#  <br> INVICTA 

The Lewisham District On Line at www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS www.kcacr.org.uk OCTOBER 2018

## Ringing for Peace Armistice 100

(From the Beckenham Parish Magazine)
When you hear the peal of bells on a Sunday morning, do you ever wonder what's involved in learning to ring? I'm learning to ring and this is my story.

Last year I saw a TV news article about a group called Ringing Remembers. Their goal was to recruit 1,400 new bell ringers to replace the 1,400 ringers lost in the Great War, ready to ring for the Armistice Day centenary.

I contacted Ringing Remembers and, having moved to Beckenham in January, was put in touch with Jim Hardy. He invited me along to a Thursday evening practice session to find out what bell ringing was all about. The next week I started taking lessons with Jim.

We started off with back strokes, just getting used to pulling the bell rope. Then we progressed to hand strokes which entails pulling the sally part of the bell rope. Next came catching the sally as it starts its way back up. The bell rope runs around a wheel attached to the head stock on the bell. As you pull the rope it causes the wheel to rotate which makes the bell swing through a full rotation and the clapper follows, striking the bell and making it ring. As the bell swings, the wheel continues to turn and the bell rope is taken up with it.

Eventually, we put all the individual parts together and went through the four parts of the ringing cycle, hand stroke down on the sally, both hands on the rope as it goes up, back stroke down and then catch the sally and repeat the cycle. Easy ..........if only!!!! It all happens so fast! It feels like no sooner have you pulled the hand stroke when the rope is going up, you hang on for dear life and try to pull it back down and then suddenly the sally is flying past your nose and you try to grab it and start all over again. You're very aware that it can easily go wrong!

Jim calmly says, "Just a little more tension in the rope" and, "try to keep the rope straight". He has an easy hand on the sally and I suspect that he is doing most of the work and is completely in control. I make a correction and I hear Jim's favourite words, "I said a LITTLE bit!". As usual I have over-corrected, but he is as calm as ever and I soon get back in control of the bell again.

Weeks more practice lay ahead, but Jim was always there, encouraging, teaching and calming. He never lost his temper or even had a cross word.

Now, after a lot of hard work, I am ready to ring on my own and join in the full Thursday evening practice sessions. Each of the other ringers has also always supported me through the whole learning process, with a helpful remark or correcting comment.

Thanks to you all. I couldn't have done it without you.



## Website:

www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk

## Chairman:

Philippa Rooke
chairman@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

## Secretary:

Sue Cameron
sec@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

## Membership Secretary:

Rupert Cheeseman
memsec@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

## Ringing Master:

Nick Wilkins
master@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

## Assistant Master:

Diane Reynolds
ringing@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

## Training Officer:

Lesley Barclay
training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

## District Representatives:

Chris Davine
rep1@lewishamdistrict.org.uk Natalie Slator rep2@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

## Sales Representative:

Shelagh Norman \& Chris Goldsmith sales@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

## Newsletter Editor:

Rupert Cheeseman
newsletter@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

## 120Club:

Liz Brett and Deryck Jones 120club@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

## KCACR Young Ringers

Coming up on 3rd November at Kingsnorth in the Ashford District is the KCACR Youth Inter District Call Change Striking Contest and I'm trying to ascertain the level of interest and availability of young Lewisham District ringers for this event, together with a prior practice or two, at times to be agreed.

I have emailed a number of parents of ringers under 18 years of age, although the age limit is 24 years, so could anyone who is eligible and interested please let me know. Anyone who received my earlier email and not replied, please do so now.
Thank you,
Nick Wilkins


Editorial
Thanks to everyone who has made the effort to contribute to the newsletter this time.

This newsletter coincides with the ADM where district officers are elected and towers are requested to host the meetings next year. So please give some thought to doing either of those things.

And also a reminder about the Call Change Competition on 17th November which will be held at Farnborough. Please try and get a band together to enter.

