

West Midland Region of HRGB
Minutes of Committee meeting held on 6th September 2025 via
Zoom

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

1. **APOLOGIES**

Jane Smith
Liz Smith retrospectively

2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd May 2025 were approved.

MATTERS ARISING

- The request from Ian Locke for a workshop for interested persons in the Cotteridge area is on hold for the time being.
- Sue Horsefall, and the WI members at Albrighton, have decided that they do not wish to continue with the idea of hosting a workshop in the Autumn as originally requested.

4. **OFFICERS' REPORTS**

Chairman

Twenty-five ringers attended the Sandra Winter Skills Day, which went ahead as planned. The two pieces of music practised during the day were Sandra's arrangement of *Twinkle Rocks* and *The Jubilee Celebration Polka* which allowed ringers to practise familiar and some less familiar ringing techniques. Everyone agreed that it had been a most worthwhile and enjoyable day, including the non-member ringers who attended. (*One ringer has joined the WMBE and has registered as an HRGB member.*)

At the end of August, residents in Eastcote care home (near Solihull) were entertained by three ex-members of the Wood Green High School four-in-hand team (Richard, Debbie and Chris)

During June, at very short notice, some ringers had an interesting afternoon at a Girl Guide's meeting in Worcester. The Guides participated and enjoyed their handbell ringing "taster session". The Guiding officers were very interested and keen to pursue this activity.

Treasurer

There has been very little activity since the last meeting.

The Treasurer gave an analysis of the expenses for the Sandra Winter Skills Day, which proved very successful, resulting in a profit of £ 234.07 (including the

£100 donation). The Chairman agreed with the Treasurer's suggestion that since the day made a profit, the anonymous donor be offered a refund. The donor was happy that 50% of the donation remained in the region's funds, resulting in an overall profit of £184.07. The balance in the current account to date stands at £1926.25, which includes one payment for the Regional Rally and four deposits for the 2026 BBB event.

Secretary

- Two regional Newsletters have been circulated to committee members (SE and NW)
- Responses have been received from seven teams and three Independent Members, to the invitation to the Regional Rally.
- Regrettably, due to health problems, Jane Smith is having to stand down as one of the guest conductors at the Regional Rally.
- A request has been received from a lady for ringers to play at her wedding on June 9th 2027, at Dewsall Court Church, Hereford.
- Details of Knighton HR were sent to Morwenna Peppin, who requested details of teams in the Knighton/Leominster area for her daughter.
- Information about the WMBE has been sent to Elise Li, who has immigrated to this country from Hong Kong. She was a music conductor and a member of a Hong Kong team since 2003, before moving to this country.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 28/05/2025 NEC MEETING

Minutes of this meeting had already been circulated to members. All the action points were noted. Members had previously been asked to send their comments regarding the new wording to Rule 39 of the Safeguarding Policy, to Richard to report back to the Safeguarding Committee at their next meeting, during September.

6 FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- October 6th - Regional Rally, One four-in-hand team (Oranges and Lemons) from Knighton, two members from St Bartholomew's team and three Independent members have indicated they will be attending.
- Diane hopes to persuade some members of her team to attend, and likewise Wendy and some of her newly formed U3A team. *(Three more definite responses have been received since, with a possibility of a further half dozen attendees following Sunday's WMBE rehearsal)*
- February 20th - 22nd BBB at Worcester Whitehouse, - at the same cost as last year!
- 7th March - Spring Rally and AGM
- June 6th 2026 - Sandra Winter has agreed and is happy to hold another Skills Day. The format will be the same as this year.

7. **AOB**

- John Nee requires transport to the October and December WMBE rehearsals.
- Jessica Lockyear has decided that her studies this academic year must take priority over WMBE rehearsals. She will be sitting her GCSE examinations next Spring.
- The question of individual teams needing to produce a Safeguarding Policy was raised. It was agreed that it is sufficient as long as someone from each team has responsibility for any issues.

8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Saturday 3rd January 2026

The chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 11.05 am.