

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

Annual General Meeting

St Andrew's Bishopthorpe Church Hall

Saturday 10th May 2025

1. **President's welcome**

Meeting started at 1800. Andrew Slade welcomed everyone to the meeting and the start of celebrating the YACR 150th year.

2. **Minutes of previous General Meeting – 1st February 2025 at Todwick Church Hall**

The minutes of the previous meeting at Todwick were circulated in advance and were proposed as a true record by Elaine Scott and seconded by Neil Donovan. All in favour.

3. **Matters arising (not included on the agenda elsewhere).**

None.

4. **In Memoriam - <https://www.yacr.org.uk/inmemoriam.html>**

Rev Simon Bray, St Andrew's Bishopthorpe rector, read out the In Memoriam list of names from the agenda sheet. All standing and minute silence.

- Carolyn M Charlesworth, Silkstone
- Clive S Wood, Ossett
- Paul Harrison, Idle
- Anne Bush, Bishopthorpe
- David Fisher, Harrogate
- Frank Harland, Halifax

5. **Inter Branch Striking Competition Results – Held at Huntington**

The inter branch striking competition judge was Andrew Aspland. Andrew provided feedback to each team. Results:

- 1st: Cleveland & North Yorkshire Branch (5.5 faults)
- 2nd: York Branch (8.5 faults)
- 3rd: Leeds and District Branch (9 faults)
- 4th: Sheffield and District Branch (10 faults)
- 5th: Western Branch (12 faults)
- 6th: Central Branch (24.5 faults)
- 7th: Selby & East Riding (36 faults)

Photo was taken of the winners Cleveland & North Yorkshire branch band with Andrew Aspland presenting the trophy.

6. **Election of Officers**

Andrew Slade discussed each post in turn:

• **General Secretary**

Barrie Dove proposed Simon Plows to return as General Secretary. Second by Robert Appleby. Andrew Slade asked Simon if he accepts the nomination and to speak. Simon accepts. Andrew Slade asked those in attendance for Simon Plows to be General Secretary. All in favour.

• **Ringling Master**

Andrew Slade explained we have two nominations and asked to vote by show of hands or secret ballot. Secret ballot was requested.

Malcolm Turner. Proposed by Neil Donovan. Second by Iain Anderson.

Peter Kirby. Proposed by Peter Sanderson. Second by Christine Potter.

Philip Hoole distributed voting papers and collected completed voting papers.

Emma Coles and Tim Bradley counted the voting papers and handed the results to Andrew Slade. 63 votes. 49 votes for Peter Kirby. 14 votes for Malcolm Turner.

Andrew Slade declared Peter Kirby as Association Ringing Master. All in favour. Andrew thanked Malcolm for his six years as Ringing Master.

- **Composition Secretary**

John Goldthorpe. Proposed by Simon Reading and second by Neil Donovan.
All in favour.

- **Communications Officer**

Andrew Slade explained this role is vacant and it assists the General Secretary. No nominations received and therefore will be covered by the General Secretary.

- **Safeguarding Officer**

Andrew Slade stated this role is vacant and involves coordinating the three diocese within Yorkshire.

- **Report Editor**

Andrea Wain. Proposed by Janine Jones. Second by Barrie Dove.
All in favour.

- **Independent Examiners (two posts)**

Judith McCoy. Proposed by Ian Hudson. Second by Simon Reading.
Iain Anderson. Proposed by Malcolm Turner. Second by John Welch.
All in favour.

- **BRF Secretary**

Peter McCoy. Proposed by Andrew Slade. Second by Robert Cater.
All in favour.

- **BRF Trustees**

Andrew Slade explained the current BRF trustees.

Current trustees (Plus by default BRF Secretary, President, General Secretary and Treasurer):

- Barrie Dove Custodian Trustee
- Peter Kirby Custodian Trustee.
- William Lennox
- Helen Pells
- Simon Burren
- Deborah Thorley
- Simon Reading
- Chris Bennett
- Emma Coles
- Bob Cater

All in favour.

- **Central Council Representative (one replacement)**

Andrew Slade explained the Central Council Representatives are voted at the February 2026 meeting on a three year cycle. In the short term a representative is required to attend the CCCBR September 2025 meeting and asked new General Secretary Simon Plows to take the role and attend the meeting. Simon accepted.

All in favour.

- **Young Ringers Co-Ordinator – New post**

Both Andrew Slade and Jane Lynch provided information about the need for the role. Andrew Slade proposed the new Young Ringers Co-Ordinator officer post to Jane Lynch. Jane accepts.

