



**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON  
THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2020 AT WHIDDON DOWN VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:** Ian Avery, Joanne Tucker, Christine Ley, William Carew, James Kerslake, Lee Avery, Gerald Arscott, Keith Bavin, John Lock, Sue Ashton, James Steer, Andrew Steer, Ian Fielding, Tim Jones, Michael Adams, Charles Conibear and James Grant.

**Also Present:** Clive Ward (exiting Treasurer)

**1. Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

Chairman Ian Avery welcomed all members in attendance and opened the meeting at 19.30.

**Apologies** had been received from John Barnes, Julia Jarvis, Colin Adams, John Dietz, Margaret White, Graham Sharland and Paul Hext.

**2. Minutes of 26 September 2019 Committee Meeting**

It was RESOLVED to APPROVE the minutes and the Chair duly signed them as a true document.

**3. Outstanding Items**

a) Purchase of software for judging at Association competitions

In his absence John Dietz sent an email reporting that he had been able to supply and install Microsoft Word onto the Association Laptop making it suitable for calculating competition results. He also advised that if anyone else needed the software in order to carry out the work of the Association committee it would currently be more economical for them to purchase a personal lifetime licence themselves and then be reimbursed by the Association.

b) Trophy Refurbishment / engraving capacity

The Minor Final and Devon Eight shields had been bought along to the meeting; they are full / one year remaining respectively. It was AGREED that he should get quotations for them both to have a band added around the existing trophy which should provide room enough for several more years of badges to be added. **Action: Ian Avery**

**4. Devon Calls**

James Grant reported that the next edition of Devon Calls is currently in draft and should be ready for printing and distribution by mid-March. Current printing requirements are for 95 copies.

Christine Ley reported she had heard that the current method of distribution sometimes proved rather less than efficient, with some towers waiting many weeks for their copy to appear, to the point that some towers had not been in receipt of AGM paperwork in time for the meeting. She therefore PROPOSED a copy of Devon Calls should be posted to all affiliated towers. This was SECONDED by Ian Fielding. There was discussion around the matter with some objecting on the grounds they had understood the idea has been to reduce costs rather than incur more. It was finally AGREED with a

vote of 12 FOR and 2 AGAINST to trial posting copies to towers for one year (three editions) and then review. **Action: Agenda item February 2021**

### **5. Long Service Awards**

Rachel Avery has compiled an A4 certificate suitable for awarding to those who reach the 50, 60, 70 and 80 years of services to ringing milestones. The secretary will ask her for a copy that can be held centrally. *Information about how these can be obtained and what the qualifications are also needs to be added to the website.* One such award was recently presented by Ian Avery to Reg Yeo, a North Devon ringer of 80 years who celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in January. After a lifetime of teaching ringing and maintaining towers Reg is still ringing and calling the changes at two 8 bell towers - Pilton church and St Peter's in Barnstaple. A second award will be presented to Chris Golds of Loxhore Tower when he reaches his 50<sup>th</sup> milestone year aged 82 in March. Chris has taught many ringers over the years, including yours truly.

**Action: Joanne Tucker**

### **6. Committee Membership**

The year has begun with two officer vacancies:

Vice Chair: Keith Bavin PROPOSED James Steer, this was Seconded by John Lock and APPROVED.

Publicity Officer: See Minute no 10

There are also vacancies for Deanery Representatives – there are currently some Deaneries without any representation and some with multiple representatives. As per the changes agreed at the Constitution review, from the 2020 AGM it will be one Deanery: one Representative. Work needs to begin now to ensure this can happen so there are minimum vacancies on the committee when the time comes. **Action: Ongoing**

The matter of Robert Brown, Safeguarding Officer not attending committee meetings was raised. It was pointed out that as an officer he is not obliged to attend meetings. The Secretary agreed to make contact with him to find out if there was anything new we should be aware of / doing.

**Action: Secretary**

### **7. CCCR Affiliation Reps**

As per the Constitution Review finding that affiliation to the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers should be reinstated, it was AGREED that Tim Jones and Joanne Tucker would be the named representatives.

