

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held at SS Peter and Paul Shoreham on Saturday 10th July 2004

Nicholas Wilkins spoke in memory of Vernon Benning, whose home tower was Brasted but who lived in the Lewisham District. The meeting stood to observe a minute's silence.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Sara Hardy (Beckenham), Carol Eastaugh (Christ Church Erith), Jeremy Byers (Beckenham), Jon Fry (Cudham), Deryck Jones, Esther Correia, Marian Wansbury and Peter Rose (all from Dartford), Dickon Love (Bromley) and Len and Pauline Morley (Eltham).

2. MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING HELD AT ST JOHN'S ELTHAM ON SATURDAY 3RD APRIL 2004

The minutes were approved on the proposal of Jim Rooke, seconded by James Hardy.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Item 6 Events

The Chairman confirmed that, at the last County AGM, Mary Andrews was elected as a Vice President of the Association. The meeting congratulated her.

Item 9 Surplus Funds

James Hardy confirmed that the surplus funds left over from the Millennium Quiz Night had not yet been used to purchase a supply of *One Per Learner* books for distribution to new recruits. He agreed to take this forward. It was agreed that the books, once purchased, should be kept on the bookstall for distribution as required.

4. KCACR COMMITTEE REPORT

Central Membership database

Graham Cottle is working to produce a central membership database to replace those held by individual districts. Districts will have the authority to amend their own records and the database will be transportable to allow for a change of personnel within the districts.

KCACR 125th Anniversary

As previously announced a special service and dinner will be held in Canterbury on 14 May 2005. The cost of the meal is yet to be advised. It is planned to produce some celebratory memorabilia. Anyone with any suggestions for this or any queries was advised to contact Sara Hardy, one of the District representatives.

Proposed rule change on criteria for membership

The Secretary outlined a rule change proposed by the Ashford District. Before being proposed for membership of the Association a ringer should be able to ring rounds and call changes and

raise and lower a bell. Furthermore a District Officer, who should first satisfy him/herself that the required standard has been met, must second the proposed new member's nomination.

During the ensuing discussion a number of points were made:-

- There is no problem with having a minimum standard; the problem is defining it.
- It is not desirable to exclude ringers from membership, who could benefit.
- Some ringers may have physical problems that prevent them from raising/lowering a bell.
- Do we need formal membership criteria? In practice ringers are not nominated for membership until they have shown a level of commitment to the exercise. This usually means that they can ring rounds and call changes competently.
- Is insurance an issue? Do ringers need to be members to be covered by insurance? It was noted that the insurance carried by individual churches should cover learners in the early stages.
- What about towers that already demand higher standards of their ringers than those proposed, before nominating them for membership?
- Nobody was in favour of formal verification by a District Officer. This was seen as too much red tape and possible a slur on the integrity of the local Tower Captain making the nomination.
- Ideally a ringer nominated for membership should attend the District meeting at which s/he was to be proposed, or, failing that, a District Practice. This would give the members an opportunity to see the level of expertise the ringer had reached, bearing in mind that the ringer was probably having to handle unfamiliar bells. If there were concerns, the election could be deferred whilst help was offered to allow the ringer to reach an appropriate standard.
- What about handbell ringers? They seem to be excluded from the proposed criteria.

Child Protection Policy

The Secretary confirmed that copies of the Central Council's Child Protection Guidelines together with a letter to the Tower Captain and the PCC had been sent to the secretary of every tower in the District.

Webmaster

The County Webmaster, Frank Lewis, has been co-opted on to the Committee. It is to be proposed at the next County AGM that the Webmaster be a permanent member.

Publicity Officer

The County has established a sub-group to discuss whether a Publicity Officer is needed. The responsibilities could include producing publicity material suitable for local towers to aid recruitment. Anyone with any views or ideas on this issue should pass them on to Sara Hardy. The Secretary also asked that, if anyone knew of someone willing to take on this post or were interested themselves, they should contact Sara Hardy.

