



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
in Kilkenny on Saturday 27th May 2023 at 11.30 am**

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Julia Lysaght	President
Don McLean	Association Ringing Master and CCCBR Representative
Andrew White	Association Treasurer
Simon Walker	Vice President Northern District
Simon Chadwick	Northern District Ringing Master
David Taylor	Eastern District Ringing Master and Eastern District Representative
Niamh Hickey	Southern District Ringing Master
Victor Ryan	Southern District
Chiara McBrien	Northern District Secretary
Kieron Brislane	Southern District Secretary
Robert Foulis	Northern District Representative
Alex Nelson	Northern District Representative
David Galbraith	Eastern District Representative and Trustee
Sarah Mulhall	Southern District Representative
Laura Higgins	Eastern District
Nigel Pelow	Trustee
William Chapman	Trustee
Ian McCullagh	Trustee
Emma Taylor	Eastern District
Heather Frizzell	Eastern District
Viola Vanussi	
Adam McCurdy	Northern District
Susan Ellis	Southern District
Torstein Strandenes	Southern District
Harry Reid	Southern District
Richard Sherwood	Southern District
Richard Ryan	Southern District
Robyn Morrison	Northern District
Carole Taylor	Northern District

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Fiona Chamberlain	General Secretary
June Kelly	Librarian

Vyvyenne Chamberlain	Vice President Eastern District
Cliff Jeffers	Vice President Southern District
Una Caulfield	Eastern District Representative and Treasurer
Sorcha Duggan	Eastern District Secretary
Oliver Roberts	Southern District Representative
Jennifer Kirkpatrick	Northern District Supplementalist
Diana Pitcher	Southern District Representative
Marcus Calvert	Southern District Representative
Jennifer Kirkpatrick	Northern District Supplementalist
Dan Upritchard	Northern District Supplementalist
Ivan McCutcheon	Southern District Treasurer
Stephanie Whittaker – Axon	Northern District Supplementalist
Eric Thompson	Northern District Representative

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 Mike Pomeroy who died on 13th March 2023 and is missed by so many. Kieron recounted some amusing stories involving Mike, including one about a tea shop and a wet cup. Don McLean then spoke about his friendship with Mike that extended over 30 years. Julia Lysaght also paid tribute to Mike to whom she went for wisdom and to share a laugh. His obituary is to be found in full on the Association website. A minutes silence was held in his memory.

MINUTES – 18th FEBRUARY 2023 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 informed everyone that the Website Committee was working away on updating the website and that technology, such as Zoom, has increased connectivity. He reminded those in attendance to let the Committee know of any updates and following the loss of Mike, they are always on the lookout for new volunteers and feedback on the website.

Membership Certificates

Kieron has the membership certificates and Julia (and / or the President at the start of membership) can sign them. Julia was available to sign copies at the end of the meeting.

Possibility of registering as a charity in NI

Robert Foulis gave those present some context around the charity register issue that arose when the Northern District were switching bank accounts. This issue was discussed at the Northern District AGM and he stated that there is no advantage to registering as a charity, apart from claiming back VAT for setting up a new tower. Julia asked if there were any savings related to the bank account. Robert and Andrew responded that they set up a Lloyd's bank account which was free and internet banking. This issue was opened to those in attendance and the conclusion was that it was not worth the hassle going forward.

ADOPTION OF ANNUAL REPORTS

Julia noted that there is an increase in numbers reported. Laura Higgins mentioned that Chris Church Cathedral won the Lindoff Cup in 2022 (report page 32 refers). Adoption of the Report was proposed by Kieron Brislane, seconded by Laura Higgins and passed unanimously.

ASSOCIATION MATTERS

Life Membership

Kieron proposed Philip Talbot for Life Membership and his proposal was seconded by Ian McCullagh. Those in attendance unanimously agreed to Philip being granted Life Membership.

Murphy Cup Rotation

At their AGM, the Northern District unanimously voted in favor of the Murphy Cup rotation. The Eastern District did not discuss the issue at their AGM and Southern District did not want to rotate. Julia suggested that it is left up to the Ringing Master. Simon Chadwick asked if this is the current situation and Julia confirmed it was. Robert Foulis mentioned that the Northern District had discussed it last year, where it was stated that they don't mind travelling for the Cup, and that is why it was on this year's agenda. Kieron said that the Southern District discussed it as well, voting to leave the Cup location in the Eastern District and let the Ringing Master decide as members may not want to travel long distances, which may affect attendance. David Taylor said that travel routes used to be better scheduled but it was not a comfortable discussion, proposing to leave it with the Ringing Master for now. Kieron suggested that the event location could be rotated between the districts for 3 years. The majority in attendance agreed with this so David proposed and Kieron seconded the proposal.

