

Doncaster and District Society of Change Ringers

Established 1921

Minutes of the 87th Annual General Meeting held on 26th January 2008

The bells were raised and a selection of methods, were rung by 17 ringers.

The service was taken by the Rev. Canon Christopher Smith. We remembered Ralph Watkinson's long involvement with the Society and Sheila Henderson's generous support, both having passed away during the year.

The service was followed by the AGM and tea. Evening Ringing took place at Bentley 7.30pm to 8.30pm with 15 ringers attending. An ingenious lighting gantry was improvised following the fusing of all the tower lights, which enabled us to see to ring an assortment of five bell methods.

The annual general meeting was opened at 5.05pm by the President Rev. Canon Christopher Smith with 29 members present.

1. Welcome

A very warm welcome by the President, who expressed pleasure at such a good turnout. The President also thanked the members of the society who have helped to ring the bells at St. George's this year. Booklets with information relating to St. George's 150th Anniversary were distributed with a request to publicise events widely.

2. Apologies for absence

Cyril Toyne
Fred Jackson

3. Approval of the minutes for 2007 AGM

One minor amendment: item 9 Programme 2006 changed to read Programme 2007.

Proposed Roger Smith Seconded Derek Wagstaff

All agreed

4. Matters arising

The President gave thanks again for the members who ring at St. George's. He was pleased to announce that the 25th January 2008 has seen the successful launch of the 150th Celebrations including an exhibition in the Minster. Notice was given that there will be a Civic Ceremony on

Wednesday 15th October 2008 attended by the Archbishop of York.
Ringers requested.

5. Officers' reports

a. Secretary's Report

The report was circulated to members present.

The secretary indicated that she would be standing down after four years of service.

Thanks were offered by the President Christopher Smith.

A letter from the Vice President Cyril Toyne was read to the meeting by David Nichols:

In my enforced absence from the AGM due to health problems may I ask you all to join with me in saying a big 'thank you' to Judith for her excellent service as Secretary for the past four years. Her commitment to the job has been total and unstinting and for this we are most grateful to her.

A bouquet of flowers was offered by Marian Thomas with thanks.

b. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer circulated copies of the 2007 accounts.

The treasurer commented that the outing was very well attended and membership of the society had increased. Therefore there would be no requirement to increase subscription rates this year.

The accounts have been audited but the auditor declined payment. The treasurer asks that he be allowed to buy her a gift as a reward for her work.

Proposed by Roger Smith and all agreed.

The president gave thanks for Peter's work as treasurer.

Subscription rates

Subscription rates to remain the same at £1 for adults, £0.50 for under sixteen's and £10 tower donations.

c. Ringing Master's Report

The Ringing Master's report was circulated and Marian Thomas was thanked for deputising in Terina's absence due to her shoulder problems, both at the District meetings and in organising local service ringing.

6. Election of new members

Emma Shiels
Alison Shiels
Robert West
Liz Tarleton

Proposed: Roger Smith

Seconded: Harold Johnson

All Agreed. They were welcomed to the society.

7. Election of Officers

Vice President

Cyril Toyne has indicated his intention to step down as Vice President.

The President proposes that the committee discuss ways of marking long service to the Society, and he expresses his appreciation to Cyril for all that he has done for the Society over many decades.

Roger Smith was nominated as Vice President

Proposed: Judith Jopling

Seconded: David Nichols

All agreed

Secretary (3 years)

Marian Thomas was nominated.

Proposed: Judith Jopling

Seconded: Jim Hirst

No other nominations. Marian was declared to be our new Secretary.

a. Assistant Ringing Master/Committee members

Marian Thomas agreed to stand again.

Roger Smith agreed to stand again.

Ian Kingston volunteered to stand this year.

b. Committee members

Jim Hirst agreed to stand again

Mary Guy agreed to stand again.

Judith Jopling volunteered to assist the committee

It was proposed that all existing Assistant Ringing Masters plus Ian Kingston and all committee members plus Judith Jopling be elected.

Proposed: Glyn Smith

Seconded: Roger Smith

All agreed

8. Programme 2008

A draft programme was presented to the meeting.

Ideas were sought for the Outing 2008.

Marian indicated that Fred Jackson had suggested the Sheffield area - ideas followed included use of the Supertram and a visit to St. Marie's the University Tower.

Committee to progress the ideas.

Outing 2009

Jim Hirst has proposed a train outing to York early in 2009 to avoid the tourist season. There are apparently 4 or 5 towers within walking distance. The President commented that there appeared to be general acceptance if this idea - committee to progress.

9. 150th Anniversary Celebrations St. George's

It was agreed that quarter peals are our favoured way to commemorate the event.

Dates suggested by the President would be April - St. George's tide, June to link with the flower festival and October the Dedication.

Also service ringing/quarter peal for Wednesday 15th October 2008.

10. Walker Cup

Bawtry	89.0%	Congratulations
Sprotbrough	81.7%	
Barnby Dun	19.0%	
Tickhill	16.8%	

Conisbrough	14.6%
Arksey	10.0%

11. Any other business

Marian brought to the attention of the meeting the YACR planned events for 2008 including a training course to be held on Saturday 16th February 2008 at Sprotbrough, and encouraged ringers to participate.

The treasurer explained that he had changed jobs and as a result would be unable to attend Saturday meetings. He was prepared to continue as Treasurer, if the Society were happy with this - but he sought their views.

Agreed - Peter to remain Treasurer.

Redecorating at St. George's

Jim Hirst wishes to clean up St. George's and asks ringers to give some time to assist.

Christopher Smith explained that there is a £6m restoration project for the Minster and advised that he would seek recommendation from the architect but he could see no reason why we may not clean/tidy the ringing room in ways which do not alter the fabric of the building. Jim to co-ordinate helpers, once feedback received from the architect via Christopher Smith.

12. Date of Next Annual General Meeting

Saturday 31 January 2009

13. Vote of thanks

By Roger Smith: To the President for the use of the wonderful bells and his chairmanship.

To the ladies: for preparing the tea and to everyone for coming and supporting the society.

The meeting closed at 5.55pm