### **8. Association Outreach**

There being no Publicity Officer currently in post a discussion was had around how we might encourage someone to take on the role. It is crucial the Association is able to publicise news and events to reach the greatest possible audience which does mean they would ideally need to know their way around social media.

Andrew Steer will talk to the young ringers about it when they next meet and Ian Avery will approach Ryan Trout. It was AGREED that whoever took up the role should have the full support of committee members when undertaking their duties.

Ian Avery is also planning to talk with Graham Sharland among others with a view to creating a sub-committee which could perhaps amalgamate the training and publicity officer roles. It was felt that if we got these two matters sorted the recruitment and retention of affiliated towers would perhaps follow on naturally.

**ACTIONS: Andrew Steer and Ian Avery. ONGOING**

## **9. Reports**

### **a) Treasurers Report**

Incoming Treasurer Christine Ley informed the committee that approval was required to change the contact details and signatories for the NatWest Current account and the NatWest Business Reserve account.

The committee was asked:

- to approve the addition of Christine Ley as a signatory and for her contact details to supersede the previous treasurer's details
- to agree to Margaret White, John Barnes and Clive Ward remaining as authorised signatories. (Any two from the four signatories can authorise payments or changes to the bank details on behalf of the Association)

The committee was also asked

- to approve contact details and signatories' updates for the NS&I Investment Savings account, for Christine Ley to become the first contact person and her addition as a signatory
- to agree to Margaret White, John Barnes and Clive Ward remaining as authorised signatories. (Any two from the four signatories can authorise payments or changes to the bank details on behalf of the Association)

It was PROPOSED by James Grant that these changes be implemented, seconded by Gerald Arcscott and APPROVED.

There are currently 89 towers affiliated to the Association. This is down from last year (101) and 2018 (110), and 8 individual members.

Advertisers: Invoices were re-issued to all on 18<sup>th</sup> February (apart from Malcolm Brown Bellropes as they had already paid for this financial year). Nicholson Engineering and Mendip Rope makers both have last year's fees outstanding as well.

A copy of the accounts for the period 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2019 to 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020 forms part of these minutes.

### **b) Publicity Officer Report**

None

### **c) Training Officer Report**

Graham Sharland had sent his apologies for the meeting. Nothing to report.

## **10. Association Competitions 2020**

Novice 14<sup>th</sup> March at High Bickington – Andrew Steer and Will Carew sought agreement from the committee to introduce a new 'intermediate' section from this year in which teams will ring the full peal of Sixties on thirds with rise and lower. Places would be judged as for regular competitions on the marks from the whole but they would, as a matter of course be given the separate marks of the rise, top ringing and lower. The aim of this new class is to bridge the gap between the Novice and the Devon 6 Bell Qualifier Competitions. This was AGREED so the poster will be completed and the competition open for entries within the week.

North and South Devon Six Bell Qualifiers at Burlescombe and East Portlemouth respectively are 'in hand' along with the Minor and Major Finals.

The National Competition is on hold for this year as there was no one available to do the organising.

**Action: Ongoing**

## **11. AGM items**

### **a) Bell Advisor Post Update**

In Graham Sharland's absence, Ian Avery reported that he is continuing his work with the Guild on this. The need of a sub-committee was not discussed at this meeting. *Action: Agenda item for June*

### **b) Constitution Review**

The amendments to the Constitution need to be circulated to the committee and up-dated on the website. *Action: Secretary and Web Master*

## **12. Correspondence**

Email from John Dietz regarding Microsoft Office software (discussed under Item 3a)

## **13. Committee Members Reports**

Clive Ward advised the committee he hadn't been in receipt of the money donated for the teas provided at the AGM; Julia Jarvis had handed it to Christine Ley via Jo Tucker. Christine was waiting for the Treasurer hand over to be completed before banking the money.

James Steer reported a recent incident in which a ringer had collapsed with a heart attack in the tower. Happily all's well that ends well but it does raise a question of First Aid/Health & Safety provision available in towers. *Action: To be an agenda item at the June meeting*

## **11. Date and Venue of Next Meeting**

The next committee meeting will be held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at Whiddon Down Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21:14 .

**Joanne Tucker - Honorary Secretary**