

**MINUTES OF THE SURREY ASSOCIATION OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS SOUTHERN DISTRICT**

**ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING**

**HELD ON SATURDAY, 22<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY 2020**

**AT ST MARY MAGDALENE, REIGATE**

The meeting commenced at 5.50pm.

The District Master, Paul Beeken, welcomed everyone and thanked Reverend Alison Elson for taking the service, Joy for playing the piano and David Gilmore and local ringers for providing the tea. He then asked for members to stand for a minute's silence out of respect for the following ringers who had died: Brenda Judd (Betchworth) Tony Gullet (Kingswood) Michael Wallis (Lingfield) and Margaret Bale (Epsom St Martins).

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Noel Gibbin (Caterham St John), Val Muller (Bletchingley), Sheena and Martin Boyce (Buckland), Amanda Doyle, Jennifer Meade, (Esher) Katharine O'Carroll (Godstone), Robin Grant (Horley), Barbara Taylor (Kingswood) Sheila Marsh (Lingfield) Ann and Simon Beirne, Jane Wilcock (Merstham), Libby Powell (Nutfield), Sarah Gilmore, Sarah Mitchell, Ed Stonard (Reigate), and Hilary Brooks (Walton)

**2. Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2019**

The minutes had been previously circulated online and were approved by a show of hands and then signed by Paul Beeken as correct.

**3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**4. Master's Report**

Paul commented on a matter originally started on Facebook that had been reported in the Ringing World entitled '*What's Wrong With Ringing?*' The conclusion being that more needed to be done to accelerate training in ringers to improve retention. Surrey Association had already recognised this by providing focussed practices. The Friendly Striking Challenge was particularly useful in getting ringers out to different towers and the Bletchingley Drop-In Sessions were highly beneficial to those making use of them. There are also 6 regular focussed practices; handling sessions twice a month at Oxted, Plain Hunt at Horley on third Wednesdays, Plain

Bob on third Thursdays, Grandsire on fourth Wednesdays. Paul is keen to start a Stedman group next.

Congratulations were given to those ringing their first quarters: Ken Allen (Caterham St John), Mark Davies (Charlwood) and Heather Mathews (Merstham).

## **5. Secretary's Financial Report**

The accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 had been previously circulated on the website and to the Yahoo group. There was a profit of £409 for the year, down on last year (£474) mainly due to lower income resulting from a slight fall in membership numbers at 283 from 292 in 2019; an increase in postage costs, which were unusually low last year and other expenses. Andrew Hamilton proposed that the accounts be adopted, seconded by Paul Beeken and this was agreed by a show of hands.

## **6. Notice of New Members**

The following new members had been admitted to the Association;

Julie Barclay (Merstham)

Emma Denny (Outwood)

Adey Grummet (Lingfield)

John Leighton (Merstham)

Alan Webb (Betchworth)

Sarah Webb (Betchworth)

Jane Wilcock (Merstham)

## **7. Election of 2020/2021 District Committee**

The following nominations had been made:-

District Master: Paul Beeken (Dorking and Ranmore)

District Secretary: Sue Dixon (Ockley)

Assistant District Secretary: Alan Cooke (Caterham St John)

Committee Members: Matt Cousins (Merstham)

Margaret Zandona (Ockley)

One vacancy - there were no volunteers for this position.

All voted in favour of electing those nominated.

## 8. Belfry Repair Fund Report

The BRF Secretary, Malcolm McAlister, had prepared a written report of the 2019 BRF activities for the BRF Committee Meeting in January 2020, which was verbally delivered to the meeting by Kate Wills, a BRF Committee member and Trustee of the BRF charity.

BRF funds have continued their steady re-growth in 2019, with income of just under £4,000 and grant payments of £1,900, these being £1,500 to Godstone and £400 to Ewell.

The level of receipts was almost identical to that of 2018, if the 2018 allocation of £1,200 by the General Committee from the Peal Fund was excluded.

The contribution from the Numbers Club grew by 7%. Many thanks are due as usual to Jill Wigney for her hard work in running the Club, as well as to all those who participate.

Clothing sales made a useful contribution after a fallow year in 2018.

On 2 November 2019 a hardy team of volunteers, at least equal in size to those of previous years, presented themselves for parking duties at Brockham Bonfire, knowing that the extremely adverse weather might mean insufficient funds would be raised to reward their efforts. In the event, the organisers gave the BRF their usual sum of £550.

