

## Report on Kent Mobile Ring Progress For General Committee 28 July 2018

Until Easter this year all progress that was made was towards the plan agreed in the Proposal agreed at AGM 2017. The proposed secondhand trailer was found to be unsuitable and a new one purchased.

Brian has serious storage problems, with the BRF trailer, this KMR trailer and his car. It is going to be possible to move the KMR trailer in my garage, which will help.

The bells are at Loughborough to have David Cawley's inscriptions put on them. He needs to give them his order and he proposes:  
on the front 5

KCACR

and on the tenor

KCACR

David gave me

He'd like the committee's approval for this.

I have always been concerned about the engineering of the original design, with the bells carried so high on a trailer. Roger Pocock (MIMEchE, MIEE) agreed to look into it. He has produced a detailed document (10 June 18) and concludes that "it may be possible to take this arrangement on the national roads..... but it is thought to be inadvisable". So clearly we have to rethink.

Fortunately no one has yet produced detailed drawings for the original design and so not too much time has been wasted.

I have so far two suggestions from Brian for solving the problem while staying with the original design:

1. adding weight at the base of the trailer to lower the centre of gravity. Calculations yet to be done on the value of this, but it would clearly add to the overall weight, which may bring other problems.
2. raising the bells in some way on arrival. Yet to be considered in detail. Sadly it would spoil the "no work required to erect the ring when it arrived" ideal in the 2017 Proposal.

I am awaiting a response from Matthew Higby, following this development.

I think, at this stage, we ought to be somewhat open-minded about how we proceed.

Obviously finance may be a problem, but for now I think we should more-or-less ignore that and work out what needs to be done. As I see it, for the technical design there are two main issues to consider:

- a. the go and sound of the bells
- b. the ease of tasks, and time taken, on arrival on site and departure

Recently I have been lucky to have the opportunity to work with the Lichfield Diocesan Mobile Belfry (Phil Gay) over the CC weekend and the Madam's Court Ring (Martin Hooker) at the Kent Show.

I realise there are many good ideas, old and new, and more or less radical, out there to be considered. We will probably have to make compromises though.

I am very aware that work on feasibility of the ultimate management of the KMR or its finances have not been top priority recently.

We haven't had a KMR meeting since June 2017. Getting a number of active people together is always difficult. However meetings of subsets, which may be more practical, may be appropriate soon.

There are quite a number of people in Kent involved/particularly interested in the KMR one way and another - Brian Butcher, David Cawley, Doug Davis, Martin Hooker, Jo Horton, Roger Pocock and, potentially, Chris Bassett and David Grimwood. (Hope I haven't forgotten anyone!) We are also very lucky to have Phil Gay and Matthew Higby prepared to support and assist us.

If anyone else with relevant expertise would like to become involved, I would be delighted to hear from them.

Catherine Lewis  
Chair KMR Management Committee