

Present: Keith Rowland (Chair), Anthony Hayes (Treasurer), Diane Holt (Membership Secretary), Martin Winter (SER), Alan Hartley (WHMF) John Atkinson and Christine Lazenby (NER), John and Jane Willis (SWR), Laura Buist and Lynda Barclay (SR), Nicola Wright and Judy Gees (EMR) Beth McCord and Kate Worthington (NWR), Linda McCord and John Thompson (EAR), David Hampson (WMR) Roger Lazenby (NER), Malcolm Wilson (SR), Jacky Cooper, ILO

1.Chairman's welcome

Keith welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

John Elcock, Gay and Alan Cooper, Lysbeth Wilson.

3. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Linda McCord thanked John Willis for some technical help relating to labels.

The minutes were accepted. Proposed : Nicola Wright Seconded: Laura Buist

4. Regional Matters

North East

John A reported that the rally that was due to be held on 7 October has had to be cancelled, as was the Summer Ring, which was disappointing. There were insufficient ringers registered for both events. The cost of travel and the age of ringers together with the geography of the region is a problem. JA commented that in the region's birthday year, the region had a series of mini rallies in various zones and that this worked very well. More creativity is needed in order to attract the smaller teams.

South West

The SW does have successful smaller rallies which work very well. The recent rally to celebrate the life of Ryan Price was well subscribed and was a great success with one hundred and twenty people in attendance.

Keith R thanked the region for a well organised and successful rally which was quite emotional at times.

North West

Beth M stated that her region is geographically large and has the same problems as the NE region.

The recent workshops organised by the region were appreciated by ringers who did not have to prepare music, bring bells or other kit. The format worked very well.

KR commented that perhaps the formula of having workshops rather than massed ringing and ringing around the room is the way forward.

Scotland

The region is looking forward to the rally in Dunblane on 7 October to celebrate the achievements of Lysbeth Wilson who was awarded a BEM in the New Years Honours list. Lysbeth's music will be played at the rally. It was noted that in the Scottish region, there is a loyal following of ringers who are prepared to travel sometimes six hours to get to rallies.

Regional Matters, continued.

West Midlands

David H commented that the region has the same demographic problems as some of the other regions. The regional newsletter was published recently and was well received. Events are due to take place as calendared, including a workshop on 18 November in Worcestershire and a residential weekend of ringing on 23-25 February 2024.

Alan Hartley requested a copy of the newsletter for the archives.

Action: David H to send newsletter to Alan H.

East Midlands

It has been a quiet summer in the region with a rally planned for 14 October in Seagrave, Leicestershire. The regional team has had to cancel the Christmas Carousel and two requests for teams to ring at events could not be met, sadly.

A new team based in Edwinstowe in Nottinghamshire has been registered.

The region has received a bequest of handbells and chimes from the estate of the late Tegwen Manton. Alan H has offered to help Nicola W with the ownership documentation relating to this.

Nicola W has started a new team in Stanton By Bridge and Judy G's two school teams continue to thrive and gave a concert to the parents at the end of term concert.

Action: Nicola W to contact Alan H about the documentation for the transfer of ownership of the newly aquired bells and chimes.

East Anglia

The region is reeling following the sudden death of Pauline Franks, who was in the process of organising a rally. The organisation of the rally has been taken over by Franks family members.

A request was made by the region for previews of music to be made available on the website.

The U3A was discussed and it was suggested that U3A members were not willing to pay a subscription to HRGB as they pay a subscription to the U3A.

Linda M mentioned links with York University and an event to be held in the summer of 2024 with the U3A and said it would be good to have an HRGB presence.

Action : John Atkinson, Roger and Christine Lazenby to explore this.

South East

Martin W kindly agreed to update the NEC following the absence of Gay and Alan Cooper.

There have been some successful events in the region including a soiree with prosecco and an afternoon tea event.

Martin, Sandra and Helen are running a workshop today with some beginners, a workshop organised by tower ringers. New handbell ringers may result from this, it is hoped.

5. Future Events

(i) National Events

1. National Rally, 5 -7 April 2024 (NW Region)

This will be held in Swanwick, Derbyshire. Booking forms are being sent out today, 30th September 2023. The region is going back to an e mail booking system using a spreadsheet. There will not be any single supplements or room supplements. People will be asked for details of their ringing experience and will be slotted into appropriate workshops.

Teams will be given the opportunity to perform on the Friday evening and the AGM will be on the Saturday. John Willis and Anthony Hayes were thanked for their assistance with the financial aspects. Places will be limited to 200 people.

Action: Malcolm Wilson has offered to send out a message via facebook publicising the 2024 National Rally and reminding people to look in their spam folders in case the booking e mail is in there.