All in favour.

7. **Confirmation of Life Membership**

Andrew Slade confirmed the following new Life Members that were accepted at the March General Committee Meeting. New Life Members are:

- Anthony Stamp (Guiseley)
- David Slater (Woolley)
- Edith Howley (Woolley)
- John Howley (Woolley)
- Roger Riley (Selby)
- Gerry Bacon (Pickering)
- John Limbach (Aysgarth)
- Heather Limbach (Aysgarth)

8. Presentation of the Annual Accounts 2024 – David Spaul, Treasurer

David Spaul provided a report summary that was accepted at the March General Committee meeting. Explained available in the latest Annual Report and asked if there are any questions. No questions. Andrew Slade proposed the annual accounts are accepted. All in favour.

9. Budget Proposals for 2024 – David Spaul, Treasurer

- **To double the Young Ringers grant to £1000 for 2026 onwards.**
- **To add £500 to the Young Ringers grant for 2025.**

Andrew Slade explained that at the March General Committee Meeting it was agreed to double the grant to the Young Ringers to assist in their operating costs. All in favour.

10. Proposal of Eastern and Selby branches

Andrew Slade explained that there has been recent encouraging discussions on the East Riding and Selby branches with Sam Austin and Simon Plows and these will continue after this AGM. Working towards the branches hosting events and forming a branch committee. Barrie Dove explained the Selby branch members are invited to Leeds branch events.

11. Proposed rule change to Life Membership.

- **Proposal to change to 40 years continuous resident membership and aged 70 or more.**

Andrew Slade explained that this proposal is from the March General Committee Meeting as life membership is increasing and paying members is reducing. Rule change to apply to new applications only. Rule change proposed by Simon Reading and second by Marion Thomas. To vote at the September meeting.

12. Proposed rule change new officer posts:

- **Young Ringers Co-ordinator officer.**
- **Education Co-ordinator officer.**

Andrew Slade explained these rules changes are required for the two recent new officer posts. To vote at the September meeting.

13. Proposal to elect Jane Lynch as Vice President of YACR

Andrew Slade explained the Vice President proposal for Jane Lynch by the Yorkshire Tykes for her Yorkshire Tykes leadership role that was proposed and accepted at the March General Committee Meeting. All in favour.

14. YACR Membership System - Membermojo

Janine Jones provided an update on the new membership system Membermojo. Around 1000 registered so far. Encouraged existing members to register. The Membermojo system makes it much easier for the volunteer officer posts.

15. Future Dates

- **YACR Education events**

Susan Welch stated the future events provided by the Education committee:

- Mastering Tower Leadership workshop in York on Saturday 24th May.
- Handbell Day at Market Weighton on Saturday 31st May.
- Bell Maintenance course on Saturday 14th June that is now full.
- ART Training Course on teaching bell handling at Chapel Allerton on Saturday 21st June.

- **CCCBR AGM weekend Sheffield Fri 5th to Sun 7th September 2025**

Elaine Scott and Andrew Slade provided details about the event and the Sunday Road Show event that is open to all. Volunteers are required for the weekend event. Full details to be available soon.

- **Andrew Slade listed the next YACR meeting event schedule:**

- Saturday 20th September 2025. General Meeting and final of the Sunday Service Band striking competition. Central Branch.
- Saturday 7th February 2026. General Meeting. Western Branch.
- Saturday 9th May 2026. Annual General Meeting and Inter-branch striking competition. Cleveland & North Yorkshire Branch.
- Saturday 19th September 2026. General Meeting and final of the Sunday Service Band striking competition. Leeds Branch.

16. Bell Repair Fund collection

The Bell Repair Fund collection total was £101.47.

17. Vote of thanks

The vote of thanks was given by Andrew Slade. Applause from all.

18. Any other business – If agreed with the President before the Meeting

- **Yorkshire Association 150th Anniversary Year Challenge**

Susan Welch explained the Yorkshire Association 150th Anniversary and the “150th Anniversary Year Challenge” that the Education committee have arranged. Information sheet provided and available from the YACR website. Further details to be published.

- **Sharow Bells Restoration**

Bridget Taylor-Connor provided an update on the Sharow bells restoration that involves recasting and rehangng the bells lower in the tower and moving and improving the ringing chamber. To help raise funds Bridget is Wild Swimming every month of the year and welcome to invite her to your favourite Wild Swimming spot.

19. Date of next meeting – Saturday 20th September 2025. General Meeting hosted by Central branch.

Andrew Slade formally closed the meeting at 1915.