Cheers,
Rupert


This year 103 shares have been sold - thanks to all who have joined. In April a total of $£ 617.43$ was sent to the BRF.

Liz Brett
July 2018 District Meeting, Crayford.

| $1^{\text {st }}$ | $£ 20$ | Deryck Jones | Dartford |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $1^{\text {st }}$ | $£ 20$ | Lesley Barclay | Horton Kirby |
| $2^{\text {nd }}$ | $£ 10$ | Hannah Barker | E\&F |
| $2^{\text {nd }}$ | $£ 10$ | Philippa Rooke | Chelsfield |
| $3^{\text {rd }}$ | $£ 10$ | Meridian Ringers |  |
| $3^{\text {rd }}$ | $£ 10$ | Unsold | BRF |
| $4^{\text {th }}$ | $£ 5$ | Jack Barker | E\&F |
| $4^{\text {th }}$ | $£ 5$ | Julia Kilfoyle | Ash |

Sept 2018 District Practice, Erith, Christ Church

| $1^{\text {st }}$ | $£ 20$ | Liz Brett | Erith, CC |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $2^{\text {nd }}$ | $£ 10$ | Brenda Barton | Dartford |
| $3^{\text {rd }}$ | $£ 10$ | Clare Pruden | Chelsfield |
| $4^{\text {th }}$ | $£ 5$ | Jon Pettyfer | Horton Kirby |

## In the newseteter this time.

Ringing for Peace - a new ringer's story ..... 1
KCACR Young Ringers ..... 2
Editorial ..... 3
120 club ..... 3
News from the Towers
Ash ..... 4
Crayford ..... 4
The Meridian Ringers ..... 5
District Events ..... 5
Proposed rule change ..... 6
Minutes of July District Meeting ..... 8


# news 7 ROM 

## ASH BY WROTHAM

We are looking forward to hosting the Quarterly District Meeting on Saturday 13th October and to meeting up with ringing friends, old and new.

In the meantime we wanted to share with you our plans for Remembrance on the 11th November. We are a mostly rounds and call changes band, however for an event as auspicious as marking the centenary of the end of the First World War, we felt we would like to try something different and unexpected. Currently our thinking is along the following lines:-
Before the morning service on Sunday 11th November we will ring rounds and call changes half muffled, and as the start of the service approaches, we will stand each bell in turn starting with the treble until we have just the tenor tolling as the Scouts parade in with their Flags.

We will join in the call for national ringing at $12: 30 \mathrm{pm}$ with open bells, symbolising the return of the troops, this time introducing the bells one at a time starting with the treble and adding one bell at each whole pull (or several whole pulls), in sequence until we have all bells ringing joyously in rounds.

We would be keen to hear the ringing plans of other towers...

Julia Kilfoyle

## CRAYFORD

Our new ringers continue to progress well and we are hoping they will be able to take part in the call change competition in November. Practices continue to be well supported and we even briefly managed to ring touches of Stedman Triples before Thomas left for university. We did manage to ring a quarter of Grandsire Triples with a practice night band which is the first time that that has happened at Crayford for a long time.

We also named the final variation in the series that we started naming last year. This time Noviomagus which is an old name for Crayford. For Remembrance, as well as
general ringing, we are aiming to ring a 1918 date touch.

Tuesday, 24 July 2018
1260 Noviomagus Doubles in 42mins

1. Debra Say
2. Sue Cameron
3. David Gyles
4. Andrew Sinclair
5. Rupert Cheeseman (C)
6. Neville Wilding

Rung to celebrate the wedding of June and Pete who married on 13th July 2018.

This is believed to be the first time this variation has been rung and has been named Noviomagus Doubles (St Osmund with a Plain Bob Bob and London Single 13b/dc)

Tuesday, 11 September 2018
1260 Grandsire Triples in 45mins

1. David Gyles
2. Debra Say
3. Peter Skinner
4. Sue Cameron
5. Thomas Wilding
6. Andrew Sinclair
7. Rupert Cheeseman (C)
8. Neville Wilding

Rung in celebration of the life of Anne Elizabeth Barrett (1923-2018) who passed away on the 30th August and whose funeral takes place in Yeovil on the 13th September. And birthday compliments to Nicola Harvey, Sue's sister, whose birthday is tomorrow.

