

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held at St Paulinus Crayford on Saturday 8 October 2005

The meeting stood to observe a minute's silence in memory Lyn Briers of Ash-by-Wrotham and Steve Gill of Sidcup and Cudham.

1. Apologies for absence

22 people attended the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Len and Pauline Morley (Eltham), Philippa Rooke, Nicholas Wilkins (Chelsfield), Cathy Cheeseman, Mark Jones (St Nicholas Chislehurst), Mary Andrews (Bexley), Lesley Barclay (Horton Kirby), David Hilling, Tony Fisher and Richard Barker (Eynsford & Farningham).

2. Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held at St John's Deptford on Saturday 9 July 2005

The minutes were approved on the proposal of Andrew Sinclair, seconded by James Hardy.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. KCACR Committee Report

Public Liability Insurance

In response to a request for clarification of what risks were covered by the County policy, Eric Roughley, the County Chairman said that the issue had now been clarified. Members were covered for minor maintenance. It was the Bell Restoration Working Group that was adversely affected and so far this had been resolved by asking the church where work was being undertaken to get an extension of their policy. With the Personal Accident policy the maximum age for which cover is provided is 70. Updated information about the County insurance policies was to be put on the KCACR website.

Proposal for a County Ringing Master

This was raised at the last County Committee meeting where it was agreed that Frank and Catherine Lewis would draft terms of reference for such a post. It would then be discussed at the next Committee meeting before the Districts were asked for their views.

New membership database

Graham Cottle has developed this and it is now ready for testing. Mark Jones, this District's Membership Secretary has already had discussions with him.

Proposal to change the date of the County AGM

The County Committee proposed changing the date of the County AGM to the fourth Saturday in April, mainly to allow sufficient time for the Annual Report to be printed and distributed. The County Chairman explained that the rules allowed the AGM to be held at any time between Easter and July. There was a short discussion but no strong views either for or against the proposal were expressed.

5. Reports

Ringling Master's report

James Hardy made the following points in his report:

- Many members have made progress in various areas of ringing, with several 'firsts' in new methods.
- Organisation of events has suffered this year, partly because the Ringing Master has had family and work pressures. Unfortunately the Deputy was also unable to help much. This has had an adverse impact on attendance at District events.
- Turnout for most practices has been limited but generally a good standard of ringing has been achieved, however we are still failing to attract 'locals' to attend when the practice comes to their tower.
- Recruitment is a major problem for many towers and one that needs to be addressed.
- Some individuals have arranged ambitious projects e.g. Nigel Pointer has organised a series of Spliced Surprise Minor quarter peals up to 29 spliced using all but one of the standard 41. Ross Hartley has organised Surprise Royal quarter peals, Cambridge, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and Superlative No2 have been scored so far.
- At County level we did not do well in the 8-bell competition and Beckenham's performance in the 6-bell competition was very average.
- Thanks to Rupert and Cathy Cheeseman for the excellent Newsletter again this year and to Rupert who has taken over the Lewisham District website. Thanks to all who have helped out during the year.

Secretary's Report

Christine Webb made the following points in her report:

- Two of this year's quarterly meetings were held to coincide with particular events. The January meeting at Beckenham marked 100 years since the tower first hosted a quarterly meeting. The July meeting at St John's Deptford coincided with the 150th anniversary of the church. The third meeting, in April, was held at Bromley Parish.
- A new innovation this year was an attendance book to give us a record of attendances at meetings in addition to the apologies for absence we have traditionally recorded. Attendance at quarterly meetings ranged from 18 to 36. Attendance at most District practices was also recorded with numbers attending ranging from 11 to 20.
- The District Call Change competition attracted only 5 entries compared with 10 in the previous year, and was won by Crayford. The 6-bell competition also attracted 5 entries and was won by Beckenham. Their team subsequently came 4th in the County competition. In the County 8-bell competition the District team was disqualified or ringing the wrong touch.
- The Carol Service at Horton Kirby, though only attended by a small number, was very enjoyable.
- This year there has been a major effort to increase the District's contribution to the BRF with the successful launch of the 120 Club. Thanks are due to Rachel Backhouse for dealing with the bureaucracy and managing to sell over 90 shares.
- A number of District members had died during the year, Peter Rose, Richard Bing, James Pailing, Steve Gill and Lyn Briers.
- Thanks were due to the other officers and all those who have helped during the year.

