

# **Durham University Society of Change Ringers**

## **Michaelmas Term – AGM**

**10<sup>th</sup> December 2023 – CG85**

### **Meeting started at 1201**

Ion Forbes, Chair, welcomed those present to the meeting.

### **Registration of attendance**

Abby Antrotus  
Elizabeth Barton  
Alexander Bell  
Fred Bone  
Andrew G Booth  
Matthew Black  
Lily Collis  
Ophelia Cornell  
Josie Criddle  
Rob Criddle

Matt Durham  
Ion Forbes  
Nicholas Grandage  
Ealish Green  
Oliver Hughes  
Alex Pym  
Rachael Sanderson  
Isabella Seale  
Katherine Stonham  
Mary Bone (visitor)

### **Apologies for absence**

Rosina Baxter  
Izabelle Bimson  
Richard Bimson  
Dennis Elisdon  
Peter Ellis  
Astrid Gale  
Nigel Gale  
Jane Hallett  
Lynne Hughes  
Phil Hughes  
Jeff Ladd  
Colin Monson

Christopher Moore  
Kate Nye  
Matthew Pearson  
Mary Pickstone  
Oliver Rice  
Alex S Riley  
Peter Rivet  
Gwen Rogers  
Phil Rogers  
Artemis Sanderson  
Joe Walker  
Rachel Wells  
Michael Williams

### **1) Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting**

Minutes with the following corrections:

Rob Griddle = Rob Criddle

Roy Meady = Roy Meads

Richard Bimston = Richard Bimson

## 2) Reports by the officers

### a. Master – Andrew Booth

The Master said that DUSCR has had a “fairly good year,” with a good freshers’ intake. Many Successful quarter peals were rung. An attempted peal for the Coronation was called off at short notice due to one member of the band sustaining a bad injury. The team from Durham won the NUA striking competition.

### b. Life Members’ Secretary – Rachael Sanderson / Elizabeth Hopper

“We've had a good year this year. Highlight was the trip to France to ring the bells there. A great turnout, and was included in the ringing world - article will be shared with the minutes.

In January Rachel Wells and I explored alternative venues for the dinner, and realised the Masonic Hall is still the best option due to location in the centre of Durham, ceilidh space, cost, and time of year (Christmas parties!).

DUSCR births etc - Eleanor Jane Criddle to Rob Criddle and Josie Criddle nee Drake.

Elizabeth (Hopper) has decided to step down - thanks for your help over the last few years.

For future plans as life secretary - depends on who gets elected to replace her! I'd be keen to try and refresh the mailing list and record keeping of the society. Having nearly lost the mailing list a few weeks ago, I've realised it needs to be moved to a more modern system, and I expect there's lots of people who are missing or have out-dated email addresses. It would also be nice to pull together a full record of society members for the last 64 years. Ideas for how to approach this would be very welcome. Also, I need someone to organise a Life Tour, and it would be great to know if there's any other Life activities people want.” - Rachael Sanderson



[The chair then switched on his microphone so that all could hear the him *very clearly*.]

### c. Peal Recorder – Fred Bone

“Since my last report (so including last year’s two Dinner weekend peals, and up to yesterday’s Dinner Day peal) the Society has rung six peals, of which two were on handbells and one was in Vernet-les-Bains, the Society’s first outside the UK. Alex Riley and Oliver Rice are now the clear leading handbell ringers, both on 10. Alex is the leading handbell conductor, having called all 10 of his handbell peals. Oliver has now called one, his first as conductor. There have been no changes at the top of the tower bell “leader-board”. The Society’s peal total is now 274, of which 31 have been on handbells. Yesterday’s Dinner Day peal included one first pealer and three first of Stedman. It is a matter for regret that the handbell peal on 15 December last year has not been submitted for publication in The Ringing World.” - Fred Bone

