

Durham & Newcastle Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers Southern District

Minutes of the AGM held on 23rd November 2019 at All Saints, Hurworth

1 Present

Kris King (President), Helen Scott, Alastair Lunn, Simon Froom, George Robinson, Alix Robinson and Dave Bailey (Barnard Castle), Shirley Brown and Elaine Simpson (Bishop Auckland), Anne Ford, Jenny Jackson, Aileen Little, Carol Craven, Paul Cockrill, Shirley Blair and Carol Pratt (St Cuthbert's, Darlington), Stephen Duguid (St John's, Darlington), Andrew Frost (St Aidan's, Hartlepool), Jack Hanlon and Brian Telfer (St Oswald's, Hartlepool), Joseph Wilson, Elspeth Craig and Andrew Craig (Stranton, Hartlepool), Andy Woodcock, John Gemmell, Anne Graham, Anthea Enzor and Chris Enzor (Heighington), Mike Hodgson, Brenda Coatsworth, Martha Wailes, Susanna Baker and Anne Johnson (Hurworth), Trevor Thompson, Jessica Bennett, Davina Tomlinson, Emily Callaghan, Simon Arnold and Jake Shaw (Shildon) and Margaret Jobson and Ross Weddell (unattached)

Mark Hayes (Escrick / Ripon)

2 Welcome

The Chairman, Andrew Frost, welcomed everyone to the meeting and especially Kris King, President of the Association.

3 In Memoriam

No members were aware of any ringers from this District who had died during 2019.

4 Election of New Members

Thelma Adams	(St Aidan's, Hartlepool) proposed Andrew Frost, seconded Andrew Craig
Simon Arnold	(Shildon) proposed Trevor Thompson, seconded Davina Thompson
Jake Shaw	(Shildon) proposed Trevor Thompson, seconded Davina Thompson
Alix Robinson	(Barnard Castle) proposed Dave Bailey, seconded Helen Scott
George Robinson	(Barnard Castle) proposed Dave Bailey, seconded Helen Scott
Graham Smith	(Heighington) proposed Anthea Enzor, seconded Chris Enzor
Tricia White	(Heighington) proposed Anthea Enzor, seconded Chris Enzor
Nick White	(Heighington) proposed Anthea Enzor, seconded Chris Enzor

All were duly elected to The Association.

5 Vote of Thanks

Brian Telfer proposed a vote of thanks to the Hurworth ringers for their hospitality, warm welcome and delicious tea.

6 Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from Fiona Cooper and the rest of the Barnard Castle ringers, Kate Millar and Ian Fleming (St Cuthbert's Darlington), Phil Travis (Hurworth) & Lynn Arnold, Lilian Richardson, Debbie Bennett and Shannon Bennett (Shildon) and Ashley Law (unattached).

7 Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last AGM held at St John's, Shildon on 17th November 2018 were agreed to be a true record and signed by the Chairman.

8 Matters Arising

8.1 Item 12.1 Proposed Teaching Centre

Chris Enzor reported that the plan for the proposed teaching centre at Holy Trinity, Darlington, was progressing slowly. An ART teaching bell handling course had been delivered by Graham Nabb in October and power to the tower had been restored. He anticipated that the Centre will be up and running soon.

9 Annual District Reports

9.1 Chairman's Report

The Chairman, Andrew Frost, stated that 6 years ago he agreed to be Southern District Chairman for 2 years, however after 6 years he felt he should handover to someone else. He thanked the Secretary and Ringing Master for working alongside him and everyone for helping to keep the district thriving. He advised towers with falling membership not to despair, as other towers have proved that it is possible to reverse this trend. He pointed out that the advanced practices in Darlington mean that members who never thought they would be able to manage more than bob doubles are now ringing surprise and he thanked both Chris Enzor and Jack for that. He also felt that it is a great joy to see young people wanting to learn to ring. To this end he believed that he is leaving the district in a healthy and enthusiastic state and that his successor will take it forward to even greater things.

9.2 Secretary's Report

The Secretary, Anthea Enzor, reported that the new online membership database is now being used to send emails to ringers in the District as well as enabling members to pay their subscriptions online. She recommended that it would be advisable to check that emails from LoveAdmin are not landing up in junk or spam by adding it as a 'safe sender'. In addition, she requested that where the tower contact pays the subscriptions for all their ringers, it is possible to link all the members to their account allowing them to logon to LoveAdmin and make one payment for all their ringers. This is the preferred method of payment - it reduces the amount of cash handled by the secretary and records the payment on the database automatically. Future plans include using LoveAdmin to manage payment for events and 100 Club tickets online.