Membership Secretary's Report

Mark Jones submitted a written report making the following points:

- Current membership totals 208 compared with 226 on 2004 and 223 in 2003
- 24 members lapsed in 2005 compared with 14 in 2004 and 17 in 2003
- There were 6 new members in 2005, 14 in 2004 and 17 in 2003

- The financial statement shows total income from subscriptions is £1543.50. £167.58 has been paid to the BRF mainly raised from raffles; it does not include money raised from the 120 club or from the District Open Day held on 1 January 2005.

6. Election of Officers

The following officers stood down:

Deputy Ringing Master – Rhiannon Meredith

Press Representatives & Newsletter Editors - Rupert and Cathy Cheeseman.

The following Officers gave notice that, if elected, they were only prepared to serve for one more year:

Ringing Master – James Hardy

Secretary – Christine Webb

District Representatives – Sara Hardy and Len Morley. Both these officers had family commitments that were making it increasingly difficult to attend County Committee meetings and would prefer to stand down this year if other nominees could be found.

The following officers were elected unopposed:

Chairman

Jeremy Byers Proposed by James Hardy seconded by Margaret Macey

Ringing Master

James Hardy Proposed by Jeremy Byers seconded by Christine Webb

Assistant Ringing Master

Rupert Cheeseman Proposed by James Hardy seconded by David Holdridge

District Representatives

Len Morley

Sara Hardy

In the absence of any formal proposals for these posts it was suggested that these officers, neither of whom were able to attend the meeting, should be asked if they were willing to continue in post for the time being. It was noted that they could ask another District member to attend a County Committee meeting in their place if they were unable to do so.

Press Representative & Newsletter Editor

Ross Hartley Proposed by Rupert Cheeseman seconded by David Brown

Ross Hartley indicated that he intended to act as Newsletter editor for the coming year rather than undertake a longer term commitment.

Sales Representative

Jim Rooke Proposed by Jon Fry seconded by Brenda Barton

Secretary

Christine Webb Proposed by Jeremy Byers seconded by Ross Hartley

Membership Secretary

Mark Jones Proposed by James Hardy seconded by Jeremy Byers

7. Election of new members

The following new members were elected:

FOOTS CRAY

Colin Osmond	Proposed by Margaret Macey	seconded by Rachel Backhouse
Clare Osmond	Proposed by Margaret Macey	seconded by Rachel Backhouse
Jeffrey Marshall	Proposed by Margaret Macey	seconded by James Hardy
Lisa Marshall	Proposed by Margaret Macey	seconded by James Hardy

The meeting congratulated Lisa and Jeffrey on their recent marriage.

8. Programme for 2005/6

The Secretary outlined the programme for the coming year, and, where appropriate, asked for towers willing to host forthcoming events, subject to confirmation by the incumbent.

2005

19 November Call change competition Horton Kirby

2006

Quarterly meetings

14 January	West Wickham
8 April	Bromley Common
8 July	Dartford
14 October (ADM)	St John's Erith

District Practices:

15 October 2005	Eltham
12 November 2005	Beckenham

Striking competitions

4 March 2006	6-bell competition
18 November 2006	Call change competition

It was agreed that the Ringing Masters would arrange a suitable venue for these events.

Carol Service

This is normally held on the second Saturday in December but in view of falling numbers attending this event in recent years it was agreed to ask the membership if they were prepared to support this event before asking a tower to host it.

9. Bell Restoration Fund

120 Club

The draw took place and the winning numbers for this month were:

1 st	75
2 nd	31
3 rd	56
4 th	82

Raffle

The raffle held at this meeting raised £40 for the BRF.

10. Advent Carol Service at Cripplegate

The Secretary reported that she had received an e-mail from Gwen Rogers inviting members of the District to the Advent Carol Service at St Giles' Cripplegate on the

evening of Monday 28 November 2005 to be followed by the annual Ringers party which, this year, is organised by the College Youths

11. Newsletter

Rupert Cheeseman thanked all those who had contributed to the Newsletter over the last 5 years and he hoped that people would continue to support the new editor.

12. Call Change Competition

The Secretary advised members that entry forms for the call change competition were now available and could be collected from her. Any not collected would be posted out with the remaining tower copies of the Newsletter.

13. Vote of thanks

Margaret Macey proposed a vote of thanks to the Reverend Anthony Lane and the Reverend Judy Evans for conducting the service and to the Crayford ringers for the excellent tea.