

HANDBELL RINGERS OF GREAT BRITAIN

Registered Charity Nos. 298945 (England and Wales) and SC038918 (Scotland)

DRAFT MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on Saturday 15th April 2023 at 2.30pm

at the Stirling Court Hotel, Stirling

1. Opening Remarks

Tim Willetts, chair, formally welcomed members to the AGM.

He began by expressing how lovely it was to be here in person. Congratulations were given to Lysbeth Wilson on her award of a British Empire Medal in the New Years Honours List. He gave a huge thank you to John Elcock, the Scottish Regional committee and members of Scottish Region for hosting the National Rally.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from 13 members including Anthony Hayes, Susan Duke, Jane Willis, John Willis, Robert Willis, Fiona Willis, Wendy Walters. Alan Walters, Jeanette Jenkins, Jane Heald, John Heald, David Sunderland and Caroline Sunderland.

3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2022

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Judy Gees, seconded by Ann Reynolds and agreed *nem con*.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were none.

5. Report from the Chair

Tim's written report had been available on the HRGB website since the beginning of March.

He spoke on how our society and organisers depend on members and each other to continue the growth of HRGB. Membership numbers have fallen over the last few years. This is partly to do with Covid and partly a gradual drop in new members. If this continues then in a few years we will not have enough members to form a society.

He asked members to do what they can. He apologised and said he had failed to do what he promised 9 years ago to increase membership. The collective power of membership will have a better effect of changing this. We all value this society, let's work hard to increase membership.

There are a number of roles unfilled. If you can do anything to help by sharing a role or taking on a role then it will make the society a more straightforward and enjoyable place to be a part of.

Christine Reid stepped down as Secretary a year ago and so far we have had no nominations for that role. Thanks were given to 4 members who have stepped forward to share the role. Kate Worthington as AGM Secretary, Judy Gees as NEC Secretary, Jacky Cooper as International Secretary and Sandra Winter as Correspondence Secretary. He asked the members to show their thanks, which they did with a generous round of applause. He also reminded members that the Secretary role is still open for nominations.

A specific thank you was given to Malcolm Wilson. Social Media is a great way to get our message to many more people quickly and easily. Malcolm has been helping people listen and learn about handbells for many years. Thank you, Malcolm. There are others who are adept and skilful and enjoy social media. I am sure that Malcolm would appreciate help wherever possible. Please come forward if you can.

There were no questions to the Chair.

6. **Secretary and Membership Secretary's Reports**

These had been available on the HRGB website since the beginning of March to allow questions to be asked.

There was no Secretary's report as the role is unfilled.

There were no questions to the officers.

The Chair thanked Diane for her report and work.

The meeting received these reports and accounts, and their acceptance was proposed by John Atkinson, seconded by Ursula Howes and agreed *nem con*.

7. **Hon. Treasurer's Report**

Anthony Hayes' printed report was read out by Tim Willetts. It stated that the 2021 accounts have been available on the HRGB and Charity Commission websites, and a brief summary was published in the Autumn/Winter edition of Reverberations. The overall picture for the 2021 accounts is one of a sound running charity.

A copy of his report is appended to these Minutes.

Copies of all reports are appended to these minutes.

The meeting received these reports and accounts and their acceptance was proposed by Steve Winter, seconded by Keith Rowland and agreed *nem con*.

8. **Elections**

8.1 - 8.4 The nominees for the positions of Chair, Treasurer and Membership Secretary — Keith Rowland, Anthony Hayes and Diane Holt respectively — were duly elected.

There was one nominee for each of those roles so due to the rule 8a(c) we can declare that they are elected unopposed.

Secretary position is at present unfilled. This needs to be addressed. If you know of anyone who is interested or who needs to know more about the role please encourage them to contact Keith Rowland.

8.5 The nomination of Robert Whowell & Partners as Examiner of Accounts by Anthony Hayes, seconded by Tim Willetts, was agreed *nem con*.

8.6 Honorary Life Membership was conferred on Tim Willetts. A summary of Tim's time and work in HRGB was given by Roger Lazenby.

The Chair thanked all the officers who continue to ensure the society runs smoothly.

Keith Rowland spoke of Scottish hospitality being the best and expressed enormous gratitude for the Scottish Regional Committee being fantastic hosts. He talked about the challenge of recruitment over the years and the NEC have been trying to resolve it.

10. **Resolutions and Formal motions**

Motion proposed by the NEC: "That the proposed rule changes, shown in the document "HRGB Proposed Rule Amendments AGM 2023" (which is available on paper at the AGM, or from the AGM Secretary, Kate Worthington, and is also available to read on the HRGB website), should be agreed by members.

The NEC recommends that members agree to the proposed changes.

Acceptance of the motion was proposed by Laura Buist and agreed *nem con*.

11. 2024 National Rally

The NW Region will be hosting this event at the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick from 5th-7th April 2024. Beth McCord gave details of the event. A memorable event was promised. Further details will be in Reverberations and on the website.

12. Any Other Business

Martin Winter gave some details of the 2026 International Symposium. It is taking place at the Sage Gateshead. Any volunteers are welcome.

Meeting closed at 15.20.

Copies of all reports mentioned are available from the AGM Secretary.