IARC 125TH ANNIVERSARY

Julia has made a provisional dinner booking in Bray with a Sunday service at St. Patrick's Cathedral. The Ringing Master will choose towers in the Eastern District. Umbrellas and badges are still on sale, along with ties for £10 sterling (or the equivalent in Euros). All purchases are payable to Andrew White through cash, cheque, or electronic bank transfer. No new orders of badges have been made yet.

DONATION FROM THE LATE CYRIL GALBRAITH

The Regulator of Cyril's estate had advised the Association through Una Caulfield of a bequest to the Association of £856.48. All agreed that it was a generous gesture and comment was made about his contribution to bell ringing and the installation of the Taney bells.

CCCB REPS AND RELATED FEES

Andrew White mentioned that there are 3 representatives to elect – further details are in a separate email from Andrew. A meeting will be held on the first Saturday in September. Don McLean told those in attendance that this item was on the agenda as previously there was an election every 3. He encouraged those elected as a Central Council Rep to stay in post for 3 years and Julia supported this. Eastern District will check who was elected and let Andrew or Julia know.

AUDITING OF ACCCOUNTS

Andrew told those in attendance that Dorcas Boreland is willing to continue in the role of auditor for this year but will retire at the end of the year. Julia said that going forward the role will be changed from “auditing” to “independently verifying” and that anyone can do this job. Robert Foulis proposed Alex Nelson for the role, and he accepted. Andrew asked if the Eastern District had conducted their independent verification and Laura Higgins confirmed that Una as Treasurer would be able to answer that question.

CHILD PROTECTION

The Northern District proposed Paula Lown to replace Eric Thompson as the Northern District officer in this role. David Taylor mentioned that there should be common standards between the Church of Ireland and the Catholic Church. Julia said that this issue was investigated previously, and she will ask Cliff to investigate this question again.

ATTENDANCE SHIELD

Don McLean explained the background and workings of the Attendance Shield. It was started in 1914, and although was initially based on the number of ringers, it is now based on improvement in attendance, with forms completed by each tower. Covid caused a fall in numbers, but 9 towers applied last year. St Mary's, Dunmanway was awarded the shield and received a round of applause. As no representatives were present, Julia will transport the shield to the tower. Don suggested that minimum standard of 60% attendance be applied due to the Covid effect on previous attendance. He encouraged everyone to submit their forms for the at the end of the year.

DISTRICT MATTERS

Southern District

Niamh reported that Clifford is teaching in multiple towers. Kieron also mentioned that new members have been elected at the AGM meeting.

There followed a discussion regarding the numbers of new ringers in each district. According to those present, there are 17 for SD, 20 for ND and the number for ED is unknown. New members are recorded in the annual report and the subscriptions are paid to the Treasurer. Julia suggested that attendees at the District Practices are reminded of the Association Rules and in particular the minimum requirement for being a member

Eastern District

David Taylor reported that Arklow is starting up again in Dublin and St. Audoen's are celebrating the 600th anniversary of their three 1423 bells on Saturday 26th August.

Northern District

Robert Foulis reported that the district is doing well with lots of towers recruiting (St. Mark's and Hillsborough mentioned). Lurgan tower has been repaired and is waiting for confirmation that ringing can recommence. There is a new incumbent in Newcastle with new ringing recruits, who may be taught with the aid of Rostrevor as they are nearby. There was a ringing for the King's Coronation in several towers along with TV exposure.

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	Don McLean	2023	Yes
General Secretary	Fiona Chamberlain	2021	Yes
General Treasurer	Andrew White	2018	No
Librarian	June Kelly	2015	Yes

Kieron proposed all eligible officers are re elected on block seconded by Robert Foulis. Andrew White is willing to stay on although due to stand down. There being no nomination for the office of Treasurer, the matter was passed to the next meeting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Julia referred to an accident in a tower with a ringer's foot caught in a rope and informed those in attendance to please stress the importance of Tower Health and Safety. Don reminded everyone that the Murphy Cup will take place after the AGM and reminded those present of the rules. He also confirmed that the judges are Niamh Hickey, David Taylor, and Simon Chadwick

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Executive Meeting is scheduled for the 3rd Saturday in February 2024. It will be on line to aid better attendance. This proposal met with general agreement.

VOTE OF THANKS

Julia thanked the venue for hosting. Ian McCullagh informed the meeting that Bishop Adrian Wilkinson and clergy were happy to welcome everyone and mentioned some housekeeping rules.

Fiona Chamberlain
General Secretary