

# Minutes of the Surrey Association of Church Bellringers Southern District

## Annual District Meeting

Held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2023  
St Katherine's, Merstham (8)

The meeting commenced at 5:00pm.

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Kate Wills (Bletchingley), Patrick Wills (Bletchingley), David Gilmore (Reigate), Sarah Gilmore (Reigate), Sophie Mills (Merstham), Katherine O'Carroll (Godstone), V J Williams (Nutfield), Jane Wilcock (Merstham).

### 2. Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held on Saturday 26th February 2022

The minutes were accepted.

### 3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

### 4. Master's report

The Master's report is included as Annex 1.

Proposed by Barbara Taylor, seconded by Sue Dixon and report accepted.

### 5. Secretary's financial report

The accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022 are included as Annex 2.

Subscriptions are down, but the district remains in profit (£282 surplus in 2022 to £397 in 2021).

242 members (253 in 2022) consisting of:

60 life members, 170 adults, 12 junior/student.

Sue Dixon commented income was steady with reduction in subs balanced by increase in interest. Tower donation increased due to more practices. As the district has six thousand pounds, suggestions for constructive expenditure were requested and Sue suggested a rope fund. Paul Beeken proposed a rope fund, Noel Gibbin seconded, operation to be discussed by the committee. Sue Dixon proposed that the accounts be adopted, seconded by Ann Beirne and were accepted.

### 6. Notice of new members (resident and non-resident)

Lisa Carey (Lingfield)

Paul Perkin (Limpsfield Chart)

Tanya Clarke (Newdigate)

Meriel Spalding (Coulsdon)

Alison Dibden (Dorking)

Finley Towner (Merstham)

Emily Forrest (Oxted)

Kathryn Skelton (Dorking)

James Forrest (Oxted)

Heather Woods (Dorking)

Jackie Lomas (Oxted)

Christine Sparrowhawk (Godstone)

Sophia Oliver (Betchworth)

Catherine Hung (Godstone)

Jacqueline Patel (Epsom Common)

were welcomed into the district.

## **7. Election of 2023/2024 District Committee**

The following nominations had been made:

District Master:	Paul Beeken (Dorking)
District Secretary:	Sue Dixon (Ockley)
Assistant District Secretary:	Alan Cooke (Caterham St John)
Committee Members:	Matt Cousins (Merstham)
	Simon Beirne (Merstham)
	Noel Gibbin (Caterham St John)

Elected unopposed.

## **8. Belfry Repair Fund report**

The Belfry Repair Fund (BRF) report is included as Annex 3.

The report was read by Gail Terry who notified the meeting there is a proposal regarding the new ring in Roehampton to go before the general committee. The accounts for the BRF were made available for the meeting.

The Numbers Club draw was made by an independent party with the result being:

Quarterly prize of £112.80 won by 104, Owen Toller of Barnes;

Monthly prize of £25 won by 62, Robin Grant of Horley.

A letter from Bob Cooles was read listing 3 sizeable projects in train:

- installation of new 8 at Holy Trinity Roehampton
- remodelling the 8 at Richmond
- rehangng and retuning the 8 at All Saints Wandsworth

## **9. Training report**

The training report is included as Annex 4.

Paul Beeken read out the report from Ian Griffiths.

## **10. Communication Officer's report**

The Communication Officer's report is included as Annex 5.

Paul Beeken read out the report from Jackie Harrison.

## **11. Nominations for 2023/2024 General Officers**

President - Vacany  
General Master - Paul Flavell  
General Secretary - Ann Beirne  
Assistant General Secretary - Kate Flavell  
Training Officer - Vacancy  
BRF Secretary - Malcolm McAlister  
Communications Officer - Jackie Harrison  
Independent Examiner - Gavin Collins

No other nominations were received in the meeting.

## **12. Any other business**

Paul Beeken mentioned the upcoming programme and friendly striking competition (FSC). Emphasis on social side, training up judges and improving striking. Final details to be circulated before the start of British Summer Time.

Fraser Storie mentioned that the Surrey Association is hosting South East England Regional Youth Contest (SEECON) on 1st April at Caterham St Mary and that Caroline Prescott is looking for help with the catering.

Paul Beeken thanked Merstham for hosting and their cakes and the meeting closed at 5:35pm.

Alan Cooke  
Assistant District Secretary

# Annex 1

## Report for Surrey Association Southern District AGM

Last year will be remembered as the 'Recovery from Covid' year. I know that quite a few towers were effected not only by Covid but their bands shrank in size and years of not being able to ring meant that their ability to ring methods also deteriorated.

