

THE 134th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT

All Saints Church Hall, Eastbourne on Saturday 11th MAY 2019

Prior to the meeting the churches in Eastbourne were open for ringing: Christ Church, St Mary's, St Saviour's and All Saints. The service was held in All Saints Church, led by Pip Pawley. An excellent Ringers' Tea was provided by local ringers. The meeting was attended by 57 members and opened at 17.55.

The acting Association Master, Rob Lane, took the Chair and asked members to stand in memory of those ringers who had died since the last AGM:

Martin Donner (Hartfield), Hugh Baddeley (Rudgwick), Roger James (West Hoathly), Tony Graham (Crawley)
David Tomsett (Crawley)

Robin Miles (Wisborough Green), Jane Powell (Bosham), Cicely Bartram (Chichester), Ronnie Stillwell (Steyning),
Geoff West (Stedham), Mary Bartholomew (Hurstpierpoint and Chichester), Marcus Davies (Midhurst),
Rod Laker (Billingshurst)

William Hubbard (Burgess Hill), Peter Hurcombe (Hurstpierpoint), Dilys Smith (Wivelsfield)

Godfrey FitzHugh (Hailsham), Margaret Hope (Sedlescombe), Christine Howell (Hellingly), John Warner (Heathfield)

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

John Norris, Sue Elrick, Simon and Judith Alford, Peter Wilkinson, Alan Pink, Daniel Morgan, Julie Quinn, Roger Watts, Brenda Cox, Jo and Tony Woodliffe, Rowena Watson, Rosemary and Mike Cattell, Clare and Nick Cullen, Gerald Sandwell, Jack Burton, Steph and Richard Pendlebury, Sue Ellis, Mandy Rodgers, Valerie Mourilyan, Tom White, Caroline Taylor, Mary Burr, Bob and Jan Lock, Sara Fuller, Val Atkins, Hazel and Tony Mottram, Geoff Goodman, May Littleton, Colin and Lindsey Pritchard, Marie-Pierre Bijlani, Jack Flanagan, Richard Jeffery, Jackie Wood, Mary Freestone and the Frant Ringers.

2 The Minutes of the 133rd AGM

The Minutes of the 133rd AGM had been circulated. Sue Gadd pointed out an error which was corrected by hand on the master copy.

Marisa Hayes proposed that the meeting accept the minutes as a correct record. This was seconded by William Stafford. The minutes were signed by Rob Lane.

3 Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

4 Reports for 2018

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| (a) Master | (b) Communications & Events | (c) Training & Recruitment |
| (d) Safeguarding | (e) Library | (f) District Secretaries |
| (g) Peal Report | (h) Central Council Report | |

The reports were accepted with no questions

5 The Sussex Churches Bell Restoration Fund

Graham Hills summarised the BRF activities and accounts as published in his report. He added that the work at Angmering is now complete but will be reported as part of this year's, 2019, activity.

He listed the BRF District Representatives:

Northern	Simon Alfold
Southern	Nick Cullen
Eastern	Philip Pawley
Western	Rik Clay

6 Presentation of Accounts for 2018

(a) Summary of 2018 Unrestricted accounts and questions

Sue Gadd guided the meeting through the accounts. Generally, there has been an excess of income over expenses of ~£2,000. However, the handbells were revalued to £5,750, a reduction of £5,907 which appears as an expenditure. £5,750 is what the handbells should realise if sold. £12,000 is the cost of replacing the handbells with new; this is the insurance value.

(b) SYRF (The Reg Johnson and Harold Wood memorial Fund)

Sue explained that drawings on this fund were lower than usual because of the location of the Ringing World National Youth Contest.

On conclusion of her presentation, Rob wished Sue a happy birthday.

7 2019 Accounts Items

(a) Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2019

Neil James of Lewes was proposed as the Independent Examiner of the accounts for 2019 by Graham Hills. This was seconded by Philip Pawley and accepted by the meeting unopposed.

(b) Development Fund

Sue Gadd pointed out that the Association's Unrestricted Fund had been growing in recent years. This has been largely due to the decrease in costs of the distribution of district news sheets. The growth of the Unrestricted Fund beyond its requirement to meet the running expenses of the Association is not approved of by the Charities Commission. To this end Sue had proposed to the General Committee in March that a buffer of one year's expenses be held in the Unrestricted Fund, say £12,000, and that the excess be transferred to a new Restricted Fund called the Development Fund. This proposal was accepted by the General Committee and the guidelines for awarding grants are appended to these minutes.

Jeremy Alford asked if new rings of bells, currently excluded from the BRF, would be included. The answer was yes.

Jonathan Franklin stated that only money given specifically for a Restricted Fund could be put into that Restricted Fund. That is, transfer of money from the Unrestricted Fund is not allowed. For such transfers to be allowed, the fund would have to be a Designated Fund. Sue said this did match the advice she had received.

8 SCACR Insurance Policies & Benefits

Sue Gadd summarised the policies as they stand at present:

- Employer liability

- Public liability

- Personal accident

 - The 70 age limit only applies to the disability benefits of this policy.

- Trustees and Officers legal costs

- Handbells

 - This had been three separate policies

Regarding the current policy Roy Cox asked if the activity of training is specifically mentioned – are trainers and trainees covered. The answer was that it is not specifically mentioned but that training is a normal part of the activity.

