

## HRGB West Midland region

### Draft Minutes of the AGM held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025 at Lower Broadheath Village Hall

A warm welcome was extended to everyone, particularly to the new members and colleagues present. Non-members were advised they abstain from any discussion and voting rights.

#### 1.Apologies for absence

Stephen & Rowena Shipley, Wendy & Alan Walters, Maddy Mcdonagh, Chris Keefe, Clock Tower HR, Kevin & Ruth Hewison, Denise McCanna, Debbie Morris, Fay Way, Dian Holland, Clive HR, Denise Andrews, Halesowen HR, Steven Holmes, Helen Rickerby, Peter & Helen Dowson, Ursula Howes, St James Harvington HR, Colin Cooksey, Jenny Barraclough.

#### 2.Minutes of previous meeting

Diane Dolley and Richard Hartnell proposed and seconded a motion that the minutes of the AGM held on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 be accepted.

#### 3.Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

#### 4. Officers' reports

##### 4.1 Chairman's report

- Three committee meetings had been held since the last AGM.
- It had been a challenging year due to the drop in membership numbers.
- The Regional rally held in Chaddesley Corbett in October was successful with 30 attendees. Thanks were extended to Diane Dolley and the Chaddesley Clangers for hosting the event.
- The DWMW scheduled for November had to be cancelled due to a lack of interest.
- The regional team entertained Albrighton W.I in July. Feedback from Sue Horsfall, the President, was very positive. This was followed by a request from one of the members for a small group to entertain the Wolverhampton Arts Society in December.
- An additional set of handbells has been bequeathed to the region by Kington H.R. This set, in addition to the region's other assets (the "Sampson" 5-octave set of Bells, two sets of handchimes and mallets) are all available for teams to borrow at any time provided they are returned for use by the Ensemble on the first Sunday of each month. The region's set of Belleplates is also available for use by teams.
- New bell cases have been purchased to replace the extremely heavy "Sampson" Bass bell boxes.

##### 4.2 Secretary's report

- Since our last AGM, we have welcomed 5 new Independent members
- Last year, I went to Fillongley to meet and offer support and assistance to Denise Knight and her fellow ringers who have reunited after the previous team leader retired
- Earlier this year two committee members and I (Wendy Hartwright & Janice Sheasby) went to Willoughby - a village close to Rugby to meet Francine Ash, who has been asked to reunite ringers who have played together in the past. We hope to return later this year

to hold a “taster” session for interested ringers in the hope that a new team can be formed.

- To date, 137 ringers have renewed their membership for this year. Two further ringers have yet to decide.
- Of the 137 members, 15 are Independent members, one of whom is a non-ringer.
- Sadly, Builth Wells Handbell ringers have decided not to renew their membership. However, Linda Lewis, the team’s correspondent, has renewed her membership as an Independent member. Of the 18 registered teams, the majority sadly do not support any organised events for various reasons. Furthermore, two of the teams are registered as youth teams and are no longer active. The Kingtones and Kings Norton H.R. have yet to decide whether they are renewing their membership.
- I would like to express, on behalf of the regional committee our thanks to Knowle H R, Chaddesley Clangers, Knighton H.R. and Wood Green High School H.R. for assisting with requests to ring for various organisations during the pre-Christmas period.

#### **4.3 Treasurer’s report**

##### Income

- Income has decreased in the y/e 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024, notable changes are:-
  - a) Income from Sales Table has dropped by £187.00
  - b) Income from events during the year has decreased by £206.00
  - c) HRGB Membership rebate has dropped by £116.00 due to a lower number of registered members
  - d) Income from raffles/quizzes has dropped by £108.00

##### Expenditure

- Expenditure has remained at a similar level as last year, although there has been an increase of £449.00.

Therefore, the net result is a small deficit of £41.10 against an excess of £806.99 last year.

Looking at the balance sheet, there is an increase in the value of Current Assets of £510.00. The value of Fixed Assets (Bells, Chimes, etc.) has increased by £9000, which is the valuation of the recently acquired Kington Bells bequeathed to the region.

On the reverse of the accounts are the reconciliations of the various sections of the accounts.

One notable item was the decision to discontinue the Sales Table since it was providing only a small income, which did not justify the work involved. The residue of the stock with an estimated value of £141.45 has been “written off” in these accounts.

Should there be any sales from the residual stock, the income will go into the general fund.

There were no questions relating to the accounts.

#### **5. Approval of the accounts and the Independent Examiner’s Report**

It was unanimously agreed that the Accounts be accepted. Mr Stuart Scott the Independent Examiner certified that the accounts had been prepared in accordance with the books, information and explanations given to him. The National Treasurer has approved the accounts

## **6. Election of officers**

6.1 Chair: Richard Hartnell,

proposed by Wendy Hartwright, seconded by David Hampson.

All other officers and committee members had previously agreed to stand for re-election.

6.2 Secretary: Margaret Moss

6.3 Treasurer: David Hampson

6.4 Committee members: Diane Dolley, Wendy Hartwright, Jane Smith, Janice Sheasby Liz Smith,

Richard Hartnell proposed that all the above officers be re-elected *en bloc*. This motion was seconded by David Hampson

6.5 NEC Reps: Richard Hartnell and David Hampson

6.6 Sales Table: See treasurer's report.

6.7 Website Administrator: Jenny Barraclough

## **7. A.O.B.**

- A diary of dates for 2025 -2026 has been produced and is ready for circulation shortly. *These have now been circulated*
- The Chairman highlighted the 2026 Symposium to be held in Aberdeen and HRGB's Diamond Jubilee in 2027 at a venue to be arranged.
- A vote of thanks was extended to the Treasurer and Secretary for their hard work

## **8. Date of next meeting**

Saturday 7th March 2026 with the venue to be arranged.

There being no other business the chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 12.43 pm.

Signed-----

Date-----