

**IRISH ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS
(NORTHERN DISTRICT)
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING/FUN COMPETITION
SATURDAY 23 APRIL 2022 AT 11.00A.M.
ST. MARY CHURCH KILMOOD COMBER**

A G E N D A

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Loss of members through death
4. Adoption of Minutes of the 2021 AGM (attached)
5. Matters Arising: (a) Bell Inspection Fees
(b) Mini Bells
(c) District Practices
6. Election of new ringing members
7. Adoption of Reports from the District Ringing Master, Treasurer and Secretary as contained in the 2021 Annual Report
8. ASSOCIATION BUSINESS
 - (a) Murphy Cup Rule Change (Information attached)
 - (b) Auditing Accounts
 - (c) Membership Certificates
 - (d) Suggestions for the IACR 125th Anniversary ie. badge, peal ringing etc
 - (e) Omissions from Annual Report
 - (f) Obituaries in Annual Report

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Current Holders

Office	Present Holder	Eligible for Re-election	Year of election	Prepared to accept nomination
President	Julia Lysaght	Yes	2019	Yes
Ringing Master	Mike Pomeroy	Yes	2017	No
Gen Secretary	Fiona Chamberlain	Yes	2021	Yes
Gen Treasurer	Andrew White	Yes	2018	Yes
Librarian	June Kelly	Yes	2015	Yes

All officers are willing to take up their positions. Suggestions are invited for the position of Ringing Master. Don McLean was suggested at the Executive meeting.

9. **NORTHERN DISTRICT ELECTIONS**

Current Holders

Office	Present Holder	Year of Election	Eligible
Chairperson	Robert Foulis	2019	No
Ringing Master	Simon Chadwick	2021	Yes
Secretary	Chiara McBrien	2021	Yes
Treasurer	Billy Chapman	2019	No
Assistant Ringing Master	Don McLean	2021	Yes
Assistant Secretary	Denise McLean	2021	Yes
Vice President	Simon Walker	2021	Yes

(b) Auditors to the Northern District

Present Holders: Mrs J Jeffery, Andrew White

(c) Representatives on Executive Council

Present Holders: Robert Foulis (Ex officio as Chair) Denise McLean

Eric Thompson

(d) Supplemental Representatives on Executive Council

Present Holders: Jennifer Kirkpatrick, Alex Nelson, Dan Uprichard

(e) Trustees of the Bell Repair Fund

Present Holders: G Patterson, Martin Yardley

10. Venue for the 2023 Annual General Meeting and Cunningham Cup Competition

11. 2022 Ringing Festival (Northern District)

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

**IRISH ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS
(NORTHERN DISTRICT)
Minutes of Zoom Annual General Meeting held on
Thursday 8 April 2021 at 8.00 p.m.**

PRESENT:

Robert Foulis, Jean Jeffery, Eric Thompson, Billy Chapman, Don McLean, Denise McLean, Andrew White, Colin Jeffery, Loraine Watt, Jennifer Kirkpatrick, Simon Chadwick, Dan Uprichard, Simon Walker, Ron Bishop, Gillian Curlett, Adam McCurdy, Joan Warrington, Fiona Chamberlain, Colin Jeffery, Christine Stewart, Chiara McBrien, Olivia Rooney, Beth Aiken, Julia Lysaght (Association President) Mike Pomeroy (Association Ringing Master) June Kelly, Librarian. Ian McCullough (Southern District)

Robert Foulis, Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a Prayer. He thanked Rev Cliff Jeffers for facilitating the use of screen time.

1. LOSS OF MEMBERS THROUGH DEATH:

No deaths occurred during the year.

