

**Sussex County Association of Change Ringers.  
Eastern District.  
ADM via Zoom  
27<sup>th</sup> February 2021.**

Our ADM this year was held on zoom due to the Covid19 Pandemic. At 3.00 p.m. we had ringing on Ringing room and a chat room for people to come to. At 4.15p.m. there was a bring along your and chat before the meeting opened at 4.30p.m. There were about 44 people attending the event over the afternoon.

**Apologies for Absence.**

Hazel Mottram, Tony Mottram, Sue Ellis, Donna Southern

**Deaths of Members.**

The names recorded here list members who have died since the last ADM.  
Les Baldock, Ruth Reynolds from St Marys Eastbourne. Alan Collings from Hooe. Marie Louise Apps from Ewhurst Green. Angela Long from Westham. Linda Moores from Rotherfield. Joyce Philpot from Bexhill. Roy Osbourne from Hellingly. Tom Barlow formerly from Eastbourne.

**Minutes of last meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2020.**

These were circulated prior to the meeting and passed as an accurate record of the meeting. Proposed by Deborah Shaw, Seconded by Ann Wright.

**Matters arising from the minutes.**

Due to Covid19 the programme of events didn't take place. There were no other issues

**Welcome to New Members.**

Laughton - Isla Beckingham. On behalf of the master Stephen Beckingham presented Isla's certificate to her.

**Reports by Officers.**

- Secretary - Report attached, Proposed, Stephen Beckingham and Seconded Janet Wilson.
- "Look To" Editor there was no report – Marion advised that she has been sending out the newsletters as the position is vacant at the present time.
- BRF Report - Report attached
- Education Report - Report attached
- Central Council Report - Report attached

**Programme for 2021.**

To be discussed with the committee when ringing is able to resume.

**Election of District Officers and Committee Members.**

- Ringing Master - Mark Dawkins, Proposed Marion Hollands, Seconded Sam Canning.
- Secretary - Marion Hollands, Proposed Dorothy Richardson, Seconded Pip Pawley.
- "Look To" Editor - Vacant
- Education Officer - Vacant

- BRF Representative - Pip Pawley, Proposed Janet Wilson, Seconded Ann Wright.
- Central Council Representative - Alison Everett -
- Ringing Room Coordinator - Pauline Kennard – Proposed Nick Cant, Seconded Mark Dawkins.
- Committee Members – Nick Cant, Frances Bradford, Tony Shaw, Hazel Mottram Proposed Mark Dawkins Seconded Terry Probert.
- Election of Representatives to attend General Committee Meetings – Marion Hollands and Pip Pawley Proposed Ann Wright, Seconded Catherine Finn.

### **Nominations (if any) of General Officers.**

- Association Master - Rob Lane
- General Secretary - Hamish McNaughton
- Treasurer - Sue Gadd
- Safeguarding Officer - position remains vacant, there were no nominations
- BRF Secretary - Graham Hills
- Trustees – Margaret Sherwood is due to stand down but willing to stand for another year Proposed Alan Baldock.
- Central Council Representative – Not due for the 5<sup>th</sup> member this year

### **Any Other Business.**

- Can anything be rung to celebrate Prince Philips 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- Stephen Beckingham proposed that Rob stays on as ringing master for another year due to the lack of proper ringing due to Covid.
- Could an email be sent to all members when a member has passed away? This will be looked into at the General Committee meeting in March, hopefully to look into putting it into the monthly newsletter. Central Council.
- Central Council Survive and Recover tool box.

Date of next ADM to be held on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

### **Secretary's Report for 2020.**

The year started of like any other year, we had a full programme in place. The January meeting was a well attended Saturday practice at Laughton and Ripe. February saw the ADM at Ticehurst which was again very well supported, then within a month the country was in lockdown due to COVID-19.

There has been no church bell ringing as we know it since. Whilst some members have waited for ringing to return many others have continued to practice using the virtual 'Ringing Room' computer facility. With this, contact has been maintained at tower, district, county and international levels. Over the year, dependant on the covid rules in place at the time, quite a few towers have managed to meet up and have handbell practice's, zoom meetings, walks, coffee's and there was limited ringing with two or three other members in their tower's wearing masks and keeping a safe distance.

The County association have held a couple of quizzes, via Zoom together with ringing room meetings and meetings just for a chat. The Eastern District held a District Zoom meeting in December which was later

followed by a District practice meeting using Ringing room. These events were hosted by Pauline Kennard and my thanks go to Pauline for all her assistance here.