The committee wanted to be able to help bands recruit and teach more ringers. We negotiated that a tower could claim money from us to buy a banner which could be used to attract new people to the tower, some of which might want to ring. We are also putting on a Learners practice at Bletchingley on a regular basis; every month, trained, experienced teachers give up their morning to help accelerate the beginners by working on their handling techniques.

We have continued to hold practices on the fourth Saturday of the month although the number of attendees is lower than the pre-Covid numbers. I always feel that these Practices allow us to chat to other ringers and provide a social time as well. I would like to thank Matt for organising the Christmas outing two months ago - I felt that it provided a confirmation that things were turning back to normal.

We have tried to encourage ringers to visit and help other towers and will continue this, this year. Please do contact the tower before the practice so that they know that you are coming. We are using this idea to help ringers to ring on 10 bells - there is now a regular 10 bell open practice in the second week of the month - its aim is to get ringers more used to ringing 10 bells and allow those who can to help others.

Unfortunately, last year will be remembered as the year the Queen passed away and I know that most bands were able to commemorate this by ringing in her memory and I know that we are trying hard to train new ringers to ring for our King in May.

We have been trying to help towers ring quarter peals and I am very pleased to congratulate the following 1<sup>st</sup> quarter pealers:

Anne Battensby	Esher
Danae Bird	Caterham St John
Andy Colman	Caterham St John
Elly Davis	Caterham St John
Patricia Hoverd-Hughes	Unattached
Jo Hunt	Ockley
Corinne Jay	Capel
Mike Jay	Capel
Phil Madden	Ranmore
Sarah Mitchell	Reigate
Brian Rochester	Caterham St Mary
Jules Shipton	Dorking
Sarah Webb	Betchworth
Michael Willans	Betchworth

Quarter Peals are an excellent way of developing our ringing and I know that we, the committee, want to help towers more to work on ringing quarter peals especially for King Charles's coronation.

I would like to finish this report by saying that I have been pleased by the recovery and the help that the Southern District have been able to give and look forward to some more this year.

Thank you for listening.....

# Annex 2

## SOUTHERN DISTRICT ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	<u>2022</u>		<u>2021</u>		<u>2020</u>	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>						
Subscriptions (current year - gross)	<b>886.00</b>		946.00		1,053.00	
Levy to General Fund	<b>531.60</b>		567.60		631.80	
Net Subscriptions		<b>354.40</b>		378.40		421.20
Donations		<b>5.00</b>		33.00		15.00
Interest received		<b>50.96</b>		0.60		13.70
<b>Total income for the year</b>		<b>410.36</b>		<b>412.00</b>		<b>449.90</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>						
Tower Donations		<b>105.00</b>		15.00		30.00
Meeting Expenses		<b>0.00</b>		0.00		0.00
Ringling World notices		<b>0.00</b>		0.00		11.52
Postage		<b>23.55</b>		0.00		1.97
Stationery		<b>0.00</b>		0.00		0.00
<b>Total expenditure for the year</b>		<b>128.55</b>		<b>15.00</b>		<b>43.49</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>		<b>281.81</b>		<b>397.00</b>		<b>406.41</b>

### BALANCE SHEET

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
	£	£	£
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash at bank and in hand	<b>1,272.38</b>	<b>970.53</b>	669.33
Deposit in COIF Account	<b>5,273.42</b>	<b>5,222.46</b>	5,221.86
Amount Due from Surrey Association	<b>340.40</b>	<b>415.40</b>	321.20
Ringling World advance	<b>39.49</b>	<b>39.49</b>	39.49
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>6,925.69</b>	<b>6,647.88</b>	<b>6,251.88</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Subscriptions to be repaid	<b>0.00</b>	4.00	5.00
Subscriptions received in advance	-	-	-
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>4.00</b>	<b>5.00</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>£6,925.69</b>	<b>£6,643.88</b>	<b>£6,246.88</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>			
Accumulated Fund			
Balance at 1st January	<b>6,643.88</b>	6,246.88	5,840.47
Surplus/(Deficit)	<b>281.81</b>	397.00	406.41
<b>Balance at 31st December</b>	<b>£6,925.69</b>	<b>£6,643.88</b>	<b>£6,246.88</b>

### **PROPERTY REGISTER**

The Collection Bell is held by the Secretary, Sue Dixon.  
The Meeting Gavel is held by the Secretary, Sue Dixon.  
The Richard Wallis Trophy is held jointly by Betchworth and Buckland

# Annex 3

## BELFRY REPAIR FUND ANNUAL REPORT

At the end of the first full year since the lock-down, the fund stands fractionally above its level at the close of 2020, at £21.5k. Receipts have been slightly higher than in the previous two years, but are not back to the preceding levels. Meanwhile, although one possible grant application has been discussed extensively and two others have been mooted, there have been no disbursements.