2. National Rally 11 –13 April 2025 (EA region)

This will be held at the Kents Hill Park Training and Conference Centre. Contracts are being circulated and sent to Roger L for consideration, The deposit has been invoiced and will be paid by Anthony H shortly. Once contracts have been signed, publicity for the event will go ahead in Reverberations and social media.

3. National Skills Day 2026

This will be held in Swindon, to be hosted by the South West region. A small working party has been set up to look into the logistics of the event but it is early days yet.

4. National Diamond Jubilee event 2027

David H from the West Midlands region has said that the region does not have sufficient members to organise an event like this. Additional support was requested. Nicola W, Chair of the East Midlands region, offered support.

(ii) Virtual events

John W reported that fifteen signed up for the webinar on 19 September relating to publishing and copyright,

There are two more webinars planned:

18 October, a webinar on building bigger brains by bell ringing, to be hosted by Katrina Gordon. The webinar on 16 November is to be hosted by Malcolm W and Aidan F and will be about concert performance programming, repertoire and how to sell a concert.

(iii) International events

1. 21st international Symposium, Japan. See paper submitted by International liaison Officer, Jacky Cooper.

There was a discussion about the pros and cons of registering en bloc by HRGB or for ringers to register individually. It was decided that ringers should register individually.

There are twenty nine ringers registered to go to Japan at present.

(ii) international Events, continued.

21st International Symposium, Japan, 2024, continued.

The issue of GDPR was discussed and the possibility of there being a tick box giving permission to disclose personal details.

Action: Jacky C to reply to Japan that the intention of UK delegates will be to register individually.

Action: The question of GDPR to be considered by Keith R, Malcolm W and Martin W.

2. 22nd international Symposium, UK 2026.

The logo competition has had two entries so far. Not much can be done yet as the venue has not been built, making it difficult to plan fully. The conference centre will be built first, followed by the arena, which means that there could be some disturbance during the symposium due to construction work. There is a need to contact the tourist board regarding the preparation of publicity material which can be taken to Japan.

6. Past events

1. National Residential Ringing Week, August 2023. See written report from A Fozard.

This was a popular, well attended event organised by Aidan Fozard. Keith R thanked Aidan F for his hard work organising such a successful week.

There was an accident and a C2 bell was damaged. Delegates are to be reminded to take care when malleting bells belonging to other people. The insurers have paid out for the repair of the casting of the bell, amounting to £7500,

Insurance of handbells was discussed, Balens have withdrawn from insuring handbells.

Anthony H recommended Allianz for a good deal, details of which are as follows:

Allianz Musical Insurance. Great West House (GW2), Great West Road, Brentford, Middlesex, TW8 9DX. Phone: 0330 100 9903 Email: musicalinsurance@allianz.co.uk
website: [www, allianzmusical insurance.co.uk](http://www.allianzmusicalinsurance.co.uk)

Aidan sought agreement from the NEC not to pass back the surplus to ringers. The NEC agreed to this course of action.

2, The thank you note from Kiko Lee for the VE Bursary was noted.

3. Report on the heritage Quay event on 8th July 2023, see note from Alan Hartley.

During the last week of the exhibition, the BBC show Celebrity Road Trip, came and filmed. Peter Fawcett was interviewed.

Thanks were given to Alan for an excellent exhibition and also to John Atkinson and the Beverley Town Handbell Team for ringing at the Open Day.

The display boards are back with Alan H and are available for loan to regions, if required.

7. Money Matters

Anthony H has completed a paper based return, a ten year exercise, to HMRC.

The present examiners of the HRGB accounts, Robert Whowell and Partners, are realigning their services and another examiner of accounts will need to be found. It is estimated that there will be a significant increase in cost.

Money matters, continued.

Public liability insurance is another area that will need to be looked at. The rebate to regions will be paid by mid October 2023.

8. Donation of £2000 from the estate of Nick Ottmann. See written report from T Willetts and A Hayes.

The tendency is to leave bells to HRGB and not money. It was suggested that as the donor was from the SE region, the South East should decide how to use the funds and they will discuss this at the next regional committee meeting.

Action: Martin W to raise the matter of the bequest with the SE Regional committee and report back to the NEC in due course on what has been decided.

Action: Judy G to write to the Ottmann family thanking them for their bequest and stating that once she knows how the funds will be used, she will write to the family again.

8. Report from the Education group, see written report from Linda McCord.

Discussions about funding for youngsters will be deferred until January 2024, at the request of the Education group.

Linda has e mailed all regional secretaries asking what funding is in place for minors within their regions. So far, two regions have replied.

