

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held at St George's Beckenham on Saturday 14 October 2006

The meeting stood to observe a minute's silence in memory David Hollis of Lewisham

1. Apologies for absence

31 people attended the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Ian Mills, Len and Pauline Morley, (Eltham), Lesley Barclay (Horton Kirby), Rachel Backhouse (Christchurch Erith), John Stook (Ash-by-Wrotham), Bill Lanyon and Graham Wood (Woolwich), Monica Hanscomb (Biggin Hill), Margaret Macey (Foots Cray) and Yvonne Wright (Sidcup).

2. Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held at Holy Trinity Dartford on Saturday 8 July 2006

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

3. Matters arising

Fund in memory of Lynn Briers

Gabrielle Stook asked if any further progress had been made as to how best to establish a fund to aid towers in danger of going out of union. James Hardy replied that it would be very difficult to administer. Since the purpose of this fund was to address a problem that had been specific to Ash and seemed unlikely to occur elsewhere it might be better for Ash to keep the fund to ensure that the tower never had a similar problem.

James Hardy commented that this had highlighted the whole issue of towers being in or out of union. If a tower had no ringers, or none who were KCACR members, it went out of union, giving the message that the County was not concerned about it. This was untrue since towers out of union were still eligible for grants from the BRF and the District undertook to provide ringers for special occasions for towers that had no resident ringers. He suggested taking a proposal to County Committee that the concept of in/out of union be abolished. The meeting supported this idea.

4. KCACR Committee Report

Association prayer

No decision had yet been made as to whether to have a modernised version of the Association prayer since not all Districts had responded.

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 Ringling Master has had family and work pressures. Thanks are due to the Deputy Master Rupert Cheeseman for arranging the 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, with a few exceptions, more needs to be done to attract new people to the exercise.
- Some individuals have arranged ambitious projects again this year e.g. Nigel Pointer has started to organise a series of silent and non-conducted quarter peals. Ross Hartley has organised Surprise Royal quarter peals.
- At County level we did not do well in the 8-bell competition. However Chelsfield missed first place in the 6-bell competition by only half a mark.
- Thanks to Ross Hartley for producing the Newsletter again this year and to Rupert Cheeseman who has taken over the Lewisham District website. Thanks to all who have helped out during the year.
- Sad event – death of David Hollis during the practice at Beckenham. He will be greatly missed for his friendship and invaluable contribution both at Beckenham and to the exercise as a whole.
- Asked all to give support and encouragement to the new Ringing Master.

Secretary's Report

Christine Webb made the following points in her report:

- Quarterly meetings were quite poorly attended, as were District practices despite being advertised well in advance and programmes being provided for every tower.
- The District Call Change competition attracted 6 entries, one more than the previous year, and was won by Crayford. The 6-bell competition attracted 4 entries and was won by Chelsfield, who narrowly lost to Willesborough in the County competition at Newington next Sittingbourne. In the County 8-bell competition the District team came 5th out of 6.
- Lack of support meant that a District Practice at St Mary Cray, followed by mulled wine and mince pies, replaced the Carol Service.
- The 120 club got off to very successful start and this has continued in its second year with even more shares being sold. Thanks are due to Rachel Backhouse for organising it so efficiently and for her effective salesmanship.

Membership Secretary's Report

Mark Jones made the following points in his report:

- Current membership totals 188, this continues the steady decline in membership over recent years
- The financial statement shows total income was £2,231 of which £1,657 is membership subscriptions and the remainder went to the BRF.
- Mark gave notice of his intention to stand down as Membership Secretary next year.

6. Election of Officers

The following officers were not seeking re-election:

James Hardy (Ringing Master), Len Morley (District Representative), Ross Hartley (Newsletter Editor) and Christine Webb (Secretary).

The retiring officers were thanked for their hard work especially the Ringing Master who had held that post for ten years.

