

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS
Registered Charity No. 268588

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE HELD AT
HURSTPIERPOINT VILLAGE CENTRE ON SATURDAY 2nd MARCH 2013

PRESENT:	Master	David Kirkcaldy	N. Division	Anne Ekins
	General Secretary	Marisa Hayes		David Perkins
	Treasurer	Val Burgess	S. Division	Clare Cullen
	BRF Secretary	Graham Hills		Alan Seymour
	Peal Secretary	Alan Baldock	E. Division	David Hollands
	Education Officer	Anne Franklin		
	Publicity Officer	Kathy Howard	W. Division	Moya Hills
	Trustees	Peter Wilkinson		Jack Burton
		Mike Wake	C.C. Rep. N	absent
		Val Atkins	S	David Kirkcaldy
	Librarian	Stella Bianco	E	Diana Day
	Safeguarding Officer	absent	W	Andrew Barnsdale
	Observer	Sandra Alford	Gen.	Alan Baldock

The Master took the chair for the meeting and asked members to stand in memory of those members who had died since the last meeting: Margaret Bell (Good Shepherd, Brighton), Gerald Caniford (Stoughton), Vernon Crouch (Felpham), Roy Fuller (Hailsham), Tom Street (Pagham).

- 1. Apologies for absence** had been received from Sue Elrick and Margaret Oram.
- 2. The minutes** of the meeting held on 10 November 2012 had been previously circulated. After the following amendments, the Master signed them as a correct record.
Item 5a) within discussion about simulator venues: the Association owns the simulator at Hailsham (not all equipment). Item 5c) VA actually said that *even by following the guidelines*, we may put a child in danger.
- 3. Matters Arising:**
 - a) WSCC Training had been completed in no small part down to GH's excellent work. AF reported she had had no reply from the WSCC contact and that this type of training had been spoken about (and will continue to be discussed) at the Education Committee.
 - b) AF had contacted Brian Meads re the Ringing Foundation and she and SA had attended a recent open meeting, reporting back to the Education Committee and the committee's recommendation was that the Association does not financially support the RF.
 - c) The initial meet for the RWNYC had taken place at Fairwarp and further practice dates are in the diary.
 - d) AF and the Trustees had agreed an amount to fund Stephen Burchett's attendance at Hereford.
 - e) DK thanked AF, tutors and helpers for their work on the Ringing Workshops – all had been a great success.
 - f) MH confirmed the database had been transferred to her and the new email system was being used. The website team now stood at 2 (from 5) and it was the intention to train up secretaries and publicity officers on other aspects of the website and email over the coming months.
 - g) In her absence, SE had provided a written update which is appended to the minutes.
 - h) The Library open morning was attended by 17 people, £46 worth of books was sold and a further £70 was donated to the SCACR.
 - i) GH reported there was nothing to update from his end of year report.
 - j) MH commented that it was a pity there had been a breakdown in communication as to ringing arrangements prior to the Birthday Service and it was agreed that once again it was poorly attended and did not inspire. All agreed to discuss under future events.
 - k) KH reported that the new Pocket Book was now in circulation.
- 4. Reports for 2012**

Reports had been circulated ahead of the meeting and were taken as read.

MASTER - With one amendment to the spelling of Wickham Whatsits, DD proposed and AE seconded its adoption.

GEN PUBLICITY OFFICER - With the deletion of an extraneous 'of' in line 4, JB proposed and PW seconded adoption.

TREASURER – reported that subs had been up for the year, expenses broadly the same and an extra amount of £824 had been spent on the website. The accounts are with the auditors and the Finance Committee will meet on 28 March. The Treasurer also reported that the Reg Johnson Fund had received many donations, a grant for attendance at the Hereford Course had been paid and Young Ringers' events had been funded by £272. All agreed that it was good to see the Fund being used and the Treasurer confirmed that more was going in than coming out.

PEAL SECRETARY – the report was adopted, proposed by DH and seconded by GH. MH added that Stephen Beckingham had provided the Quarter Peal records and a summary paragraph for publication.

EDUCATION OFFICER – AF confirmed that the parents of the junior members named in the report had given permission for full names to be used as part of the rules of the competition. KH proposed and AB seconded its adoption.

LIBRARY – DD proposed and VB seconded its adoption.

SAFEGUARDING – AF proposed and GH seconded the report. Discussion followed regarding the portability of "external" CRB checks which the Diocese does not recommend. AB also asked whether CRB checks valid for one purpose in church such as running a crèche would be acceptable in bell ringing activities. MH thought that using broader wording

such as 'supervising children in church' was acceptable and this had been used in Ringmer. **DK offered to circulate general training dates which had been recently published in the Chichester magazine.**

DIVISIONAL SECRETARIES – JB requested a small amendment to the Western Division report referring to Milland. There had been a request to record full names of any member referred to within reports. A small amendment was made to the Southern Division report. All Divisional reports had been adopted at their respective meetings.

5. Sussex Churches Bell Restoration Fund

- a) With the addition of 2012 at the end of the first sentence, DD and JB proposed and seconded the report.
- b) The Treasurer reported that no legacies had been received in 2012, donations had been roughly the same, £12500 had been paid and a further £10,800 committed.
- c) The Master confirmed that Divisional Representatives for the year were unchanged.

