



Irish Association of Change Ringers

www.bellringingireland.org

Registered Charity No. 20018498

CHY (Revenue) No. 7917

The Annual General Meeting of the IACR was held via Zoom video-conferencing on Saturday 28th November 2020 at 3.00 p.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Julia Lysaght	President
Mike Pomeroy	Association Ringing Master and CCCBR Representative
Peter McBride	General Secretary
Andrew White	Association Treasurer and Northern District Webmaster
June Kelly	Librarian
Jean Jeffery	Vice President Northern District
Vyvyenne Chamberlain	Vice President Eastern District
Cliff Jeffers	Vice President Southern District
Don McLean	Northern District Ringing Master, CCCBR Representative and Trustee
Robert MacDonald	Eastern District Ringing Master and CCCBR Representative
Niamh Hickey	Southern District Ringing Master
Denise McLean	Northern District Secretary
Sorcha Duggan	Eastern District Secretary
Robert Foulis	Northern District Representative
David Galbraith	Eastern District Representative and Trustee
Una Caulfield	Eastern District Representative and Treasurer
Diana Pitcher	Southern District Representative
Sarah Mulhall	Southern District Representative
Jennifer Kirkpatrick	Northern District Supplementalist
Laura Higgins	Eastern District Supplementalist
Kieron Brislane	Southern District Supplementalist
Ian McCullagh	Trustee
William Chapman	Northern District Treasurer
Helen Little	Eastern District

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Maia Paulus	Southern District Secretary
Gary Patterson	Northern District Representative
Eric Thompson	Northern District Representative
Ben Robinson	Northern District Supplementalist
Martha Waller	Eastern District Supplementalist
Dorcas Boreland	Auditor
Cyril Galbraith	Eastern District
Brian McCann	Eastern District

The President, Julia Lysaght, welcomed all those present and opened the Meeting with a prayer.

LOSS OF MEMBERS THROUGH DEATH

David M Collins of John's Lane, Dublin who died on 4th October. June Kelly spoke of David's contribution to ringing at John's Lane and her notes are appended to these Minutes.

David Ryan of Kilkenny who died on 19th August. Ian McCullagh spoke of how he took up bell ringing at David's invitation. David and Maud, his wife, were both active ringers. David was one of the eight members of the Ryan family who rang the eight bells in Kilkenny on New Year's Eve in 2018.

Kenneth Brislane of Limerick who died in his 92nd year. Kieron Brislane spoke of his uncle's ringing in St Mary's Cathedral until a few years ago. After this time Kenneth could hear the bells from his apartment across the river in front of the Cathedral and provided a regular critique of the ringing to his nephew.

Denis Hourigan of Limerick. Mike Pomeroy recalled how Denis rang in competition teams for Mount St Alphonsus and was a regular member of the Sunday band until a health scare meant he was unable to ascend the steps at which point he became a member of the 'ground crew'.

Robert Foulis spoke briefly of Fred Davidson of Drumbo, Ivan Morrison of Greyabbey, Steven Toase of Rostrevor and Louie Patterson of Hillsborough (mother of Gary Patterson), all of whom passed away in 2020.

A few moments' silence were held in memory of the deceased ringers.

MINUTES – 22nd FEBRUARY 2020 EXECUTIVE MEETING

The Minutes of the February 2020 Executive Meeting, which had previously been circulated to all Council members, were proposed for adoption by Andrew White, seconded by Diana Pitcher and passed unanimously.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Association Website

Julia Lysaght reported that a task group has been formed to address this matter. The members are Bill Appelbe, Kieron Brislane, Cliff Jeffers, June Kelly, Mike Pomeroy and Andrew White. Anybody else who would like to contribute to this work is invited to join the group. Andrew White advised that a professional service will be required since the necessary skills are not available in-house. This will require expenditure of up to €1000. Kieron Brislane requested approval from the Council to spend up to €1000 for this purpose which was agreed unanimously. Andrew reminded the meeting that ongoing costs of £70 per year relating to hosting will also arise.

Website Administrator

Nobody has been found for this role. June Kelly recommended continuing with the current website until change-over to the new one at which point an administrator will probably come to the fore. Andrew White is happy to update the existing website until then and requested that any requests to update district or tower information are sent to him by email.

Child Protection

Mike Pomeroy reported significant progress and each District now has a policy document. The next task for the Committee is to take these policies and write an overarching IACR policy which can be used for IACR events.

Advertising in Annual Report

Following the inclusion of a paid advertisement in the 2019 Report, Julia Lysaght queried whether further advertising should be invited for the 2020 Report. In the discussion which followed, it was noted that there is precedent for such advertising. The potential to defray the printing costs was welcomed. David Galbraith proposed inviting advertisers in the 2020 Report, seconded by Don McLean.

Andrew White noted that restrictions due to COVID-19 may require postage of the Reports from Belfast to the Eastern and Southern Districts which will increase the overall costs by up to €20.

Charities' Regulator

Ian McCullagh reported from a recent training workshop, held for Charity Trustees by the Regulator, which he attended on 12th November. Completion of the compliance form at year end and submission of meeting minutes will be required. A meeting between the Trustees and the Secretary should be held early next year. New trustees should receive training and a 9-year limit of tenure is suggested. Ian advised that any official correspondence from the Association should include both the registered charity number as well as the Revenue number. Sorcha Duggan advised that she has experience in this area and will assist if required.

ADOPTION OF ANNUAL REPORT

This was proposed by Diana Pitcher and seconded by Cliff Jeffers.

