

ARMY GUILD OF BELLRINGERS
MINUTES OF THE AGM ON SATURDAY 1st APRIL 2017

The 2017 AGM was held at SS Peter and Paul, Swaffham, Norfolk

Members Present:

John Verity (Secretary & Treasurer)

David Fox (Ringing Master)

Anne Bray, Paul Bray, Mary Coe, David Culham, John Davey, Derek Knowles & Nicola Roberts.

Other ringers attending:

The Reverend Rhona McEune, Essex Association member and officiating Minister.

Tim & Diana Wraight (RNG) and Michael & Bridget White (RAFG)

Apologies received from:

Ray Aldis, Sally & Peter Cates, Nick Claypoole, Liz Davey, Gail Farrow, Andrew Frost, Mark Heritage, Peter Leigh, Rod Pagin, Maggy Vince and Ian Wiltshire.

1. The Chairman (Ian Culham) was unable to be present due to his active Army commitments.
2. In his absence the Secretary & Treasurer (John Verity) welcomed the members, and thanked them for their attendance. Paul & Anne Bray were congratulated and thanked for organising a very successful day of ringing, and for providing tea and cakes, which were much appreciated.
3. He also thanked the Reverend Rhona McEune for conducting the Service, and the Reverend Janet Allan, for permission to use the Church.

4. Loss of members:

No reported news of members who have died in the past year.

5. The minutes of the 2016 AGM were passed as a true copy and signed by the Chairman.

6. Matters from last year's AGM: Nil

7. **Chairman's report:** In his absence, the Chairman has sent a written report, as follows:

Firstly, I would like to say that I am extremely sorry for not being present at this meeting. As per usual the Army sends you away at the most inconvenient times. Whilst you all will have had an enjoyable day's ringing, I will have been sat on exercise on Salisbury Plain. I know which activity I would prefer!

This, my second year of office, has been a quiet one.

I have continued to try to raise the membership, and knowledge of the Guild in the wider ringing community. This has by no means been achieved, but with a great article in the Ringing World, by Nicola Roberts, we are doing our bit.

October 29th 2016 saw our Autumn Ringing day take place in Essex, with what I thought were some interesting towers. The meeting was very well attended, and we had some superb ringing, from Minimus to Surprise Royal. We really did make a good day of it, and I look forward to our next meeting.

I would like to say a big "thank you" to John (Secretary) and David (Ringing Master) for all your hard work over the past year, and also to Paul (Bray) for organising today's ringing.

Lastly it just leaves me to say a big "thank you" to you all, for your help and support to the Guild, as without all of you none of this would be possible.

Thanks

Ian J Culham (Chairman)

8. Secretary's report:

This year has been a quiet one for the Secretary, but there are always addresses to be changed and e-mails to be kept up to date.

If any member changes their abode or e-mail address, the Secretary earnestly requests notification. Members should ideally pay their annual membership fee of £3 by standing order, and this is due on April 1st every year.

Our thanks go to Andrew Frost, who maintains our web site, sends out correspondence and coordinates our annual fee to the 'Ringing World'.

9. Treasurer's report:

It was agreed informally at the last AGM, that the funds of the Guild should not ideally be above £500.

As you can see from the Summary of Accounts for 2016/7, ending 28th February 2017, expenditure was £158 more than our income, and our bank balance today is £622.75. Therefore members today were not required to contribute to the day's expenses. I hope that this meets with general approval.

Paid up members number: 34.

John Davey proposed that the Treasurer's report be accepted, and this was seconded by David Fox.

10. New Members:

Domini Barrett, Mark Catell, Mark Consadine

John Davey proposed that the above new members be accepted, and this was seconded by Paul Bray.

11. Retirement of Members:

Colin Sweeney has written to the Secretary to say that his mobility is now so poor, that he is unable to attend meetings any longer.

12. Election of Guild Officers:

Chairman:	Ian Culham	
Secretary:	John Verity	
Treasurer:	John Verity	Both of the above are prepared to serve for another year.
Ringling Master:	David Fox stated last year that he wished to stand down as Ringling Master after serving for 17 years. All the members present expressed thanks for his work over so many years.	
	Nicola Roberts has been proposed as the new Ringling Master.	

Originally the Chairman and Treasurer were voted in for 2 years; whilst the following year the Secretary and the Ringling Master were voted in for 2 years.

This seems rather cumbersome for such a small Guild, especially as the Secretary and the Treasurer are the same person, and the Ringling Master has just served 17 years! It is suggested that the Officers (if willing) are re-elected at each AGM; and if any Officer wishes to resign/retire, then he/she should attempt to find their own successor.

David Fox proposed that Ian Culham, John Verity & Nicola Roberts be appointed Officers of the Guild, as above; and this was seconded by John Davey.

13. Diary:

2017

Army Autumn Meeting:	28th October 2017	Nicola Roberts agreed to organise an outing in the Shrivenham area.
RAF BOB Meeting:	21st - 23rd September 2017	
RN Trafalgar Meeting:	20th - 22nd October 2017	
Army Spring Meeting & AGM:	7th April <u>2018</u>	John Davey will look into organising a meeting in Warwickshire.

14. AOB:

Mary Coe, who is also a member of the Post Office Guild, stated that their numbers were low and decreasing, and that the Guild was thinking of exploring amalgamating with other Guilds. A discussion followed, and it was agreed that AGB (and undoubtedly the RN & RAF Guilds) was not interested at the moment, and it would be better to think of joining up with other Public Service Guilds, such as the Firemen etc.

**Ian Culham
Chairman**