

The Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Saturday 17 May 2014 at Biggleswade

1. President's welcome

Sue Silver welcomed members to the meeting and thanked everyone for coming. She gave a special mention to the Association's Young Ringers who had won the Ringing World National Youth Striking Competition. Five of the team were present at the AGM with the Whitechapel trophy; Alice and Clarrie Scott, Sammie and Natalie Brett and Rebecca Smith received warm applause from members. The other team members were Anne Hoxey, Cameron White-Spunner, Lizzie Pawley and reserve Caroline Pawley. Sue also thanked Lyndsey Brett and Linda Garton for their work with the young ringers in the past year.

2. Apologies for absence

Rt Revd Dr Alan Smith, Simon and Sue Melvin, Colin and Liz McCartney, Pat and Jacqui Albon, Philippa Whittington, Frank Rivett., Barbara Fraser, Heather Darvill, Jan Cornfoot, Simon Head, Janis Robinson, Roger Framp, Dorothy Kirby, Bob Jones, Murial Clark, Melvyn Potts, Barbara Woplin, Paul Biscoe.

3. Members who have died since the last AGM

The meeting stood to remember Shelagh Melville – Bedford St Paul, Anne Izzard – Kempston, Brian (Dick) Crisp – Bromham and Robert (Bob) Wood – Kempston.

4. Minutes of the AGM held at Kempston on Saturday 18 May 2013

The minutes of the 2013 were taken as read.

Steve Stanford said that the point he had made under item 9, Proposed Association Bell Restoration Fund, hadn't been correctly minuted. It was agreed that this would be sorted out after the meeting.

The minutes were adopted, subject to Steve Stanford's pending amendment, on a proposal by Guy Scott, seconded by Sarah Ward; unanimous.

5. Matters arising for items not on the agenda

Sue Silver reported that for item 10a the new Association Object had been approved by the Charity Commissioners; and item 14, the maintenance day, led by Central Council Tower and Belfries Committee members, held in March had been successful with good feedback from attendees.

6. The 2013 annual accounts and report

a) Accounts adoption

It was noted that in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities on page 14, liabilities were 'owed' not 'owned'.

The accounts were adopted on a proposal by Chris Williams, seconded by Mary Mann; unanimous. Barbara Fraser and Richard Hillson were thanked for their work on the accounts.

b) Report adoption

Terry Brown highlighted the errors she was aware of. The report was adopted on a proposal by John Loveless, seconded by Linda Garton; unanimous. Terry was thanked for her work to produce the report.

7. Election of Officers

Terry Brown thanked Sue for her work as Association President.

Office	Name	Proposed	Seconded	Vote
President	Sue Silver	Linda Garton	Martin Major	Elected unopposed
Vice President	Pat Albon	Sarah Ward	Barbara Beard	Elected unopposed
Honorary Secretary	Terry Brown	Anthony Smith	Stan Ashton	Elected unopposed
Honorary Treasurer	Barbara Fraser	Simon Stranks	Chris Williams	Elected unopposed
Honorary Peal Secretary	Anthony Smith	Steve Stanford	Tony Sharp	Elected unopposed
Honorary Librarian	Pat Albon	Barbara Beard	Lyndsey Brett	Elected unopposed
Honorary Independent Examiner	Richard Hillson	Alex Nash	Barbara Beard	Elected unopposed

Election of Honorary Life Members:

Cliff Izzard – proposed by Steve Stanford, seconded by Anthony Smith; unanimous.

Derek Hammond – proposed by Alex Nash, seconded by Adrienne Sharp; unanimous.

(The proposal speeches made by Steve and Alex were published in the July 2014 edition of Headstock, available on the Association website).

Both Cliff and Derek expressed their thanks at being elected Honorary Life Members.

8. Subscriptions

No changes proposed for 2015.

9. Election of new members

There were two Associate Ringing Member ratification of belfry elections prior to peal attempts:

Nicholas K Allsopp, proposed by Bob Tregillus, seconded by Bob Jones, prior to a peal at Turvey on 3 May; unanimous.

Mark G Lloyd, proposed by Richard Casteldine, seconded by Vernon Green, prior to a peal at Stotfold on 22 February; unanimous.

10. Striking competition dates - for the St Peters Cup and Melville Cup

2014: Saturday 20 September, Bedford District to host, to be held at Elstow.

Melville Cup draw 3.30pm, St Peters Cup draw at 5.00pm.

Test piece 120 rows of a doubles or minor method.

2015: Saturday 19 September, Biggleswade District to host, venue to be confirmed.

11. Any other business

a) Bedford River Festival – Friday 18, Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 July

Sarah Ward spoke about the plans for the Association's presence at the River Festival and the need for helpers.

b) Diocesan Centenary Event, Keysoe Equestrian Centre - Bank Holiday Monday 25 August

Linda Garton spoke about plans for the Association's presence at the St Albans Diocesan Centenary Event and the need for helpers.

Sue Silver mentioned that this centenary would be a good opportunity for commemorative ringing and encouraged towers to arrange quarter peals.

c) Association insurance situation

Terry Brown gave a summary of the Association's insurance position and the General Committee's decisions to:

- renew cover with Ecclesiastical Insurance Group(EIG) for public and 'member to member' liability;

- include cover for the Association's property;
- not include personal accident cover for everyone because of the high cost and limited benefits.

Steve Stanford mentioned that it might be possible to join into the Oxford Diocesan Guild's personal accident cover scheme and Terry Brown agreed to look into this.

There was a discussion about insurance cover for those who teach people to ring, the difficulty of dealing with EIG and the need to check the insurance position for ringing, teaching and doing maintenance at your own church.

Terry Brown agreed to produce some notes for the website.

d) World War One centenary

Sue Silver reported that Bob Jones had done some research into Bedfordshire ringers who had lost their lives in World War 1. Sue asked everyone to check their parish records and to let her know of any ringers who had died in service. Details would be passed to Alan Regin, Steward of the Central Council's Rolls of Honour.

John Loveless mentioned the positive appreciation and interest generated in the village of Tibenham after a peal was rung to commemorate six local ringers who rang a peal together in 1913 before the outbreak of World War 1 and the three who subsequently lost their lives in the war.

There would be opportunities for appropriate commemorative ringing over the next four years.

e) Website

Richard Hillson asked about recent problems with the website. Chris Williams explained that it was a Google platform 'hosting' problem and she would look into it.

f) Using parish magazines to promote bell ringing

Linda Garton mentioned that she had read quite a few different parish magazines and it was apparent that some towers were very good at using their parish magazine to publicise what's going on with bell ringing at the church, for example fund raising events, peals, striking competition success and outings. But other churches where there is an active band don't contribute ringing related articles at all. She encouraged towers to use their parish magazines to promote bell ringing.

g) Gift Aid

Sue Silver reminded everyone who is a tax payer to consider making a gift aid declaration for subscriptions and other donations so that the Association could recover the tax.

12. Date and place of 2015 AGM

16 May 2015, Luton District to host at Leighton Buzzard.

13. Vote of thanks

Stan Ashton thanked Guy Scott for taking the service and the Biggleswade ringers for providing the tea.

Sue Silver thanked Philip Jewell for playing the organ for the service; to Anne Hindle for the use of Clifton bells for afternoon ringing and to Chris Williams for running the ringing. She also thanked Terry Brown, Barbara Fraser and the members of the General Committee for their hard work during the year.