

SCACR Northern District Annual Meeting: Minutes

17.30, Saturday 1st February 2020, The Tiger, Lindfield

In attendance: Rob Lane (SCACR Master; Chair), Steph Pendlebury (Northern District Secretary), Simon Alford (Northern District BRF Rep), Richard Pendlebury (committee member), Rosemary Gregory (committee member), Hamish McNaughton (Association Secretary), Sue Gadd (Association Treasurer), Sarah Beeston, Stella Bianco, Val Burgess, David Capewell, Mike Cattell, Janet Cullen, Mark Cullen, Anne Ekins, Guy Ekins, Adrian Foulser, Graham Hills, Moya Hills, Kathy Howard, Richard Hutchings, Robert Huxley, David Kirkcaldy, Richard Malthouse, Ian Oram, Margaret Oram, Michael Peace, Katherine Potter, Gordon Upton, Ollie Watson, Ian Wiltshire, Chris Westwood.

1. Apologies for absence

Sandra Alford, Jeremy Alford, Judith Alford, Susie Bowen, Angela Cash, Jenny Dobson, Neil Dobson, Elaine Farrow (District Ringing Master), Sonia Harriyott, Julie Quinn.

2. Deaths of members

The attendees stood in remembrance of: David Tomsett (March 2019, Crawley); Bob Newton (April 2019, Worth); Raymond Parsons (July 2019, Coleman's Hatch).

3. Minutes of Northern ADM (Saturday 2nd February 2019, Horsham) and matters arising

The minutes were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting. There were no matters arising.

4. Welcoming of New Members

Seven new members have joined the Association in the Northern District since the last ADM. Sadly none of them were able to attend this meeting, so they were welcomed in their absence: Linda Chapman (Cuckfield), Alison Coley (Slaugham), Sarah Farley (Slinfold), Alex Scott (Fairwarp), Benjamin Booker (Hartfield), Richard Hoey (Warnham), Charles Kiddle (Itchingfield).

5. Secretary's Report – Steph Pendlebury

The following report was accepted:

"2019 was another busy year for the Northern District, and it was great to have a District Ringing Master for the first time in several years. Many thanks to Elaine Farrow for taking this on!

"As usual, I'd like to thank the District committee for all their help over the past year: Sandra Alford, Elaine Farrow (District Ringing Master), Rosie Gregory, and Richard Pendlebury (also Association webmaster). Sandra has now stepped down – many thanks indeed for all your work on the committee! Thanks also to Jeremy Alford for organising the outing, which was very well attended. And particular thanks to our BRF rep, Simon Alford, who has provided assistance to several towers over the past year (see his report). The North has a newsletter approximately every two months, alternating between a full *Northern News* (6 pages packed with news, photos, events, and information; thanks to everyone who has contributed!) and a 1-2 page *What's On* summary of upcoming events. Thanks to Katherine Potter for doing such an excellent job with the newsletters.

"We've held a Saturday Gathering every month, either ringing with a social element (e.g. mulled wine and mince pies) or short training courses. We aim to hold these at towers across the District. Hartfield now has a kitchen area and toilet, which makes it a great venue for events. Particular thanks to Kate Nye for organising a Listening Skills session, and to Heather Jordan and Susannah Bowen for organising a Pickled Egg Methods day.

"Over the past year, we've had Monday evening practices every Monday except during August, organised by Elaine Farrow. This included regular six-bell practices, an eight-bell practice (varying between elementary, improvers and advanced), the 10-bell methods practice (run by Jeremy Alford), and the Association 12 bell practices (mostly methods but some "rounds onwards"). On fifth Mondays there was a general practice, mainly on 9 or 10 bells. Elaine has made some changes to this programme for 2020, to take into account interest and feedback. Although the 12 bell practices are usually well-attended, we are struggling to find someone willing and available to run them on a regular basis.

"We'll continue with the popular Saturday events in 2020. We aim to make ringing as inclusive and supportive as possible – hopefully the programme has something for everyone! As ever, if you have any requests for training

courses, or suggestions for other things we could do, please do get in touch. **The Association is for you, the members, so please do let the committee know if you have any requests!**"

6. BRF Report – Simon Alford

Rob and Steph thanked Simon Alford for his efforts over the previous year. Simon emphasised that if anyone had any concerns about their bells, they should get in touch. He presented the following report, which was accepted:

"During the past twelve months I have been in contact with several people representing churches in the Northern District. Various action or advice has been sought:

"Lindfield

I met Richard Hutchings at the beginning of August to make an inspection to confirm the work involved in remodelling and hanging of the new eight had been performed to a good standard. I believe that Whites of Appleton have completed what I consider to be a first class job with the installation of both the ringing peal and the rehung old bells, with just a few finishing details outstanding at that time. The BRF has been able to release the grant payment previously committed to this project.

"Balcombe

I was put in touch with John Moore later in August; he requested help with their third bell, which didn't 'feel' as it should. I visited with Edward Woodward and we found that the bell was loose on the headstock. Some loose or missing bolts were attended to, with some being found on the belfry floor. I recommended that John arrange a cleaning party to remove accumulated detritus from the belfry and collect any other nuts & bolts etc. I believe that they had a useful cleaning session at the beginning of September.