Wednesday, 10 October 2018
1260 St Paulinus Doubles in 42mins

1. Debra Say
2. Sue Cameron
3. Peter Skinner
4. David Gyles
5. Rupert Cheeseman (C)
6. Bethany Kirrage

On St Paulinus Day and with birthday compliments to Melissa and wedding anniversary compliments to Debra and

1st in variation; $3 \& 4$.
Rupert

## WOOLWICH, GREENWICH \& DEPTFORD

## The Meridian Ringers

Due to the holiday season and several ringers being away from time to time there is not much to report, but we have continued with our normal ringing pattern, with our normal practice night on Wednesdays, 8pm-9.30pm, at Greenwich, but occasionally at St. John's, Deptford or Woolwich if Greenwich is not available. We usually ring for the monthly Choral Evensong at Greenwich and also for Evening Worship at St. John's, Deptford once a month [check the website for dates]. We occasionally ring at Woolwich for practices.

Ringing for the Sunday morning Choral Eucharist Service at Greenwich is continuing on a regular basis and we have rung for several weddings at Greenwich. We have some good attendances at practice nights, sometimes ringing all 10 bells, some triples, minor and some additional doubles methods and some work on Treble Hunting Minor. Our learners are making good progress and have achieved Levels $1 \& 2$ on the

Learning the Ropes scheme. Since August we have had another three recruits and they have made a very good start and we hope that they'll be able to do some ringing for the Ringing Remembers Events in November.

We are pleased that Alan Munden is now back after his treatment and ringing with us again and also helping out with teaching our learners.

Everyone is most welcome to any of our ringing events - please check our website for further details.
www.meridianbells.webs.com

> A dodge requires the full cooperation
> of 2 people
> - not just the wishful
> thinking of one
> and the hard work of another

Graham Long

## Lewisham District Events 2018

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\text { Sat } 13^{\text {th }} \text { Oct } & \begin{array}{l}
\text { Quarterly Meeting: Ash, 3.30pm Bells, 4.30p.m. Service, tea, meeting and evening ringing. Send } \\
\text { names for tea to names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk }
\end{array} \\
\text { Fri 19 } 19^{\text {th }} \text { Oct } & \begin{array}{l}
\text { District Practice: Eynsford, 8.00-9.30pm }
\end{array} \\
\text { Fri } 9^{\text {th }} \text { Nov } & \text { District Practice: Shoreham (TBC), 8.00-9.30pm } \\
\text { Sat } 17^{\text {th }} \text { Nov } & \text { District 6-bell Call Change Competition: Farnborough, 2.30pm draw } \\
\text { Fri } 7^{\text {th }} \text { Dec } & \begin{array}{l}
\text { District Practice: Dartford (TBC), 8.00-9.30pm }
\end{array} \\
\text { Sat } 12^{\text {th }} \text { Jan } & \begin{array}{l}
\text { Quarterly Meeting: Sidcup, 3.30pm Bells, 4.30p.m. Service, tea, meeting and evening ringing. } \\
\text { Send names for tea to names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk }
\end{array} \\
\text { Sat } 13^{\text {th }} \text { Apr } & \begin{array}{l}
\text { Quarterly Meeting: TBC, 3.30pm Bells, 4.30p.m. Service, tea, meeting and evening ringing. Send } \\
\text { names for tea to names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk }
\end{array} \\
\text { Sat } 13^{\text {th }} \text { Jul } & \begin{array}{l}
\text { Quarterly Meeting: TBC, 3.30pm Bells, 4.30p.m. Service, tea, meeting and evening ringing. Send } \\
\text { names for tea to names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk }
\end{array} \\
\text { Sat } 12^{\text {th }} \text { Oct } & \begin{array}{l}
\text { Quarterly Meeting: TBC, 3.30pm Bells, 4.30p.m. Service, tea, meeting and evening ringing. Send } \\
\text { names for tea to names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk }
\end{array}
\end{array}
$$