I have represented the District at the now monthly County Association General Committee meetings, taking place on Zoom and also been involved in writing generic risk assessments that will be needed for association insurance purposes when meeting now with COVID and when ringing starts properly again.

I have also sent out a couple of newsletters for the district, hopefully keeping people involved during these difficult times.

Looking forward now to a return to conventional Ringing during 2021

Marion Hollands

#### BRF Report

1. The BRF committee met in September, via Zoom, and grants were approved for St Andrew's, Alfriston and for Eastbourne All Saints'. A grant application for St Mary's, Willingdon was deferred pending the receipt of the PCC accounts for 2019.
2. A request had been received from Old Heathfield for someone to inspect "odd behaviour" of the tenor. I visited and inspected the bells etc and found that the tenor bearing bracket was lifting from the frame. I suggested that the local ringers check and tighten all nuts and bolts and to include the bolts securing the stays.
3. A meeting has been arranged for 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021 to consider Willingdon St Mary's application now that the accounts have been received.

Philip Pawley

BRF Rep (Eastern District)

#### **Report on training sessions arranged in 2020/21 and plans for 2021**

Ringing tower bells has of course been minimal due to COVID, but we are now starting to hold get-togethers, both social and for virtual ringing, and we would encourage ringers from as many towers as possible to check these out and get involved.

Ringing Room, if you haven't been involved (yet!), is an online programme which you can use to practise ringing methods and even start learning.

The county association has been having sessions on Saturday afternoons, incorporating a chat on Zoom with practice/ learning sessions at both novice and more experienced levels.

We arranged a pre-Christmas get-together which also included a chat session, and a "have-a-go" on Ringing Room. This was repeated in January and the "social/ringing" side of the ADM will also follow the same format.

For future months' meetings, we are looking at avoiding Saturday afternoons, as there is a county association session every week.

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**Central Council of Church Bell Ringers Report 2020**

January 2020 saw the first of Simon Linford's regular series of blogs as President of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers published on the CC website. Ringers are encouraged to sign up & receive email updates from the Central Council <https://cccbr.org.uk/updates/>

The CC Recruitment and Retention workshop was trialed at Hurstpierpoint in February, attracting ringers from across Sussex and beyond. It was rolled out nationally on the CC Sunday of the Association of Ringing Teachers' annual conference weekend 14/15 March based at Hilton in Derbyshire, where again members of SCACR were grateful for sponsorship to attend from Dewbys Bells.

The "Strategic Priorities 2020 and beyond" paper was circulated to Affiliated Societies and became the focus of the Executive and Workgroups <https://cccbr.org.uk/strategic-priorities-2020-and-beyond/>

The Central Council continued to develop its relationships with the Churches Conservation Trust, Historic England and the Church of England. The new Stakeholder and Liaison Workgroup worked closely with the Church of England Recovery Group on guidelines for ringers when the Coronavirus (Covid 19) restrictions were first announced in March, and provided updates each week <https://cccbr.org.uk/coronavirus/> for what was an extraordinary year with very little ringing of church bells in UK.

A monthly YouTube competition was launched to identify or submit the best YouTube clips of a particular ringing genre e.g., striking, recruitment, training, People's Choice <https://cccbr.org.uk/youtube-competition/>.

The Westley Award for church bell maintenance was launched by the Stewardship & Management Workgroup, presented at the CC annual conference which was due to be held at Nottingham, but was held online. It was well-attended but a shame not to have the ringing roadshow side of the weekend trialed at Goldsmiths in London 2019. 'Zoom' audio-visual platform guidance for online meetings was shared on the website for ringing associations conducting their business online. A motion for the registration of small societies was introduced at the AGM which enables the Central Council to make better provision for smaller ringing societies.

Consultation on direct membership under the continued CC reforms umbrella commenced with ringers invited to a series of 19 online group discussions and a survey went to all CC website subscribers. The work is ongoing and progress reported <https://cccbr.org.uk/about/reforms/>

The Women in Ringing website was instigated by the Central Council, to gather information about the topic, present findings, and explore ideas for bringing change which will enable the bell ringing community to achieve gender balance in ringing.

A series of talks were offered jointly by the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers and the St Martin's Guild including a talk by Vicky Chapman Public Relations Officer on ringing PR in general and for towers.

The Central Council and ART started working on a survival and recovery toolbox, to help ringers and bands stay together and recover, with access to training and a variety of resources.

The workgroups have been providing updates of their activities on the website and in the Ringing World. Dove Stewards continue to improve the platform and database of the resource.