

## KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

### LEWISHAM DISTRICT

#### **Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held at St Mark Biggin Hill on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2004**

*The meeting stood to observe a minute's silence in memory of Teddy Barnett, one time member of Crayford band, and Jean Luffman from Eynsford and Farningham.*

*The Chairman welcomed Eric Roughley, the County Chairman to the meeting.*

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

Apologies for absence were received from Len and Pauline Morley (Eltham), Ann Barnes, Roger Long, Maralyn Evans (St Nicholas, Chislehurst), David Brown (Bromley Parish), Andrew Sinclair, Debra Say (Crayford), Margaret Heald (St John's, Erith), Margaret Macey (Foots Cray), Philippa Rooke, Nicholas Wilkins (Chelsfield), Rachel Backhouse, Carol Eastaugh (Christchurch, Erith).

#### **2. Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held at SS Peter & Paul Shoreham on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2004**

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

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

There were no matters arising.

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

##### 8 bell Striking Competition

This is to be moved to the fourth Saturday in February. Next year it is in the Lewisham District and will be on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2005 at Beckenham.

##### Publicity Officer

There were no volunteers for the post of Publicity Officer. Nothing more will be done at present.

##### Retention & Recruitment of Ringers Committee

This looked at raising the profile of ringing, for example at the County Show. The Ashford District is to prepare a questionnaire to assess the issues as seen by current KCACR members.

##### 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – 14<sup>th</sup> May 2005

As previously announced there will be a service in Canterbury Cathedral at 11a.m. followed by a photograph and then lunch at 1pm. Tickets for the silver service lunch will be on sale from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2004 at a cost of £25 each. There will be a quarter peal before the service and a peal in the afternoon. Memorabilia, including a mug and a glass tankard will be available from 1 January 2005.

##### Minimum competency

Most districts thought that the Tower Captain's recommendation was sufficient when proposing someone for KCACR membership. It was left to the Ashford District to decide whether or not they wished to propose a rule change.

## 5. Reports

### Ringling Master's report

James Hardy said that there was little new to report. Some people had made good progress and it would help if more ringers could be encouraged to come along to meetings and district practices. It was clear that recruitment was still a major problem throughout the district.

### Secretary's report

Christine Webb reported that meetings had been held this year at St John's Erith, Eltham and Shoreham. All were quite well attended, though very few submitted their names for tea at the Shoreham meeting, which was rather discourteous to the local ringers. The Carol Service at Beckenham was a very enjoyable occasion though only attended by a small number. Encouragingly ten towers, a third of those in the district, entered a team for the Call Change competition held at Downe, which was won by Beckenham. The six bell competition, held at Crayford, attracted only five entries and was won by Eltham. They were not able to repeat their success in the County competition, held at Penge, where they were placed sixth<sup>1</sup>.

### Membership Secretary's report

Mark Jones circulated copies of his report and highlighted the following points:

- There has been a slight increase in membership compared to last year. There are now 220 members, still slightly fewer than in 2002.
- So far this year 11 new members have been elected, but 15 have not renewed their membership.
- Total income is down compared with 2003 because less has been raised for the BRF. Hopefully this will change in 2005 with the 120 Club and the planned District Open Day.
- Thanks are due to Jeremy Byers who has now taken over distribution of the Handbook.

## 6. Election of Officers

The Chairman had come to the end of his third year of office, and would therefore be standing down. All the other officers except the Assistant Ringing Master were willing to stand again. Rupert and Cathy Cheeseman said that, although they were willing to prepare the District Newsletter for another year, they intended to stand down in 2005 and would like to hear from anyone in the District who was interested in taking over from them so that there could be a smooth transition.

The following officers were elected unopposed:

### Chairman

Jeremy Byers                      Proposed by James Hardy      seconded by Ruth Pointer

### Ringling Master

James Hardy                      Proposed by Jeremy Byers      seconded by Rhiannon Meredith

### District Representatives

Len Morley                      Proposed by Nigel Pointer      seconded by Mark Jones  
Sara Hardy                      Proposed by Jeremy Byers      seconded by Don Pointer

---

<sup>1</sup> Out of six...

Press Representatives & Newsletter Editors

Rupert & Cathy Cheeseman      Proposed by James Hardy      seconded by Nancy Gay

Sales Representative

Jim Rooke      Proposed by Mark Jones      seconded by Jon Fry

Secretary

Christine Webb      Proposed by Freda Cannon      seconded by Cathy Cheeseman

Membership Secretary

Mark Jones      Proposed by Freda Cannon      seconded by Rupert Cheeseman

There were two nominations for the following post:

Assistant Ringing Master

Rupert Cheeseman      Proposed by Simon Davies      seconded by Cathy Cheeseman

Rhiannon Meredith      Proposed by Jeremy Byers      seconded by James Hardy

Following a vote, Rhiannon Meredith was elected.

