



Irish Association of Change Ringers

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Registered Charity No. 20018498

CHY (Revenue) No. 7917

The Annual General Meeting of the IACR was held via Zoom video-conferencing on Saturday 22nd May 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
Niamh Hickey	Southern District Ringing Master
Denise McLean	Northern District Secretary
Sorcha Duggan	Eastern District Secretary
Kieron Brislane	Southern District Secretary
Robert Foulis	Northern District Representative
Eric Thompson	Northern District Representative
David Galbraith	Eastern District Representative and Trustee
Sarah Mulhall	Southern District Representative
Diana Pitcher	Southern District Representative
Jennifer Kirkpatrick	Northern District Supplementalist
Alex Nelson	Northern District Supplementalist
Laura Higgins	Eastern District Supplementalist
Eddie Gabriel	Southern District Supplementalist
Ian McCullagh	Trustee
Simon Chadwick	Northern District
Fiona Chamberlain	Northern District
Simon Walker	Northern District

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Una Caulfield	Eastern District Representative and Treasurer
Cyril Galbraith	Eastern District
Chiara McBrien	Northern District
Clare O'Rourke	Eastern District

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

LOSS OF MEMBERS THROUGH DEATH

None.

MINUTES – 20th FEBRUARY 2021 EXECUTIVE MEETING

The Minutes of the February 2021 Executive Meeting, which had previously been circulated to all Council members, were proposed for adoption by Diana Pitcher, seconded by Eric Thompson and passed unanimously.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Association Website

Kieron Brislane provided an update from the Website sub-committee which was circulated ahead of the meeting. Kieron reminded the Association and District officers that IACR email addresses should be used for Association business. Andrew White has a document which explains how to use these and training may be provided via Zoom. It is hoped to launch the new Website in July. Julia thanked Kieron and the committee for their hard work.

Andrew White requested each District to update their District rules and forward them to him for inclusion on the Website.

Safeguarding

Cliff Jeffers reported that each District has appointed a safeguarding officer and they are Eric Thompson (Northern District), Elizabeth O'Reilly (Eastern District) and Diana Pitcher (Southern District). An Association safeguarding officer is also required – Cliff Jeffers offered to take this role and was appointed by Julia. Together, these four officers will form the Safeguarding Panel. A short presentation from Cliff outlining the main points of the new Safeguarding policies concluded with the following three resolutions:

That the IACR Safeguarding Statement, Policy and Procedures as presented at the AGM be approved and signed by the President,

That the Safeguarding Panel be given the authority to amend these documents through their process of implementation,

and

That the District and Association Safeguarding Officers make a report at every future meeting.

Each resolution was proposed, seconded and passed unanimously.

Julia Lysaght commended Rev Jeffers for a superb presentation. Andrew White proposed a vote of thanks to the working group.

Membership Certificates

Niamh Hickey is in the process of obtaining a quote to print 500 copies of the 1898 Membership Certificate. Eddie Gabriel offered to use his connection to the printing industry to find a competitive quote. Following discussion of who should sign the Certificates, it was agreed to reproduce the original signatures of Richard Cherry and Gabriel Lindoff and have the Certificates signed by a current member.

ADOPTION OF ANNUAL REPORT

Many printed copies await distribution; however, members have been able to read the Report on-line. Adoption of the Report was proposed by Kieron Brislane, seconded by David Galbraith and passed unanimously.

ASSOCIATION MATTERS

None.

DISTRICT MATTERS

Southern District

Cliff Jeffers reported that much ringing has yet to resume and ringing in Limerick is the only activity he is aware of. Diana Pitcher requested assistance with replacing a broken rope – Cliff Jeffers will assist.

Eastern District

Robert MacDonald reported that ringing has resumed on a piecemeal basis. Relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions is awaited before ringing resumes on a wider basis. Arklow bells may need work.

Northern District

Robert Foulis reported that some towers have resumed ringing on a limited basis. He is hopeful of everything coming back to normal shortly.

ASSOCIATION OFFICE BEARERS

Of the four Office Bearers eligible for re-election, each has been nominated by the District AGMs. Cliff Jeffers proposed they be re-elected *en bloc*. This was seconded by Kieron Brislane and agreed unanimously.

Office	Present Holder	Year of Election	Elegible for Re-election
President	Julia Lysaght	2019	Yes
Ringling Master	Mike Pomeroy	2017	Yes
General Secretary	Peter McBride	2016	NO
General Treasurer	Andrew White	2018	Yes
Librarian	June Kelly	2015	Yes

Mike Pomeroy proposed Fiona Chamberlain of Kilmoor, Northern District for election as General Secretary. Don McLean introduced Fiona to the Council members as the Assistant Ringing Master in Kilmoor and seconded Mike's proposal. With all in favour, Fiona was duly elected.

Kieron Brislane commended Peter McBride for his service to the Association while General Secretary.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Julia Lysaght sought advice on behalf of a lady in Mayo who wishes to find a buyer for a set of 42 handbells. Diana Pitcher suggested contacting Matthew Higby or Martin Hough in the UK. Anybody who is interested in these handbells should contact Julia.

David Galbraith spoke of a crypto-currency scheme suitable for charitable organisations. David will hold a Zoom meeting to discuss this further.

Julia Lysaght drew members' attention to the existence of the IACR Facebook page. This was created by Andrew White during an outage of the IACR website in order to communicate urgent information during the COVID-19 pandemic. Following discussion about the purpose, governance and visibility of this page, Mike Pomeroy suggested a GDPR committee should be convened to provide guidance on the use of Facebook and the website. Julia will seek members with relevant knowledge and experience. The Facebook page has been changed to a 'private group' meanwhile.

Mike Pomeroy noted the special birthdays of Jean Jeffery and Hugh O'Brien. The group expressed birthday wishes to Jean and Hugh as well as David Taylor who has a birthday at this time.

David Galbraith reported that his father, Cyril, has returned home following two months in hospital. Cyril would be delighted to receive a phone call from anyone who would like to contact him.

Eddie Gabriel displayed the 2020 Christmas Annual of *The Opinion* of Bandon which, at his suggestion, included a photograph of the 1962 triple-champion band who won the Cherry Cup, Murphy Cup and Attendance Shield that year. Mike Pomeroy suggested a copy of this Annual should be obtained for the IACR Library.

On the question of whether any other band won all three competitions in one year, Kieron Brislane remembers a photograph in the ringing room at St Mary's Cathedral of a band who achieved the same feat. Kieron's father Bryan was in the picture as well as Cyril Galbraith and Philip Talbot. Robert Foulis recalled that in 1970, Carrickfergus won the Cunningham Cup, Murphy Cup and Attendance Shield competitions also.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Executive Meeting is scheduled for Saturday 19th of February 2022. The venue will be confirmed at a later date. Ongoing COVID-19 restrictions make it difficult to plan future events and it was agreed to wait until 2022 to resume the District and Association competitions including the Attendance Shield Competition.

At this time it is unknown if the Autumn Festival can be held in 2021. It was agreed the Northern District will host the next Festival whenever this is possible.

VOTE OF THANKS

Andrew White proposed a vote of thanks to Rev Cliff Jeffers for hosting the meeting on Zoom. A donation has been sent to Fanlobbus Parish. Julia expressed her sincere and heartfelt thanks to the Council members and committees for keeping everything running well throughout the pandemic.

Peter McBride
General Secretary