"Cowfold

The District held a maintenance course here in October. The session was well received and a £10 donation to the BRF given by two people attending from Mayfield (Eastern District). We found two clappers slightly loose; I'll be helping Steeple Keeper Malcom Pettett with these when the weather is warmer.

"Danehill

Trefor Hall reported an unusual vibration in January. Having spoken to him I believe I have allayed his worries; I intend to visit to confirm all is well in a few weeks' time.

"Nutley

Ian Smith from Horsham has put me in touch with Roger Lloyd at St James the Less. They are wanting their single turret bell restored to operation, the rope broke perhaps two years ago. Roger is waiting for the warmer weather before a team of three is going to inspect the bell and try to find the cause of the old rope fraying before it broke. He will be in touch if they think they would benefit from some advice.

Simon Alford, January 2020"

7. Central Council Update – Steph Pendlebury

The Central Council of Church Bellringers (CCCBR), to which SCACR is affiliated, has changed significantly over the last couple of years so that it better supports and includes "grassroots" ringers. Ringers can now get involved in the work of the Central Council via its workgroups, whether or not they are elected representatives. The workgroups all have plans for what they'd like to achieve, but still need more volunteers to help – if you might be interested in getting involved, please do speak to one of the SCACR's five CC reps (details on scacr.org). For the first time, 2019 saw the CC's AGM being held alongside a Ringing Roadshow for all ringers (held at Goldsmith's College, London) – including a wide range of talks and trade stands, as well as mini-rings. The 2020 CC Roadshow (in Nottingham, 4-6 September) will additionally include ringing training sessions– from Kaleidoscope to spliced Surprise; details to be announced...!

8. Election/Appointment of Northern District Officers

<i>Officer</i>	<i>Nominee</i>	<i>Proposed by</i>	<i>Seconded by</i>
Secretary	Steph Pendlebury	Guy Ekins	Val Burgess
Ringling Master	Elaine Farrow		
District Committee Members	Susie Bowen Rosie Gregory Julie Quinn Richard Pendlebury Chris Westwood		
Bell restoration/maintenance ("BRF") contact	Simon Alford		
2 District Committee Members to sit on General Committee	Steph Pendlebury Richard Pendlebury		
CCCBR Rep (North)	Steph Pendlebury		

Association Team representatives will be appointed after the ADM.

9. Nominations for Association Officers

<i>Officer</i>	<i>Nominee</i>
Master	Rob Lane
General Secretary	Hamish McNaughton
Treasurer	Sue Gadd
Safeguarding Officer	Sue Child
Trustee	<i>No nomination</i>
BRF Secretary	Graham Hills

10. Association and District Events and Practices (2020)

a) Recruitment & Retention Workshop (29th February, Hurstpierpoint)

This workshop has been developed by the CCCBR's Volunteer & Leadership Workgroup, in partnership with the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART), and is open to any ringer in Sussex. With church congregations dwindling, we need to look beyond the church for new ringers. Although the Ringing Remembers campaign was extremely successful, it's not feasible to run this kind of activity every couple of years. This workshop will help you develop recruitment and retention strategies for your tower, taking into account the experiences of newer members. Book your place in advance via Steph (sec-north@scacr.org).

b) Northern District Programme of Events 2020

The planned programme of Saturday events is as follows:

7th March: New Members' Event – Cowfold 10.00-12.30; open ringing with coffee & cake

4th April: Beginners' handbell workshop with fish & chips – Cuckfield Old School Hall 17.00-20.00

9th May: AGM *see below*

6th June: Outing *thanks to Jeremy Alford for organising (post-meeting note: the Outing will now be held on 5th September)*

4th July: Pickled Egg Day *two towers with pub lunch in between; will focus on a few methods*

1st August: Intro to Ringing on 10 Bells (TBC)

5th September: Morning Ringing with Pub Lunch *(post-meeting note: this event will now be held on 6th June)*

3rd October: Ringing with Coffee & Cake and Business Meeting – Slaugham 14.30-17.30

7th November: Consolidation of Association Ringing Course

5th December: Ringing with Mulled Wine/Juice & Mince Pies

AGM: this will be a bank holiday weekend, as the Early Spring Holiday is on Friday 8th May to celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE Day. The date of the AGM is confirmed as 9th May as two key Association Officers are unavailable the previous weekend. We would like to hear YOUR thoughts and suggestions for activities in addition to service, tea and meeting. VE Day commemoration ideas are particularly welcome.

c) Monday Evening Practices, including Association 12-Bell Practice

Elaine has evolved the offering for the Monday evening practices, so hopefully we now have something for everyone – if you have any suggestions, please get in touch. The Association 12-Bell Practices are very well attended, but we don't have anyone to run them – unless someone (or some people) volunteer to run them, we will have to cancel them (the volunteer can be from any District); please do talk to other ringers to try to find a volunteer.

11. AOB – subs

Sue Gadd reminded members that the deadline for paying subs is the end of February.

Rob and Steph closed the meeting by thanking the vicar for taking the service; Richard Hutchings and the Lindfield ringers for hosting the meeting; Sarah, Sue and friends for organising the excellent tea; and everyone for attending the meeting.