



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 19th February 2022 at 11.00 a.m.**

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Julia Lysaght	President
Mike Pomeroy	Association Ringing Master and CCCBR Representative
Fiona Chamberlain	General Secretary
Andrew White	Association Treasurer and Northern District Webmaster
June Kelly	Librarian
Simon Walker	Vice President Northern District
Vyvyenne Chamberlain	Vice President Eastern District
Cliff Jeffers	Vice President Southern District
Simon Chadwick	Northern District Ringing Master
Robert MacDonald	Eastern District Ringing Master and CCCBR Representative
Niamh Hickey	Southern District Ringing Master
Chiara McBrien	Northern District Secretary
Sorcha Duggan	Eastern District Secretary
Kieron Brislane	Southern District Secretary
Don McLean	CCCBR Representative and Trustee
Diana Pitcher	Southern District Representative
Oliver Roberts	Southern District Representative
Robert Foulis	Northern District Representative
Jennifer Kirkpatrick	Northern District Supplementalist
Alex Nelson	Northern District Supplementalist
Dan Upritchard	Northern District Supplementalist
Ivan McCutcheon	Southern District Treasurer
Laura Higgins	Eastern District Supplementalist
Ian McCullagh	Trustee
Jean Jeffrey	

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Una Caulfield	Eastern District Representative and Treasurer
David Galbraith	Eastern District Representative and Trustee
Denise McLean	Northern District Representative
Sarah Mulhall	Southern District Representative

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

LOSS OF MEMBERS THROUGH DEATH

Joe Kinsella of Wexford died on 25 June 2021. Julia and June both spoke in tribute to Joe, his ability as a ringer and the depth and warmth of his welcome to those coming to ring at Wexford. Both he and Charlie Reede kept the band going at Wexford tower which is a tribute to them both in an isolated place. Joe was all the more remarkable for fulfilling the role of church sacristan as well as tower captain. He was noted for keeping Wexford in excellent order. One of his other interests was horse racing; he will be missed at Cheltenham races. The next IACR visit to Wexford will be a special day of ringing in memory of Joe.

Michael Richardson, former ringer at Taney. It was agreed that Fiona would contact Taney tower for some information on his contribution and to mark his passing.

Cyril Galbraith, former ringer at Christ Church Taney, died on 4th December 2021. At 98 he was Ireland's oldest campanologist having started his bell ringing career in Limerick as a 15 year old boy in 1939 when he wandered into Limerick cathedral to work out how the bells there tolled. It immediately became a passion, one which was to last for more than 80 years. After almost 30 years ringing in Limerick, Cyril's work brought him to Dublin in 1968. Limerick's loss was Dublin's gain and he soon found himself in a position ringing the bells in St Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin. In the 1990s Cyril's home town of Taney rescued the bells from the recently closed St George's Church in Dublin's Temple Street and secured them until Cyril and a small team got the money together to install them in his local church just in time to ring in the new millennium. He continued to ring into his early 90's which is an incredible feat.

A minute's silence was held in memory of Joe, Michael and Cyril. Julia expressed her condolences to their families.

MINUTES – NOVEMBER 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Minutes of the November 2021 AGM, which had previously been circulated to all Council members, were proposed for adoption by Andrew White, seconded by Diana Pitcher and passed without amendment.

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. The website was re launched in July 2021, the committee having met on a monthly basis to work on the exercise of updating the website. The newly established non executive website committee has continued to meet on a monthly basis to ensure the website is relevant by adding news and information. The intention is that as the website grows those with material to upload will know who to contact to update the committee.

Julia elaborated upon the reference in the report at pt 3 to the appointment of the non-executive chairperson, explaining that the committee choose their own chairman for the President to appoint. It was agreed that this would maintain the link between the non executive committee and the Association.

Child Protection

Cliff Jeffers had circulated a report from the Safeguarding Panel (appended to these Minutes) and he presented this report to the meeting. The IARC trainers have been vetted and have completed the Child Protection Training (Tusla), the next step is to train those nominated as safeguarding officers. Once the IACR Safeguarding Training and Induction is completed then the Associations Safeguarding Procedures will be fully implemented. Cliff reminded Council members that the procedures are to oversee IACR events only. Safeguarding in respect of ringing and associated events in local towers continues to be the responsibility of those towers to maintain their duty of care to vulnerable adults and young people under 18. No questions arose following the report.

Membership Certificates

Niamh Hickey confirmed a certificate had been designed and showed a copy to those present in two colours: white and a darker cream. The Council's preference is for the darker colour. 500 certificates will be printed. Following discussion it was agreed that Julia would sign the certificates as the current President. Those who would like, in addition, to have their certificate signed by a previous president in post when they joined the Association and who is available to sign can then make arrangements to have that done.

ASSOCIATION MATTERS

(1) IARC 125 Anniversary

Julia reminded the Council that next year is the 125th anniversary of the Association and asked for ideas for celebrating the event. Robert McDonald suggested the Association consider running their celebration with St Audoen's who will be celebrating their 600th anniversary. Sorcha Duggan suggested contacting the Philatelic Society about the possibility of a commemoration stamp which is something she understood was being considered by St Audoen's. Other ideas included ringing events, a dinner and a commemoration badge.

(2) Murphy Cup Rules

Mike Pomeroy and Don McLean proposed a change to rule 4 of the Murphy Cup rules in a paper circulated in advance of the meeting (and appended to these Minutes). The proposal is to ensure that no society shall have home advantage when competing for the Murphy Cup. An active debate ensued. There was a feeling by some that this may be unfair to ringers in the Eastern District as the AGM is often held in one of their towers and so a qualifying host tower would have to retire from what is the premier striking competition in Ireland. Don McLean explained that in that scenario the Association Ringing Master would then pick a tower for the competition that has not qualified. Simon Walker reminded those present of a precedent dating back to the 1930s for a penalty of 20/30/faults to be apportioned to the host tower competing in

the final. It was agreed that the proposal would be taken back to the District AGMs and return to the Association AGM in May.

(3) Auditing of Accounts

Andrew White explained that the Charity Commission now require the Association to provide audited consolidated accounts. To date only the Northern District has had their accounts audited. Going forward all Districts will need to have their accounts independently audited for inclusion in the consolidated accounts. There was discussion about whether two people or one will suffice. As the Charity Commission does not specify it was agreed that it was a matter for each District as long as the accounts are audited. Andrew reminded Council members that he as Association Treasurer would need confirmation of the audited accounts by the end of September 2022. This new requirement will be raised at the District AGM's.

REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND ASSOCIATION SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS

It was agreed that having received the Safeguarding Panel report above there was no need to revisit.

DISTRICT MATTERS

Northern District

Robert Foulis reported that normality is returning with quite a few towers holding practice nights and ringing on Sundays, The District AGM will be on 23rd April 2022 at St Mary's Kilmood and in person for the first time in 2 years. It has been decided there will be no Cunningham Cup competition this year but instead a fun competition to get people back into ringing together again. It is hoped that monthly District practices will resume in May.

Eastern District

Robert MacDonald reported that towers are ringing again for Sunday services with most towers already holding practices. St Patrick's have agreed that practices shall start again on 1st March 2022. It is proposed that Eastern District will be holding their first open practice on 12th March 2022. It is hoped that the Lindoff Cup and the AGM will be held on Saturday 9th April 2022.

Southern District

Cliff Jeffers reported a return to ringing in some form. It is hoped the Cherry Cup competition will take place and the AGM for the District will be at Bandon on 24th April. Julia reported that it had been decided to abandon the Murphy Cup planned for St Fin Barre's Cathedral Cork on 28th May but noted that the Council do want to help them celebrate their 150th anniversary and in memory of George Roberts. A weekend of ringing is planned in Cork for the weekend of 18th June in the cathedral or another venue instead of them hosting the AGM and Murphy Cup. Cork's new Tower Captain is Liam O'Sullivan. Julia also reminded members of a method night in Dunmanway every alternate Monday night, 7.30 -9pm.

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. Mike Pomeroy is no longer eligible for re election he suggested Don McLean as Association Ringing Master. Don McLean confirmed that he would stand if elected. This suggestion will be forwarded to the Districts.

Office	Present Holder	Eligible for Re-Election	Year of Election	Nominations Required
President	Julia Lysaght	Yes	2019	
Ringing Master	Mike Pomeroy	No	2017	YES
Gen Secretary	Fiona Chamberlain	Yes	2022	
Gen Treasurer	Andrew White	Yes	2018	
Librarian	June Kelly	Yes	2015	

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Julia noted some omissions in the Annual Report which are regrettable. George Roberts is not mentioned in the list of deceased for which she apologised. Fiona apologised for her oversight in not including the Eastern District Secretary and Ringing Master reports both of which were circulated in advance of the meeting and appended to the Minutes. It was agreed that both reports and reference to the death of George Roberts would be added to the online version of the Annual Report.

It was agreed that no obituaries should be included in the Annual Reports moving forward. Obituaries will now be recorded on the website where there is a specific section for them.

June reminded the Council that the Annual Report should not be uploaded to the website until all personal data such as addresses and telephone numbers are removed.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed to hold the next Annual General Meeting on Saturday the 28th May 2022 in Dublin. The Murphy Cup competition will not be held this year.

It was agreed that St Mitchan's would be a suitable venue if available.

VOTE OF THANKS

Andrew White 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. He also thanked Julia for chairing the meeting. Julia thanked everyone for attending.

Fiona Chamberlain
General Secretary