



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF THE SURREY ASSOCIATION OF CHURCH  
BELLRINGERS HELD ON SATURDAY 13 MAY 2017  
AT ST JOHN THE DIVINE, MERTON**

Kate Flavell, General Master, took the chair and opened the meeting at 5:20pm.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

These were received from: Sheila Marsh (Lingfield), Patrick and Kate Wills (Coulston, Bletchingley), Malcolm McAlister (Mortlake), Milica Reardon, Noel Gibbin (Caterham St John), Trisha Hawkins (Barnes), David Wallis, Alison McCormick, Matthew Rose (Godstone), Ed Muller (Bletchingley), Gail Terry (Redhill), Shirley McGill (Croydon Minster), Ann & Simon Beirne (Merstham), Tony & Deborah Bishop (Kingston), Michael Uphill (Putney) Louise Booth, Colin Friend (Docklands) David Gilmore (Reigate), Jo Drew (Battersea), Paul Beeken (Dorking).

**2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at St John's, Caterham on Saturday 14 May 2016**

These had been made available to members prior to the meeting. They were approved nem con and the Master was authorised by the meeting to sign them as being a correct record.

**3. Matters arising**

There were none.

**4. General Committee Report & General Fund Accounts**

These had been previously circulated to members prior to the meeting via the website. Richard Wallis had nothing further to add. No questions were raised. The meeting authorised the adoption of the Report and Accounts.

**5. Belfry Repair Fund & Accounts**

- 5.1 These had also been previously made available to members via the website. There were no questions, and the Report and Accounts were duly adopted.
- 5.2 The Numbers Club Quarterly and Annual draws were made during the meeting. The winner of the Quarterly draw of £118.68 was number 135, Ron Diserens of Dorking; and the winner of the Annual draw of £346.06 was number 124, Martin Crick of Richmond.
- 5.3 The Collection Bell raised £102.65 which would be increased by Gift Aid.

**6. Training Group Report & Accounts**

The Report and Accounts had been made available to members prior to the meeting. Paul Flavell had nothing further to add. No questions were raised and both were approved.

**7. Communication Officer's Report**

The Report had already been made available to members via the website. The report was duly adopted by the meeting. The Communication Officer, Chris Baldwin, commented that a recent Facebook posting had gone viral.

**8. Central Council 2017**

The Summary Report from the CRAG (Review Group) and Frequently Asked Questions had been circulated before the meeting. Kate Flavell explained the background to the proposed reform of the Central Council. She went on to expand on some of the issues and how these could be interpreted differently. She was worried about the short timescale for the changes, how enough people would offer to get involved in any new membership

organisation and the proposed finance model. Paul Flavell was concerned that the Central Council was continuing to look inward rather than address recruitment and retention issues.

Kate asked for any comments from the floor. There were none. All were encouraged to contact any of the four representatives in the next week if they did think of anything.

9. **Update from January's Open General Committee Meeting**

Kate Flavell thought that the meeting had gone well with some first time contributors. She said that the General Committee were taking forward the issues for recruitment and training, finance and membership. The meeting had generally felt that the organisation of The Surrey Association and its two Districts may not be perfect but no one came up with anything better or a better name.

10. **Surrey Association Library**

Richard Wallis had said in January that it needed moving by the end of June. It was not used as often as once per year. Chris Ridley clarified that there was the Archive of specific Surrey Association items and then the Library of general ringing books. Mike Bangham wondered what was in it. The list was on the website and had previously appeared in alternate Annual Reports.

Charlotte Kirwan knew of another group that had sold the library off to members. Eddie Hartley said he could have used some books in presentations but did not know what was available or how to get it. Phillip Ridley asked if it had been valued. Chris Ridley had recently done this - £3,500 but most of the value was only in about 10 books that had an individual value up to £400.

Sue Dixon was thanked for recently taking over the keeping of the Archive. Trisha Shannon suggested that the Lambeth Palace library was growing and could be approached. Chris Ridley wanted the split between Archive and library checked. Robin Grant thought the information in the Archive shouldn't be lost but books were generally available.

