

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

Registered Charity No. 268588

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE HELD AT
THE VILLAGE CENTRE, HURSTPIERPOINT ON SATURDAY 7 MARCH 2015 (9.30am)

PRESENT:		Central Council Reps:	Margaret Oram
Master:	Christine Baldock		Anne Franklin
General Secretary:	Marisa Hayes		Andrew Barnsdale
Treasurer:	Sue Gadd		David Kirkcaldy
Trustees:	Val Atkins	District Representatives:	
	Mike Wake	(N)	Stephanie & Richard
	Peter Wilkinson		Pendlebury
BRF Secretary:	Graham Hills	(S)	Clare Cullen
Safeguarding Officer:	Sue Elrick	(E)	David Hollands
		(W)	Jack Burton, Moya Hills
Training & Recruitment Team represented by AnneF		Communications & Events Team represented by	MarisaH.

The Master took the chair and members were asked to stand in memory of members who had died: Yvonne Perrin (Buxted), William Bellchambers (Uckfield), Stella Shell, (Christ Church Eastbourne), Robert Harrison (Frant), David Curry (formerly Lindfield), Amy Booer (Ardingly), Nila Gordon (associated with Pulborough bells), Myra Cheeseman (Aldwick), Elizabeth Green (Bolney) who's funeral was to take place on Friday 13 March and Jim Beckingham (Ripe) who died this week.

The Master welcomed Stephanie and Richard Pendlebury as new members of the committee and introductions were made.

1. Apologies for absence had been received from Stephen Beckingham.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2014: There were no matters of accuracy and the Master countersigned them as a true record. There were no matters arising.

3. Reports for 2014 had been circulated in advance:

(a) PeterW felt that the **Master's report** had not really done herself justice and that the Association had changed greatly. Others agreed that parts of the report detracted from the progress which has been made. The Master stated that her constant frustration at meetings was people not paying attention and having their own meetings. MoyaH proposed acceptance of the report subject to a change to the sentence concerning "paying attention to what was going on". Seconded DavidK.

(b) In addition to the **Communications report**, the Master suggested that "A new set of Velcro-friendly exhibition boards has now been purchased and is available to borrow. The communications team will be looking for people to create new display and the young ringers had expressed an interest in designing some of the displays." Proposed AndrewB, seconded ValA.

(c) **Training & Recruitment Team** Report proposed by SueG, seconded StephP.

(d) **Safeguarding Report** proposed by AnneF, seconded by JackB. GrahamH thanked Sue on behalf of the General Committee for her work.

The proposed Policy and Guidance Note were discussed at this point: SueE reported that she had consulted with the Diocese and with Central Council. She wished to point out that the Association does not have the power to insist on anyone having a DBS check, however we would be able to place this requirement with the Parish safeguarding officer or with the Diocese. **Looking after Children and Young People in the Belfry 2015** has been fully updated and will replace the 2011 document. MarisaH asked that the policy be formally adopted at the AGM to ensure its contents were made clear to the membership. JackB proposed that the policy be adopted by General Committee, published in the Annual Report and ratified at the AGM. This was seconded by GrahamH.

(e) MarisaH asked to add a paragraph into the **General Secretary's report**: "Fundraising for both the Bell restoration Fund and Reg Johnson Memorial Fund has been well-supported. Particular thanks must go to led by Sandra Alford who completed the 37 mile Downs Link and raised over £1000 for the Reg Johnson Memorial Fund." This was proposed by SueE and seconded by DavidH.

(f) **District secretaries' reports** had been adopted at the four ADMs and are appended to the minutes.

(g) The **Peal Secretary's report** was proposed by MikeW, seconded by PeterW. An additional paragraph re quarter peal records is to be supplied by Stephen Beckingham.

(h) The **Librarian's report** was proposed by AnneF, seconded by SueG.

(i) The full accounts were with the Independent Examiners. ValA thanked the Treasurer for a well laid out set of accounts and the papers presented were proposed by JackB, seconded by StephP.

4. Sussex Churches Bell Restoration Fund

(a) The Report for 2014 was proposed by MarisaH, seconded by JackB.

(b) SueG reported that with all the grants promised in 2015 the fund may drop to £20,000 and the committee should consider more fundraising.

(c) North – Terry McGinn; West - Geoff Rix; South Nick Cullen; East – need to find a representative.

5. The following nominations had been made at the ADMs:

(a) Master – Graham Hills

(b) General Secretary - Marisa Hayes

(c) Treasurer – Sue Gadd

(d) Safeguarding Officer – no nomination received. *GrahamH reported that a non-ringer had volunteered to undertake this role and this was welcomed. **Graham to organise a discussion with Sue Elrick.***

(e) BRF Secretary – David Kirkcaldy had been nominated via email from Peter Bradford

(f) Trustee – Peter Wilkinson.

No other nominations had been received.

Val Burgess had sent a written nomination for Ian Oram to be elected Honorary Life Member. All were in agreement and it was hoped that this would be kept secret until the AGM.

6. Teams

MarisaH reported that although each of the districts had a good number of volunteers for their own committees, there had been very few volunteers for the Association teams.

