

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING ON 18TH SEPTEMBER 2024

In attendance : Jennifer Hill, Helen McGregor, Justin Read, Peter Routier and Peter Bevis.

Helen as chair welcomed everyone.

In regards to Peter's proposal to potentially leave the Guild as a Branch and join another one, each member of the committee was asked their opinion on it.

Jennifer : Was pro leaving due to admin levels/requirement on committees from a very small number of people within the Branch who are willing to take on those roles. However can see that would it really change anything? We all still want to meet up and ring with the competitions, if there is no meeting we get more time to ring! If the Guild are amenable to not having all roles required filled and enough people within the Branch are willing to be on a committee should we change anything?

Justin: Generally ambivalent to the dissolving of the Branch, felt if we dissolved CI Branch & joined the East Dorset Branch would that really change anything? We would still need organising meetups and the difficulty of travelling to the mainland would still exist. By going to online Branch meetings hasn't that just solved the issue of missing ringing on a Branch day?

Peter R: View was that the admin required for the Branch by the Guild was perhaps excessive for the number of Towers that we have. If we joined East Dorset we wouldn't be having an online meeting right now! And perhaps a small group sorting out 2 meetups a year for ringing competitions would be easier. Perhaps could call it the Channel Islands Bell Ringing Society, self fabricated within the East Dorset Branch. We wouldn't lose anything by being part of a Mainland Branch and perhaps would benefit from UK people coming to visit us more!

Peter B : Explained he had been excited by the idea to leave but after a very successful day in Jersey was reinvigorated with the idea of the Branch and how fantastic it was to all ring together as 3 islands again. Can see the idea of the benefit of being part of a Mainland Branch but in terms of getting to it would potentially benefit Jersey and Guernsey more due to travel restrictions from Alderney.

Helen: If it ain't broke don't fix it – we just enjoyed a meeting of 10 teams and all 3 islands. If we attended an East Dorset branch meeting there could potentially be so many ringers there then individuals would get less rope time than now.

To which Peter R replied: plainly the current arrangements are broken, and the success of the recent day in Jersey is simply the exception that proves the rule.

After these opinions we discussed the things that might need to occur if we were to dissolve the Branch.

- What happens to the money? Would we keep it for the ringing society? Distribute to churches, all agreed it shouldn't go to the Guild.
- Would we have one ringing master on each island to coordinate with the guild?
- WE would have to meet and ring and compete anyway, why not just do it within the Branch?

We need to ask the membership a plain question before anymore discussions with the Guild are held:

Do they want to keep the status quo or dissolve the CI Branch and join a mainland one?

A monkey survey to be arranged by the committee

The next ringing day is due to be in April 2025 and the schedule would make it St Peters in Guernsey to host (venue tbc once their availability to host is confirmed), the date to be 26th April

The competition piece to be Plain bob Triples – (3H).

Committee action points:

1. check Guernsey will find a judge (Justin to liaise with Gsy please)
2. Monkey survey to ask the Question – Jen to mastermind