**Central Council Representative – Phil Hughes**

“Report on the Central Council Annual Meeting held at Ipswich on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2023. Hello from Phil Hughes, the representative member for DUSCR on the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers. I attended the annual meeting held at the beginning of September, and I will use this opportunity to report back on matters that might be of particular relevance to DUSCR. As usual, the report from the “Young ringers – Universities and Colleges” workgroup was of most interest. One of their current projects is to create a website to act as a central hub for use by all university and college societies. Of course, there already is a well-established website, “[universityringing.org](http://universityringing.org)”, but this is mainly focussed on providing contact details and brief descriptions of the societies that are listed. My understanding is that the new hub would act as a central repository for content that would be owned and actively managed by the societies concerned. This may be of particular benefit to societies that may be too small to qualify for resources from their associated college or university to set up their own web site. The aim is to have the virtual hub up and running by summer 2024, and the role that Central Council will have will be to ensure that the project progresses and to assist with IT support. While DUSCR already has an active and long-established website, I think it would still be of benefit to ensure that the society has a visible presence on the hub, if only at a similar level to what’s on the “[universityringing.org](http://universityringing.org)” website. The workgroup is looking for volunteers to help set up the hub, and if anyone is interested then I can put you in touch with the right people. I could see that this might also be an opportunity for DUSCR to provide help and advice to less experienced societies in setting up their presence on the hub. A second item reported by the workgroup was the success of the summer school using the ART M1 course to give students experience in teaching new ringers. I bring this to your attention in case anyone may wish to attend next time, and I will pass on any details that I receive. The meeting then went on to hear about the forward plan for 2024, which in brief focuses on promoting ringing to generate recruitment, ensuring that there are training and development opportunities, and then providing a quality environment for this to take place in. After the elections for a new president and deputy had taken place, the meeting went on to consider the motions that had been proposed. The one that prompted the most debate was a proposal to reduce the number of representative members on council that the affiliated societies would be entitled to. This was an outstanding recommendation from the report of the Council Review and Action Group (CRAG) published in 2017. The main points raised during the debate were that the reduction was no longer needed as the annual meetings were now in a much more efficient way than when the CRAG report was written, and also that a reduction in the overall number of representative members may make it harder for younger ringers to become elected. After much discussion the motion was defeated. I did vote against it, but even if it had been passed it DUSCR would still have retained the right to a single representative and the impact would have been on the larger societies. Unfortunately, the length of time taken up in the debate of the motion meant that the meeting had then to be drawn to a close quite rapidly as it was approaching the time that the venue was due to close. So that’s a rather short summary of points of interest from the meeting, but if anyone wants more detailed information then please contact me via my email address of “[ccrep@duscr.org.uk](mailto:ccrep@duscr.org.uk)”. The meeting papers are available on the Central Council website, and the minutes of the meeting should also be published there in due course.” – Phil Hughes

Phil wishes to pass on that he will be planning to attend the Central Council meeting in Devon next September and also hopes to get to the AGM. If anyone has any queries they can be passed on - [ccrep@duscr.org.uk](mailto:ccrep@duscr.org.uk).

### **3) Questions to the officers**

Rob Criddle asked “Does current DUSCR know or care about CCCBR?”

RS and MB answer: Subs lower than before (£40) – 25p per head. Active membership list important for this reason. Keeping in touch with CCCBR v important for learning and taking in new ringers. Don't take things for granted and be willing to reevaluate things.

#### **4) Election of officers**

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

RS nominated by ? and seconded by Issabella Seale; IS likewise nominated, jointly elected by general aye.

##### **b. Peal Recorder**

Fred Bone nominated by Rachael Sanderson and re-elected by general aye.

##### **c. CC rep**

Phil Hughes to continue by general aye as it is uncertain how long the term of a representative actually is.

Is a one-year cycle better than three where we lose track?

Andrew Booth nominated, not seconded.

#### **5) Any other business**

IS proposes the motion to change the term of election of CC rep to one year.

RS raises question of Dinner Day 2024. 30<sup>th</sup> Nov or 7<sup>th</sup> December. Term ends Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December. 2 weeks before term end of term better for student deadlines. 30<sup>th</sup> December is Advent Sunday. Also St. Andrew's Day. Primary aim is to maximise attendance and ensure the hall is free. Not to be voted on at this stage as the house is uncertain.

The new Executive Committee introduced themselves.

From Michael Williams: "Could I ask you to raise an item of other business on my behalf please? I wanted to ask if DUSCR and the regular dinner attenders might be supportive of a proposal to bring the dinner forward by one week in 2027 (yes, that's 2027!). The dinner would normally be on the first Saturday in December that year which is the 4th. For entirely selfish reasons I will be away then celebrating a significant birthday and I hope several DUSCR members will be joining me so could we hold the dinner on Saturday 27th November 2027 instead please? There is a little bit of precedent for having an early dinner - it has happened on two or three occasions before, most recently in 2019 for the 60th anniversary and I hope with plenty of notice, this might be met with support."

It was agreed to defer the decision regarding the dinner date in 2027 to a later date.

**Meeting closed at 1232**