

# Durham University Society of Change Ringers

## Autumn Term – AGM

5<sup>th</sup> December 2021 – Trevelyan College, Durham

Meeting called to order at 12:07 by Joseph Walker (JW)

### Registration of attendance

Miles Baker	Frances Haynes	Gwen Rogers
Izabelle Bimson	Elizabeth Hopper	Philip Rogers
Richard Bimson	Lynne Hughes	Rachael Sanderson
Fred Bone	Phil Hughes	Isabella Seale
Mary Bone (visitor)	Roy Meads	Brian Spurling
Edward Dunn	Kate Nye	Katherine Stonham
Astrid Gale	Matthew Pearson	Cían Tempest (minute taker)
Nigel Gale	Oliver Rice	Joseph Walker (chair)
Josie Giddle	Andrews Richards	Michael Williams
Robert Giddle	Alex Riley	Rachel Wells

### 1. Apologies for absence

Rosina Baxter	John Maddams
Alan Bristow	Christopher Moore
Judith Bristow	Judith Moreton
Peter Ellis	Bryan Pattison
Denis Elliston	Mary Pickstone
Jenny Elmes	Caroline Stockmann
Joe Franklin	Duncan Walker
Mark Jacot	
Sarah Jacot	
Jeff Ladd	

### 2. Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting

Alex Riley (AR) noted that there were no minutes taken at the previous AGM - conducted via Zoom. The meeting was recorded but he added that it is not known who possesses the video footage.

Despite this, the chair (JW) suggested that the minutes should be taken as read.

Approved on a general aye.

### **3. Reports by the officers**

#### **a. Master**

Alex Riley:

Thanks to the ending of COVID Restrictions, the Society returned to Wednesday practices, initially with a simultaneous handbell practice downstairs to comply with the rule of six. We held four of these, in Easter term, and all were attended by at least 8 people. Disappointingly, restrictions at the time meant summer tour could not go ahead.

Since coming back this autumn, Sundays and practices have been running as normal, with attendance at practices typically in the region of 8-12, though occasionally as high as 20. Sundays have been less well attended, but car space has proved an issue this term, and owing to the high cost of taxis we aren't willing to utilize them on Sunday mornings. Taxis have had to be used for practice nights occasionally, though usually the invaluable help of Jean and Keith precludes the necessity.

We hosted NUA this year, staying in Neville's Cross scout hut, and attended all the city towers, as well as Shincliffe and Brancepeth. 45 attended in total, 8 of whom rang a quarter peal at Brancepeth for Remembrance Sunday.

On the whole, this has been a very positive year for DUSCR. We've picked up two new learners, both of whom are ringing rounds on their own, and several existing ringers have joined us too. Apart from the Vice-Master, the new committee comprises people who haven't held positions before, and I'm looking forward to seeing where they take the Society.

#### **b. Life Members' Secretary**

Given that Elizabeth Hopper was at Wetherspoons, Rachael Sanderson (RS) delivered the report on behalf of the Life Members' Secretaries:

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has limited activities for lifetime members - most notably, the life tour was unfortunately cancelled.

RS offered congratulations on behalf of the society to the new DUSCR babies and their parents:

- Joseph Henry Moreton Harris (b. 14th Dec 2020) - son of Judith Moreton & Pete Harris
- Jennifer Mary Nye (b. 30th Jan 2021) - daughter of Kate Nye & Tom Bance
- Carina Iris Bardsley (b. 19th Apr 2021) - daughter of Megan (née Corless) & Oliver Bardsley
- William Henry Criddle (b. 30th Jun 2021) - son of Josie (née Drake) & Rob Criddle
- Emily Miriam Catherine Morgan (b. 10th Nov 2021) - daughter of James & Cat Morgan (associate members)

AR congratulated all the new parents for their good work.

#### **c. Peal Recorder**

Fred Bone (FB) outlined the latest peals:

There was a peal rung in December 2019 to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the first peal rung together by Gwen & Phil Rogers, as well as their first peal at DUSCR.

There have been five handbell peals rung since the last AGM - allowing for the expansion of minor methods. These were all conducted by AR, placing him in joint 2nd place on the leaderboard of DUSCR handbell peal conductors. FB predicted that AR will likely overtake David Marshall to claim the top spot.

There was a tower peal rung yesterday (4th December 2021), but the full details of this have yet to be confirmed.

#### **d. Central Council Representative**

Phil Hughes (PH) gave a brief report on the Central Council meeting held on 4th September 2021:

There were very few major issues to discuss or vote on this year, mainly due to the lack of a clear path forward being revealed by recent consultations on the three outstanding Council Review Action Group (CRAG) proposals - the move to a direct membership organization, a branding review and reducing the size of the council.

The 'Young ringers - Universities and Colleges' workgroup proposed running regional freshers' festivals next autumn to help with the post-pandemic recovery of ringing. The importance of the 'UniversityRinging.org' website as a central source of information was also discussed, along with the need to ensure that details about each society are kept up to date. It was also noted that no university ringing groups have yet completed an application to affiliate to the Council as registered 'small societies', however there is one application in progress.

As previously mentioned, the Council is not pursuing the creation of a direct membership organization at present, but a group of young ringers have decided that this would be the best way forward for them. The Young Change Ringers Association is being launched as a national organization - open to all ringers under 30. The organization will be supported by the Council but will not be a direct part of it.

The meeting of the Council in 2022 will hopefully be held at Nottingham Trent University, on the usual date of the first weekend in September. It may be a hybrid event, with some participants joining via Zoom, although there was concern about the technical difficulties this could present.

Further details can be found in the Ringing World of the 10th September 2021. PH is also happy to be contacted with any further queries via email ([ccrep@duscr.org.uk](mailto:ccrep@duscr.org.uk)).

### **4. Questions to the officers**

Lynne Hughes (LH) asked whether anyone had yet joined the Young Change Ringers' Association (YCRA) – no one present indicated that they had.

### **5. Election of officers**

#### **a. Life Members' Secretaries**

Elizabeth Hopper and Rachael Sanderson re-elected on a general aye.

**Proposer:** Alex Riley

**Seconder:** Lynne Hughes

**b. Peal Recorder**

Fred Bone re-elected on a general aye.

**Proposer:** Rachael Sanderson

**Seconded:** Joseph Walker

**6. Any other business**

Nigel Gale: suggested a change of date for the annual dinner in 2023 to make it coincide with the Lumiere Festival, which is held biannually in the middle of November. This might encourage more life members who live further away from Durham to travel for both events.

Various members were concerned about the increase in costs associated with such a change.

AR: This would likely also mean that towers in the city would be unavailable for ringing.

Rachael Sanderson: I think the general consensus is that Lumiere increases accommodation prices, and the city becomes extremely busy.

The proposal was not agreed.

AR: The annual dinner next year will probably be on the 3rd of December, although that is only a provisional date.

Kate Nye: The dinner was a bit pricey this year. Will a different venue be considered?

AR: Definitely. I agree, it was a bit pricey.

JW: We are considering a change of venue - and have been since the 60th Anniversary.

Lynne Hughes: I would like to express my thanks to all those who were involved in the organisation of the dinner this year. Thank you!

A round of applause followed.

**Meeting closed at 12:40.**