



# Irish Association of Change Ringers

[www.bellringingireland.org](http://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 17th February 2024 at 11.00 a.m.**

## MINUTES

### ATTENDANCE

Julia Lysaght	President
Don McLean	Association Ringing Master, and CCCBR Representative
Fiona Chamberlain	General Secretary
Andrew White	Association Treasurer and Northern District Treasurer
June Kelly	Librarian
Simon Walker	Vice President Northern District
Niamh Hickey	Southern District Chairperson
Sorcha Duggan	Eastern District Secretary
Kieron Brislane	Southern District Secretary
Robert Foulis	Northern District Representative
Ian McCullagh	Trustee
Nigel Pelow	Trustee
Una Caulfield	Eastern District Treasurer
Stephanie Whittaker – Axon	Northern District Supplementalist
Dan Upritchard	Northern District Supplementalist
Billy Chapman	Trustee
Bill Appelbe	Southern District Ringing Master

### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cliff Jeffers	Vice President Southern District
Eunice Jeffers	Southern District Treasurer
Simon Chadwick	Northern District Ringing Master
David Taylor	Acting Eastern District Ringing Master
Chiara McBrien	Northern District Secretary
Diana Pitcher	Southern District Representative
Jennifer Kirkpatrick	Northern District Supplementalist
Victor Ryan	Southern District Supplementalist
Vyvyenne Chamberlain	Vice President Eastern District
Alex Nelson	Northern District Supplementalist



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

## **LOSS OF MEMBERS THROUGH DEATH**

Mention was made of members who had died since the AGM in May 2023. In particular, Philip Kimber, Theresa Nolan, Maud Lindsay and Aubrey Fielding. Don McLean paid tribute to Maud Lindsay, Holy Trinity Drumbo, who died on 25<sup>th</sup> December 2023. Maud introduced Don to bell ringing, she was a competent ringer who travelled far and wide throughout Ireland to support the Association. She was a good friend to Don and those who knew her well in ringing circles and is much missed.

A minute's silence was held in memory of Philip, Theresa, Maud and Aubrey and all Association members who died in the last year. Julia expressed her condolences to their families.

## **MINUTES – May 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Minutes of the May 2023 AGM, which had previously been circulated to all Council members, were proposed for adoption by Robert Foulis, seconded by Kieron Brislane and passed with one amendment to also refer to Andrew White as Northern District Treasurer.

## **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

### ***Association Website***

Kieron Brislane encouraged members of the Executive Council to provide information to the committee to update the website and ensure it is relevant. The Website Committee is keen to welcome new members, there is no need to be an expert in technology, new members bring new ideas. Some people have had difficulty contacting towers as the tower contacts are out of date. Kieron urged towers to notify the committee and General Secretary of any changes in email and contact addresses. Julia thanked Kieron and the Committee for all their work on the website which is a very useful source of information to members.

### ***Membership Certificates***

Julia asked if anyone knew the whereabouts of the box of certificates which was last seen at St Canice's in May at the AGM. Ian McCullagh confirmed the box was not in



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the cathedral when he cleared up after the AGM. Niamh Hickey offered to print more out if needed.

## **ASSOCIATION MATTERS**

### ***Proposal to change the Association Rules***

Julia reminded those present that the changes to the Association rules proposed by the late Mike Pomeroy and Don McLean and discussed at the Executive Council meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2023 were then sent to the Districts for consideration at their AGM's. The rule changes were not discussed at the AGM in May 2023 and in the absence of any comments back from the Districts, she suggested the meeting adopts the changes proposed. Don McLean confirmed he had not received any feedback from the Districts. The only point raised that he would look at again is Robert McDonald's request that the word "loyally" be removed from the rules. Those present agreed to adopt the proposals presented by Mike Pomeroy and Don McLean at the meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2023. Don McLean confirmed he would work with Andrew White to prepare an amended version of the rules which will be sent to the Website Committee and General Secretary. It was agreed that next year the amended rules will appear in the Annual Report but not the various Cup rules which will be accessed through the website.