Everybody is welcome to all of these. What is actually rung will be tailored to who turns up.
Please check the district website www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk nearer the event in case of any last minute changes or phone or email Ian on master@lewishamdistrict.org.uk
For the latest county and news from other Districts see the KCACR web site at www.kcacr.org.uk
If you would like to join the Lewisham District email group to get reminders/updates of district events please visit http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/lewisham_district or email lewisham_district-subscribe@yahoogroups.co.uk

## Proposed rule changes

Notification of proposed Rule Changes to District Secretaries who shall read out the proposed alteration at the next Annual District Meeting (in accordance with Rule 15).

## Rules of the Association

|  | Existing Rule | Proposed alteration |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 4.(e) | Members aged 65 years <br> or over, Members 18 <br> years and below and <br> those Members in full <br> time education shall <br> pay 50\% of the annual <br> subscription. | Members aged 18 years <br> and below shall pay <br> $50 \%$ of the annual sub- <br> scription. |
| 4.(f) | Members aged 65 years <br> or more with 25 years <br> unbroken practising <br> membership shall be <br> entitled to free mem- <br> bership. | Delete entirely and <br> replace with; <br> Members aged 75-79 <br> years shall pay 75\% of <br> the annual subscription. <br> Members aged 80 years <br> or over shall be entitled <br> to free membership. |
| 4.(h) | A member over the age <br> of eighteen may at any <br> time secure member- <br> ship for life by paying a <br> subscription equal to 15 <br> times the current annu- <br> al subscription. The <br> proportion to be allo- <br> cated to the Bell Resto- <br> ration Fund shall be as <br> prescribed by the Gen- <br> eral Committee in the <br> year of payment. <br> of eighteen may at any <br> time secure member- <br> ship for life by paying <br> a subscription equal to <br> 20 times the current <br> annual subscription. <br> The proportion to be <br> allocated to the Bell <br> Restoration Fund shall <br> be as prescribed by the <br> General Committee in <br> the year of payment. |  |
| 5 | Eight members shall <br> form a quorum at any <br> meeting of the General <br> Committee. | Six members shall <br> form a quorum at any <br> meeting of the General <br> Committee. |



## Background to 2019 Rule Change proposals

## A) Changes to subscription structure (concessionary rates and life membership)

For the last two years the Association has run at a loss where the expenses of the Association have exceeded subscription and other income. It was agreed at the 2018 AGM that none of the 2018 income would be transferred to the Bell Restoration or Training Funds in order to reduce the pressure on the Associations unrestricted reserves. It will be necessary, however, to address the situation from 2019 and this paper sets out the background to the proposed rule changes and the various options that were considered.
A combination of static (or in fact slightly reduced) income and increased expenditure has resulted in the Association making a loss each year from 2015 onwards.

## Expenditure

The pattern of spending varies somewhat from year to year depending on circumstances but there are a number of items that the Committee had to note.
First, the decision of the 2018 AGM to preserve the right of all members (irrespective of subscription category) to receive a Handbook free of charge means that it would be imprudent to assume any cost saving in relation to the Handbook. The cost of the Handbook in 2017 amounted to $18 \%$ of total income raised that year (22\% of subscription income). This was almost the same amount that was transferred into the Bell Restoration Fund.
Second, work on developing a mobile ring using the bells kindly donated by David Cawley has already incurred significant expense and is likely to incur more unless it is the subject of a separate fund-raising effort.
Third, general out of pocket expenses claimed by members in relation to Association work and the expenses incurred by our Central Council reps attending the CC Annual meeting have increased significantly. Over the years many people have not claimed expenses in relation to the work they do for the Association and many still don't. However, we cannot expect people to be out of pocket in supporting our hobby.
For many years (with a few exceptions) the Association has placed $50 \%$ of its subscription income into dedicated funds for Bell Restoration and more recently for training.
Therefore while the officers and committee will continue to scrutinise our expenditure carefully and keep it to the minimum needed to run the Association well we need to increase our income.