9.3 Ringing Master's Report

The Ringing Master, Jack Hanlon, highlighted some of the events that had taken place in 2019 starting with the Plain Hunt and Plain Bob workshop held at Shildon at the beginning of the year. The outing to the Penrith area had been well supported, with good ringing from rounds and call changes to 8-spliced surprise major. 19 out of 23 quarter peals were successful over the District quarter peal weekend at 11 towers and one in hand. 38 ringers were involved, with 17 ringing a 'first'. Jack stated that he plans to repeat this again in 2020, and had learnt to allow sufficient time to travel between towers. A practice at Stockton had offered an opportunity for ten and twelve bell ringing, ranging from rounds and call changes to Little Bob Maximus and Grandsire Cinques. Jack was pleased to be able to report that the fortnightly advanced practices have been going well, with the challenge of the methods of the month as well as up to eight spliced and Stedman Triples. The regular Sunday quarter peals in Darlington organised by Chris Enzor have also provided opportunities for ringers at all levels to improve. Jack congratulated Alastair Lunn who had represented the Southern District in the D & N band which came 9th out of 20 bands in the Ringing World National Youth Contest in Liverpool. He concluded by asking for suggestions for future events as well as offering support to individual towers.

9.4 Tower Reports

The tower reports had been circulated prior to the meeting this year, and an opportunity for questions or comments was offered. Trevor Thompson thanked everyone who had helped in any way with the refurbishment of the bells at Shildon earlier in the autumn.

10 Election of Officers

Kris King took the Chair for this item and in doing so he congratulated the existing officers for their enthusiasm and thanked them for arranging a wide range of activities over the last year. Andrew Frost, outgoing Chairman proposed Helen Scott for the post of Chairman and this nomination was seconded by Chris Enzor. As there were no other nominations, Helen was duly elected as Chairman.

Anthea Enzor was proposed as Secretary by Andrew Frost and seconded by Helen Scott and Jack Hanlon as Ringing Master, proposed by Trevor Thompson, seconded by Elspeth Craig. Both were duly elected.

11 Plans for 2020

11.1 Suggestions for 2020

The Secretary listed suggestions from the tower contacts for future events, which included

- Using a simulator
- Raising/lowering in peal course
- Introduction to hand bell ringing
- Mini-outings to introduce novices to more towers/social events.
- A ringing up and down in peal workshop
- Events to encourage young ringers
- An inspection of the bell chamber at South Church
- Additional practices / workshops to develop skills.
- The Quarter Peal weekends
- Outings to different towers.
- Striking competitions.
- A variety of events, eg general ringing, quarter peal weekend, firsts month (or fortnight)
- Possibly a handbell workshop
- SD barbecue

Members were invited to send any further suggestions for events for 2020 to any of the District Officers. Kris King reported that there is a committee reviewing the arrangements and rules for the two D & N striking competitions and they would welcome any thoughts or suggestions.

11.2 Trip to Taylor's Bell Foundry

The Secretary reminded the meeting that she was arranging a trip to the Bell Foundry in Loughborough next Easter. Sufficient people had expressed an interest for this visit to go ahead and further details will follow shortly.

12 Any Other Business

12.1 D and N Times

Andrew Frost reminded members that he hopes to publish the next edition of the D and N Times in December, however he has not got much material yet. He would welcome articles for inclusion by the first week in December.

12.2 D and N Carol Service

Kris King informed members that the D and N Carol Service will take place at South Shields on Saturday 14th December at 2.00 pm. All are welcome to come along.

12.3 Certificates

Kris King presented membership certificates to new members elected earlier in the meeting.

12.4 100 Club Draw

Helen Scott carried out the November draw for the 100 Club and the winners were:

1st £20 Martha Wailes, Hurworth

2nd £10 Joan Johnson, Heighington
3rd £5 Davina Tomlinson, Shildon

13 Date of next meeting

The date of the Annual General Meeting for 2020 will be Saturday 21st November, venue to be decided.