

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held at St John the Baptist West Wickham on Saturday 14 January 2006

1. Apologies for absence

24 members attended the meeting with apologies for absence received from Len and Pauline Morley (Eltham), Alex Britton, Margaret Macey (Foots Cray), Sara Hardy (Beckenham) Carol Eastaugh (Christchurch Erith), Monica Hanscomb (Biggin Hill) and Andrew Sinclair (Crayford).

2. Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held at Crayford on Saturday 8th October 2005

The minutes were approved on the proposal of James Hardy, seconded by Rupert Cheeseman.

3. Matters arising

Call Change Competition

Six towers had entered a team for the competition held at Horton Kirby and the Chairman congratulated Crayford on being the winners.

District Carol Service

The annual District Carol Service had not taken place in 2005 because of the declining level of support and no tower had offered to host it. Members were asked for their views given that the Carol Service was quite a major event for the host tower to organise if support were to be minimal. Comments included:

- Making the Carol Service a biennial rather than an annual event
- Holding the Carol Service on a weekday evening rather than a Saturday
- Holding an Epiphany Carol Service after Christmas
- Seeking to join forces with another District
- Having a District Practice instead possibly followed by mince pies & mulled wine.

It was agreed that members would try to seek the views of their own towers, that the secretary would also ask for members' views and the issue would be on the agenda for the next meeting.

4. KCACR Committee Report

Proposed increase to the KCACR peal fee

The secretary informed the meeting that a proposal to increase the peal fee from 20p to 50p would be made at the next County AGM. Nobody thought this was unreasonable.

10 bell challenge

Rupert Cheeseman agreed to contact the Ashford District to arrange a 10-bell competition between bands from each of the two districts.

Possible re-organisation of the districts within KCACR

The secretary told the meeting about a proposal from the Maidstone District, which was having problems with low attendance at meetings and the recruitment of officers, to reduce the current six districts to three or four. Members were asked for their comments on the principle of this proposal. The general feeling of the meeting was that this would not solve the problem. It would increase the distance that members had to travel to attend district events and would act as a disincentive. It would not necessarily produce a larger pool of people from which officers could be drawn. A personal approach to individuals to ask them to take on various roles within the district, probably for a set period was thought to be more effective. Reorganisation could cause resentment among some towers.

5. St Nicholas Deptford

James Hardy told the meeting about the project, in which Dickon Love and Roger Booth and himself were involved, to get 6 bells originally from Homerton hung in St Nicholas Deptford. The bells were currently in Whitechapel bell foundry and were owned by the Keltek Trust. The County is willing to lend money to help secure the bells, but a fundraising effort is still needed. This is not helped by the fact that the church is currently in interregnum. However the area where the church is located is an up and coming one, the kind where, experience has shown, that recruitment of ringers should be relatively easy. A team of people is now required to help with the project; initially the work is likely to involve letter writing. Anyone who is interested should contact James Hardy.

6. Events

The Deputy Ringing Master, Rupert Cheeseman, told the meeting that he had prepared posters and small leaflets for each tower listing events for the forthcoming year. Information was also on the District website. There was one change to the current programme. Because of a wedding Bromley Common was unable to host the next Quarterly Meeting on Saturday 8 April. Instead this would take place at St John's Erith which had originally agreed to host the October Annual District Meeting

7. 120 Club

As several participants in the 120 club said they were more interested in winning a prize than its actual value, Rachel Backhouse asked members whether they would prefer to have double the number of prizes in the two draws in June and December instead of the same number of prizes but double the value. This was put to the vote and carried.

Rachel Backhouse reported that she expected the 120 Club to raise about £300 for the BRF in 2005/06. Provided membership remained high the amount raised in 2006/07 should be greater as there would be no initial set up costs to deduct from the profits. She reminded members that they needed to renew their membership before the end of March.

The ninth draw was held and the winning numbers were:

£20 34

£10 44

£10 12

£5 98 (as nobody had bought this share the money went back in the fund).

The Chairman thanked Rachel for all her hard work in making the 120 Club a success.

8. Election of new members

The following new member was elected:

CRAYFORD

Natasha Ann Chesley Proposed by Rupert Cheeseman Seconded by Cathy Cheeseman

9. Membership subscriptions

Members were reminded that membership subscriptions were now due, £9 for adults, £4.50 for those under 18 and over 65, and should be paid to the Mark Jones, the Membership Secretary.

10. District Officers

The Chairman reminded members that the District Representatives were increasingly reluctant to continue in this role in the face of other commitments. Members were asked to consider whether they or other members they knew would be willing to stand. There are four County Committee Meetings a year, usually held at Leeds but both representatives do not have to go to every meeting, the duties can be shared.

Freda Cannon asked for the postal address of Ross Hartley, the Newsletter Editor as she did not have e-mail access. His address was given as * Prickley Wood, Hayes BR2 *** and for future reference it is on the back of the annual programme leaflet.

11. Kaleidoscope Ringing Book

Jim Rooke told members that he had copies of the Kaleidoscope Ringing Book for sale.

12. Tower details

The secretary asked that any remaining towers that had not submitted amended details for the 2006 Handbook, should do so as soon as possible.

13. Website update

Rupert Cheeseman informed members that the website had been updated.

14. Engagement

Members congratulated Lucy Weston and Mark Jones on their recent engagement.

15. Vote of thanks

Nancy Gay proposed a vote of thanks to the Reverend Tim Giles for taking the service and for the use of the bells, to Beryl Holloway for playing the organ and to the West Wickham ringers for a splendid tea.