Changing the date of the County 8 bell striking competition

The following views were expressed:-

- It was generally agreed that it should be changed to avoid a clash with the National 12 bell competition.
- The 4th Saturday in April could clash with Easter or with the Hereford Course, with which several members of the District were heavily involved.

- It was pleasant to hold the event in the summer and therefore could it not be moved to an earlier Saturday in June? Would it be such a major problem if it clashed with one District's event?

5. EVENTS

The following events were announced:-

County Events

August 7th 2004 - Elementary School at Dover

August 14th & 15th 2004 - Dover Regatta

September 25th 2004 - County 6 bell striking competition at Penge

District Events

October 9th 2004 - Annual District Meeting at Biggin Hill

The Chairman announced that, as he was coming to the end of his 3 year term he was intending to stand down at the ADM and therefore nominations for Chairman would be needed.

The next District Practice was scheduled to be at Beckenham on Saturday 24th July. James Hardy announced that, owing to difficulties with that date he planned to reschedule it for the following Saturday 31st July. This was subject to confirmation.

Freda Cannon announced that October 31st 2004 was the 50th anniversary of the restoration and rededication of the bells at Greenwich. It was planned to use this occasion to launch a recruitment drive. Each District would be invited to bring a peal band to Greenwich.

6. BELL RESTORATION FUND

Proposed District Open Day

Philippa Rooke thanked members of the District who had helped her to plan this and offered helpful suggestions.

The proposed date was now Saturday 2nd October 2004 (Following some more discussions after the meeting the date is now set for Saturday 1st January 2005 - Ed). It was planned to open all 31 towers in the District. This date did clash with some other events outside Kent but in adjacent areas but it was decided to go ahead anyway. This would mean the event could be held before it was too late in the year. All towers were asked to confirm to Philippa as soon as possible if and when they could be open on that date.

It was noted that volunteers would be needed as stewards to ensure the event ran smoothly.

It was agreed to charge £15.00 for a day ticket.

120 Club

Rachel Backhouse confirmed that she had obtained the relevant forms from Bexley Council to register under the relevant act to run the 120 club. The initial process seemed quite complicated but the aim was to hold the first draw in February 2005. Further details would be available at the ADM in October.

7. ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS

The following new members were elected:

DOWNE

Paul Roy Martin

proposed by Bridget Robbie

	seconded by Donald King
Simon Robert Sleath	proposed by Donald King seconded by J C Bowers
Valerie Yeates	proposed R D Shaw seconded J C Bowers
SIDCUP	
Mira Harris	proposed by Yvonne Wright seconded by Rachel Backhouse
HORTON KIRBY	
Susan Mary Ann Allport	proposed by Lesley Barclay seconded by Nicholas Wilkins
Martin David Bailey	proposed by Lesley Barclay seconded by Nicholas Wilkins
Michael M ^c Donnell	proposed by Lesley Barclay seconded by Philippa Rooke
EYNSFORD & FARNINGHAM	
Richard David Barker	proposed by Lesley Barclay seconded by Nicholas Wilkins

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

District Newsletter

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

Jim Rooke asked if anyone would be willing to take over the job of listing the peals and quarter peals rung in the District that appeared in the Newsletter. He had done this for a long while and felt that it was time for a fresh approach.

District practice at Southwark Cathedral

James Hardy confirmed that this would now take place on Wednesday 18th August 2004. He urged all those who would like to try ringing on twelve bells to attend. He anticipated having a core of experienced 12 bell ringers to support the less experienced.

Handouts for towers

The Secretary said that she now had a supply of leaflets about the KCACR, which towers might find useful for general information and recruitment events. There was also an updated list of County Training events, one copy for every tower.

9. VOTE OF THANKS

Rachel Backhouse proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. Richard Freeman for taking the service, to the organist, Danny Kingshill and to the Shoreham ringers for a delicious tea.