

HANDBELL RINGERS OF GREAT BRITAIN

Annual General Meeting—12th April 2025

National Chair's Report

Many thanks to my fellow officers, Anthony Hayes (Treasurer), Diane Holt (Membership Secretary), and Judy Gees (Secretary), who have provided such a dedicated service to our society, and without whom we would struggle to fulfil the aims and objectives of the organisation.

Thanks also must go to the regions' committees who work tirelessly in organising innovative events for our members.

One of my highlights in 2024 was the 21st International Symposium in Hamamatsu, Japan. A wide range of musical presentations from all the societies ensured 700 ringers could indulge in wonderful music making. As usual, the Japanese organising committee made us very welcome.

HRGB has the honour to present the next Symposium in the P & J Live Centre in Aberdeen. Make a note in your diaries to attend from the 4th-8th August 2026. It is a wonderful facility and guarantees all attendees will have a sensational time along with many visitors from other international societies. Don't miss this opportunity to share this occasion with hundreds of other ringers. We will not get another chance to hold such an event in the UK for many years. Aberdeen is a short, inexpensive flight from many regional airports.

I am delighted to confirm the appointment of Deborah Lowther, who will be taking over editorship of Reverberations and Rob Willis becomes the society's Data Controller. Please support Deborah and Rob in these roles.

We appear to have halted the decline in our membership numbers. There is still lots of work to be done to continue this trend. Little acorns and all that.....

Our social media profile continues to grow thanks to Malcolm Wilson and his team.

Our society continues to recover after the pandemic and with your help we can raise our profile in the years to come.

Happy ringing.

Keith Rowland

Chair