## Income

In relation to subscription income the Table below shows members in the various subscription categories

|  | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Adult | 770 | 729 | 692 | 697 | 702 |
| New Life | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 4 |
| $>65+25 y$ | 209 | 230 | 247 | 262 | 185 |
| Junior | 74 | 76 | 83 | 73 | 79 |
| Student | 15 | 17 | 17 | 6 | 5 |
| Senior | 372 | 367 | 378 | 413 | 424 |
| Total* | 1442 | 1420 | 1419 | 1451 | 1399 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Paying full | 770 | 729 | 692 | 697 | 702 |
| Paying half | 461 | 460 | 478 | 492 | 508 |
| Paying nothing | 209 | 230 | 247 | 262 | 185 |
| Paying once | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 4 |

Changes in subscription categories 2013-17
*Note that existing Life Members are not shown in this table since they do not and cannot contribute to subscription income.
We can see that while the overall membership has fallen slightly, the number paying a full subscription has fallen by $10 \%$ with a commensurate increase in senior members (who pay $50 \%$ of the normal subscription). Over the five-year period a further $16 \%$ of senior members took advantage of the concession that gives them free membership having attained 25 years continuous membership of the Association.
By way of comparison, in 1979 there were 631 Adult members paying a full subscription and only 54 Senior members eligible for a reduced subscription.

## Options for change

There are a number of issues in relation to expenditure which were outlined above that will be examined further but most are unlikely to have a significant impact. The members have made plain the fact that they consider a free copy of the Handbook to be an important membership benefit. Even if only half of members wished to receive the Handbook this would not reduce the cost by $50 \%$ but by a marginal amount due to the printers' pricing structure. The costs associated with developing the Mobile Belfry should not be unexpected, even though they are a significant pressure on the Association's general fund.
There are various options for increasing income or reducing expenditure
Increasing income

1. An increase in the base subscription
2. Removal of some or all of the concessionary rates so that a greater proportion of members pay the full subscription
3. A combination of the above

Reducing developmental / charitable expenditure

1. No longer paying any subscription income into the Bell Restoration Fund
2. No longer paying any subscription income into the Training Fund
3. Both of the above

These options were modelled in detail in relation to their financial effect and debated at the General Committee meeting in July. The proposed rule changes reflect the final decisions of that meeting.
It was recognised that the demographic of our society and of ringing has changed significantly and a situation where about half of our members pay a reduced subscription or none at all while retaining all of the benefits is, regrettably, not sustainable. This is why we have to change the concessionary rates currently enjoyed by many members.
In terms of the benefits of membership, the level of insurance cover is reduced for older members. The proposed rule changes acknowledge this by retaining a somewhat reduced subscription for those whose insurance cover is lower.
Finally, the subscription for a new Life Member has been increased to 20 times the full annual subscription.
While the level of subscriptions is a simple matter for the AGM each year, the concessionary rates are enshrined in the Association rules, hence the need for rule changes.
In the interest of transparency, we are also giving advance notice that a proposal will be made to increase the basic annual subscription to $£ 12$. Both this increased subscription and the changes to concessionary rates are needed to address the financial issues facing the Association.

## B) Change to Quorum for General Committee

This rule change simply changes the quorum to reflect the smaller General Committee following the 2018 AGM. The new quorum of six is $40 \%$ of committee membership. (The old quorum of eight was only $24 \%$ of the previous committee of 34 members but would be over $50 \%$ of the new committee and unrealistically high.)

On behalf of the General Committee I commend these rule changes to you.

