

YACR
Leeds and District Branch
Annual General Meeting, by Zoom, 13th February 2021

The meeting opened at 16:15, with twenty-one people initially present; two further people joining later.

1. ■■■ welcomed everyone to the meeting, mentioning in particular ■■■, the Association Secretary, and ■■■, who was joining us from the south of France.
2. ■■■ went through the meeting protocols.
3. Approval of minutes of 2020 AGM
The minutes were proposed by ■■■ and seconded by ■■■.
4. Matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda
The only matter arising was about the safeguarding meeting that had been arranged for 31st October last year. This was on hold at the moment - although it could have gone ahead as an online meeting with a smaller number of people, ■■■ (Association Safeguarding Officer) had recommended that we wait until we could meet in person as he thought face-to-face meetings worked better.
5. Reports for the last year
 - a. Accounts (2020)
■■■ said that he is using a new accounting application – “Adminsoft”. He went through the accounts for 2020 – there were very few transactions. The audit hasn’t been completed yet as he has mislaid a bank statement and is waiting for a duplicate to be provided by the bank. ■■■ reported that he would also like to open a savings account so we could earn some interest, although because of the low interest rates there isn’t any rush to do that at the moment, and also that he would like to open an online account so that he can make online payments. It was noted that we need to sort out a new person to be a second signatory as ■■■ was leaving the committee.
The accounts were proposed by ■■■ and seconded by ■■■.
 - b. Secretary
■■■ read her report which was a record of the branch meetings in the first three months of the year followed by an account of the ringing that had taken place in towers for the remainder of the year.
Looking forward, grants are still available from the branch towards the costs of maintenance, and if any towers would like a maintenance inspection before/when they start ringing again then that can also be arranged through the branch.
The branch has two DVD’s available to borrow:- “Come on. Listen to it” and “From Rounds to Ropesight”, both from the Whiting Society. If you would like to borrow one while we are in lockdown it can be posted out.
 - c. Ringing Master
■■■ reported that we had only had one meeting since he was elected and before Covid ‘hit’, and that he was looking forward to when we are able to ring again.
6. Election of new members
There were no new members today, but ■■■, who was present at today’s meeting had been elected as an Associate member at the Association meeting the previous Saturday, and she was welcomed to her first Yorkshire Association meeting.

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7. Election of officers

- a. Chairman - [REDACTED] was proposed by [REDACTED] and seconded by [REDACTED].
- b. Assistant Ringing Master - [REDACTED] was proposed by [REDACTED] and seconded by [REDACTED].
- c. Membership Secretary - There were no nominations for Membership Secretary.

There being no further nominations, the chairman said that the above two were appointed. He also thanked [REDACTED] who had been on the committee for many years and said he was very grateful for all the hard work that he had put in and he hoped that we would continue to see him at meetings.

8. Recovery

a. Lapsed ringers

When we return to ringing there may be some ringers who don't come back. One thing we can do is to encourage people who have lapsed to return to ringing – they take less teaching, and the reason that they stopped ringing may not apply anymore.

b. Recovery Champions

[REDACTED] talked about 'Champions'. This is an initiative from the Central Council and ART aimed at getting individual people in local areas to do things. It will be a mechanism to share, receive and distribute information promptly so that different areas can share their successes and failures. He described what they had been doing in the Beverley and District area. [REDACTED] said that we want some Recovery Champions in Yorkshire, and to get in touch with [REDACTED] if you are interested.

[REDACTED] asked whether they will be working with branches or separately. [REDACTED] said that it all depends on who volunteers and how it develops.

[REDACTED] said that we can't afford to wait for champions to appear, we have to do things now.

c. Yorkshire Day

[REDACTED] went through the "Yorkshire Day" proposal on screen. This document will be sent out to everyone in the branch.

Comments were:-

- that it was an excellent way to encourage recruitment. It would be a good idea to get schools and scouts interested. Said that we need to make sure that we have enough people on the day to make it work.
- concern that social distancing might not allow us to have open days as soon as August 1st. For example, giving people a try on the day wouldn't be possible with 1m+ distancing.
- looking after ourselves was more important and we mustn't be disappointed if we couldn't do it this year as we could always do it next year instead.

[REDACTED] said that we need to get the idea in people's minds, if we couldn't do it on Yorkshire Day then we could do it later.

d. Maintenance

We don't want problems with bells stopping us ringing when everything else is in place to let us ring. Tower maintenance inspections and grants from the branch for maintenance are available.

e. Other

There were towers and ringers in the branch who didn't ring last year because of a lack of experience – some people couldn't ring up and down, and others weren't confident enough to ring without someone stood nearby 'just in case', so they were excluded from ringing by the Covid guidelines. This is an easy fix to get more people ringing through any future restrictions.

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9. Ebells

Electronic handbells have been developed that can be plugged into a computer enabling a person to ring with Abel, Ringing Room and Handbell Stadium more easily than pressing a button on a keyboard. These cost £100/pair but the Whiting Society has subsidised these to make them available for £25 for youngsters. The original money available for subsidies has run out, and the meeting was asked if they would like us to use branch funds to do this for youngsters in the branch. The overwhelming feeling was that this was a good idea.

■■■■ suggested that we subsidised them for youngsters and also bought a pair for the branch that could be loaned out.

■■■■ (who was involved in the development of the ebells) showed us an electronic handbell. ■■■■ said that the bells can be bought through ebells.co.uk and there was 2-3 weeks waiting time.

10. Vote of thanks - ■■■■ thanked ■■■■, and all who contributed to the meeting.

11. AOB

■■■■ read out the proposal for subscriptions for 2021/2022 and said that it will be voted on at the May Association meeting.

■■■■ added that there was a new page on the ART website – the “Survival & Recovery Toolbox”, with 100’s of suggestions. He would send it out to everyone.

The committee was thanked for producing the newsletter.

Yorkshire Day would be a good opportunity to have some recruitment for Whitkirk.

The meeting finished at 17:16.