

# **KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS**

## **LEWISHAM DISTRICT**

### **Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held at St John's Eltham on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2004**

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Jon and Judith Fry (Cudham/West Wickham), Dominic Meredith (Beckenham), Margaret Macey (Foots Cray), Louise and Mark Hanscomb (Biggin Hill), Mark Backhouse (Christchurch Erith), Cathy Cheeseman, Andrew Sinclair and Debra Say (Crayford), Nick Wilkins (Chelsfield) and Mary Andrews (Bexley).

#### **2. Minutes of the Quarterly meeting held at St John's Erith on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2004**

Subject to one minor amendment the minutes were approved on the proposal of Jeremy Byers, seconded by Andrew Boyd-Bell.

#### **3. Matters Arising**

The Chairman reported the results of the District six bell striking competition. He presented certificates to the top three teams; Beckenham, which came third, Chelsfield, second, and the winners Eltham who will go on to represent the District in the County six bell striking competition to be held at Penge on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2004.

#### **4. Committee Report**

Len Morley reported that the proposed meeting to discuss the situation regarding Deptford bells had not taken place. The issue that had prompted the proposed meeting, that of a ringer who was not a member of KCACR (and therefore not insured) carrying out work on the bells, appeared to have been resolved, making a meeting at this time unnecessary.

There had been some discussion at County level of a possible subscription increase, partly because of the increase in the cost of insurance. Any decision on separate District training/advertising budgets (see item 5) could also have an impact on subscription levels.

#### **5. Recruitment and Young Ringers Group**

Len Morley reported that one meeting had already taken place with another scheduled for May. He welcomed ideas on what made a successful tower both in the areas of recruitment and training. He also asked for any ideas on how the County publicity boards could be updated.

There was some discussion on whether a District advertising/training budget would be helpful. The view was expressed that it was better to have a budget held at County level to which Districts could submit bids for funding when required. If Districts were allocated a specific budget they might feel obliged to spend it whether or not any specific project was cost effective. Advertising at local level was often most effective in local free papers, who would often carry articles or adverts for no charge.

It was proposed by Jeremy Byers and seconded by Rhiannon Meredith that a separate District training/advertising budget was not necessary. This proposal had the support of the meeting.

## **6. Events**

The KCACR AGM was due to take place at Rochester on Easter Monday. The Chairman reminded the meeting that Mary Andrews, a long serving Lewisham District Secretary, was to be proposed as a Vice President of the Association at this meeting and encouraged as many Lewisham District members to attend as possible.

The Secretary, in reply to a question, said that she was unaware of any major issues to be raised at the AGM, though, as reported at the last Quarterly Meeting, there were some vacancies for County Officers as the current incumbents were standing down.

At District level, Jeremy Byers asked whether anyone could offer their tower for a district practice on 24<sup>th</sup> April. Christchurch Erith was offered subject to confirmation. The meeting was reminded that District events were publicised on the website and on the posters distributed to every tower.

## **7. Bell Restoration Fund**

Philippa Rooke explained that, owing to work commitments among other factors, she had been unable to arrange a District Open Day for the first May Bank Holiday, although the fact that there were already two other Open Days on that day would in any case have been a problem. The suitability of other dates was discussed. There were already a number of nearby open days on August Bank Holiday Monday: the last Saturday of the Autumn half term was a possibility but dark evenings and colder weather were problems. Finally it was left to Philippa to identify a suitable date and make the arrangements, possibly based on a route similar to the one mapped out for the last District Open Day in 1992.

The Secretary briefly outlined what was involved in setting up and running a 120 Club and suggested that, if the meeting agreed to proceed with this idea, it would be best left to a small committee to work out the details. The meeting agreed to proceed with the idea and that Rachel Backhouse and Christine Webb should work together to set this up.

The Quarterly Meeting raffle, first suggested at the last meeting, took place for the first time at this meeting and raised £40.00 for the BRF. It was agreed that, for the time being at least, prizes for the raffle should be donated. Potential donors should contact Jeremy Byers.

The Chairman reported that Andrew Boyd-Bell had organised a Bob Doubles Training Day and the three trainees from Dartford had donated £20.00 to the BRF as a thank you to the tutor and helpers.

## **8. Election of New Members**

The following new members were elected:

UNATTACHED

Lucy Weston

proposed by James Hardy

seconded by Sara Hardy

ELTHAM

Katherine Trill

proposed by Len Morley  
seconded by David Holdridge

#### BIGGIN HILL

Mathew James Allan

proposed by Nancy Gay  
seconded by Jim Rooke

Jessica Savage

proposed by Nancy Gay  
seconded by Jim Rooke

#### DARTFORD

Helen Keogh

proposed by Deryck Jones  
seconded by Esther Correia

### **9. Surplus Funds**

Sara Hardy reported that Beckenham was still holding in their tower funds £69.03, a surplus left over from a Millennium Quiz Night held to raise funds to recruit new ringers for the millennium. This was money that properly belonged to the District but the District had no account of its own. After some discussion it was agreed, on the proposal by Lucy Weston, seconded by Deryck Jones, that the money be used to buy a supply of *One per Learner* books to be given to new recruits in the District.

### **10. Pleas from Biggin Hill**

Nancy Gay appealed for visitors to help out on practice nights as once her daughter married and moved away she would be the only experienced ringer in her tower. She also asked whether anyone would be available for a peal at Biggin Hill on 24<sup>th</sup> April as she was one ringer short.

### **11. District Newsletter**

Rupert Cheeseman thanked all those who had contributed to the latest issue of the District Newsletter.

### **12. Training Day**

Andrew Boyd-Bell announced that he was planning to organise a Grandsire Training Day in the autumn along the lines of the recent Bob Doubles Training Day. This would be open to anyone in the District.

### **13. Vote of thanks**

Nancy Gay proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. John Neal for taking the service; to the Reader Stephanie Warner; to the organist, Paul Burnett and to the Eltham ringers for a delicious tea.