Phillip Barnes
On behalf of the General Committee
Everyone has the right
to miss a dodge now and then.

Just don't abuse the privilege.

Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting, St Paulinus, Crayford, 14th July 2018
17 people attended representing 8 towers, 2 unattached members and 2 non-members.

1. Apologies for absence

Received from Margaret Heald (Erith St John), Liz \& Les Brett (Erith CC), lan Mills (Eltham), Chris Goldsmith and Shelagh Norman (unattached)
2. Minutes of last meeting (14th April 18 at Erith St John)

The minutes were on the rear of the newsletter distributed at tea and will be added to the website. Proposed: Les Brett; Seconded: Jim Rooke.

## 3. Matters Arising not covered elsewhere - Nil

## 4. Election of New Members

| New Member | Tower | Proposed by | Seconded by |
| :--- | :---: | :--- | :--- |
| Ann Saunders | Unattached | Lesley Barclay | Nick Wilkins |
| Carol Brown | Crayford | Rupert Cheeseman | Andrew Sinclair |

Ann is a returning ringer and both were in attendance and given a warm welcome.
5. KCACR
a) Report on the meeting held on 28th April 2018

- The Stockbury project grant can be administered once paperwork from those involved in the project submit paperwork.
- There is to be discussion between those involved in the Youth Striking Competition and David Cawley as to a suitable trophy which comes within budget.
- There have been changes in the number of people on the committee which means the quorum size needs to be reduced from the current 8.
- District reps need to report back how many members require a hard copy of the handbook. When we know how much money will be needed to print them, we can determine whether the peal fee should increase or not.
- Doug has volunteered to produce the handbook this year as there is still a vacancy for the handbook editor post.
- Job descriptions are to be drawn up for officer positions detailing the 'jobs' which need to be done to which Districts can add their own requirements. It is important that Association officers know who to contact at District level for information.
- Membership lists are currently on individual databases in each district. Data needs to be kept on a central database in order to comply with GDPR regulations. A nominated person in each district needs to update their membership list /data with consent given to hold data.
- Our membership fee needs to cover the cost of the handbooks, training courses, the Central Council fee and bell restoration. The current fee is not sufficient in the long term to cover these costs. There will be an explanatory note coming but Districts should have discussion at meetings to raise awareness of what the fee is spent on and the possibility of raising it in the future.
- $\quad$ The Central Council is undergoing many structural changes. Emails and publicity in the Ringing World detail the changes. Discussion at District meetings would be useful.
- Phil Barnes would like to have a discussion with District Ringing Masters and Chairman about training needs in their areas. A good target would be to have one ringer per rope across Kent. Targeted practices with towers joining together to support each other would help. We should value and welcome people with more experience than ourselves who come along to help.
- The young ringers in Kent have been having fun ringing together. It would be good to see them take part in events such as the Farningham Trophy or the 6-bell competition.
- There is no more progress on finding a secure place to store the mobile ring. The bells are at Taylors at the moment. The bells can be used for weddings, fetes and training events.
- A new complaints procedure has been adopted and will be published shortly.
- 'Ringing Remembers' and 'Battles Over' are two initiatives being promoted to showcase ringing on Remembrance Sunday at 7pm. Tower captains could liaise directly with their incumbents to arrange this. Please discuss at District meetings. Information will be sent out.
- County 8-bell - 30th June 2018 - Maidstone District (Aylesford), 9.45am draw, Erin Triples
- County 6-bell - 22nd September 2018 - Upchurch, 9.45am
- Youth Competition - 3rd November 2018 - Ashford District (Venue TBC), 1.45pm
- Would people be interested in regular Association wide 10 bell practices, maybe mid-
 week?
- Having an Association wide calendar with the website being used as a portal for each District to have its own pages would be a clear way forward to accessing and storing information easily.
b) County Chairman's group meetings feedback
- Two meetings bringing together the District Chairs, Ringing Masters and Training Officers have already taken place hosted by County Chair, Phil Barnes to discuss how to take ringing forward. It is Phil's aim to bring the focus back to ringing, recruiting new ringers and supporting them. He wants to explore how towers and districts can help each other especially across district borders.
- District Chair, Philippa Rooke would like to explore holding district committee meetings to increase coordination. These are regularly held in the other districts but have never featured in our district in her memory.
- An updated survey as to what training equipment/facilities we have in the towers in our district is to be launched. Where are the simulators? How easy is it to teach in your tower? Can you silence the bells easily and quickly?
- What are the ringing networks within our district and cross district?
- Training officer, Lesley Barclay said that as part of her role she had visited some towers already, sometimes with the assistance of others or solo. She requests that if you or any of your ringers would like a course on anything particular, please get in touch. If she can't organise one, she will seek out if anyone else is holding a suitable course that you can attend. One ringer requested assistance with rope-sight and joined a Ladies Guild session focusing on this aspect.
- A request to re-circulate information regarding the Ringing Remembers campaign where numbers of new or returning ringers since Oct 2017 are collated. The aim is to recruit more ringers than were lost in WWI.
- A quick show of hands of those present indicated that the majority present rang at more than one tower, supporting ringing around the District, County or neighbouring Associations.
- The question was raised as to what format the meetings of Lewisham District should take. Should we try other formats? Some districts have a short business meeting prior to or within a district practice. The rules just state that four business meetings should be held each year ideally. There must be a minimum of one meeting a year - ADM. Philippa requested that those attending take these questions back to their towers to canvass opinion. It will also be circulated to tower contacts. Lesley Barclay suggested we try it and see how it goes.


