



# HANDBELL RINGERS OF GREAT BRITAIN

Registered Charity No 298945 England - SC038918 Scotland

## NORTH EAST REGION

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**Minutes of the 47th Annual General Meeting  
held on Zoom  
on Sunday 6th April 2025 at 2.00 pm**

**Present:**

John Atkinson (Chair)	Claire Ford (NE Committee)
Molly Barker (Ecclesfield)	Rona Gager (NE Committee)
Kerry Bayliss (Heddon Handbell Ringers)	Irene Greenwood (Otley Bell Orchestra)
Sheena Bayliss (Heddon Handbell Ringers)	Toos Koster (Beverley)
Roanna Benfield (Beverley)	Jane Lynch (NE Committee)
Claire Bonner (Bingley Handbell Ringers)	Rosalind Rogerson (Broomhill Bells)
Helen Foley (NE Committee)	Steven Southcoat (Nafferton Ringers)
Andrew Ford (NE Committee)	Diane Wilkinson (Ryburn Ringers)

**1. Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman, John Atkinson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies received from:

The Clifton Handbell Team, Tom Baker, Solna Burnham, Mary Jones, Christine Lazenby, Roger Lazenby, Eleanor Merson, Claire Tucker.

**3. Approval of the Minutes for the 2024 Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting had been previously circulated. It was proposed by Andrew Ford and seconded by Jane Lynch, all were in favour that the minutes be accepted as an accurate record. This was agreed unanimously and a copy of the minutes will be signed by the Chair.

Chairman: Mr John Atkinson, 68 Central Avenue, Beverley, HU17 8LN - Tel: 01482 862551  
Treasurer: Mr Andrew Ford, 17 Highfield Road, Beverley, HU17 9QN - Tel: 01482 867120

#### 4. Matters arising from the previous Annual General Meeting

There were no matters arising.

#### 5. To receive the report of the Regional Treasurer

HRGB NER Account	5415.26
Cash in Hand (Float)	100.00

5515.26

Liversedge Bells	27100.70
Wharfedale Handbells	9180.00
NER Handchimes	900.90

HRGB Sales Stock	539.68
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37721.28

Molly asked how the bells are valued. Andrew responded that it was the figures carried over from the previous year based on replacement value. Jane asked if the team loaning the bells contributed to the insurance, John replied that it is and this is specified in the lease agreement.

John asked that we keep in mind how much is accrued in the accounts as HRGB has charitable status and funds should be used to promote handbell ringing. John asked for any thoughts on how to spend the funds - such as subsidising events. There was some discussion on paying for rally venues or free rallies. Clair Bonner suggested a music library of sets of music that can be loaned out. To avoid problems with copyright each copy would need to be stamped with a red stamp, and rules on how the music should be treated ie, writing on it should be done in pencil. Some reserves of money do need to be kept for refurbishment.

The national rebate from HRGB is currently 25% of every membership, it has been proposed that this is increased to 50% going forward, back dated to January.

## **6. To adopt the Financial Statement for the year 1st January to 31st December 2024**

Diane Wilkinson proposed and Kerry Bayliss seconded the acceptance of the Statement of Affairs, which was carried unanimously.

## **7. To receive the report of the Regional Committee 2024-25**

Over the period from the last AGM there have been three committee meetings and several newsletters. Since the last AGM, regional events were held at Ecclesfield in June (Summer Ring) , our autumn rally in Holmesfield in November 2024 and a joint event with other regions at Alton in March 2025. Our thanks go to the Ecclesfield and Dronfield ringers and members of the North West Region for hosting these events.

At National events, UK Bronze had representation from our region and the region has been represented at National Executive Committee meetings.

The regional team, the Northern Bell Orchestra, has two concerts arranged at Sale in Manchester and Greasbrough in Rotherham and an open rehearsal arranged for 19th July in Ashover. These will be advertised in full in e-News in due course. The team took part in 'Britains Got Talent' which was screened on Saturday 29th March.

Future events include this year's Spring rally at Grassington, the Summer Ring hosted by the committee in Ecclesfield and the Autumn mini-rallies to be held at Ecclesfield, Bingley and Bridlington. Further information will be circulated in due course.

Rona Gager - NE Regional Secretary

John asked for any further events that can be promoted, such as short concerts for the general public after rallies. Others gave further ideas on this, discussing logistics, pressure on ringers, suitability of music and resources.

## **8. Election of Officers**

Officers have indicated their willingness to continue for a further twelve months. In the absence of any other nominations they were duly re-elected.

## **9. Election of Committee Members**

An open invitation was made to all members who may be interested in joining the committee or would like to attend a committee meeting as an observer.

The Chairman thanked the NE committee for the work done over the year. All committee members have indicated that they were willing to be re-elected.

The following were duly elected to the committee:

Chairman                      John Atkinson

Treasurer                     Andrew Ford

Secretary                     Rona Gager

Committee Members: Thomas Baker, Solna Burnham, Helen Foley,  
Christine Lazenby, Jane Lynch

Sales Manager:                Claire Ford

Young People Co-Ordinator/Safeguarding Officer: Jane Lynch

## **10. Election of Representatives to the NEC**

John Atkinson and Christine Lazenby are willing to continue as NEC Representatives. In the absence of any other nominations they were duly elected. Roger Lazenby in his role of Life Membership also represents the region. Any members of the region are invited to attend the meetings as an observer.

## **11. Election of Examiner of Accounts for the financial year 2022-23**

Andrew Ford proposed that David Hepworth should be the Examiner of Accounts for the Region. This was seconded by John Atkinson (Chair) and all were in agreement.

## **12. Any other business**

Kerry asked if anyone in the region would be interested in music/details for partially sighted ringers and offered his support. Kerry was invited to submit an article for nEWs.

Rona mentioned the symposium and wondered whether there might be a way of being able to get together a coach to be able to get there.

Andrew told the meeting there was now a stand-alone card reader available.

Rosalind offered to write an article to show how Broomhall Bells use audience participation.

John thanked all attendees and asked for any further ideas to be forwarded.

Meeting closed at 3.05 pm.

NER AGM - RG - 18/4/25