The Vaughan Evans fund is available but is not very well known about. Perhaps the remit of the VE fund and how funds are used needs to be discussed regionally and nationally in order to raise the profile of the fund, which has a balance of £9k at present.

The SW and EA regions have schemes that fund young ringers and perhaps they can share their expertise with other regions?

Action: Regions to report back to Linda M with details of their schemes, if they have not done so already.

9. Proposal from Tim Willetts regarding the Musical Directors' seminar. See written report.

This has been deferred until January 2024.

Action: Judy G to write to Tim W inviting him to attend the meeting in January 2024 in order to present his paper.

10. Charity Commission update

Roger L advised the NEC of a recent update from the charity commission which would like to encourage trustees to watch several five minute videos on the following topics: delivering purpose, managing conflicts of interest, reporting information, safeguarding, making decisions and managing finances. There is then a short quiz to test knowledge and comprehension.

There is also an update on social media policy. There are templates available to organisations in order to help them to draw up a social media policy. Malcolm W has looked at the templates and is in the process of drawing up a social media policy for HRGB. Recommended topics to include are use of images, GDPR, copyright, defamation law, equality and human rights.

Here is the link to the videos:

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/charity-commission-launches-new-quiz-for-trustees-to-test-their-knowledge?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=f1ac4ce0-2719-430c-b9bd-a98c2643fac6&utm_content=daily

Action: Trustees to watch the videos and take the quiz, should they wish.

Action: Malcolm W to continue to draw up a social media policy for HRGB.

Officers' reports for this meeting

11. Membership update

There have been twenty three new members joining and paying the new fee of £18 as agreed by the NEC at the last meeting.

Current membership stands at 1,840 not including Founder Members and Honorary Life Members.

12. Sales Update

Sales are ticking over nicely but it was noted that the recent increase in Royal Mail charges will affect orders.

13. Website update

Development of the next version of the software is ongoing.

14. Reverberations

At a previous NEC meeting, it was agreed that Young Vibrations was to be discontinued. The magazine is to be reinstated as we have had an offer from Rona Gager to be the new Young Vibrations Editor.

Proposed: John Atkinson. Seconded : Malcolm Wilson

15. Social media update

Grateful to Jason Walker and Kris Perruzza of Tintinnabulus and Burghill and Tillington Handbell Ringers who are now helping with the HRGB national YouTube channel, and Kirsty Richardson from Jordanhill Handbell Ringers who is helping with Instagram

Statistics for HRGB national social media accounts (as at 30 September 2023):

- Facebook followers 932 (up 51 since June 2023)
- X Platform (formerly known as Twitter) followers 265 (up 8 since June 2023)
- YouTube subscribers 49 (up 1 since June 2023)
- Instagram followers 271 (up 31 since June 2023)

Work on creating a social media policy is underway - thanks to Roger Lazenby for sharing the Charity Commission guidance.

Thanks to all those from the regions who share to the national Facebook page - it helps amplify what's happening around the country with members nationally.

16. Archives

Nothing to add to the Heritage Quay report considered under item 6.

17. WHMF

There are two octaves of Malmark handbells and three octaves of chimes available to lease.

Final items

Matters arising from last meeting.

None.

19. Correspondence Report by Sandra Winter.

I can report that there have been 54 contact messages since the July NEC meeting, ranging from how to clean and adjust handbells, insurance, valuing and selling handbells, finding a team to join, membership issues and now, of course, booking teams for Christmas.

As ever I'm very grateful to all those people who have helped answer all the queries! And as ever, it's a shame that we don't always have member teams in the areas where people are keen to join a group. We have lost touch with some groups who I know are still ringing, but are not members anymore, so if anyone has any ideas about how to 'solve' this – if it's possible – it would be good to know.

20 HRGB diary dates

New diary dates to be sent to John Willis.

21 AOB

1.Meeting dates for March or April 2024. The NEC meeting on 13 April needs to be changed.

Action: Judy G to send out a poll with possible alternative dates.

2. AGM 2024. To be on the Saturday of the National Rally. Nomination papers will be available in the Spring copy of Reverberations. All officers are willing to stand for another year. Judy G is willing to stand as Secretary.

3. Workshop request sent to North West Region for an event 30 March to 6 April 2024.
See written request.

Martin Winter will ask the Scottish region whether they are willing to help with a workshop and will report back to Beth McCord in due course. The timing is rather difficult due to the National Rally a few days later.

Action: Beth McCord to e mail back with what can be offered, if anything.

22. Date of next meeting: 27th January 2024 via zoom.

The meeting closed at 12.40.

Judy Gees

NEC Secretary