

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Annual District Meeting, Bromley Parish Church, 8th October 2016

21 people attended representing 9 towers, 2 unattached members. Dr Philip Barnes from the County Committee was welcomed to the meeting. He would be talking about a proposed rule change later in the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

Received from Graham Long, Chris Goldsmith & Shelagh Norman (Greenwich), Brenda Barton (Dartford), Chris Lawrance (Bromley Common), Alex Britton (unattached), Chris Davine (Eltham), Tom Hinks and Helena Mattingley (Bromley Parish).

2. Minutes of last meeting (9th July 16 at Eltham)

Posted to website and circulated in the Newsletter. Agreed as a correct and accurate record. Proposed: David Holdridge Seconded: Mark Backhouse. Voted unanimously.

3. Matters Arising not covered elsewhere – Nil

4. Election of New Members

New Member	Tower	Proposed by	Seconded by
Johnny AISHER	Shoreham	Frank Rogers	Philippa Rooke
Geoff ROBERTS	Chislehurst St Nicholas	Peter Skinner	Thomas Wilding
		Witness to lowering	Rupert Cheeseman

Geoff was given a warm welcome and it was good to see him there.

5. Officer Reports

Ringling Master, Nick Wilkins. Firstly, thank you for electing me as Ringing Master and I hope that you are getting what you require from the District Practices. If not, let me know how we can ensure that you do.

Practices (excluding QMs) this year have so far been held at Ash. Horton Kirby, Bromley Common. Bickley, Eynsford, West Wickham, Chelsfield, Cudham and the Annunciation, Chislehurst. Forthcoming practices in 2016 will be at Erith CC, Sidcup and Deptford.

QMs have been held at Greenwich, Bexley, Eltham and now Bromley Parish, so over half the towers in the District will have been visited and perhaps, next year we can visit the remainder.

Additionally, Farnborough hosted the District Method Striking Competition in March and the County final in September, pleasingly won by this District. St Mary Cray host the District Call Change competition on Sat 19th November. Please try and enter a band from your tower.

On 2nd July a band representing the Lewisham District came a creditable second in the County Eight Bell Competition at Herne ringing Grandsire Triples.

On Saturday 6th August there was a joint outing to London with the Tonbridge District. The date was set before I was in post and I was unable to attend but credit to Diane for organising an excellent outing which proved to be very popular.

Generally at District Practices the ringing ranges from rounds and call-changes up to surprise major and we managed Grandsire Caters at Cudham in August.

The practices are usually Friday evenings or Saturday mornings with only the occasional Saturday evening (Chelsfield) but please let me know if you have other suggestions for these practices.

May I thank everyone for their support and particularly Diane, and float the idea of reviving a QP week which we've held in the past but not very recently to my recollection.

For your diaries, first quarter 2017 practices are to be on Friday 27th January, Saturday 18th February and Friday 10th March, (QM on 14th January and Method Striking Competition 4th March).

Training Officer, Ian Mills. There was a training day concentrating on Leading up and Down in Peal held at Sidcup.

Newsletter Editor, Rupert Cheeseman. Thank you for all who contribute to the content of the newsletter, it is appreciated.

120 Club, Rachel Backhouse. Last year we raised £617.23 for the Bell Restoration Fund. Most, but not all the balls were sold and there are still some left for this current year. Rachel explained the 120 club to those present.

Philippa Rooke, thanked each of these officers for their excellent work throughout the year, it is appreciated.

6. Election of Officers

Dr Philip Barnes took the chair for the appointment of the Chair.

Role	Name	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chairman	Philippa Rooke	Lesley Barclay	Alex Fishburn
Secretary	Sue Cameron	Nick Wilkins	Natalie Slator
Membership Secretary	Rupert Cheeseman	Dickon Love	Rachel Backhouse
Ringling Master	Nick Wilkins	Nancy Fisher	Liz Brett
Asst Ringling Master	Diane Reynolds	Nick Wilkins	Sue Cameron
Training Officer	Alex Fishburn	Diane Reynolds	Ian Mills
District Rep 1	Chris Davine	Rupert Cheeseman	Lesley Barclay
District Rep 2	Natalie Slator		
120 Club	Rachel Backhouse	Mark Backhouse	Natalie Slator
Newsletter	Rupert Cheeseman	Dickon Love	Nick Wilkins
Sales	Shelagh Norman	Lesley Barclay	Jim Rooke
	Chris Goldsmith		

Philippa Rooke thanked Rachel for her sterling work as Membership Secretary over the last 10 years and to Ian Mills for looking after the training role for the last few years. It was greatly appreciated by all.