## 6. Events Update and results

Seven of the eight ringers from the 20178 bell winning band rang again this year. Although we came fourth it was felt that the standard was the best rung during the practices. The judges' positive feedback made particular comment on the tenor ringing, which was rung by Jon Fry. The first three teams were very close. A full report can be found in the latest newsletter.
Nick Wilkins advised the meeting that he had taken forward the suggestion from the last meeting to arrange some of the district practices to join with the weekly practice night for some towers requesting further assistance. Thus far, a practice has been held at Sidcup and one is scheduled for Wednesday 25th July at Farnborough and another at Erith CC on Monday 17th September.
The monthly Surprise Major practices at Chelsfield on the second Weds of the month have now been re-defined and opened up to the district as a whole for those wishing to advance in Surprise Major. It will continue to extend across the district boundary with ringers from other districts being invited. The first one was attended by 11 people, which was pretty good considering it was competing with the England World Cup game!
The Farningham Trophy took place on 24th June with seven teams entering, four from Lewisham District, plus teams from Brasted and Sevenoaks \& Cowden and the Kent Young Ringers. An excellent day was had by all with one of the two Eynsford \& Farningham bands taking the trophy and Crayford winning the hand-bell tune ringing competition. Thanks go to the County Chairman, Philip Barnes and his wife Liz who kindly judged.

## 7. Future Events



## 10. Any Other Business

- The Kent Young Ringers (KYR) are going from strength to strength, let's encourage all our young ringers to join them. Jen Thomas (County youth officer) has lots of events planned as well as taking part in both County and National Events. Just a week ago, the KYR came third in the National contest. The age for National competitions is 18 and under, but 25 for County events.
- Rupert thanked those contributing articles for the newsletter
- Nick Wilkins informed us that a sponsored peal was being attempted on Tues 14th August, 11am at Farnborough in aid of the London City Mission, any donations/sponsorship gratefully received.


## 11. Vote of thanks

Nick Wilkins thanked the lay reader, Denise Morgan for taking the service, Nic Turner for playing the organ and the Crayford band for providing a very nice tea, he made particular note of the home made items. He also thanked them for allowing us to ring their bells.

Next meeting will be Saturday 13th October 2018 at St Peter and St Paul, Ash by Wrotham.

