

**West Midland Region of HRGB**  
**Minutes of Committee meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2024 via Zoom**

Present: Richard Hartnell (Chair & NEC rep), David Hampson (Treasurer & NEC rep), Margaret Moss (secretary), Diane Dolley Janice Sheasby, Jane Smith, Liz Smith.

1. **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Minutes of the meeting held on 06/01/2024 and the extraordinary meeting on 08/02/2024 were approved.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

06/01/2024 meeting

There were no matters arising from these minutes

- *(it should have been noted under Matters Arising that it had been agreed that there was no need in future to produce NEC “Notes” for circulation to committee members since full draft Minutes will be available for distribution shortly after the NEC meeting).*

08/02/2024 extraordinary meeting.

Agenda item 2 The demise of the WM region

- The conversation between the National Chairman and the WM chairman did not happen.

Agenda item 5. AOB

After further consideration and discussion with the chairman David decided to rescind his decision to stand down as NEC rep. and will continue supporting Richard in the role.

4. **OFFICERS' REPORTS**

**Chairman**

The Chairman had little to report other than to say next year will be critical. We need to increase the number of attendees at events and efforts must be made to increase membership numbers. The Diamond Jubilee Rally will be discussed further at the next NEC meeting. The chairman hopes that one of

the other regions will volunteer to assist since the region doesn't have the resources to host such a prestigious event.

### **Secretary**

The secretary reported that she was particularly interested in knowing more about Denise Knight - a new member who lives in Fillongley - (a village close to the secretary's home). She had exchanged emails with her.

A request had been received from Margaret Price, who lives in the Shrewsbury area and is looking for a team to join. The team correspondent for The Broseley Wood Ringers explained that they are a group of friends and their ringing sessions are as much about chatting and drinking tea as they are about handbell ringing and therefore would probably not be suitable for the lady in question. However, she passed on an email address for Shrewsbury Handbells. (see AOB for further details about this team). The team correspondent for Clive Handbell Ringers said her team would be delighted to welcome a new member. The secretary for Shrewsbury Handbells suggested that the lady in question contact them directly

### **Treasurer**

The Treasurer explained that the defection of three teams to the SW region had a significant effect on the region's finances which was reflected in the rebate received from HRGB - resulting in a loss of approximately £117  
A deposit of £500 has been paid to the Worcester Whitehouse Hotel for 2025's BBB event and four deposits have already been received.  
The current bank balance stands at £1812.13

## **5 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 07/03/2024 NEC MEETING**

The 2026 Symposium scheduled to be held at The Sage, Gateshead has now been relocated to the P and J Live events complex at Aberdeen. Due to various circumstances, it could not be confirmed that The Sage would be completed in time.

### **6. BBB Report**

This event proved to be very successful once again with 15 participants. A video of the event was produced by Kate Worthington and circulated to participants. There is still space to accommodate a few more participants. Next year's event will be held from 21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> February at the same venue and will follow the same format. The hotel management has agreed to maintain the cost at the same level as for this year.

## **7. RECRUITMENT AND FUTURE EVENTS**

It was suggested that the region host events that aim at people ringing with smaller ensembles. It was agreed to hold two 12-bell workshops possibly during August, one in the Worcester area and one further north in the region.

Music would be circulated beforehand in number and staff notation. The question of circulating a questionnaire to members was discussed. The secretary agreed to produce a sample for approval by members at the next committee meeting. It was also agreed that invitations to future events be worded in such a way as to include non-members and circulated to all teams in the WM region. A reduction in price for attendance at events would be made to HRGB members. Correspondence is now being circulated to all members as well as the team correspondents as it was reported that some team correspondents were not forwarding information to all team members.

## 8. AOB

- Further information about Shrewsbury Handbells can be found by clicking **[www. Shrewsburyhandbells.net](http://www.Shrewsburyhandbells.net)**
- Denise Knight asked for names of anyone who could undertake the task of replacing the clappers on their set of bells. Funding is available for this work but has to be used before October 2024. Taylors of Loughborough are unable to do the repairs before January 2025. Other than Bells of Whitechapel, no one knew of anyone else.
- Sandra Winter has circulated a copy of HRGB's insurance policy to all regional secretaries on behalf of Anthony Hayes.
- The director of Encanto Bell Choir in Columbia is interested in any English team prepared to do a cultural exchange with his bell choir. This will probably be an item for discussion by the NEC due to the cost involved.

### Date of next meeting:

Saturday 7th September 2024