

West Midland Region of HRGB
Minutes of Committee meeting held on 2nd May 2026 via Zoom

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

1. **APOLOGIES**

Janice Sheasby

2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd January 2026, which had been circulated earlier, were accepted and approved

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

- The refurbishment of Richard's three-and-a-half octave set of Malmark bells is ongoing and may not be completed for some time.
- Richard confirmed he was happy with the current valuation of the region's assets.

4. **OFFICERS' REPORTS**

Chairman

Nothing to report.

Secretary

- Invitations to, and reminders for members to register for the Sandra Winter Skills day had been circulated, as were details of B & T's rally to be held in July. Regional newsletters received had been forwarded to committee members.
- A lady living in Montgomery is looking for a team to join on the Shropshire/Welsh border. She previously rang with a team in Broseley. Margaret will contact the team correspondent for Clive H R.
- An email received requesting ringers to entertain the attendees of the Memory café, which is opening soon in Kenilworth, has been forwarded to Janice Sheasby. Janice has agreed to liaise with the organiser.
- Keith Hemming, a member of St. James' HR, Harvington, asked that the sad news of the sudden and unexpected death of John Langley, their music director, be circulated.

Treasurer

There had been only a small amount of activity on the account since the last meeting.

- The BBB event in February was successful. An income of £5490 was generated from 16 participants. Expenditure amounted to £5304, hence showing a small profit of £186
- A deposit of £500 has been paid to Worcester Whitehouse Hotel for the same event to take place in February 2027. The hotel has agreed to maintain the same costs as this year.
- To date, only 4 members have paid for the Sandra Winter Skills day
- The current balance at Lloyds Bank is £1459.57

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 21/03/2026 NEC MEETING

Minutes of the NEC meeting held on 21/03/2026 had been circulated, and the contents noted. Dr Katherine Butler's application to the Arts and Humanities Research Council for funding to develop a project on research into handbells as a form of social and recreational music was noted. It was agreed that it is a worthwhile project for promoting HRGB and handbell ringing in the community.

The Diamond Jubilee Event from 9th - 11th April 2027 will take place at the Majestic Hotel in Harrogate and will be for attendance only, with delegates booking their own accommodation. More information will be published in the next issue of Reverberations.

6 FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- SANDRA WINTER SKILLS DAY.

The number of participants registered for the Sandra Winter Skills Day is worryingly low. Richard will flag up the event at Sunday Bells. Jane will email The Priory Ringers, as some of their members may be interested in attending. A decision will have to be made on whether it can be justified to proceed with this event if no more members register.

- REGIONAL RALLY

An email from Wendy Walters with her suggestions for this event had been forwarded to members. To encourage members and non-members to attend, it was proposed and agreed that free transport to Alton would be provided.

Rather than have two consecutive days of ringing, it was agreed that the Sunday bells rehearsal the following day, be moved to Sunday 11th October,

- BRIERLEY HILL SPECIAL SCHOOL

This is a massive commitment and logistically quite complicated to organise. Richard agreed to speak to the principal to discuss the various options and the best approach to this request.

7. CATALOGUE OF ASSETS AND REGISTER OF LOANS

It was agreed that a catalogue containing a detailed analysis of the region's assets needed to be produced, together with a register, logging assets out on loan. The matter of insurance cover on assets whilst out on loan was raised. (*David has emailed members an extract from New Moon, our insurers, confirming that bells on loan are covered.*) Once produced, this would be circulated to all members.

8. **A O B**

The music director of “The Shrewsbury Ringers” is retiring after their concerts in May. The team is searching for someone to take on this role. We have been asked if we know anyone who may be interested.

9. **DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING**

Saturday 5th September

The chair thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 11.10 a.m.