Central Council 2019 Meeting – Representatives Report

The meeting took place on Saturday, 7th September and was attended by Stephen Pettman and Chris Birkby (transferred from Southwell and Nottingham). The date of the meeting had shifted from the traditional Spring Bank Holiday weekend to the new pattern of meeting at the beginning of September. For the second year running it was held at a university, Goldsmiths College, taking advantage of the conference organising ability of universities with their lecture rooms, seminar rooms and student accommodation. 10 member societies were not represented and about 25% of those in attendance were not members.

The first 90 minutes were taken up with routine meeting matters such as apologies, minutes, etc before we moved to the Executive and Workgroup reports. The new division of activities into Workgroups ensures that this part of the meeting is more focused and not a seemingly endless parade of small committees seeking approval of their reports. Before taking a break, we debated the Forward Plan for 2020. The intention was to focus on Building and Developing Partnerships, Being Efficient and Effective, Gathering and Analysing Data, Delivering Focused Services.

After a break, the Trustees were elected: Simon Linford, President; Mary Bone, Secretary: David Smith & Alison Everett, Ordinary Trustees. Independent Examiners were elected and Governance was reviewed (2 minutes). The final significant item was the location of future meetings and the following invitations were noted:

2020 - Nottingham (moved to 2021, the 2020 meeting will be virtual)

2022 - An invitation from ourselves was noted

2023 – An invitation from Irish Association withdrawn citing possible Brexit problems. Your delegates suggested filling this with an invitation from ourselves to mark our centenary.

2024 - An invitation from Guild of Devonshire Ringers

The meeting finished after about 3 hours including the break.

In addition to the Meeting and Presidents Reception/Dinner, a number of other activities took place: Ringing at selected London towers, an informal social, a Mini Ringing Roadshow and Talks on a range of topics, mainly from Workgroup Leaders and leading ringers.

Note. Prior to the changes to the organisation of the Central Council in 2018, 2019 would normally be the end of the 3 year cycle of delegates attendance and we would be invited to elect delegates for the next cycle. This is no longer the case and delegates continue until the individual affiliated societies change them.

Chris Birkby

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