Rosemary Cox asked if the PCC had to be notified every time visitors come to the tower. The answer was not if the person giving permission had been delegated to do so by the PCC.

The discussion widened to the insurance of visitors by the PCC. In summary, those visiting a tower for an activity organised by that tower, for example practice night, are covered by the tower's PCC insurance and those on outings are covered by the PCC of the organising tower as it counts as a church outing.

Sue went on to describe the difficulties that she had had with the insurers not understanding the activities involved in bellringing and the inefficiency of the insurance broker. On the later point she had made a formal complaint which was upheld resulting the fee being fully refunded.

Sue indicated that she is intending to combine all the policies and put them with the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group. Sue had attended a seminar on insurance for ringers at an ART conference given by Marcus Booth. Ecclesiastical do understand the needs of bellringers and personal accident would cover ages 16 - 80 (as opposed to 16 - 70 on current policy). As with the present policy, there would be no age limit on public liability or employers' liability therefore trainers and recruits would be fully covered up to the age of 80. Jeremy Alford drew the meeting's attention to an article by Marcus Booth in the Ringing World supportive of Sue's plan. Jeremy also pointed out that no broker would be required.

9 Election of Officers:

There being only one nomination for each office, the following are elected:

Master	Rob Lane	General Secretary	Hamish McNaughton
Treasurer	Sue Gadd	BRF Secretary	Graham Hills
Trustee	Jonathan Franklin	Safeguarding Officer	Sue Child
5th CCCBR Rep.	Sue Gadd		

Marisa Hayes introduced Sue Child to the meeting.

10 Forthcoming Events

South of England Show, 6-8 June: Alison Everett was pleased to announce that the Diocese have invited us to join them in the Sanctuary. The Dewby mini ring will be sited there. The number of volunteers that can be admitted free per day has been reduced from 20 last year to 12 this year. We need at least 16 to cover the morning and afternoon. Alison is looking to the Association to fund the difference. She is still looking for volunteers to cover the Friday and Saturday.

Rob Lane drew to the meeting's attention that Josh Hutchinson will be organising the **Quarter Peal Week** for the 13-22 September and a **Barn Dance** to be held in late September.

David Kirkcaldy is organising the Two-Day Training Course to be held on the 25th and 26th of October.

11 Any Other Business

- 1) Samuel Canning shared a joke with the meeting:
"What do you call four pairs of bells that change by themselves?" - "Self-catering!"
- 2) Sound Control
Jeremy Alford asked that the Association encourage the installation of sound into towers that are having work done. The concern is the unwanted outcomes arising from complaints about the noise of the bells. He suggested additional funding for those towers willing to undertake this work as an incentive.
- 3) Pat Aylward said that as a result of tidying Ringmer ringing chamber she is looking for a good home for many years of Ringing Worlds.
- 4) Philip Pawley said that he is looking for an old bell wheel to be used in a Flower Festival at All Saints, Eastbourne as part of a flower display.
- 5) Rob Lane said that he had hoped to give a 50-year membership certificate to Rowena Watson, but she was unable to attend the meeting. Colin Brown will take the certificate to Rowena.

12 Votes of Thanks

- 1) Whilst discussing the SYRF, mention of the Ringing World National Youth Contest could not go without congratulations being offered to the young ringers and a vote of thanks to Anne Franklin and Sandra Alford for all their work.
- 2) On behalf of the meeting Jonathan Franklin thanked Rob Lane and Hamish McNaughton for taking on the roles of Master and Secretary left vacant at last year's AGM.
- 3) On behalf of the meeting Graham Hills thanked Sue Gadd for the huge amount of work and her perseverance with the Association's insurance.
- 4) Hamish McNaughton thanked Sandra Alford and the Admin Team for their support and guidance.
- 5) Rob Lane thanked Jon Spencer for his work on the database and Richard Pendlebury for this work on the website and mailing system. The development and maintenance of the IT systems has been crucial to the running of the Association.
- 6) Rob Lane thanked the retiring officers, Pat Aylward (Safeguarding) and Jack Burton (Trustee), for their work for the Association.
- 7) Rob Lane thanked Tom and Jackie Barlow for joining us from Kent. Tom is a Vice-President of the Kent County Association of Change Ringers and a former Eastbourne ringer.
- 8) Rob Lane thanked all the Eastbourne ringers involved with the organisation of the day and providing an excellent tea. In particular, he identified Marian Hollands the mastermind, Pip Pawley for leading the church service and Ian Fry for playing the piano.

The meeting closed at 19.05.

Appendix **SCACR Development Fund - Guidelines for Awarding Grants**

The SCACR Development Fund is a Restricted Fund within Sussex County Association of Change Ringers administered and accounted for by the Association Treasurer.

The funds are available to support any project that encourages or develops change ringing or handbell ringing in Sussex which does not fall within the guidelines of the BRF or SYRF, including, but not limited to:

- Recruitment campaigns
- Exhibition materials
- Development of a new website
- Establishment of Training Centres
- Development of ringing teacher skills
- Tower augmentations
- Purchase of Association assets (e.g. a mini-ring)
- Refurbishment of Association assets (e.g. handbells)

Applications for funding should be made in writing to the Association Secretary who will seek approval or otherwise from the Association Trustees and the Association Master. A simple majority in favour will suffice for a grant to be awarded. Funding may be sought for full or partial costs of a project and may be awarded in full or in part as appropriate for the circumstances.