It was agreed that Chris would look through the library and extract any items he believed were truly archives, to be retained, and Lambeth Palace would be approached to see if there was any interest from them in acquiring the balance of the Library. Trisha Shannon will provide the contact.

11. **Forthcoming Events**

11.1 Caroline Prescott briefly talked about the Ringing World National Youth Contest in Birmingham and the Association had entered a team again.

11.2 Andrew Howell (Southern District) reported that he still needed helpers on the Southern District Beginners' outing on 27<sup>th</sup> May. On 24<sup>th</sup> June there is the summer barbeque with an informal Striking competition but a venue was still needed.

11.3 Sheila Cheesman invited people to Southwark Cathedral on 24<sup>th</sup> June to be part of the National 12 Bell Contest that being held there from 11am. There was plenty to do in the vicinity.

12. **Election of New Members**

12.1 The meeting stood whilst those who had died in the past 12 months were remembered: Lynda Coles, Sylvia Davies, Ann Dawson-Taylor, Barbara Hawkins and Peter Ostley.

12.2 The following were proposed under the 30 year rule and then declared as Honorary Life Members: Peter Jefferson-Smith, Alison McCormick and David Robinson.

12.3 The following resident members were elected: Chris Rusby and Ross Young (Wimbledon), John Loughrey and Christine Mahalski (Streatham) and Philip Healey (Addington). Linda Aldroish (Carshalton) and Marion Stockton (Cheam) were ratified after election at the Wimbledon Training Day.

12.4 There were no other ratifications required and no non-resident members proposed.

13. **Election of Officers**

The President, Bob Cooles, took the chair.

These nominations had been made at Annual District Meetings or in writing to the General Secretary. He announced that Kate Flavell was elected as General Master who had the difficult task of pulling from the front and pushing others from behind.

Kate Flavell retook the chair and declared the following elected:

General Secretary – Richard Wallis.

Assistant Secretary – Milica Reardon.

BRF Secretary – Malcolm McAlister.

Training Officer – Paul Flavell (who announced this would be his final year).

Communications Officer – Chris Baldwin.

Andrew Robinson had been nominated as the Independent Examiner and Andrew was also declared elected.

Kate thanked all those standing for office, and those who had held office last year, for their valuable contributions to the Association.

14. **Future Annual General Meeting on Saturday 12 May 2018**

This is due to take place in the Southern District, and those towers were invited to host the meeting.

15. **Any other business**

- 15.1 Paul Flavell followed up the Recruitment and Retention Seminar from April. He intended to conduct a survey of current members to help identify where resources were needed. He was also trying to get some six-week courses together as that was how some people expected to learn these days. Finally, he had an example of a recruitment leaflet that could be locally tailored on one side. These proposals were agreed without comments.
- 15.2 Paul Flavell was concerned about belfry maintenance. There were details on the website where the Association would use some of the Legacy to part fund a series of visits and inspections for Surrey towers by a bell hanger. They would probably tighten bolts etc. and suggest further necessary work. Anne Rueff expressed strong support for this. Eddie Hartley said that he knew of several places where the PCC did have a maintenance contract so they would not need this facility. This was agreed and detailed procedures for applications would be issued shortly.
- 15.3 Robin Grant thought that new Ecclesiastical Insurance rules did not cover those over 65 above ringing chamber level. Kate Flavell mentioned the Central Council's Tower Stewardship Committee and would follow this up; reporting back before the next meeting.
- 15.4 Lawrence Davies reported that he had the bookstall with him today.
- 15.5 Frances Clementi advertised the BRF clothing – final orders due that day.
- 15.6 Anne Rueff asked about the Hubs in the Southern District that had recently been advertised on the ART website. It was reported that it seemed to be Vicky Williams's sole initiative and she has agreed to write something about it for the website.

The meeting closed at 6.30 pm.

Confirmed as an accurate record: