



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
on Saturday 28th 2022 at 14.30 pm**

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Julia Lysaght	President
Mike Pomeroy	Association Ringing Master and CCCBR Representative
Fiona Chamberlain	General Secretary
Andrew White	Association Treasurer
June Kelly	Librarian
Vyvyenne Chamberlain	Vice President Eastern District
Simon Chadwick	Northern District Ringing Master,
Robert MacDonald	Eastern District Ringing Master and CCCBR Representative
Chiara McBrien	Northern District Secretary
Kieron Brislane	Southern District Secretary
Una Caulfield	Eastern District Representative and Treasurer
Robert Foulis	Northern District Representative
Eric Thompson	Northern District Representative
David Galbraith	Eastern District Representative and Trustee
David Taylor	Eastern District Representative
Sarah Mulhall	Southern District Representative
Oliver Roberts	Southern District Representative
Jennifer Kirkpatrick	Northern District Supplementalist
Alex Nelson	Northern District Supplementalist
Laura Higgins	Eastern District Supplementalist
Nigel Pelow	Eastern District Supplementalist
William Chapman	Northern District Treasurer
Don McClean	Trustee
Ian McCullagh	Trustee
Helen Lyttle	Eastern District
Martin Ostler	
Trilly Keatinge	
Sandra Doran	Eastern District
Rosemary O'Brien	Eastern District
Peter O'Boyle	
Paul O'Brien	
Breon McCann	

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cliff Jeffers	Vice President Southern District
Simon Walker	Vice President Northern District
Niamh Hickey	Southern District Ringing Master
Sorcha Duggan	Eastern District Secretary
Victor Ryan	Southern District
Diana Pitcher	Southern District Representative
Marcus Calvert	Southern District Representative
Stephanie Whittaker – Axon	Northern District Supplementalist
Eddie Gabriel	Southern District Supplementalist
John Clarke	Eastern District Supplementalist
Jennifer Kirkpatrick	Northern District Supplementalist
Dan Upritchard	Northern District Supplementalist
Dorcas Boreland	Auditor
Bill Applebe	Southern District Website

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

LOSS OF MEMBERS THROUGH DEATH

Kieron Brislane paid tribute to Tom Marsden who died on 15th March 2022 in his 99th year. His obituary is to be found in full on the Association website. During a house tidy up in 2019, Tom found his original IACR membership certificate dated 17th March 1938 and signed by Robert Murphy, Gabriel Lindoff and Cyril Galbraith. Tom will be remembered as an astonishingly good ringer and will be greatly missed. A minutes silence was held in his memory.

MINUTES – 19th FEBRUARY 2022 EXECUTIVE MEETING

The Minutes of the February 2022 Executive Meeting, which had previously been circulated to all Council members, were proposed and seconded for adoption and passed unanimously.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Association Website

Kieron Brislane encouraged people to use the website. The Website group continue to meet monthly. Mike Pomeroy is currently writing instructions on how to ring and conduct. These will then be available on the website. June will extract usage data to see who is using the website and from which countries. It would be helpful if by the last Wednesday in the month anyone with information or announcements to be uploaded to the website would let the Website group know. Robert McDonald commented that the website cannot be accessed if a search is conducted using the search term Irish Association of Change Ringers. Kieron accepted this was a valid

point and that steps are in place to work through this issue with the host provider. Julia congratulated the Website Committee of 5 for the excellent work they continue to do.

Safeguarding

Cliff Jeffers was unable to attend the meeting due to a wedding he was conducting in Cork. In his absence Eric Thompson and Robert McDonald both confirmed that in the Northern and Eastern Districts the new safeguarding procedures are up and running with no issues to report.

Membership Certificates

Niamh Hickey was unable to attend the meeting and so this item was not progressed.

ADOPTION OF ANNUAL REPORTS

Robert Foulis proposed that as the Annual Report is a report for the past year, reports should be written by the outgoing office bearer rather the incoming one. After discussion it was agreed that this would be the position in the future and that there was no need for a rule change. The proposal was proposed by Andrew White and seconded by Chiara McBrien.

Adoption of the Report was proposed by Kieron Brislane, seconded by David Galbraith and passed unanimously.

ASSOCIATION MATTERS

Life Membership

Julia told those present that Life Membership is the greatest honour the IARC can give. It is not given lightly and is given to people who have devoted dedicated time to their tower, their district and the Association.

Don McLean of St Mark's Dundela was nominated for Life Membership, proposed by Robert Foulis and seconded by Andrew White. Don started ringing at the age of 10 as a member of St Nicolas Tower in Carrickfergus. By 1970 he had been made Tower Ringing Master, a post he held until he moved to Belfast in 1985 when he became Ringing Master of Drumbo and more recently St Mark's Dundela. Don is currently the ART Development Master for Northern Ireland. Don fulfils all aspects of the criteria for Life Membership.

Mike Pomeroy was nominated for Life Membership, proposed by Kieron Brislane and seconded by Ian McCullough. Mike moved to Limerick for work in 1979 and introduced himself as a bell ringer on a 6 month contract. He is now retired and still in Limerick. Mike has travelled the length and breadth of Ireland to encourage and assist so many ringers and tower bands. He has held the roles of Southern District Secretary and Ringing Master, member of the IACR Executive Council where he has been elected as Ringing Master on a number of occasions and has also served as IACR President. Mike fulfils all aspects of the criteria for Life Membership.

