

West Midland Region of HRGB
Draft Minutes of Committee meeting held on 5th September 2026 via
Zoom

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

1. **APOLOGIES**

Janice Sheasby, Jane Smith, Liz Smith (retrospectively)

2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd May 2026 were accepted and approved.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

- Richard's bells are Schulmerich, not Malmark
- Judy King has now managed to hire a set of bells and has now set up her own group of 8 ringers who meet fortnightly in the Shrewsbury Broseley area.
- Judy King's contact details were emailed to the lady from Montgomery (Sarah Yates), who is looking for a team to join.
- There was no further update on the proposed visit to Brierley Hill Special School
- Work on the catalogue of assets and register of loans is in hand
- Emily Li (now living in the region, and who was previously a conductor and team member in Hong Kong from 2003 until she moved to the region) was asked to consider becoming the music director for The Shrewsbury Ringers. Unfortunately, she considered the travelling distance too great.

4. **OFFICERS' REPORTS**

Chairman

Nothing to report beyond what is covered by agenda items.

Secretary

Apart from forwarding the various regional newsletters to committee members and emailing all WM members with details, reminders and a booking form for the regional rally, I dealt with the following requests

- Find ringers to perform at a celebration marking 175 years of worship at Holy Trinity Church, Malvern, on 6th September 2026. This request was sent to Ann Oldfield, the team correspondent for "Severn Belles". The contact details for Tintinabulis and B & T were also sent.

- Find ringers to play carols at Astley Village Hall (Worcs) on Saturday 19th December 2026. The contact details for Areley Kings and Chaddesley Clangers were forwarded.
- A request to find ringers to provide a taster session at a 70th birthday celebration to be held at Brinsop Court Hereford, during the weekend of 7-10th January 2027 was passed on to Jason Walker

I represented the region at the Service of Remembrance for the life of John Langley at Harvington on July 11th. Whilst there, I learnt of the sad news of Keith Hemming's death. A sympathy card, on behalf of the chairman and committee members, was sent to Sheila on her sad loss. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to attend the Service of Remembrance for Keith as I only received notification of the date the day before the service.

The Shrewsbury Ringers have registered with HRGB.

Treasurer

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

- Refunds were made due to the cancellation of the Sandra Winter Skills day.
- £540 HRGB rebate received from HRGB
- Two deposits of £50 have been received for the 2027 BBB event.
- Current balance in the Bank account is £1969.57

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 20/06/2026 NEC MEETING

Arts and Humanities Research Council project

The committee's views regarding the above were not recorded, as unfortunately neither NEC rep was able to attend the meeting. Members unanimously agreed that activities that promote and make handbell ringing more acceptable in the broader community are worthwhile and are to be encouraged.

National Diamond Jubilee Event

It is difficult to express a preference for the colour of the Polo Shirt until we know the colour of the event logo.

Safeguarding

No names sprang to mind of members whose names could be put forward for consideration to serve on the disciplinary sub-committee.

Resignation of Chairman

Members consider Robert Willis to be an excellent choice to succeed Keith as Chairman.

6 REGIONAL RALLY AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

As at 27th August, only 1 team (Kinder) and three individuals (2 of which are conductors) had registered to attend the Rally. However, members have until 15th September to return their booking forms. 7/8 people have expressed an interest in the option of free transport to Alton. Richard has obtained quotes for coach travel with one or possibly two pick-up points from various coach companies. Since only a few people have expressed an interest in this option, Richard agreed to obtain a price for a minibus.

BBB

Invitation to the 2027 BBB will be circulated soon. Richard is optimistic he can offer this event at a slightly reduced rate next year, which may attract more attendees. He will also highlight the non-residential option, as some attendees may prefer this option.

SWSD

The hall has been booked for June 6th, 2027, for this event, but sadly Sandra is not available on this date. Names of possible alternatives to lead this event were suggested, but no decision was made

SPRING RALLY AND AGM

Committee members were asked to give some thought to the format of this event and bring their suggestions to the next committee meeting.

7 A O B

- It was agreed that the Charity Commission's link to the changes in DBS be emailed to all members.
- Committee members could think of no names to put forward for consideration for Honorary Life Membership
- Unfortunately, due to the stock being inaccessible at the time, it had not been possible to give Rowena surplus Silver, Golden and Ruby anniversary badges to take to the symposium to exchange with foreign delegates.

8. DATES OF 2027 COMMITTEE MEETING

Saturday 2nd January, Saturday 6th March (AGM), Saturday 1st May, Saturday 4th September.

The chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 10: 45 a.m