

Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers

Annual General Meeting. 11th May 2024

Kirkby Malham Village Hall

Minutes

The meeting opened at 5.30pm

1) Welcome

The President welcomed all to the meeting especially the Rev Sue McWhinney who had just conducted our service. The President took this time to congratulate Jeffery Cooper on his recent peal at the age of 95, only the third person to achieve this.

2) Minutes From Our Last Meeting – 3rd February 2024 at Cawthorne Village Hall

One correction, Item 6 should be titled, Proposed Standing Orders & Rule Changes.

Passed as a true record

3) Matters Arising – None

4) In Memoriam

Rev Giles Galley
Colin Banton - (formerly Stockton-on-Tees)
Jay Johnson - St Leonard's Wortley
Bill Stoker - Hemmingbrough

Chris Moxon conducted a prayer of remembrance, and a moment of reflection was held.

5) Election/Ratification of Officer

The following were duly elected – All in favour

Report Editor: **Vacant**

Treasurer: David Spaul

Librarian: Andrew Slade

Education Officer: Susan Welch

CC Rep x 1: Andrew Slade

Appointment of officers.

Independent Examiners

Judith McCoy,

Other Officers of Association

Gift Aid and Tax Recovery Officer

William A Lennox

Custodian Trustees of the BRF

President, General Secretary, Treasurer, Peter Kirby, Barrie Dove

Secretary of the BRF

Peter McCoy

BRF Trustees

Helen Pells (Scarborough)

Simon Reading (Sheffield)

Robert Cater (York)

Deborah Thorley (Western)

Emma Coles (York)

Continuation.....Election/Ratification of Officer

Simon Burren (Scarborough)
Association Membership Manager
Janine Jones
Safeguarding Officer
Deborah Thorley
Quarter Peal Secretary
John Leech
Public Relations Officer
General Secretary

The President thanked Chris Moxon for all his time and effort while in the role of Report Editor, this position remains vacant, the President suggested to the members that they should have a think about any suitable 'volunteers' perhaps this could be a role for a younger ringer?

6) Confirmation of Life Membership

Adrian Cory
Chris Bennett
Malcolm Brand
Nick Harrison
Charles Morrish
Roddy Horton
Monica Strawn
Ann McGeoch
Helen Nichols

7) Inter Branch Striking Competition Results – Held at Gargrave.

Sam Austin was our judge for this event, and he provided a summary on each of the test pieces.

Result

1st	Western Branch	29 faults
2nd	Cleveland & North Yorks. Branch	39.25 faults
3rd	Leeds and District Branch	46.5 faults
4th	York Branch	47.5 faults
5th	Scratch band	71 faults

Sam Austin was duly thanked for judging the contest and was presented with some refreshments for his efforts.

8) Presentation of The Annual Accounts 2023 - David Spaul, Treasurer

Full details of the accounts can be found within the 2023 Annual Report, our report can also be viewed on our website. www.yacr.org.uk
A £900 donation was made to the BRF from the Snowdon Books.

9) Budget Proposals for 2024 - - David Spaul, Treasurer

All the same as 2023
All in favour

10) Proposed Standing Orders & Rule Changes

The meeting considered the results of the extended review of the structure and governance of the association. It was concluded that many of the suggested changes coming from the review were matters not of regulation but of custom and practice.

It was agreed that the association would seek to adapt practice to more closely match the expectations of the membership as expressed in meetings and review consultations.

There was, however, one matter, related to membership categories, that was a matter for regulatory change, should it be desired by the AGM that change was desirable.

The proposition put to the meeting, following the usual notice of change being given at a previous meeting, was that the associate member category be removed.

There were several speakers both in favour of the change and in favour of retaining the status quo. During the discussion an important point was raised from the floor of the meeting that there were drafting issues with the changes as put. It was agreed that the vote on the proposition would approve, or not, the principle of the change but that specific proposals to implement any decision would be put to the September meeting of the association.

Two strands of argument became dominant in the discussion. One was in favour of the change and focused on the difficulty faced by several branches and towers where the large geographical dispersion of towers and the relative paucity of ringers able to lead bands in quarter peals made it hard for many ringers to ring the quarter peal necessary under the current rules to become full members of the association. It was also stated that the addition of the category of membership was a relatively late change in the association being around 100 years after the formation of the association.

Amongst other points the main reason given for retaining the status quo was that asking members to ring a quarter peal to become a qualified member was setting a good, but not generally unattainable, standard and thereby encouraging ringers to develop and improve their ringing.

Following the discussion the proposition was put to the meeting. Tellers were appointed and the vote, by show of hands, was duly recorded.

There was a small majority in favour of the change.

The officers were charged with re-visiting the draft regulatory changes and putting them to the September meeting of the association.

11) Education Committee Report

Andrew Slade took over the role of Education Committee Convenor on a temporary basis, Susan Welch has now been elected to this role.

12) Preserving Intangible Cultural Assets

No further information from the Government on this.

13) Vote of Thanks.

On behalf of the Association the General Secretary thanked St Andrews, Gargrave for hosting our Inter Branch Contest and for providing refreshments.

Sam Austin for judging the contest.

The incumbents and key holders at Thorton in Craven, Giggleswick and Settle for allowing our afternoon ringing, along with the ringers who helped to run the ringing.

Page Four

Continuation..... Vote of Thanks.

Rev Sue McWhinney for conducting our service at Kirby Malham along with Lawrence Denholm for playing the organ.

The GS personally thanked Shiela Bloomfield, Secretary of the Western Branch for all her hard work and for keeping him informed on how all the arrangements were progressing.

To the catering team for providing us with such a marvellous tea.

14) Presentation of Our 2023 Annual Report – Chris Moxon

Thirty less copies were printed than for the 2022 issue, but it contained more pages.

Janine Jones was thanked for all her help.

Barrie Dove & Janine Jones will be taking care of deliveries to the branches.

Chris was again thanked for his efforts.

15) Future Events

21/09/2024 – General Meeting & Sunday Service Band Contest – Eastern Branch

19/10/2024 – Snowdon Lunch

Hat Contest – TBC

Twelve Bell Practice TBC

01/02/2025 - Sheffield Branch

10/05/2025 - York Branch (Inter Branch Contest & AGM)

20/09/2025 - Central Branch - (Sunday Service Contest)

16) New Members.

Rachel Jay – Almondbury

Aidan Jay –Almondbury

Jacque Mack – Longwood

All in favour

17) Correspondence

The GS is to circulation correspondence received for the Central Council Secretary

18) Yorkshire Tykes – Jane Lynch

Due to exams the Tykes were unable to enter a team into the Inter Branch Contest.

Twenty-two ringers and three bands shall be going to London for RWNYC

Could any towers that may have new young ringers encourage them to contact Jane.

19) Bell Repair Fund Collection

Raised £23.76 – Thank you.

20) The Snowdon Dinner – Andrew Slade

Do we still want to hold this event?

Andrew said yes and urged members to support it

Chris Moxon felt it would be a shame to loose it especially as its name is remembering our founder Jasper Snowdon.

21) Any Other Business

Elaine Scott mentioned that Education courses can be found on the website.

Meeting Closed at 6.55pm