APOLOGIES:

Colin Holliday, Bangor

2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2020 AGM:

It was proposed by Billy Chapman and seconded by Colin Jeffery that the Minutes be adopted.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

- (a) Proposal from Mike Pomeroy has now been adopted by Executive whereby all Officers now remain until the end of the year when the Annual Report is printed.
- (b) Bell Inspection Fees were waived last year. After some discussion and on the assumption that these hopefully will resume this year, it was proposed by Andrew, and seconded by Billy that payments be requested at the beginning of 2022.
- (c) Attendance Shield - Change submitted by Mike Pomeroy i.e. only 15 minutes should be recorded and only 48 weeks to count - adopted by Executive
- (d) Change of Rule 11 regarding the Library post - adopted by Executive

4. ELECTION OF NEW RINGING MEMBERS:

Drumbo - Ann McClean, Vivienne Moore, Stephanie Whittaker
Kilmood - Liza Uprichard
Carrickfergus - William Waite, Jack Clawson

Membership was proposed by Don McLean and seconded by Billy Chapman. Julie Lysaght, our President welcomed the new members to the Association.

5. ADOPTION OF REPORTS FROM DISTRICT RINGING MASTER, TREASURER AND SECRETARY AS CONTAINED IN THE 2020 ANNUAL REPORT:

It was proposed by Dan Uprichard and seconded by Simon Chadwick that the reports be adopted. Agreed.

6. ASSOCIATION MATTERS

(a) Appointment of Safeguarding Officers

Robert told the members that Eric and Don, along with Mike, Association Ringing Master and representatives from the other two Districts had been having meetings with the view to finalising a Safeguarding Policy for the Association and Districts. This will result in each District and the Association appointing a Safeguarding Officer. Eric said that he will be meeting with someone from Church House next month regarding submitting applications for Access NI. There are common requirements for each District and Access NI relates to the Northern District. Anyone teaching bellringing or involved with young people or vulnerable adults will need to access this procedure. Eric has agreed to be the Safeguarding Officer for the Northern District and wishes it to be noted in the Minutes that it would only be for one year.

Robert thanked Eric for the all the hard work he has been doing in getting this Policy off the ground. More information relating to this will be circulated to all Towers when available.

Lorraine said her Church in Ballymena had a Safeguarding Policy since 1997 and that the Tower receives information through that channel. Don said that that it is his understanding is that the Policy would only relate to District and Association Bell Ringing events, and that the Church's Policy would apply to normal local practices etc. Mike said that the Association Safeguarding Officer would co-ordinate all three District Officers. These positions would be appointed by the President. Records would be kept of attendance at practices etc.

(b) New Website

Robert informed the group that a new Website is being formed. A company called Blacknite Solutions - Aspire Media will develop. A figure of 2,500 euro is needed to cover cost and Keiron Brislane and June Kelly are collating information. Robert said to make sure all information regarding Tower details is forwarded to either Keiron or June (or both). Don enquired regarding the possibility of Rules and Cup winners being included on this and June Kelly, Librarian told the group that Rules etc and a Cup Library feature will be included in the new Website.

Chiara enquired regarding resumption of District Practices. Hopefully the current situation will continue to improve and we might get back for district practices on an ad hoc basis, when legally permitted to return, before the end of this year. Robert told everyone to check Tower details in Annual Report as he found a discrepancy where a young ringer had won a cup many years ago but this had not been recorded.

(c) Membership Certificates

Robert told the members that the Executive is hoping to order 500 copies of Membership Certificates. These will be presented to new members and signed by President or Ringing

Master. Peter McBride, General Secretary, had acquired a sample of an old membership certificate which was shown at the last Executive meeting. Everyone who attended agreed that this would be a well worthwhile exercise.

7. EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS:

Office	Present Holder	Eligible for Re-election	Year of election	Prepared to accept Nomination
President	Julie Lysaght	Yes	2019	Yes
Ringling Master	Mike Pomeroy	Yes	2017	Yes
Gen Secretary	Peter McBride	No	2016	Not eligible
Gen Treasurer	Andrew White	Yes	2018	Yes
Librarian	June Kelly	Yes	2015	Yes

As all the above positions are eligible with the exception of the General Secretary, Billy proposed and Lorraine seconded these positions for re- election. Proposals for the position of General Secretary were sought by Robert, Chairman. He said that this position had become quite involved as a lot of correspondence now comes from the CCCR which is quite time-consuming. A job description hopefully is being prepared which may help in future. No names were submitted from the Northern District.

