

**CASTOR RINGING SCHOOL  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SATURDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017  
Held at 12.00 noon in the Cedar Centre, Castor**

**In attendance:**

Officers and Committee Members:

David Teall (DT), Chairman

Mrs Hilary Hardie (HH), Treasurer

Chris Burgess (CB), Administrator & Protection Officer

Stuart Weston (SW), Safety Officer

Mrs Pat Teall (PT)

Terry Wright (TW)

Miss Angela Whiteway (AW)

Rev David Ridgeway (DR), Jonathan Alexander (JA), William Baxter (WB), Mrs Helen Cornford (CF), Nick Elks (NE), Ronnie Frazer (RF), Miss Rosalind Payne (RP), Mrs Anne Russell (AR), Mrs Jean Tinsley (JT), Mrs Jane Webb (JW).

**1. WELCOME**

DT opened the meeting and welcomed members of the Ringing School.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from:

Mrs Beth Alberga, Edward Baxter, Ms Hui Yen Bloodworth, Andrew Christie, Mrs Sally Collop, Mrs Pat Dale, Dawn Davis, Mrs Joan Denning, Alex Dyer (AD), Peter Furness, Paul Reed, Mrs Paula Smith, Mrs Sylvia Upex.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017**

HH proposed the minutes be approved. This was seconded by TW and agreed by the Attendees.

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES BUT NOT INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA**

CB referred to Item 5 and explained that 'Sign Up Genius' is working well for tutors but had not yet been set up for pupils. DT felt that, though it would be advantageous for pupils, it would only be effective if all of them use it. He explained how the system works and asked pupils if they were interested. NE stated that it is useful for tutors to know which pupils will/will not be attending. HH stated that it is also useful to know who is leading/teaching the sessions and to ensure there is sufficient assistance. NE noted that not everyone has access to, or is happy using, a computer. It was generally felt that it would be worthwhile trying the system for pupils.

No other matters were raised from the minutes.

**5. ANNUAL REPORTS**

**(Printed Copies of the reports to be held with the minutes)**

**Attendance Report**

CB reported that the previous week had a large number of attendees. He suggested that on such occasions, staggering the sessions and using 'Sign Up Genius' could be helpful. He stated that even when there were large numbers of pupils, there had always been a sufficient number of tutors/helpers. JT asked if the large number of pupils had been expected. DT stated that it had not, and that some of them had not attended for a long time. He also stated that three of the pupils had brought other people with them. DT explained that the school operated on an open door basis and

that whoever comes is welcome. He explained that when the CRS constitution was drawn up, the operation of other schools had been considered but the Committee felt that the current system suited the needs of CRS pupils. It was felt that it was better that pupils come when they can, rather than have to wait for a particular 'lesson' to become available.

NE suggested it would be better to get 'Sing Up Genius' working for pupils before trying to change anything.

HC stated that she valued the time spent watching other ringers in between her own ringing sessions. JW and JT agreed that a lot can be learned from watching. CB noted that the current system helps to build team spirit and that the Nassington Band would not be the band it is without it.

DT thanked everyone for their thoughts.

### **Head Tutor's Report**

DT reported that thought there had been some major changes in the operation of CRS, the core aims and objectives were still in place. He read them aloud. He explained that the establishment of the Committee and Terms of Reference will bring benefits and succession for the future of the school. The title 'Castor Ringing School' has been accepted by the Central Council and the name reflects its purpose more fully than 'Ringing Centre'.

DT reported that the year had seen a steady stream of new ringers and graduates and the effect of this can be seen in the Branch reports.

DT thanked those people without whose help CRS could not operate. He noted in particular the Rector, Tower Captain, Steeple Keeper and PCC of St Kyneburgha, Castor, experienced tutors CB, SW & PT, graduates and helpers JA, HH, AW, AR, TW, SU all of which have attended training sessions at CRS and/or ART. He thanked NE and AD for their willingness to lead sessions during his absence, and other experienced ringers who are willing to help when needed.

### **Treasurer's Report**

HH confirmed that the school fees have been increased to £1 per session and will go towards the quarterly tower fee of £55, electricity and other maintenance costs eg stays, for the school. The current balance is just over £300 which will set the school up well for the coming year.

DT thanked HH for her report and for keeping the accounts.

## **6. ADOPTION OF THE ACCOUNTS**

EB proposed that the accounts be adopted. This was seconded by PT and agreed by the Attendees.

## **7. PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS FROM THREE TO FOUR**

DT explained that the requirement for three members was a random number drawn up with the Terms of Reference. He felt that four were needed in order to cover the administration fully. HH proposed the number be increased to four. This was seconded by CB and agreed by the Attendees.

## **8. ELECTION OF ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

DT stated that the Officers DT, CB, and SW were appointed by St Kyneburgha's PCC and the remaining Committee members were elected. He stated that under the required attendance criteria, HH, PT, AW and TW were eligible for election to the Committee. JT proposed that all four be elected. This was seconded by JW and agreed by the Attendees.

## **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

NE asked if CRS was financially able to look at improving the Abel Simulator and PC. CB stated that the on-line version of Able received automatic updates, but that this was not possible in the tower. DT stated that upgrading the PC would require a USB adaptor and new software.

JT asked how the CRS ethos could be spread to other towers and branches to improve teaching. DT stated that it will filter through over time. He explained that current CRS tutors and helpers are all out in other towers. It was suggested that DT and JT produce an article on teaching/learning for the Guild Newsletter. NE felt that the best way was to lead by good example. CB noted that in years past, ringing was dying out and much was done to encourage people to take up ringing. DT noted that a lot of learners had been put off by fierce teaching approaches. He stated that though CRS is not a Branch facility, the Branch can still promote its principles.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 12.49pm.

MINUTES APPROVED:

Signature: ..... Date:.....