

West Midland Region of HRGB
Minutes of Committee meeting held on 3rd January 202 via Zoom

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

1. **APOLOGIES**

Jane Smith (retrospectively)

2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 2025, circulated earlier, were taken as approved.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting that were not already covered by the agenda

4. **OFFICERS' REPORTS**

Chairman

Richard reported that his four-in-hand group were invited back to Eastcote Care Home to entertain the residents with some Christmas Carols. He hoped that a further visit could be arranged in future with possibly a larger group of ringers.

Secretary

- Since the previous meeting, two regional newsletters had been circulated (NE & NW)
- A request had been received from the joint chair of The Little Ray of Sunshine Dementia café in Kenilworth for ringers to provide entertainment at one of their monthly meetings. This request was forwarded to Janice Sheasby. She and her team (Mayflower) have arranged to ring at their 19th October 2026 meeting.
- The request for ringers to entertain shoppers at the Morrisons store in Bescot during the Christmas period was forwarded to Richard and his four-in-hand group, but due to work commitments and the short notice, this could not be arranged. However, Richard advised that with more advanced notice, this could be arranged for next Christmas.
- Likewise, a request for ringers to ring at a Charity Event on November 23rd in Sandwell was not possible due to insufficient notice.
- Rona Varley-Bird is looking for a local team to join. Margaret agreed to speak to the correspondents of Knowle and Aston Cantilow HR

- Judy King, who lives in Broseley (Shrops.), is contemplating starting her own team and is looking for bells to borrow/hire until she can source some second-hand bells to purchase. Wendy agreed to speak to Ursula Howes to see if she has a set available. Richard has a three-octave set of Malmark bells, currently being refurbished. This set may be available later in the year.

Treasurer

- As at 31/12/2025, the current account showed a balance of £4464.25. The bulk of this sum consists of pre-payments for BBB in February.
- Income from the regional rally totalled £281.00. The cost of music and the hire of the hall totalled £289, which resulted in a small deficit of £8.00
- Year-end accounts have been prepared and are ready for auditing. These will then be forwarded to Anthony Hayes, the national treasurer.
- The Treasure expressed concern at the cost of purchasing music from America.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 05/10/2024 NEC MEETING

Minutes of the NEC meeting held on 11/10/2025 had been circulated earlier, and the contents noted.

6. SPRING RALLY & AGM

Committee Members were asked for their thoughts on the format of the Spring Rally. It was suggested that HRGB music be used rather than music purchased from the States. A discussion followed on ways of attracting more ringers to attend.

7. BBB and FUTURE EVENTS

To date, 14 members (15, including Richard) have registered to attend BBB. It will follow the same format as usual, with one exception. On Friday afternoon, there will be an acclimatisation rehearsal at 4.15 pm.

Richard expressed some reservations about holding a BBB event in 2027, as it might affect attendance at the Diamond Jubilee celebration scheduled for March. The date and venue for the **Sandra Winter Skills Day** are confirmed. It will follow the same format as last year, but it was considered that it might be best to allocate bells this time. A circular for this event will be sent out soon.

The Regional Rally on 3rd October will be held in Alton.

8. DIARY DATES

Dates of all regional events, committee meetings (including NEC meetings), and WMBE meetings up until early March 2027 had been circulated beforehand. These dates will be circulated to all members in early March. The dates of

future events will be sent to Debbie Lowther for inclusion in Reverberations and also to Jenny Barraclough to put on the website.

9. A.O.B

- Diane and Jean Lloyd attended the local primary school and introduced handbells to a small group of children with complex learning difficulties. It proved to be a challenging experience, but with patience and perseverance coupled with support from parents and grandparents, the pupils managed to achieve the basic level required to be presented with the first Crescendo scheme certificate. Wendy and Janice will lend their coloured bells for use by the school. Ruth Hewison has kindly agreed to donate a sum of money (from Border Bells' residual fund) to the school to purchase their own set of coloured bells or possibly bell plates
- With reference to the end-of-year accounts, Richard confirmed the valuation of current assets (bells, chimes and bell plates, etc.) to remain the same.

10. DATES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Saturday 7th March (AGM)

The chair thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 10.50 a.m.