ASSOCIATION MATTERS

Proposal to change the rules of the Attendance Shield

Passed at each District AGM. Proposed by Mike Pomeroy and seconded by Don McLean. Mike Pomeroy drew attention to the revised attendance form which now records the maximum number of bells rung in a given week

Proposal to change dates when elected Officers assume their positions

Passed at each District AGM. Proposed by Mike Pomeroy and seconded by Robert Foulis.

Revised wording of Rule 11

Passed by the Northern and Eastern Districts but rejected by the Southern District at their AGM. Following a vote where the Council members voted 12 in favour and 5 against, the amendment was deemed to be passed. Julia Lysaght advised that this should be re-visited in the event the Librarian role changes to become a more active role or even an onerous one.

DISTRICT MATTERS

Southern District

Cliff Jeffers noted the cessation of ringing caused by COVID-19. Kieron Brislane reported the positive experience of the Limerick ringers who have continued their Monday evening practices using an on-line facility *ringingroom.com* which he recommended to others. Anyone who wishes to join the Limerick ringers on *ringingroom.com* is welcome to do so.

Eastern District

Helen Little from Taney reported similar positive experiences with *ringingroom.com* which they use several evenings each week. Robert MacDonald reported that all six bells at St Audoen's are ringable following building works although ringing is limited to three due to COVID-19 distancing. Ringing will resume in December.

Northern District

Robert Foulis noted the Centenary of the Carrickfergus bells and hopes they will be able to ring in the New Year.

ASSOCIATION OFFICE BEARERS

Cliff Jeffers proposed that all five Office Bearers eligible for re-election be re-elected *en bloc*. This was seconded by Kieron Brislane.

Office	Present Holder	Year of Election
President	Julia Lysaght	2019
Ringing Master	Mike Pomeroy	2017
General Secretary	Peter McBride	2016
General Treasurer	Andrew White	2018
Librarian	June Kelly	2015

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Julia Lysaght recalled the practice of issuing of membership certificates in previous years. Denise McLean displayed an example of a certificate of which the Northern District had several printed some years ago. It was agreed to bring these to the February 2021 meeting. Kieron Brislane recalled how his late uncle, Kenneth Brislane, passed his IACR membership certificate to him. This certificate is dated 18th

March 1946 and was signed by Robert Murphy and Fred Dukes. Peter McBride displayed a photograph of an IACR membership certificate dating from 1898 which he received via an email enquiry. It was agreed that Peter would contact the owner to see if this certificate could be used as the basis of a new membership certificate.

Don McLean reported on the participation of two young IACR members in a discussion group facilitated by the Central Council: Olivia Rooney from St Thomas, Belfast and Nathan Kingston from St Mary, Dunmanway. The Central Council is working hard to implement changes and the IACR would benefit from this connection.

Kieron Brislane recommended a video made by Noel Sweeney - a friend of Cliff Jeffers - which shows ringing in Cork, Limerick and Dublin and is a fine tribute to ringers all around the island. Kieron suggested this should be stored in the digital library. Andrew White will share it on the Facebook page.

Don McLean was invited to participate in a podcast about ringing in Ireland and Northern Ireland. This will be broadcast in January 2021.

June Kelly noted the potential to archive material from the IACR library in the RCB library and have it digitised. Peter McBride suggested the existing Minute book which dates from 1991 could be digitised as part of this.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Executive Meeting is scheduled for Saturday the 20th of February 2021. The venue will be confirmed at a later date. The Murphy Cup and AGM will be held in Cork on Saturday 22nd of May 2021 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of St Fin Barre's Cathedral.

VOTE OF THANKS

Andrew White proposed a vote of thanks to Rev Cliff Jeffers for hosting the meeting on Zoom. A donation was sent to Fanlobbus Parish. Andrew commended Julia for chairing the meeting in an on-line platform for the first time. In reply, Julia thanked Cliff Jeffers for hosting the meeting, Andrew White for much hard work on behalf of the IACR and Peter McBride for much work also.

Peter McBride
General Secretary

David N Collins

David N Collins, former ringer at John's Lane and Christchurch Taney, departed this life on the 4th October 2020 at home in Buckley, North Wales surrounded by his wife Rachel, daughters Alaine, Bethan, sons Thomas and Nicholas along with extended family.

The Collins family moved to Ireland in the late 1980's originally from Wales via Singapore with David lecturing at UCD. In the early 1990's David and Rachel joined John's Lane, moved to Taney in 2002c before retiring back home to Buckley, North Wales during 2008.

It does not happen every day that two very experienced ringers land at your tower asking to join!! David's mantra was to achieve 'good ringing all round' not only by the ringers but also from the bells!! David's skills in engineering were applied often to try and improve the 'go' of the bells at John's Lane. Even the humble ringing of 'call changes' could be vastly improved by the order of the 'calls' and served us well on many an occasion.

David's training of new ringers also included his daughters Alaine and Bethan and over time, we all moved on from the safe 'plain bob doubles' to achieving quarter peal lengths of ringing in Plain Bob Major, Grandsire Caters and the icing on the cake was Plain Bob Royal. The latter was described by David as a conductor's dream with only a few calls involved.

David's can-do attitude, calm presence of mind, generosity of spirit brought everybody on board and it was a joyful time of ringing at John's Lane.

Alaine arranged via the good service of George Roberts from St Finbarre's and the Ringing World, to obtain some high quality ringing recordings so that her Dad could listen once again to the sound of bells during his illness. The family observed his joy when listening to the bells ringing.

Rachel sends her best wishes to all.

Read at the IACR AGM, 28 November 2020

June Kelly

IACR/Librarian