The following officers were elected unopposed:

Chairman

Jeremy Byers Proposed by Philippa Rooke seconded by Nancy Gay

Ringing Master

Rupert Cheeseman Proposed by James Hardy seconded by Cathy Cheeseman

Assistant Ringing Master

Ross Hartley Proposed by Rupert Cheeseman seconded by Nicholas Wilkins

District Representatives

Brenda Barton Proposed by Rupert Cheeseman seconded by Carol Easthaugh

Sara Hardy Proposed by Ross Hartley seconded by Cathy Cheeseman

Newsletter Editor

Dominic Meredith Proposed by Ross Hartley seconded by James Hardy

Sales Representative

Jim Rooke Proposed by Freda Cannon seconded by Jon Fry

Secretary

Alice Baverstock Proposed by James Hardy seconded by Nicholas Wilkins

Membership Secretary

Mark Jones Proposed by Dominic Meredith seconded by Nancy Gay

7. Election of new members

The following new members were elected:

ST JOHN'S ERITH

Stephen Potgeiter } Proposed by Margaret Heald seconded by David Broadbridge

Luke Potgeiter }

BECKENHAM

Elizabeth Duffey } Proposed by James Hardy seconded by David Brown

Rosemary Stretton }

SIDCUP

James Roddy } Proposed by Yvonne Wright seconded by Mark Backhouse

David Roddy }

BIGGIN HILL

Douglas William Fisher } Proposed by Nancy Gay seconded by Nicholas Wilkins

Fred Driver }

8. Programme for 2007

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.

2007

Quarterly meetings

13 January Christchurch Erith

21 April Venue yet to be arranged

14 July Chelsfield

13 October (ADM) Venue yet to be arranged

The date of the April meeting was changed to the third Saturday as several officers would be at the Hereford Ringing course on the second Saturday.

Striking competitions

3 March 2007 6-bell competition
17 November 2007 Call change competition

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

Carol Service

There was no support for a Carol Service in December and very limited support for a District practice instead.

9. Bell Restoration Fund

120 Club

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

1 st	78
2 nd	82
3 rd	23
4 th	87

Bookstall

Jim Rooke reminded the meeting of the bookstall, which had a wide selection of books about ringing and the proceeds of which go to the BRF,

10. St John's Erith – change of contact details

Margaret Heald, tower secretary for St John's Erith advised that her e mail address was now billmargaret@btinternet.com.

11. Quiz at Horton Kirby

Nicholas Wilkins drew attention to the flyers that had been distributed advertising a quiz to be held at Horton Kirby on 10 November to help raise funds for the augmentation of the bells to a ring of eight and urged people to take part.

12. County Training Officer and District Training Officer

James Hardy told the meeting that, in his new role as County Training Officer he wanted to encourage the Districts to take on more responsibility for basic training. He thought this could best be achieved by the appointment of a District Training Officer. He proposed that this post should be created in the Lewisham District. The proposal was seconded by Nicholas Wilkins and carried.

James Hardy further proposed that David Brown be elected as District Ringing Master. This proposal was seconded by Jeremy Byers and carried.

13. District Practices

Rupert Cheeseman, the newly elected Ringing Master, circulated a discussion paper about the best way forward for District practices. Although a calendar was produced for the whole year and circulated to every tower, practices were often poorly attended.

Some comments were:

- Hold District practices to coincide with the host tower's practice night
- Have a specific theme, although having specially themed practices, especially on elementary aspects of ringing could conflict with the role of the newly created District Training Officer

- Hold some practices on a Saturday morning, but this could conflict with wedding ringing.
- Hold fewer practices, for example not holding a practice in the same month as a Quarterly Meeting.

Rupert Cheeseman thanked the meeting for the comments and announced his intention of seeking as wide a range of views as possible before formalising the plans for the coming year. He would welcome any further comments that anyone had.

14. Handbook 2006

Freda Cannon reported that the Handbook had been very late arriving and they were not being distributed to towers. Jeremy Byers replied that recently the Handbooks had not been available at the County AGM where they had often been collected in the past. He had the Handbooks delivered to him but was not able to organise a delivery to every tower. Instead the Handbooks had been taken to District meetings and practices for people to collect. Failing that it was up to towers to contact District Officers to make arrangements to receive their Handbooks.

15. Seating Arrangements

Cathy Cheeseman requested that in future the seating at meetings should be arranged to make it easier for those with a hearing impairment. She suggested arranging the chairs in a circle.

16. 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. Completed entry forms should be returned to the new secretary.

*Note: The address is Alice Baverstock, ** Turners Meadow Way, Beckenham BR3 ****

17. Vote of thanks

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the Reverend Malcolm Hancock for conducting the service, to Mark Jones for playing the organ and to Sarah Hardy and the Beckenham ringers for the excellent tea.