

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held at Bexley on Saturday, 11th October 2003

The Chairman, Mr. David Holdridge, welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly the Association's General Secretary, Mrs. Margaret Funnell.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Dominic Meredith from Beckenham, Miss Jenny Gay, Miss Louise Hanscomb and Mrs. Monica Hanscomb from Biggin Hill, Mr. David Kingston from Bromley, Mr. John Barnes and Mrs. Angela Wilkins from Chelsfield, Mr. Mark Jones from Chislehurst, Mr. Alex Britton from Crayford, Mrs. Brenda Barton from Dartford, Mr. Christopher Backhouse, Mr. Mark Backhouse, Mrs. Rachel Backhouse and Mr. Robert Backhouse from Christ Church, Erith, Mrs. Barbara Edwards and Mrs. Margaret Heald from St. John's Erith, Mr. David Hollis from Lewisham, Mr. Richard Bing from Woolwich and the Foots Cray and Sidcup Bands.

Death

Members were very sorry to learn of the death, the previous Monday, of Mr. Peter Dear, and stood in silence in memory of him. He had been a loyal member of the Crayford band for many years.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting, which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed on the proposition of Mr. Jeremy Byers, seconded by Mr. Len Morley.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Shoreham

The Chairman told the meeting that Miss Philippa Rooke had been going to the Shoreham practice on Monday evenings. Miss Rooke said that the band, who started to learn to ring in October, were ringing good Rounds and Call Changes. She will need additional help but preferred to contact individual ringers as required.

Quarter Peal Day at Dover - 16th August

Mr. Jim Hardy apologized that he had not arranged for a band to ring at Dover. He said that he would pass on his apologies to Mr. Peter Dale.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Amendment to Rule 7

The Chairman read a letter from the General Secretary. In it she set out a motion that the second sentence

of the new rule 7 be amended as follows:

After 'Publicity Officer' insert 'one of the Central Council Representatives.

Mrs. Funnell went on to say that the Ashford District, supported by the Canterbury District, had requested an amendment to the new rule 7. The second sentence of the new rule to read:

'The General Committee shall consist of the Chairman, General Secretary, Treasurer, Bell Restoration Officer, Training Officer, Publicity Officer, Central Council Representatives and Representatives from the Districts'.

After some further clarification from Mrs. Funnell and detailed discussion, on the proposition of Mr. Jeremy Byers, seconded by Miss Christine Webb, the District approved the new rule 7. They did not support the Ashford District amendment. The Representatives will take this decision forward to the next General Committee Meeting.

BBC Recordings for 'Bells on Sunday' Programme

The Secretary had received a letter from Mr. John Barnes saying that he had written to the appropriate BBC person offering towers in the District for the 'Bells on Sunday' programme. He knew his letter had reached the right person but regretted that he had still (after 15, possibly 24 months) heard nothing from them.

The late Mr. Walter Dobbie

The Secretary said that, on behalf of the District, she had written to Mrs. Dobbie expressing condolences on Mr. Dobbie's death. He had been a Vice-President of the Association.

5. REPORTS

Ringling Master

The Ringling Master had circulated a copy of his report. In addition, he told the meeting that the District had been successful in ringing a quarter peal at Canterbury Cathedral. The Chairman thanked Mr. James Hardy for all his work during the year.

Secretary

The Secretary's report had been circulated. It was pointed out that the Six-Bell Striking Competition had been won by the Chelsfield, not the Bromley, band. Miss Mary Andrews apologized for this error.

Assistant Secretary

The Assistant Secretary had supplied a written report, which showed that 11 new members had been elected and 24 had not paid their subscriptions. It was pointed out that Biggin Hill had not been included in the list of towers that had paid subscriptions. Mr. Rupert Cheeseman mentioned that the financial report did not show any deductions made directly by the County to cover District expenditure, for example, the cost of providing a copy of the Newsletter to each tower.

The Chairman said that Mr. Mark Jones felt that instead of Assistant Secretary, his job title should be Membership Secretary. This change was proposed by Mr. James Hardy, seconded by Mr. Jeremy Byers and passed nem con.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

All the officers, except the Secretary, were willing to stand again. The following were proposed:

Mrs. Margaret Funnell took the chair for the election of the Chairman:

Mr. David Holdridge Proposed by Mr. Len Morley, seconded by Miss Philippa Rooke

Ringling Master

Mr. James Hardy Proposed by Miss Christine Webb, seconded by Mr. Jeremy Byers

Assistant Ringling Master

Mr. Jeremy Byers Proposed by Mr. Andrew Boyd-Bell, seconded by Mr. James Hardy

District Representatives

Mrs. Sara Hardy and Proposed by Mr. James Hardy, seconded by Mr. James Rooke
Mr. Len Morley

Newsletter Editor and Press Representatives

Mr. Rupert Cheeseman and Proposed by Mr. Jeremy Byers, seconded by Mr. Nick Wilkins
Mrs. Cathy Cheeseman

Sales Representative

Mr. James Rooke Proposed by Mr. Nick Wilkins, seconded by Mrs. Cathy Cheeseman

Secretary

Miss Christine Webb Proposed by Mr. James Hardy, seconded by Miss Phillips Rooke

Membership Secretary

Mr. Mark Jones Proposed by Mr. James Rooke, seconded by Mrs. Cathy Cheeseman

These proposals were put to the meeting en bloc and the officers were elected nem con.