Both nominations were unanimously approved by all present and a Life Membership certificate presented by Julia to both Mike and Don.

Amendment to the Murphy Cup Rules

This item refers to a proposal by Mike Pomeroy and Don McLean at the February meeting for a change to Rule 4 of the Murphy Cup Rules. The proposal has since been discussed at the District AGM's. Helen Little asked for an explanation of the rule change. Robert McDonald explained that if a tower invited the IACR to, for example, Taney, then Taney could not ring in the final of the Lindoff Cup. June Kelly suggested that in those circumstances the meeting could be at Taney and the competition could be in another tower. It was agreed that it is important not to exclude a band. Mike Pomeroy agreed and stressed that it is for the Executive Council to decide on the venue, the rule change is not meant to restrict teams or to damage the competition but rather to ensure fairness.

Following a show of hands (12 for the motion and 6 against) the proposal was carried.

Robert Foulis reported that the Northern District felt that the Murphy Cup and meeting should be moved around the districts and that it should not always be in Dublin. Julia observed that it is important to get a good attendance. She suggested the issue could be raised at the meeting next February and then taken back to the districts.

IARC 125TH ANNIVERSARY

Next year is the 125th anniversary of the Association and ideas had been sought from the districts for celebrating the event. St Audeon's is celebrating its 600th anniversary and Robert reported that they had contacted the Philatelic Society about a commemoration stamp. He suggested tying in with St Audeons. It was agreed that the Association should explore the possibility of a commemorative stamp. Robert Foulis reported on ideas raised at the Northern District AGM. These included a badge, shirts and other items of clothing and pens with an IACR logo, a month of ringing events and open days. Mike Pomeroy agreed with the suggestion of a logo on clothing but thought it must be one that is approved by a committee of the Association otherwise there is a risk of different logos and looks. It was agreed that a proof would be sent to the President. General Secretary and Treasurer for approval.

Peter Boyle suggested someone might write a new method. A service at St Patrick's or Christchurch was another suggestion with Cliff Jeffers to be asked to preach as a member of the Association. The anniversary is on 28th October and a dinner on or around that date at a venue where people can stay was suggested as a possibility. Chiara McBrien wondered about a book on the history of the Association. Andrew White thought he may be able to access a copy of the original book. A further suggestion was to apply to RTE who record a service each week to record a service with bells ringing at the start and end of the service and hand bells being rung at an appropriate point during the service. Robert MacDonald suggested this could coincide with St Audeon's anniversary or Blessington.

AUDITING OF ACCOUNTS

Andrew White raised the requirement that the Association submit its accounts to the Charity Commissioners each year. All district accounts have to be audited by September. The Southern and Northern Districts confirmed that they have identified an auditor. It is unclear if a licensed auditor is required by the Charities Commissioners and in the absence of clarification it was agreed to proceed with the

current auditors. A reminder is to be sent by Fiona to each District Treasurer to remind them to send Andrew their accounts by mid-September.

DISTRICT MATTERS

Southern District

Kieron will publish details of the Cork Weekend on the website when available. He reported that Limerick had kept together as a group through WhatsApp and have found it easier to return to ringing than others.

Eastern District

Robert MacDonald reported that practices at St Patrick's are well attended. Some towers are slower to get going. It seems that those who were more active during the pandemic with the use of WhatsApp groups and other communications are having better success. Taney have welcomed new members to their community of bell ringers.

Northern District

Robert Foulis reported that Simon Chadwick and Don McLean had organised a District practice at St Marks's in May and St Thomas's in June. Most Towers have returned to ringing with good practice nights reported.

ASSOCIATION OFFICE BEARERS

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

Office	Present Holder	Year of Election	Eligible for Re-election
President	Julia Lysaght	2019	Yes
Ringling Master	Mike Pomeroy	2017	NO
General Secretary	Fiona Chamberlain	2021	Yes
General Treasurer	Andrew White	2018	Yes
Librarian	June Kelly	2015	Yes

David Taylor proposed Robert McDonald, Eastern District, for election as Association Ringing Master seconded by Vyvyenne Chamberlain. Don McLean of the Northern District was proposed for election as Association Ringing Master by Robert Foulis and seconded by Andrew White.

In answer to a question from Robert Foulis, both Robert McDonald and Don McLean confirmed that they would abide by all the Association rules.

The ballot took place. Don McLean was elected as Ringing Master.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mike Pomeroy suggested that Julia form a group to review the rules of the Association. Some of the rules (such as rules 11, 12, 13 and 14) may be redundant in their current form. Julia suggested a group consisting of the President, General Secretary, Ringing Master and 3 Trustees would review the rules

David Galbraith announced that he would like to stand down as a Trustee but would remain in post until a replacement is found.

Peter Boyle asked if the Association would contribute to the upkeep of the ringing room. It was agreed that it is a matter for each tower.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Executive Meeting is scheduled for Saturday 18th of February 2023. The venue will be confirmed at a later date. The decision as to whether the meeting will be in person or by zoom will be made later in the year. The preference of those present is to meet in person and at a central Dublin location.

VOTE OF THANKS

Julia proposed a vote of thanks to Taney for hosting the meeting. A donation will be sent to Taney as a mark of appreciation.

Fiona Chamberlain
General Secretary