The total value of the BRF fund at 31 December 2019 was £19,051. Just over £15,000 of this is earning interest in a deposit account.

Donations were received during the year from: the towers of Benhilton, Betchworth, Caterham, Kingston, Reigate and Southwark Cathedral; and the PCCs of Beddington, Oxted, "St Johns Church" (but we do not know *which* St John's church), Ewell and Walton.

Our thanks go to those who have made donations during the year, whether by standing order, one-off payment or contribution to a collection.

Having provided this report, Kate went on to advise the meeting that the BRF Committee are offering the membership another opportunity to place orders for clothing bearing the Association logo. Kate explained that those members who would like to place an order should look at the Clothing page on the Association website (under the "Members" tab) which includes a link to our clothing supplier's website. Members can choose from a very large selection of clothing items, and then use the link on the Clothing page of the Association website to email Kate to let her know what they would like. Kate will email them back with details of the final price of their chosen item to include the cost of the Association logo embroidery. Members can then decide whether to accept that price and place a firm order. The more items ordered, the greater the financial benefit to the BRF. In 2019 this amounted to just under £100.

The cut-off date for the 2020 clothing order will be the AGM in May. Kate will send out a Yahoo! Groups email to members by way of reminder, and there will also be an item in the next Association newsletter.

Kate then went on to supervise the Numbers Club draw, winning balls being drawn by two attendees who were not Numbers Club members. The Quarterly prize of £98.51 was won by Gillian Leale of Guildford Cathedral with ball number 156, and the Monthly prize of £25 was won by the Richmond Bell Ringers with ball number 76.

The meeting was advised that all 186 available ball numbers had been allocated and the BRF committee were considering what to replace the existing yellow balls with (additional balls can no longer be sourced) to enable the Numbers Club membership to be increased. Anyone wanting to become a member of the Club in the interim would need to go on a waiting list.

The collection bell was passed around during the report and when counted subsequently, amounted to £51.

## **9. Training Report**

The Training Officer, Martin Crick did not attend the meeting but with Northern District Training Day approaching (in 2 weeks' time) more helpers were needed.

## **10. Communications Officer's Report**

Chris Baldwin stated that his full report was available on the website and that communications are going well with the website, Yahoo groups, Twitter feed and Facebook page. It is everyone's job to provide news for sharing. Nationally there is a lot of news about ringing, particularly the National V. E. Day celebrations on 8<sup>th</sup> May, officially ringing at 7pm, but any performance that day could be associated with it and there is an Event Page on Bellboard.

## **11. Nominations for 2020/2021 General Officers**

The following nominations had been received ahead of the AGM to be held at Oxted on 16<sup>th</sup> May:

General Master	Noel Gibbin
General Secretary	Ann Beirne
Assistant Gen Secretary	Kate Flavell
Training Officer	Vacant
BRF Secretary	Malcolm McAlister
Communications Officer	Chris Baldwin
Independent Examiner	Andrew Robinson
CCCBR Representatives	Kate and Paul Flavell, two vacancies

## **12. Any Other Business**

### **Membership Development**

The requirement to be GDPR compliant was an opportunity to streamline membership procedures and enable us to engage with members more effectively. The rules were overhauled at the AGM last year, removing the need for election of new members and allowing the Committee to make changes to the way the membership is managed. A sub-group is currently working on new online membership processes.

### **Friendly Striking Competition**

This is a popular Competition in the Southern District which runs during British Summer Time. Paul is keen that towers take part as it is an excellent way of getting bands to improve their striking as well as experiencing different bells and socialising, especially over the excellent refreshments provided by the host bands. A number of towers joined late and did not have time to arrange enough matches and Anthony Vere Hodge asked that the Competition be publicised earlier.

### **Forthcoming Events**

Quarter Peal Day      28<sup>th</sup> March

Please email Noel Gibbin if you wish to take part.

Quiz Night                      at Banstead 8<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm start

Please email Ann Beirne to book a table as places are limited

Quarter Peal Week      Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May (VE Day) to Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May

Noel Gibbin is hoping to get quarter peals rung at every tower in the Association (74) and at least 75 'firsts' as part of the VE Day celebrations.

Anne Rueff commented that it was irrelevant these days to pay for Notices of Meetings in the Ringing World (£22) when they could be posted on Bellboard for free.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.40pm.