At this point the Chairman thanked the retiring Secretary warmly for her work for the District over the last forty years and presented her with four cards, a bouquet and a gift in appreciation of her service. Miss Mary Andrews was delighted with these gifts and expressed her thanks. The Chairman then read out a

tribute to Miss Andrews which had been written by Mr. Alex Britton, who was unable to attend the meeting as he was singing with the BBC Chorus in a concert at the Barbican.

7. ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS

The following new members were elected:

CHELSEFIELD

Mr. Alistair Musselwhite (jnr.)	Proposed by Mr. Nicholas Wilkins, seconded by Mr. James Rooke
Mr. John Watson	Proposed by Mr. Nicholas Wilkins, seconded by Mr. Jonathan Fry
Mr. Finucane Niall	Proposed by Mr. Nicholas Wilkins, seconded by Mr. James Rooke
Miss Annabelle Sarah Wilkins (jnr.)	Proposed by Mr. Nicholas Wilkins, seconded by Mr. James Rooke

ERITH, ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Mr. Christopher Jonathan Parry Read	Proposed by Mrs. Margaret Heald, seconded by Mrs. Carol Eastaugh
Mr. William Arthur Brookes	Proposed by Mrs. Margaret Heald, seconded by Mrs. Carol Eastaugh

Ratification

Prior to a peal at Biggin Hill:

Mr. Julian Hemper	Proposed by Mr. Nicholas Wilkins, seconded by Mr. Vernon Benning
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These new members were elected nem con.

8. PROGRAMME FOR 2004

Subject to confirmation with the Incumbents concerned, the following venues were agreed for 2004:

10 th January	Quarterly Meeting	Erith, St. John the Baptist
6 th March	Six-bell Striking Competition	Crayford
3 rd April	Quarterly Meeting	Bromley
10 th July	Quarterly Meeting	Shoreham
9 th October	Annual District Meeting	Biggin Hill
20 th November	Call Change Competition	Ringing Masters to arrange a tower
11 th December	Carol Service	Horton Kirby

Looking further ahead, Mr. James Hardy mentioned that in January 2005 the Beckenham tower would be celebrating the 100th anniversary of their hosting their first Quarterly Meeting. Members would hear more

about this in due course.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Recruitment Working Party

Mr. Len Morley said at the last County Committee Meeting each District had been asked to nominate a ringer to form a Working Party to consider the question of recruitment of new members and to make recommendations to the Association. It was agreed that Mr. Len Morley should attend the first meeting and report back.

BRF

Mr. Len Morley pointed out that District had only raised £508 during the year for the BRF. He felt that this was not good enough and drew attention to the quiz night, which had been arranged by the Eltham ringers. Posters had been circulated to all towers and further copies were available. The Chairman asked members to consider ways of fund-raising for the BRF.

Beckenham

Mr. James Hardy mentioned that church centenary events were being held at Beckenham. On 16th November the service at 9.30 would include a celebration of the tower and bells. Visitors would be welcome.

Greenwich/Woolwich

Miss Freda Cannon asked members to phone her and check arrangements before attending ringing practices at Greenwich or Woolwich

Call Change Competition

In order that towers would know to whom Call Change Competition forms should be sent and at the request of Miss Mary Andrews, Miss Christine Webb gave members her address and telephone number:

6 Nursery Close, Swanley. BR8 7HH

Telephone 01322 667705

Christmas on the Home Front

With reference to the item 'Christmas on the Home Front' on page 5 of the Newsletter, Mr. James Rooke drew attention to the fact that Mrs. Angela Wilkins's telephone number should read: 01689 875000.

Carol Service

Mr. James Hardy said that Mr. Mark Jones was hoping to form a District choir for the Carol Service on 13th December at Beckenham. Anyone wishing to take part was asked to contact Mr. Jones.

Newsletter

Mr. Rupert Cheeseman thanked everyone who had contributed to the Newsletter during the year. He went on to remind members of forthcoming District Practices.

Call Change Competition

The Chairman encouraged towers to enter the Call Change Competition, details of which had been circulated at the meeting.

PSP Concert

The Chairman urged members to support the PSP Concert, details of which were given on page 5 of the Newsletter in an article written by Mrs. Jean Pailing.

Vote of Thanks

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Jeremy Byers to the Vicar of St. Mary's, the Rev. Charles Potter, for conducting the service and for the use of the church and the bells, to Mrs. Margaret Barefoot for playing the organ and to the local ringers for preparing and serving tea.