8. NORTHERN DISTRICT ELECTIONS

(a) ELECTION OF NORTHERN DISTRICT OFFICER BEARERS:

Office	Present Holder	Year of Election	Eligible
Chairperson	Robert Foulis	2019	Yes
Ringling Master	Don McLean	2018	No
Secretary	Denise McLean	2018	No
Treasurer	Billy Chapman	2019	Yes
Assistant Ringling Master	Vacant		
Assistant Secretary	Eric Thompson	2018	No
Vice President	Jean Jeffery	2018	No

Robert explained that the only two positions who were eligible for re-election were Chairperson and Vice President. He said he had been Chairperson since 2019 and as yet had not chaired a meeting face-to-face. It was proposed by Don and seconded by Andrew the re-election of these two positions.

The following people were elected to the remaining positions effective from 1 January 2022

Ringling Master	Simon Chadwick	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
District Secretary	Chiara McBrien	Don McLean	Jean Jeffery
		Denise McLean	Billy Chapman

Asst. Ringing Master	Don McLean	Andrew White	Robert Foulis
Asst. Secretary	Denise McLean	Lorraine Watt	Andrew White
Vice President	Simon Walker	Billy Chapman	Jean Jeffery

All were in agreement with the above elections.

Ian McCullagh , Southern District, as a Trustee welcomed all to their new posts in the Association.

		Proposed	Seconded
(b) Auditors	Andrew White	} Jean Jeffery	Lorraine Watt
	Jean Jeffery	} Lorraine Watt	Andrew White
(c) Representatives on Executive Council	Robert Foulis (Chair)}		
	Denise McLean	} Andrew White	Lorraine Watt
	Eric Thompson	}	
(d) Supplemental Reps on Executive Council	Jennifer Kirkpatrick	}	
	Alex Nelson	} Don McLean	Andrew White
	Dan Uprichard	}	
(e) Trustees of Bell Repair Fund	Gary Patterson	} Lorraine Watt	Billy Chapman
	Martin Yardley	}	

As some of the members in the above positions were not in attendance and had not given an apology, because of the current situation, it was decided to approach them to find out if they wanted to remain, subsequently confirmed as shown. Apologies will be required for future meetings.

A vote of thanks to Cliff for hosting was proposed by Andrew.

There being no other business Robert closed meeting.

Proposal to change Rule 4 of the Murphy Cup Rules

Proposed by Mike Pomeroy Secoded by Don McLean

It is proposed that Rule 4 of the Murphy Cup rules

“4. That the Ringing Master shall select the bells.”

is amended to read

“4. That the Ringing Master shall select the bells, **ensuring that the competition venue is neutral such that no Society shall have home advantage.**”

Background

This proposal is made to ensure that no society shall have home advantage when competing for the Murphy Cup. If adopted, it will be expected to become part of the rules for the 2023 and subsequent Murphy Cup Competitions.

To the knowledge of the proposer and seconder, there has been more than one occasion over the past 10 years when a society has had home advantage. That is a Society has competed for the Murphy Cup on its own bells.

While home advantage is accepted as custom and practice for District Competitions, it is difficult to defend home advantage for the Association’s striking competition, where neutral venues are freely available. In the past when, arguably, more hotly contested Murphy Cup competitions were held, some Societies would have refused to compete if one of the competitors had home advantage. Such refusals would have been based both on unfairness as well as a high level of respect for the Association’s premier striking competition.

Experience has shown that even with a larger number of teams competing in the Murphy Cup, it is relatively easy to find a neutral venue. In addition, there is little evidence to show that it is difficult to “book” a neutral venue on the shortish timescale allowed between the last District AGM / Competition and the Association AGM / Competition.

In the case that the Association is invited to hold its Annual Meeting and the Murphy Cup competition at a particular venue, then this rule change would require the inviting Society to withdraw from the Murphy Cup Competition, even if it had qualified through the District Competition.

This rule change proposal is made to assist the Association Ringing Master to ensure there is maximum possible fairness in the way in which the Murphy Cup Competition is conducted, thus minimising potential anger or dispute.