

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 19 November 2023 via ZOOM at 8.00

1. Attendance and Apologies

Present:- Andrew Slade (AS) - Chair, Susan Welch (SW), Neil Donovan (ND), Steve Waterworth (SW), Em Coles (EC), Marion Thomas (MS), John Leech (JL), Jane Lynch(JLy) Barrie Dove (BD), Bill Lennox (BL), Elaine Scott (ES) - Secretary

Apologies:- Elva Ainsworth (EA), Helen Nichols (HN), Ben Johnson (BJ)

2. Open and Welcome

AS opened the meeting promptly at 8 o'clock. He reminded us all that Ed Mallen has stood down as Convenor and Simon Plows has stood down as Secretary. Nominations for the post of Education Officer will be called for and elected by the Association at the AGM, thus giving time and opportunity for more people to consider the post. The new officer will not just chair the committee but will be an active member of the General and Standing Committees of the Association. The post will have responsibilities beyond convening the Education Committee.

Thanks to ES as standing in as secretary, she will continue until the AGM.

AS will write a job/person description for the new post of Education Officer.

ACTION : AS a job/person description ES to put it on website

AS went on to report on a recent ART meeting where Tina Stocklin, CCCBR President, talked about the 2030 initiative. This has 3 pillars, Marketing, Recruiting and Training, and Welcoming Environment. The Ring for the King initiative appeared successful, but marketing needs to be targeted and we need to be prepared for possible new recruits. Recruiting and Training is the job of the committee and the Association and we need to get to grips with it to develop our approach to ringing in Yorkshire.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings and matters arising.

The previous meeting was to discuss the arrangements for the Yorkshire Course. No formal minutes were taken.

Present Ed Mallen (convenor), Jane Lynch, Susan Welch, Elaine Scott, Elva Ainsworth
ES is to ask SP for minutes or notes of the zoom meeting of 17 September.

ACTION : ES talk to SP

4. Review of Yorkshire Course

4.1 Organisation

JLy said there were difficulties with helpers, especially with Friday and Sunday. JLy said she had had to do most of the organisation, helped by EA. The application confused some people, The numbers of students was about right.

JLy said she felt she had to do too much of the admin and would not want to do it again.

AS said that about 3 people were the minimum of help required, and the committee should be able to offer more help.

4.2 Feedback

AS brought out two main comments,

There was some problem with students struggling with the bells, especially with Yorkshire tailends. JL said there were several towers that did not want visiting ringers, thus causing a shortage of towers.

This appeared to be local to the Bingley area.

ES suggested that we invited students to visit unusual towers they might meet on the course. Some students thought there was too much ringing and too little theory, and some too little. ES suggested that we produce a description of what a course consists of so that people know what to expect.

JL suggested informing students what the course will consist of in advance

AS suggested that we need to allow for more basic level course.

ND asked if we could identify which feedback came from which group. EA is the only person who could do this.

A discussion on holding specific courses on specific subjects might be easier to arrange and easier to arrange. ND suggested sending an experienced tutor to a Branch to organise courses and point people to electronic resources.

ND also suggested a course on "How to run a course". ES said that we have a resource of electronic courses that anyone can use.

AS said that Branches are not always the best unit to use for courses.

BD liked the idea of a tutor taking some helpers to run a course.

AS said he would like curriculum for courses to give more structure in including theory.

In general the course was a good thing, with the majority of people involved finding it a rewarding event, justifying Jane's hard work.

Follow up to be considered at a later date.

ACTION : AS/ES to get something on website

5. Purpose of the Education Committee

5.1 The committee is to educate ringers, arrange tutors and helpers to go to places to assist with training and development. To assist all ringers to develop as far as they want to go.

5.2 AS said the committee should continue, with a minimum of one representative per branch, but we need committed people who want to help.

JL suggested that the Education Officer should be able to decide who is to be on the committee and who does what. The right people can be contacted for a project. Anyone who turns up to the meeting can be included.

5.3 AS suggested that people could ask for what they would like to do and help them do it. AS is happy to go round Branches and explain this. Create a structure to get people ringing. This is a years work, to get to everyone involved with ringing.

ACTION : AS to talk to Branches

6. Requests for grants etc. to come to ES who will consult as necessary. Consultation can be by email.

The website needs updating. ES and AS will find out how to change the website. ES to ask EM about this.

7. M2 courses.

There are requests for some M2 courses. To do this we need someone to organise the course, then ask ART for tutors and advertising etc. A minimum of 10 people are needed for each course. M1 Courses were held at Oxenhope, Masham, Bugworth and Sheffield.

SW said she will organise an M2 course.

The onus is on the student to arrange assessor. ART can help find assessors..

ES suggested the YACR does some followup with people who have been on M1. ES/AS to contact people who went on the recent courses to arrange for some future activities. EM has the list of attendees.

ACTION : AS/ES to contact people who went on the M1 Courses. ES to get list from EM

8. Future Events

8.1 Leading up and down/Ringing up and down – there has been some demand in the past for this course. AS will happily tutor such a course. Will advertise on the website with 1 month time limit.

8.2 Bell maintenance . SW said he has several people who want such a course. AS said there is a good online course by ART. This can be followed up by further visits.

8.3 ES suggested a list of people who are available to tutor on various course. ES to start database.

8.4 AS suggested that we have a section of the website to point people in the direction of online course by ART, Whiting Group, CCCBR etc. Telling people that these things exist and encourage people to ask for courses.

8.5 JL and ES will do something about a handbell day.

ACTION : AS to give SW details of online Bell Maintenance Course. ES to start data base of tutors.

ES to advertise Leading up and down in peal, AS to tutor. AS/ES to organise website to point to online resources. JL/ES to organise some handbell get-togethers.

9. Grand Day Out ES said we need at least 18 months to organise an event, not necessarily a GDO. JL said that there is a lot on in 2025.

ART conference in in York, early March

CCCBR meeting in Sheffield, early September

Regular YACR events, so late May, early June might be best

AS suggested a different sort of event as a celebration of the 150. Group to be got together to think of something. BD said the 125 event at Birstall where the YACR was started was very good.

ACTION : AS/ES to consult with members on a celebratory event.

10. AS/ES to consult on what ringers want in the way of education and training

Date and time of next meeting to be arranged.

Meeting closed at 9.30