**7. Election of new members**

The following new members were elected:

CHRISTCHURCH, ERITH

Paul Lucia      Proposed by Elizabeth Brett      seconded by Les Brett

Laura Coshall      Proposed by Carol Eastaugh      seconded by Mark Backhouse

**8. Programme for 2004/5**

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.

**2004**

20 <sup>th</sup> November	Call change competition	Farningham
11 <sup>th</sup> December	Carol Service	Horton Kirby

**2005**

**Quarterly meetings**

8 <sup>th</sup> January	Beckenham – 100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first quarterly meeting there	
9 <sup>th</sup> April	Bromley Parish	
9 <sup>th</sup> July	Deptford	
8 <sup>th</sup> October (ADM)	Crayford	

**Other events**

26 <sup>th</sup> February	County 8 bell competition	Beckenham (back 8)
5 <sup>th</sup> March	6 bell striking competition	Biggin Hill
19 <sup>th</sup> November	Call change competition	Horton Kirby
10 <sup>th</sup> December	Carol service	Venue to be arranged

**9. Bell Restoration Fund – update on current plans**

District Open Day – 1 January 2005

Rhiannon Meredith said that the route would be confirmed shortly. Some amendments had been necessary as some towers, scheduled for the start of the day, were not able to have the bells rung this early. Meanwhile forms were being distributed to all towers to

gather information about parking and toilet facilities and stewards available, if any. Towers were asked to return these as soon as possible. It was anticipated the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary memorabilia would also be on sale during the day.

#### 120 Club

Christine Webb reported that all the preliminary work on this had now been completed. Initial registration with the local authority costs £35 and then there is an annual fee of £17.50. As required, before further progress could be made, the meeting approved the setting up of the 120 Club and the appointment of a promoter. Rachel Backhouse, although not able to be present at the meeting, was willing to fulfil this role. She was duly appointed as promoter and would be assisted by other members of the committee. The names of the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer (the District Membership Secretary) had to be registered with the local authority.

Shares will be on sale from the beginning of 2005, with the first draw taking place in April. Shares may be purchased by anyone; they do not have to be ringers themselves, but for the club to be a success about 100 shares need to be sold.

Members were asked whether they would prefer a larger number of small prizes or fewer but slightly larger prizes. There seemed to be a slight preference for a larger number of smaller prizes. Details will be finalised by the committee and publicised to members in January.

Jeremy Byers thanked Rachel Backhouse and Christine Webb for the work they had done to help set this up.

#### Raffle

The raffle held at this meeting raised £24 for the BRF.

### **10. Training**

James Hardy returned to the issue of training. Several towers in the district were struggling and needed help to progress. One suggestion might be a rota of helpers prepared to visit other towers. Training days could be organised, subject to demand. Two training days were being considered, one on basic maintenance and a second on tower management. However self-help was also important. District practices were held regularly on a Saturday evening and aimed to cater for the needs of all who attended. Visiting other towers or combining practice nights might also help ringers to progress.

The Ringing Master asked whether the meeting would like him to organise another district practice at Southwark Cathedral in 2005. A show of hands indicated support for this.

### **11. Proposed rule changes for 2005**

The secretary informed the meeting that there were three rule changes to be proposed at the County AGM next Easter Monday.

#### *Change to rule 1*

This was designed to ensure that unitary authorities in Kent were not excluded from the area where KCACR operates. There is currently only one unitary authority in the county, Medway, but as this is still classified as the County of Kent, the rule change may be unnecessary.

#### *Change to rule 4*

This was designed to introduce a minimum standard of competency for membership of KCACR.

This proposal by the Ashford District was discussed at the last district quarterly meeting. Although the original suggestion, that a District Officer should second all nominations, has now been dropped, other objections raised to the rule at that meeting still stood. They were that:

- Handbell ringers would be excluded
- Ringers who were competent but were for some reason unable to raise or lower a bell would be excluded
- To have a formal standard written into the rules was unnecessary, it was sufficient to rely on the good sense of those attending the meeting at which any new member was elected.

*Change to rule 7*

This was designed to make the Webmaster a member of the General Committee.

This was agreed to be a sensible change.

**12. Advent Carol Service at Cripplegate**

The Secretary reported that she had received an e-mail from Gwen Rogers inviting members of the district to an Advent Carol Service at St Giles' Cripplegate on the evening of Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2004. The service will be followed by refreshments in the Red Herring.

**13. Map of towers in the KCACR**

The Secretary said that she had a sample of the map prepared by the Ashford District. It was on sale for £3 or £5 laminated plus £1 postage and packing.

**14. Vote of thanks**

Jeremy Byers proposed a vote of thanks to the vicar of St Mark's, Chris Kitchener, for conducting the service and for the use of the bells; to Juliette Allan for playing the organ; to the handbell ringers; and to the ringers of Biggin Hill for the excellent tea.