

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
EAST GRINSTEAD & DISTRICT GUILD
ON SATURDAY, 12 MARCH 2022
HELD VIA ZOOM**

The virtual meeting commenced at 7.30pm and was recorded to assist in the preparation of the Minutes.

The Chair (and Rope Fund Trustee) Kate Wills welcomed: Alison Everest, Andrew Brock, Anthony Leeves, Elaine Farrow, Gail Terry, Gavin Bennett, Iain Davey, John Verity, Margaret Funnell, Patrick Wills, Ray Large (President), Robin Grant (Vice President), Robert Everest, Roger Cowsill, Ros Cowsill, and Sheila Marsh (17 attendees).

One minute's silence was held in remembrance of Alan Baldock, and Alan Long (a member in the 1960's), who had died during the previous 12 months.

1. Apologies for Absence

Barbara Taylor
Betty Green
David Finch (Committee member)
Milica Reardon
Jonathan Large
Ray Large (President)
Richard Dyson
Roger Grieve
Steve Newlands
(9)

2. Minutes of the AGM on 9 October 2021

Kate Wills proposed an amendment to the heading of the Minutes so that they read: "Minutes of the Annual General Meeting". There were no other amendments suggested. Adoption of the amended Minutes was approved by those attending, and signed by Kate Wills as an accurate record.

3. Matters Arising from the 2021 AGM Minutes

Item 10.3 – Robert Everest had attempted to book the Chequers Mead Arts Centre for the guild's 95th anniversary celebration on 11 June. However, this venue is not available. Very sensibly, Robert Everest had provisionally booked the Church Hall at East Grinstead on that day instead, but one of the Guild Officers needed to make a formal booking. Robert said he thought there would be an hourly cost associated with this booking. After brief discussion it was agreed there should be a celebration dinner on 11 June at The Star at Felbridge (Ros Cowsill's 65th birthday). Andrew Brock agreed to book The Star.

4. Chairman's Report for 2021

Kate Wills had circulated her typed draft Chairman's Report for 2021 to the members prior to the meeting commencing. There were three amendments proposed by David Finch, as follows: -

Para 2 final sentence should read: "several courses of Cambridge Surprise Minor were rung..."

Paragraph 5, final line, should read: "... Cambridge Surprise Minor...."

Paragraph 6 should also read "Cambridge Surprise Minor..."

These amendments are required to differentiate between Cambridge Surprise and Cambridge Delight.

The Report as amended was accepted by the meeting.

5. Statement of Accounts for 2021

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2021 had been sent to the members prior to the meeting commencing. Mike Bullett was not present to answer any questions, but none were raised. The Financial Statements were proposed by Elaine Farrow, seconded by Patrick Wills, and adopted by the meeting.

Kate Wills then dealt with to the E J Oliver Rope Fund accounts, to explain that these had been approved by the Fund Trustees already. There were no questions raised.

6. Election of New Members

There were no new members proposed.

7. Election of Officers for 2022-2023

The following members had agreed to stand as Officers: -

President – Ray Large

Vice Presidents – Andrew Brock, Robin Grant, Roger Cowsill, Rosalind Cowsill

Chair – Kate Wills

Ringling Master – Kate Wills

Treasurer – Mike Bullett

Secretary - vacant

Assistant Secretary – vacant

Central Council Representative - vacant

Committee members – David Finch, Iain Davey, Sheila Marsh

E J Oliver Memorial Fund Trustees – Andrew Brock, Emma Tamkin

No nominations had been received for the posts of Secretary, Assistant Secretary or Central Council Representative.

Kate Wills remains on the Central Council email list and so will continue to receive all the communications despatched by the Council to affiliated societies. However, she has not forwarded such communications to members on the basis they will receive these via the Surrey, Sussex and Kent Associations.

David Finch has indicated he will not be standing again in 2023, so the Guild will need another general committee member for the next AGM.

Kate Wills proposed that those Officers willing to stand for 2021-2022 should be elected en bloc. This was seconded by Margaret Funnell, and the meeting voted to elect those Officers. Ray Large then indicated that as a matter of protocol he should have proposed Kate Wills as Chair and Ringing Master but he, and those attending, were happy with the situation.

8. Programme of Meetings for 2022-2023

8.1 Kate Wills said that it was difficult to plan ahead in the light of Covid, so the Committee have agreed to propose fixtures for 6 months, with towers being booked from month to month.

8.2 The Committee had approved the following towers (all ground floor rings with good ventilation) for afternoon meetings: -

April – Cowfold (6)

May – no meeting as both the Surrey Association and the Sussex Association hold their AGMs on the second Saturday. The Sussex Association are holding their AGM at East Grinstead so members could attend that meeting if they wish to ring that day.

June – Balcombe (8), followed by the 95th dinner celebration in the evening.

July – there was discussion as to whether there should be an outing this year. There was general discussion as to how far, and where, members wanted to travel. Patrick Wills volunteered to arrange this in the Guildford area, which was agreed. It was agreed we should visit two towers in the morning, have lunch in a pub, followed by two further towers in the afternoon, with coffee at a pub before the first ring.

August – Newdigate (6)

Turners Hill (8) was raised as a suitable ground floor ring for summertime. It was then proposed as the September venue, with members having lunch at a local pub beforehand (The Crown Inn was mentioned).

9. Any other Business

9.1 Ray Large proposed a vote of thanks to: Kate Wills for keeping the Guild together this year; Mike Bullett as Treasurer; and to Ros and Roger Cowsill for providing refreshments.

9.2 Kate Wills expressed her appreciation for the support she receives from the Committee and thanked the committee members.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.