The Brian Burrough legacy was subject to discussion and AF reported on the previous evening's education committee which the Treasurer had been unable to attend. The Committee proposed that money be set aside from the £18,000 legacy (which had been received a number of years ago to 'further the development of bell ringing in Sussex') to provide funding to help towers provide simulators for the purpose of training. The aim being to install at least 2 additional simulators in each Division at a cost of approx £600 excluding the cost of silencing the bells. Some towers are in the process of moving ahead with installations. PW remarked this was an admirable use of legacy money and it was felt that if towers were willing and keen to install simulators that an amount would be helpful to kickstart the work. AF, MH and DK declared an interest in this area as both Ringmer and Steyning are planning simulator installations with Steyning also considering a dumbbell. In the long run AF suggested that towers would consider making a donation back to the Association. AF proposed that £8000 be ring fenced for towers installing simulators for the purposes of training. This was seconded by GH and carried. After a question from MW, it was clarified this would be a donation to the tower and equipment purchased would all become the property of the tower. **It was agreed that further discussion take place at the Finance Committee on 28 March.**

6. Nominations

The following nominations had been received:

Master	Christine Baldock	Publicity Officer	Kathy Howard
Gen Secretary	Marisa Hayes	Education Officer	Anne Franklin
BRF Secretary	Graham Hills	Librarian	Stella Bianco
Treasurer	Val Burgess	Safeguarding Officer	Sue Elrick
Peal Secretary	Alan Baldock	Central Council Rep	Alan Baldock & David Kirkcaldy
Trustee	Mike Wake		

VB remarked that it was a shame that names had been circulated before all the ADMs had taken place and this was noted.

There had been no nominations for Vice President.

One nomination for Hon Life Membership had been received for John Norris and this was endorsed by the meeting. KH mentioned that she thought this was being kept as a surprise until the AGM.

7. Future Events

Handbell Day at Roedean, 30 March. Ringers of all abilities encouraged to attend and book up with Hamish McNaughton.

AGM at Billingshurst, 11 May. JB reported everything was in order. Notices had been circulated with newsletters. A further circular will follow. SB reported that ringers were encouraged to park at the RC church (location of tea and meeting).

SCACR @ SoE Show, 6-8 June, Ardingly. MH has joined the Diocese Church Tent Committee and reported that the Publicity Committee wished to request an amount of money to cover the accommodation and mileage for Alan and Mary Collings and Dewby's Bells to attend and to cover some printing costs. MH also suggested that mileage would not be paid for helpers attending but they would receive complimentary entrance tickets. **It was agreed that the financial cost of the show be agreed at Finance Committee on 28 March.** It was also suggested that the SCACR Exhibition Boards needed a thorough revamp with perhaps some new equipment. **VA proposed, VB seconded that some money be set aside – to be agreed at Finance Committee.**

Inter-Divisional Striking Competitions, 29 June. The Northern Division agreed to host. Venue TBC

Essex Trophy, Surrey, 14 September

Social Event, 5 October. The Northern Division had been looking into arrangements and suggested a Night at The Dogs.

Ringling Course, 1-2 November. All details to be progressed by Education Committee. **MH / SE to book room for tea.**

Gen Committee Meeting, 9 November **MH / SE to book room.**

AB asked whether there were any plans to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Queen's Coronation and the Master replied that there was nothing at the current time.

Birthday Service: Discussion followed regarding this year's service and its dwindling attendance in recent years. There was a subsequent vote to withdraw the Birthday Service altogether, proposed by PW, seconded by AF and carried by a majority with one objection and some abstentions.

This led onto discussion about the aims and objectives of the Association. There was general agreement that the rules needed close examination and the Association needed to take this opportunity to develop and consider how it meets the needs of ringers now and in the future.

VA proposed a small working group be set up to look at the rules and practices of the Association. This was seconded by AF and carried.

After the coffee break AF proposed the structure of a new working party to meet quickly and start to draw up ideas for consultation: Christine Baldock as Master-elect, Marisa Hayes, Anne Franklin, Val Atkins, with the addition of Mike Wake or Peter Wilkinson. This was seconded by DD and carried.

8. Any Other Business

a) Rule Change. The proposed rule change (appended) was put forward by the Trustees and had been previously circulated. DH asked why the rule change had been suggested now and asked what the benefit of the change would be. VB felt that her reports on finances during the course of the year did not reflect the income and expenditure dealt with in the Eastern Division as the division are not required to present their accounts or transfer subs to the general account until 31 January. The Auditor has commented on the situation and MW reported that the Trustees are uncomfortable with the present set up.

VB explained that when she took over as Treasurer there were 3 divisional bank accounts and 7 other accounts. These have been minimised and she explained that she holds one of the accounts open simply because it has a significant donation coming in each year and she has no way of tracking its source.

It was proposed that the rule change go to the AGM.

b) GH raised the subject of use of the email system as there had been an occurrence when MH had not sent an email reminder out to the Western Division re an event. MH explained this had also happened with the Northern Division recently and in both cases, newsletters had been sent that week and she felt that the Association should not overuse the email for risk of losing email subscribers, thus defeating the objective. MH stated she was happy to be over-ruled but at the present time the Publicity Committee didn't have enough information about the use of the email system to make any judgements **and it would be helpful to gauge users' opinions over the coming months.** All agreed that last minute changes or cancellations should be emailed.

c) In her report (appended) the Safeguarding Officer had asked the Committee to consider the adoption of a Safeguarding Policy to address the use of photographs in SCACR publications and the website.

The Master reported this had been endorsed by the Education Committee with one change to the wording (referring to children and vulnerable adults as opposed to vulnerable persons). **This was endorsed by the General Committee; SE to liaise with MH re updating the website with new policy wording.**

d) SE had also asked the Committee to consider how the Association deals with safeguarding in Parishes where no Parish Safeguarding Officer has been appointed. **All were asked to consider how we might target towers where juniors were known to be ringing to check that appropriate checks had been made.**

SB asked whether we were obliged to know who had been CRB checked. It was the feeling that the Association wanted to be as pro-active as possible in getting checks made in all towers and supporting all Diocesan initiatives.

DK also offered to circulate the latest set of foundation training dates for any towers who had not sent at least one representative to a session last year.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 11.56.