7. 120 club draw

	No	Prize	Name	Tower
1st	7	£20	Jim Rooke	Chelsfield
2nd	79	£10	Brenda Barton	Dartford
3rd	73	£10	Deryck Jones	Dartford
4th	96	£5	Nick Wilkins	Farnborough

8. KCACR report on the meeting held on 27th August 16

- The accounts for 2013, 2014 and 2015 have now been audited and a compliance certificate issued.
- On recommendation from the auditor, it was agreed that we will try once more to find the missing Sage Accounts software, and then re-purchase if required.
- The grant award for Eastling has been cancelled following a note from the incumbent there.
- The new KCACR website went live recently, and soon content owners will be able to edit/add their own content to the site.
- A schedule for the creation of the 2017 handbook has been created by the Handbook Editor.
- Catherine Lewis has agreed to look into arranging a Module 2F ART course in the county if sufficient interest exists.
- The Secretary is going to write to the incumbent at Strood to ask if their project to install a ring of bells is still going ahead.
- A proposed rule change to be considered at the 2017 AGM will be circulated to Districts ready for their ADMs in October.
- A final request for volunteers to help with the KCA Mobile Ring will be made by the Secretary, along with a member survey to ascertain if there really is a need/want for this as is already thought – deadline 31st December 2016 to make a decision.
- The County 6-bell Striking Competition 2016 will be held on Saturday 24th September, 9.45am draw, in the Lewisham District at Farnborough.
- It was agreed that the Kent Young Ringers band could enter the County 6-bell competition effectively as a 'scratch' band, for competition practice.
- The County Youth Striking Competition 2016 will be held on Saturday 22nd October at Offord.
- The Association are entering a band in the Essex Trophy being held at Writtle, Essex on Saturday 10th September.
- The final General Committee meeting in 2016 is on 26th November.

Dr Phil Barnes spoke about a proposed rule change which related to the aims of the Association, to focus more on Ringing and Ringers.

The current aims have remained unchanged since 1880 and list five aims:-

- i. The establishment, maintenance and encouragement of service ringing in the churches in its area.
- ii. The recognition of ringers as church workers
- iii. The proper care and use of bells and belfries
- iv. The cultivation of the art of change ringing
- v. The safety and wellbeing of its Members

It is proposed to amend the aims of the KCACR to one overarching aim which reads:-

'The aim of the Association is to foster ringing in the historic county of Kent by promoting and protecting the interests of ringing and ringers'.

A discussion ensued around whether the church aspect of ringing puts some people off, some felt that their main reason for ringing was to glorify God. Others were concerned that the word 'bell' had been removed so the type of ringing could be ambiguous.

A full transcript regarding the proposed rule change to be circulated around the district and be an agenda item for the January meeting to give people more time to think about it before it is voted on at the AGM on Easter Monday at Cranbrook. ACTION – Secretary to circulate.

9. Report on previous events and & upcoming events

- Lewisham District won the County six bell competition at Farnborough on 24th September.
- The joint outing with Tonbridge District to London on 6th August was very successful and very well attended. The date for next year has already been set, 12th August and will be organised by Tonbridge.
- 21/10/16 District Practice Erith CC 7.30 – 9pm
- 29/10/16 County Surprise Practice TBC 10 – 12 noon
- 12/11/16 District Practice Sidcup 10 – 12 noon
- 19/11/16 Call Change Comp St Mary Cray 2.30pm draw
- 30/11/16 London Ringers Carol Service Aldgate 7pm
- Greenwich have offered to host the January QDM on 14th and we will take them up on this offer. It was recognised that will be the third year in a row that the January meeting would be held at Greenwich, and concern was expressed that this does not become a fixture as other towers should take their turn. Having meetings at as many towers as possible across the District helps get the message that we're serious about the church-related side of ringing across to different parish priests and encourages ringers from the host tower to come to at least one meeting a year.
- St Mary Cray have offered to host the April QDM on 8th. We will take them up on this kind offer.
- Venues for the July and October meetings are required. Rupert Cheeseman offered Crayford for one of these and he would check availability with the vicar. **SECRETARY'S NOTE:** Since the meeting Bickley have offered to host the July meeting and Crayford are unable to host October.
- The District Striking competition will be held on 4th March, a venue is required to host.
- We will be hosting the County eight bell competition next July. Consideration to a venue is required, suggestions so far are Deptford or Erith CC.

10. Any Other Business

- Philippa Rooke talked about the Isle of Dogs Striking Competition. It is for Sunday Service Bands and is scored on a simulator and entered on a leader board. Erith CC took part last year and found it very worthwhile. Details have already been circulated around the district, please do consider giving it a go.
- Rupert thanked all contributors to the latest newsletter. It was particularly good to see that quite a few towers had gone out and rung at other towers during their Tower Outings. It looks like a good time was had by all.
- Dickon Love, Tower Captain of Bromley Parish reported that practice nights were to be re-introduced at Bromley Parish, once a month to start with lead by Tom Hinks, all welcome. It is hoped that in time, they will become more frequent – watch this space.

11. Vote of thanks

Mark Backhouse gave a vote of thanks to the vicar, Anne Jablonski and her assistant, husband Andrew. He also thanked Alex Fishburn for playing the organ and for Dickon as trusty page turner for the rousing piece at the end. An especially big thank you went to Przemysław Benonski for laying on such a wonderful tea which he had spent all afternoon preparing.

Next meeting – Saturday 14th January 2017 at Greenwich.