for all training and social events, we need to account for total income and total expenditure amounts, not just the net profit or loss, as the Charity Commission require detailed accounts if we exceed £25,000 income. An Events form is available on the SCACR website for all organisers to provide these details.

General administration and officers' expenses were down; newsletter costs were down substantially because of producing fewer, smaller newsletters.

**Restricted Funds** (Bell Restoration Fund and Sussex Young Ringers Fund) – BRF income of £3,684 (£1,191 raised by Thakeham ringers putting on a concert) was higher than expenditure of £800 (2 committed grants yet to be paid). SYRF income was £181 with expenditure being £564. A second set of Sussex Young Ringers team t-shirts had been purchased as two teams had entered in the 2016 RWNYC; some of the young ringers had kept and paid for their own t-shirt. Teams had been entered in both the RWNYC and the SE Regional Youth Competition therefore entry fees and expenses were paid for those. Tower donations were also paid on Sussex Youngsters' Outings.

Jeremy Alford thanked Sue for all her hard work in producing such an informative Report, he then questioned why money wasn't being spent from the BRF. David K explained grants are offered in the region of 25-30% of total cost subject to various criteria. Lindfield project is hoped to be started this year which will be £5000 with two further schemes in the Eastern District of possible complete re-hangs in the region of £40,000.

The report was proposed for adoption by Jonathon Franklin and seconded by Christine Baldock.

**a) Appointment of Independent Examiner:** Rob Lane proposed that Knill James be re-appointed, this was seconded by Alan Baldock and agreed by all.

## **6. The Sussex Churches Bell Restoration Fund:**

### **Report and Accounts for 2016:**

The Report had been distributed with the other Association Reports. David updated the meeting that the grant to Slindon had since been paid. The report was proposed by Jonathan Franklin and seconded by Christine Baldock. All were in favour.

**District Representatives:** Pip Pawley – East, Nick Cullen – South, Terry McGinn – North, Roger Watts – West.

## **7. Election of Officers:**

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

**Central Council Nominations from ADMs:** Rob Lane for the South, Steph Pendlebury for the North, Graham Hills as the 5<sup>th</sup> Representative were accepted. Roy Cox had resigned from his position as East Representative due to personal circumstances and Stella Bianco had agreed to represent the East at the 2017 CC meeting for one year only. No further nominations were made.

**General Secretary:** Owing to Sandra Alford standing down, a new General Secretary was needed. Jonathan Spencer from Lindfield had agreed to take on the membership database side of the role. Discussions took place about the possibility of splitting the role even further. No nominations were made so the action was taken for all to try to find a replacement.

## **8. Proposed rule changes – Rules 13, 23 & 24**

It was proposed to amend Rule 13 & 24 to 'Forwarding to the Association **Treasurer**, by no later than 1<sup>st</sup> February, the membership subscriptions received for that year'. Elaine Farrow proposed, Ruth Brown seconded, all in favour.

It was proposed to amend Rule 23 to 'The Finance Committee, comprising the Master, General Secretary, Treasurer, Bell Restoration Fund Secretary, District Secretaries and Trustees meets at least once a year, and is responsible to the General Committee. The quorum shall be **six**, to include at least **two** Trustees'. David Kirkcaldy proposed, Christine Baldock seconded, all in favour.

## **9. Election of Honorary Life Members**

The Master announced that there had been two nominations for Honorary Life Member this year. Margaret Sherwood spoke to nominate Jonathan Franklin from Ringmer and this was seconded by Stephen Beckingham. John Norris spoke to nominate David Kirkcaldy from Steyning and this was seconded by Peter Hurcombe. A ballot was taken and both were duly elected. Jonathan thanked the meeting for a great honour, viewing SCACR as a great organisation and thanked all for supporting it. David Kirkcaldy also thanked the meeting and asked that people please support those who stand forward to take on a responsible role.

## **10. Forthcoming Events in 2017:** Alison Everett reminded the meeting that all events are posted on the SCACR website and all are welcome to all events. Alison would have a blog once the new website was up and running and would promote events on that. BBC Music Day and Heritage Open Days were both happening again this year. She would welcome ideas for the annual social event being held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

Anne Franklin informed the meeting there would be a ringing up and down course on Weds 21 June and there would be a two day Association ringing course held at the end of October.

**11. Any Other Business:**

- a) Keith Game wished to draw members' attention to details of Jean Blackman's funeral service arrangements.
- b) Peter Wilkinson enquired what the election process would be if anybody came forward for the post of General Secretary. It was agreed there could be the position of Acting General Secretary, to be ratified at a later date.
- c) The five Sussex Central Council Representatives asked for members' views on the Central Council Reform Action Group (CRAG) proposals for them to take forward to the Central Council AGM at the end of May. David Kirkcaldy explained there was a proposal for an Executive Committee of 8 people, under which there would be a series of work groups which would replace the present committees. Additional members would be phased out as ringers would be able to go straight into a work group to help. That would be the first part. By 2018 a new set of rules, if carried, would support the new set up of the Central Council or whatever it was to be called. Going forward, there would be a proposal to reduce the size of the Central Council. Currently there were about 208 elected representatives and a maximum of 18 additional members with life members and ex officio on top of that. There would be a move to reduce that number greatly. There would also be a move, in future, to go towards direct election. The President elect for next year already wanted to see change and he saw the two biggest challenges to focus on as recruitment and leadership at all levels. David was thanked for his informative feedback. Alison E explained feedback had been sought by CRAG at various points over the last year. The Master asked all members to get in touch with any of the five SCACR CC Reps with their views.

**12. Thanks** were given to Kathy Fitzpatrick and the Billingshurst team for the excellent catering. Paul Robinson proposed a vote of thanks to Sandra for all her hard work as General Secretary and hoped she would continue to remain active within the Association. The Master then presented her with a bouquet of flowers.

The meeting closed at 4pm.