(a) GrahamH asked that the team consider renaming itself as Safeguarding Training and Recruitment (START). Team volunteers: Anne Franklin, Frances Bradford, Stephen Beckingham, Graham Hills, the Master, Treasurer.

(b) Communications team volunteers: Jack Burton, Moya Hills, Meg Heyworth, Master, General Secretary.

(c) Alan Baldock and Stella Bianco had been nominated to continue as peal secretary and librarian respectively. The district secretaries were also part of this team led by the General Secretary.

It was felt that members were hesitant in volunteering for the unknown and a personal approach was the best way to recruit volunteers.

Action ALL please.

7. Financial Policy

The policy had been circulated in advance of the meeting and was presented by SueG on behalf of the Finance Committee. Although representations had been made by the East to retain a separate account, SueG explained there was no implication of mismanagement and the policy drew the Association in-line with modern practices and the Trustees' responsibilities. As the main CAF bank account is now run electronically, payments can be made much quicker than in previous years. Some details were discussed regarding the payment of event expenses requiring a little more planning and preparation but all of this meant that income and expenditure would be fully transparent in all districts. DavidK proposed that the policy was adopted, seconded by AndrewB. All in favour with one abstention.

Sue has been asked to look at an insurance policy for Trustee and Officer Liability and will be reporting back to Finance Committee.

8. Future County-wide Events

(a) Good Practice Seminar – 13 March at Steyning – 10 people booked.

(b) AGM Day– Saturday 9 May, Hastings - Eastern District to arrange open towers.

(c) Striking Competitions – Jack reported a local reluctance to participate. The “out of the hat” format used last year at Alfriston had worked very well.

(d) The Essex Trophy is to be in Guildford in September; Sussex was not drawn in the Tewkesbury Shield this year.

(e) Dewby's Bells are booked for the South of England Show – 11-13 June. A small team of organisers and lots of volunteers are required. MarisaH suggested via SueG that the young ringers are invited to come on the Saturday.

(f) Social Event / Family Day. There was discussion about future allocation of Saturdays for Association events. GrahamH asked that any district organising an event should try to stick to their own Saturday. Unless anyone had a great desire to run a social event this summer it was agreed to concentrate efforts on the SoE Show.

(g) Horsham 2016 – StephP reported on Horsham tower's plans to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first peal by a Sussex band. StephP proposed that Saturday 9 April 2016 is allocated as an SCCR Event day with a mini-ring, exhibition and other events at Horsham. All were in agreement. Mike Cattell was the main organiser.

(h) Ringing Course – after some discussion about format, content, timing and tea, the General Committee asked the Training and Events Team to look at organising training over the 30-31 October.

(i) General Committee Meeting – Saturday 14th November at Hurstpierpoint.

9. Any Other Business

(a) **Website:** The Master reported that she had approached new Ashburnham ringer Matthew Jones to look at developing the website. Matthew had said that the current Joomla system is pretty much “end of life”. He and Stephen Beckingham have worked on a new structure and site and a visual was circulated to the meeting. MarisaH explained that the Master had found a real gem in Matthew – he was knowledgeable and enthusiastic and had worked on the new design and structure for three days. The design was met with approval and it was the wish of the meeting to permit Matthew and Stephen to continue to work on the site to release it as soon as they are able. She reported that there are nearly 1000 members with email on the database now and it was essential that the new site had the same email functionality as the old. This would inevitably require a plug in and she suggested a budget of £200 be approved for these purchases. This was formally proposed by StephP and seconded by ValA and carried unanimously. **Action StephenB / Matthew Jones.**

(b) MarisaH reported that no new **simulator grants** had been made. Arundel will be planning a simulator this year. Warbleton were delighted with theirs.

(c) MarisaH reported that work on the **Annual Report** was underway. Where available tower captains would be listed again and a couple of queries which had been raised by GrahamH had been covered. MarisaH thanked DavidK for providing the obituaries and reported that she had a lot of work to do but it was on track.

(d) The meeting also discussed the possibility of **conference calls** cutting back on traveling for officers and committee members. **SueG offered to look into this.**

(e) Steph P reported that at the Horsham AGM she had been asked to raise the **anniversary of the death of Henry Burstow** and she asked for bellringing resources. The Master said that the new exhibition boards and other resources would be available.

(f) On behalf of Horsham ringers, StephP proposed that the committee consider purchasing **an oddstruckness meter at a cost of £260**. After some discussion, this was seconded by MargaretO and with 8 for and 5 abstentions the vote was carried. The Master asked that Mike Cattell (Horsham) liaise with the Treasurer. It was agreed that this could be advertised and loaned out for a donation to the BRF. The meter would be looked after by the BRF committee. **Action Mike Cattell please.**

(g) SueE reported that there were initial plans for a Safeguarding meeting (regional/ national) and she suggested that the association funded the Safeguarding Officer to attend. As she would not be attending the AGM, the meeting expressed thanks to SueE for the invaluable work she had carried out since 2010.

The Master thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 11.45. PeterW asked that good wishes were taken to Alan Baldock recovering from an operation.