



Irish Association of Change Ringers

www.bellringingireland.org

Registered Charity No. 20018498

CHY (Revenue) No. 7917

A Meeting of the Executive Council of the IACR was held via Zoom video-conferencing on Saturday 20th February 2021 at 11.00 a.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
Denise McLean	Northern District Secretary
Sorcha Duggan	Eastern District Secretary
Robert Foulis	Northern District Representative
David Galbraith	Eastern District Representative and Trustee
Sarah Mulhall	Southern District Representative
Diana Pitcher	Southern District Representative
Oliver Roberts	Southern District Representative
Jennifer Kirkpatrick	Northern District Supplementalist
Alex Nelson	Northern District Supplementalist
Ben Robinson	Northern District Supplementalist
Kieron Brislane	Southern District Supplementalist
Ivan McCutcheon	Southern District Treasurer
Ian McCullagh	Trustee

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Una Caulfield	Eastern District Representative and Treasurer
Niamh Hickey	Southern District Ringing Master
Laura Higgins	Eastern District Supplementalist
Gary Patterson	Northern District Representative

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

LOSS OF MEMBERS THROUGH DEATH

George Roberts of St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork who died on 5th of February. A photograph of George in the tower at St Fin Barre's was displayed. Several members spoke in tribute to George, and his ability as a ringer, his warmth and sincerity of character and effortless wit were remarked upon. The bell-handling of those he taught to ring in Cork, at a time when the Cathedral had no light bells and no rope guides, indicate his brilliance as a teacher. A video of triple-Plain Bob Minimus being rung on the Cork bells during the 2019 IACR ringing festival, with George conducting, was also presented.

A minute's silence was held in George's memory. Julia expressed her condolences to George's son Oliver, present at the meeting, as well as the Roberts family.

MINUTES – 28th NOVEMBER 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Minutes of the November 2020 AGM, which had previously been circulated to all Council members, were proposed for adoption by Andrew White, seconded by Diana Pitcher and passed on the basis of a minor correction being made.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Association Website

Kieron Brislane had circulated a report (appended to these Minutes) from the committee dealing with the website and he presented this report to the meeting. It was emphasised that each tower will be responsible for returning information in a template. The success of the project will depend on timely and complete responses when the call is made. This point should be raised at District AGMs so that everyone is aware. Should the indicative budget be exceeded, it will be for good reason to include additional features and functionality. Andrew White advised that sufficient funds are available to meet the expected development costs – recurring maintenance costs should be covered by current rates of subscription. Kieron stated that advertising may be offered on the website at a later date.

The three proposals in the committee's report were discussed and the outcome was:

- Change hosting to Black Night Solutions: proposed by David Galbraith, seconded by Andrew White, members voted 15 in favour, none against.
- Engage Aspire Media to develop new website: proposed by Kieron Brislane, seconded by Mike Pomeroy, members voted 16 in favour, none against.
- Increase budget to €2,500: proposed by Diana Pitcher, seconded by Cliff Jeffers, members voted 15 in favour, 1 against.

All three proposals were passed. Julia called for a virtual round of applause for the committee.

Child Protection

Mike Pomeroy had circulated a report from the committee dealing with safeguarding (appended to these Minutes) and he presented this report to the meeting. The report recommended the IACR appoints an interim safeguarding officer at the next AGM.

This person will require vetting and training and part of their wider remit will include setting up systems whereby other persons can be trained and vetted by the IACR. Each District is recommended to appoint a safeguarding officer at their respective AGMs.

Mike proposed appointing an interim safeguarding officer at the AGM, this was seconded by Andrew White. The members voted 13 in favour and none against and the proposal was passed.

Membership Certificates

Peter McBride obtained an IACR membership certificate dating from 1898. A scan of this was displayed to the members. Niamh Hickey is investigating the potential to use this as the basis of a modern certificate. It was agreed to print 500 certificates.

ASSOCIATION MATTERS

Charities Regulator

Julia informed the meeting that following Jean Jeffery's retirement as a Trustee, Don McLean has been appointed in her place. Ian McCullagh noted that induction for new Trustees is required. The Charities Regulator will require additional documentation this year.

DISTRICT MATTERS

Northern District

Denise McLean reported there is currently no ringing due to COVID-19 restrictions. St Mark's handbell ringers are meeting via Zoom. A new handrail has been installed in the tower and they are keen to resume ringing.

Eastern District

Robert MacDonald also reported no ringing activity. He congratulated Taney for using publicity generated on radio shows to recruit new ringers. Taney run a session for new ringers on *ringingroom.com* every week which is a great success. Nigel Pelow has stepped down as ringing master of Christ Church Cathedral due to illness and their new master is Ray Cregan. Vyvyenne Chamberlain invited other ringers to support the practice nights when ringing resumes at Christ Church. Peter McBride will write to Nigel on behalf of the Council.

Southern District

Kieron Brislane also reported a lack of ringing activity. St Mary's Cathedral have taken the opportunity to rewire the tower and have added a heater. St Mary's host a session on *ringingroom.com* every Monday. Anyone who wishes to join the Limerick ringers on-line should send an email to Kieron.

ASSOCIATION OFFICE BEARERS

Of the four Office Bearers eligible for re-election, all agreed to stand for re-election and their names will be forwarded *en bloc* as suggestions to the Districts. There were no further suggested candidates for these offices and none for General Secretary. Peter McBride will prepare a job description which may assist the process of identifying a candidate for this office.

Office	Present Holder	Eligible for Re-Election	Year of Election	Nominations Required
President	Julia Lysaght	Yes	2019	
Ringing Master	Mike Pomeroy	Yes	2017	
Gen Secretary	Peter McBride	No	2016	YES
Gen Treasurer	Andrew White	Yes	2018	
Librarian	June Kelly	Yes	2015	

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Correspondence received from the Central Council, recommending alternative ways of spending the money in bell restoration funds, was discussed briefly and dismissed as being of little relevance.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and public health measures means future ringing events and face-to-face meetings cannot be planned with any certainty. Following discussion of various options, it was agreed to hold an on-line Annual General Meeting on Saturday the 22nd of May 2021. Cliff Jeffers offered to host the meeting via Zoom video-conferencing.

It was originally hoped to hold the Murphy Cup and AGM in Cork to celebrate the 150th anniversary of St Fin Barre's Cathedral. The competition will not go ahead but it may be possible to travel to Cork for ringing later in the year. Julia will arrange to contact the Dean of St Fin Barre's to see if this can be arranged.

VOTE OF THANKS

Julia Lysaght thanked Rev. Cliff Jeffers on behalf of the Council for hosting the meeting on Zoom. Andrew White informed the meeting that a donation was sent to Fanlobbus Parish.

Peter McBride
General Secretary