### ***Proposal to change Rules 11 and 14 of the Association Rules***

The proposal circulated in advance of the meeting is to remove the reference to the office of Association Librarian. Rules 11 and 14 were brought in historically to prevent an officer staying in post for long periods. June Kelly, as Association Librarian, was willing to stay on after her initial period of 5 years and it was decided to make an exception for her as Librarian. It is not good governance practice to rule by exception and as the library is in St Patrick's Cathedral, it is most likely that the Association Librarian will be an Eastern District ringer. The Association is a registered charity in the South and the Charity Regulator's practice is to make a point of visiting small charities so it is important to make this amendment to meet good practice guidance. It was agreed that the proposal should be sent to the Districts for consideration at their AGM'S. June Kelly suggested that the fact Trustees and other Association posts are not subject to the 5 year rule should be brought to the attention of the Districts for balance.



### ***Appointment of CCCBR Representatives***

Julia noted that representatives are appointed on an annual basis. At present the Association has 2 representatives, Niamh Hickey and Don McLean. The Eastern District did not appoint a third representative last year. She encouraged the Eastern District to nominate a representative at their AGM. All Districts are to nominate or renominate a representative for discussion at the AGM in May.

### ***Independent Verification of Accounts***

Julia expressed her thanks to Andrew for agreeing to stay on as Treasurer for another year and to Dorcas Boreland for her work behind the scenes for so many years independently verifying the Association Accounts. Andrew White noted that the Eastern District Accounts had not as yet been independently verified. Una explained that the bank did not produce the final statement until the end of January and once received she would finalise the accounts and arrange to have them verified. Andrew then referred to the Bell Restoration Fund which has not been used since 2017 and currently amounts to 1300 Euro. He proposed that the Association close the fund as each District has its own fund for repairs. It was suggested that if the decision is made to close the fund that the funds are distributed to the Districts by the number of towers in each District. It was agreed the proposal would be passed to the Districts for consideration.

### ***Safeguarding***

Cliff Jeffers was unable to attend the meeting but sent a video presentation to be played to attendees. In it he reminded us that safeguarding has been a statutory requirement since 2021 and that the Association has been generously supported in its compliance with the legislation by the Church of Ireland, for example with vetting. The video set out the structure of the IACR Safeguarding panel, reminded all present to keep safeguarding on the agenda of all district meetings. He signposted attendees to where safeguarding resources are to be found on the website and invited anyone with questions to contact him directly. All present agreed it was an exceptional presentation and thanks should be extended to Cliff. It was agreed that subject to Cliff's agreement, the presentation should be uploaded to the website.



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## REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND ASSOCIATION SAFEGAURDING OFFICERS

Nothing arising

## DISTRICT MATTERS

### Northern District

Nothing arising.

### Eastern District

Nothing arising

### Southern District

Julia was pleased to announce that Doneraile's bells are up and ringing has recommenced. Ian McCullagh expressed his disappointment that Tewkesbury Abbey Ringers who had planned a tour in May had contacted him to cancel their visit due to so many towers being out of action. Ian understands that Arklow, Bray and Waterford will be out. It was a pity as post covid he noticed less visiting ringers.

## ASSOCIATION OFFICE BEARERS

Unusually this year the Association needs 3 new Office Bearers in 2025. Julia is not eligible for re-election, Don is retiring as Ringing Master and Andrew has already stood for an additional year as Treasurer. The role of President is usually circulated and so should be a nominee from the Northern District. The Southern and Eastern Districts should submit nominations for Treasurer and Ringing Master to spread representation.

Robert Foulis suggested Simon Walker's name be put forward for President. Simon said that while he would not see the Association stuck, he felt that due to work and family commitments the time was not right for him at present. He agreed to give it thought. Niamh Hickey was suggested as Association Ringing Master. She said she would be agreeable to her name being put forward. No other names were put forward and it was agreed the Districts will be asked to nominate names for the Office Bearer posts to be filled.



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## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Nothing arising

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Nothing arising

## **DATE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

25<sup>th</sup> May 2024 in the Northern District. Venue to be decided once those eligible to compete in the Murphy Cup are confirmed

## **VOTE OF THANKS**

Bill Appelbe was thanked for hosting the meeting on zoom. A small donation for hosting will be made by the Association.

**Fiona Chamberlain**

**General Secretary**

**President's signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date :** \_\_\_\_\_

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