

## KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

### LEWISHAM DISTRICT

#### **Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held at SS Peter & Paul Bromley on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2005**

*The meeting stood to observe a minute's silence in memory of Richard Bing of Woolwich.*

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

24 people attended the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Sara Hardy and Ross Hartley (Beckenham), Andrew Sinclair (Crayford), Les Brett and Mark Backhouse (Christchurch, Erith), Margaret Heald (St John's, Erith), Marian Wansbury (Dartford).

#### **2. Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held at St George's Beckenham on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2005**

Subject to the deletion of 'the' before Mark Jones in item 11, the minutes were approved on the proposal of Rhiannon Meredith seconded by Len Morley.

#### **3. Matters arising**

##### District 6 bell striking competition

The Chairman congratulated Beckenham on winning the 6 bell striking competition. They will now represent the district in the County 6 bell competition at Wateringbury on 24<sup>th</sup> September. He also thanked Chelsfield, Eynsford and Farningham, Eltham and Crayford, for each entering a team in the district competition.

##### Young Ringers' Group

Rhiannon Meredith reported that a poster about the Young Ringers' Group was enclosed with the current copy of the District Newsletter. Members were urged to encourage young ringers in their tower to contact her. An outing with a picnic lunch was planned for Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July, to take place in the local area.

##### Proposed Rule Changes

Jim Rooke reported that the proposed rule change, to set out minimum standards for membership, was defeated at the County AGM.

##### Training

Jim Hardy reported that he planned to hold a Plain Bob training day aimed at younger ringers.

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

Len Morley reported on various items discussed at the last KCACR Committee Meeting.

##### County Insurance Policy

The maintenance of bells was no longer covered under the County's insurance policy; cover was restricted to ringing activities only, though it was possible that individual church insurance policies might cover routine maintenance.

##### KCACR's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Members were reminded of the service in Canterbury Cathedral on 14<sup>th</sup> May, to be followed by a lunch, for which there were still tickets remaining. The County Secretary

had asked for a nomination from each district for an usher at the service. Anyone interested should contact the district secretary, as should anyone who was interested in joining the choir on that day. It is hoped that as many towers as possible will organise some special ringing to commemorate the anniversary, quarter peals if possible. David Manger is collating the details but it would be helpful if details could be sent in the first instance to the district secretary, who will forward them in one batch.

#### Recruitment and retention of ringers

The committee looking at this agreed there was no easy solution. Some suggestions included:

- Make recruitment a continual process
- Involve as many people as possible, tower open days/tours, use local website if available, new publicity boards, posters
- Have hands on computer facilities
- Training the trainer courses
- Allocate a mentor to each learner
- Give the learner specific time during a practice
- Provide learner with books/exercises for when they were not ringing
- District training courses

#### **5. Bell Restoration Fund**

Rachel Backhouse reported that she had sold 89 out of the 120 shares in the 120 Club and hoped to raise approximately £400 for the BRF this year. The first draw was held. The winning numbers were:

£20.00	42
£10.00	46
£10.00	1
£5.00	102 (unsold number, so the money remains in the fund)

#### **6. Events**

The next district practice is on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April from 7p.m. to 9p.m. at the Annunciation, Chislehurst. The next quarterly meeting is on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2005 at Deptford.

Other events in the county include: an Ashford District concert at Pluckley at 7.30 p.m. on 4<sup>th</sup> June; the Dover Regatta 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> August; County 6 bell competition at Wateringbury at 4p.m. on 24<sup>th</sup> September.

Outside the county there is the Ringing Roadshow at Newbury Racecourse on 10<sup>th</sup> September. The district secretary has some posters that she will circulate to towers. Also the Essex trophy competition is on 17<sup>th</sup> September.

On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July at 5p.m. all towers are asked to ring to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II.

#### **7. Election of new members**

The following new members were elected:

CUDHAM

Sarah Taylor } proposed by Jon Fry, seconded by Jeremy Byers  
Juliet Austin }

## **8. Insurance**

James Hardy raised the issue of insurance, now that the existing County insurance no longer covered undertaking bell maintenance. He advised anyone undertaking any work above the ringing room to check if they were covered by their own church insurance. Until this issue was resolved he intended to postpone the proposed training course on basic bell maintenance. It was agreed that it would be helpful if towers could see a copy of the County policy to see exactly what the cover was. The district secretary agreed to contact Margaret Funnell, the County Secretary about this.

Other points raised included: the importance of mentioning insurance as part of any course on bell maintenance; if routine maintenance was covered it was important to have a definition of what the insurer regarded as routine maintenance; normal ringing activities such as tower outings were covered by the County's policy.

## **9. Newsletter**

Rupert Cheeseman reported that no one had yet come forward to take over production of the Newsletter and he urged someone to do so as he and Cathy Cheeseman were giving up their role as Newsletter Editors this autumn.

## **10. Web site**

Rupert Cheeseman reported that he was about to update the district web site.

## **11. 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar**

Dominic Meredith urged towers to ring to commemorate this anniversary on 21<sup>st</sup> October and over the weekend of 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> October.

## **12. Vote of thanks**

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the Reverend Michael Camp and the Reverend Alison Newman for taking the service and for the use of the bells, to Mark Jones for playing the organ and to the Bromley ringers for providing tea.