Clothing purchases were ordered on behalf of ten ringers this year, up from five in 2021 thanks to Kate Wills. Cash collections at meetings rebounded after inevitably low levels in the previous two years. Numbers Club membership grew slightly further and contributed 46% of all BRF receipts; apologies to the handful of good-hearted players who were accidentally bounced into doubling their subscriptions! A doughty team of ringers manned a car-park for Brockham Bonfire, as in pre-lockdown days, earning a very useful contribution to the fund, despite complications arising from the preceding deluges of rain. The Association Quiz again made a very welcome contribution.

The committee, comprising Malcolm McAlister, Gail Terry, Russell King, Kate Wills, Noel Gibbin, Sid Bensberg and Paul Flavell, have been active in discussions of projects and awards as well as in the running of the Numbers Club and the compilation of clothing orders.

Donations were received during the year from the towers of St John's, Caterham and All Saints, Kingston; and the PCCs of Beddington, Oxted and St John's, Egham. Mention should also be made of our donors with regular standing orders, who have long been the bed-rock of the fund.

Malcolm McAlister

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# Annex 4

## TRAINING REPORT

The past three years have been difficult due to Covid lockdowns and restrictions and the Training Group has tried to provide suitable events to cater for the conditions prevailing at the time. As the situation changed, the Training Group recognised the need to reintroduce ringing and provide help to Members to help others. Training events were provided to help this; in particular the provision of ART events to help Members help new ringers and basic sessions run in appropriate settings. Whilst this remains a high priority, the Group is moving forward with a more widespread programme.

The events run have generally been well attended. As is often the case, getting helpers to support the course leaders can be a problem and I encourage those Members that are able to help to do so. It is frequently the same few Members that run and support events so I am keen to extend the pool of supporters. Please help if you can.

The Training Programme for 2023 has been prepared and is now available on the Association Website under the Training Tab where Members can book a place to attend.

<https://training.surreybellringers.org.uk/>

The Programme is moving forward from Covid related sessions and incorporates a few events not previously run by the Association. It includes two sessions involving simulators, Listening Skills and Getting the Best from Simulators, also sessions on steeple keeping and a mini seminar on Tower Management training. There is the ever popular Up and Down in Peal and other regular events. The programme also includes other "External to the Association" weekend training courses which are open to all to apply to attend.

The Training Group is supported by the Two Districts who run regular practice sessions. Look out for these District practices which are usually open to ALL Association Members irrespective of which District organises them.

If any Member has a training request they should contact either a member of the Training Group or a District Committee Member who will forward the request.

Ian Griffiths

The quarterly newsletter has been re-established in the last year. Thanks to all members who have contributed articles and news items. The snippets of tower news as well as the longer articles have been appreciated by readers so please do not hesitate to send your news to [communications@surreybellringers.org](mailto:communications@surreybellringers.org)

This year, the newsletter will be published in March, June, September, and December with the deadline for submission the end of the previous month. Please send your contributions for the next newsletter by the end of February.

Chris Baldwin is continuing to look after the website and Alan Cooke the Facebook page. The home page of the website now features the "Ring for the King Logo" which we hope will be used by Towers on their own church websites to promote recruitment.

In 2022 the Association Facebook reflected bell ringing finally emerging from the restrictions of Covid. The re-appearance of training, practice and outing events led to many meetings, some for the first time.

However, the Facebook year was dominated by posts on the ringing for and in remembrance of our late Queen. A final parting that stood memorial to all the final partings, including those from the bell ringing community.

Please make sure that you continue to use the web site and Facebook as they contain a wealth of information about Surrey Association Events, training materials, personal achievements etc. If you are organising events, please remember to post the details on the website events page. Also, don't forget that you can use MemberMojo to communicate to the wider association for example, if you are looking for ringers to help with weddings etc.

If you have any feedback about how we can improve communication, please let me know at [communications@surreybellringers.org](mailto:communications@surreybellringers.org)

Jackie