



Castor Ringing School

Annual General Meeting

13 November 2021 in St Kynburga's church, Castor

Minutes

Attendees: Hilary Hardie, Chris Burgess, Terry Wright, Stuart Weston, Jane Robinson, Julie Pocock, Sally Hudson, Deborah Bray

Apologies: Julian Burton, Geoff Dobson, Jane Webb, Diana Street, David Teall, Pat Teall, Geoff Bridges, Nicola Silk, Anna Zsatan, Alex Heaton, Helen Cornford, Ruth Gibbs

HH welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Minutes of AGM on 14 November 2020

Minutes of the AGM on 14 November 2020 were proposed by CB and seconded by TW, and then agreed as a correct record by a unanimous vote.

2. Matters Arising not included elsewhere

None

3. Annual Reports:

Head Tutor's Reports

CB read David Teall's report, as follows:

Greetings to all Tutors, Helpers and Pupils at Castor Ringing School, and my best wishes to you all.

I would like to congratulate Hilary on her appointment as Head Tutor. She is the perfect candidate. She has progressed through the Ringing School from Pupil to Helper to fully qualified ART Tutor, and thus knows how it works and what it feels like to be a member at every level. I have every confidence that, with this background and her superb organisational skills, she will safely steer the Ringing School into its next phase of development. I also have total confidence that she will maintain what I hope will be seen as my personal legacy to the Ringing School, the statement published on our website that underlies everything that we do:

At the centre of the Ringing School's approach to teaching is the understanding that no one gets anything wrong on purpose. Whether it be an aspect of handling, ringing a method or accurate striking, if one of our learners does not yet have the necessary skill to get it right, our task is to help them acquire that skill so that they can, no matter how long that might take. In pursuit of this task we promise to keep our advice constructive and supportive and never to be impatient or derogatory in either tone or manner.

HH stated that the ringing community in this area owes substantial thanks to David for all that he has done as Head Tutor over the last few years. Many of us in this room learned to ring under David's excellent teaching. He said last year that he planned to retire at the AGM in 2022, but decided to bring it forward, with immediate effect, in August. She proposed a formal vote of thanks to David for all he has done over many years. Seconded by JR. All in favour.

JR asked whether we had details of the number of ringers taught by David over the years. CB replied that he would look into it to see if he could identify the number, however it was difficult, as the School had no records of how ringers continued once they had left.

HH continued by saying that whilst David and Pat hope to return sometime next year as helpers, she proposes that we start a collection now, from past and current pupils, towards a thank you gift for them both. All agreed this was a good idea.

The Ringing School Committee nominated HH to replace David, and that was formally ratified by Castor PCC, at their meeting in early September.

The School started running sessions at the end of August, initially just for those learning methods and limiting the numbers, at ground floor towers. We returned to Castor from the middle of September, and this is working well. We have also started handling sessions. With some of our other regular helpers not currently available or not returning, we are just managing to get enough experienced ringers to give our learners a solid band for methods, but some weeks it has been a struggle.

Some of the original learners from before lockdown have returned and have quickly re-mastered handling a bell. They are all ringing rounds and with some of them are now ringing for services. In addition we have a number of new learners starting from Elton, Castor and Barnack, and 2 ringers returning after a considerable gap. This is all good news, and recently we have had a number of very busy sessions.

CB commented that he has yet to open the invitation to all learners, but now plans to open it to all on his list. The problems of SignUp Genius were noted.

The Meeting noted the reports.

Attendance Report

CB had prepared the attendance report at the start of November 2021. We have had ten sessions since the gentle start up following the Covid19 pandemic. Attendance of trainees has been between 2 and 10 with numbers now rising as we open up to everyone. Trainers and helpers are more of a concern as we have seen between 5 and 9 with several weeks where we were unaware of who was likely to attend. Having said that we frequently get visitors to swell our numbers.

The meeting commented that there had been a good turnout over the past few weeks.

The Meeting noted the report.

Treasurer's Report

HH reported that the accounts had been prepared at the end of September, and could be found on the School website. She reported that the income of £30.50 received in 2020/21 is the fees paid each week, from when the School reopened in August 2021 following lockdown. The main item of expenditure is the cost of PPE to allow the school to run safely. The only other items of spend in the year was on general teaching aids such as books, the ART Subscription and the cost of the website.

The deficit in year is £218.34.

The balance in the bank account at the year end has decreased from £978.53 to £760.19.

HH asked if there were any questions on the report and accounts.

CB commented that we had yet to pay for the circular saw, as he hadn't found a permanent home for it.

4. Adoption of the Accounts for 2020/21

Proposed by CB and seconded by JR, the accounts were adopted by the meeting.

5. Election of Additional Committee Members

HH reported that as the School has not operated for most of the year, it is not possible to comply with the rules to appoint the Committee. To be eligible for election a person shall be on the current list of Tutors and Helpers and (in normal times) have attended the school in that capacity on at least 24 occasions during the preceding 12 months.

The following are eligible to vote:

- Officers
- Tutors, helpers and pupils who (in normal times) have attended at least 12 training sessions and or workshops in the preceding 12 months

HH, CB and SW are the Officers as appointed by the PCC. She has spoken to the Rector and agreed that the Officers will co-opt those regular Tutors and Helpers that are willing to stand, if the meeting is happy with that.

HH proposed Julian Burton, Terry Wright and Jane Robinson, and asked for any other nominations. These names were seconded by SH. All supported that approach.

It has been suggested to HH that the Committee should include some pupils and she thinks this is a good idea. To widen the representation from different Towers, she has asked the Wittering ringers to nominate someone and they have proposed Nicola Silk and Geoff Bridges. There were no other nominations and the meeting agreed the proposal.

As HH is now Head Tutor, she wishes to stand down as Treasurer, and Julian Burton has agreed to take over, so she would like to propose him for that role. The current bank account is with HSBC, but they are now charging £5 a month, so Julian is looking at an alternative. He has a meeting with the Bank Manager on Monday to discuss.

6. Any other business

None

HH thanked everyone for attending the meeting and closed it at 12.35pm.

Signed as a correct record..... Date.....