



KCACR ROCHESTER DISTRICT

Quarterly Meeting - Sat 20th April 2024, Bredgar

Draft Minutes

Attending:

Tim Ford (chair), Anita Perryman (secretary), Neil Jones, Chris M Trafford, Chris J Trafford, Stephen Trafford, Robert Still, Mike and Gill Rannard, Joanne Pohl, Charlotte Elvers, Mark Elvers, Nick Wheeler, Matthew Cockell, Jay Ford, Elizabeth Sabine, Annabel White, Kathryn White, Isabel Hopper, Cathy Hall, James Pearce, Roger Pocock, Brian Lawson, Rachel Cox, Val Reckless, Stuart Cox, Alison Gerrish, Rona Joiner, Doug Davis, Keith Tolputt, Steve and Nicky Whiting

1. Welcome & Minute's Silence

A minute's silence was held for Colin Cogger of Cuxton.

2. Apologies for absence

Florence Hamp, Steve Fitton

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last Quarterly Meeting, held at Gillingham on 20th January 2024, were circulated prior to the meeting. They were agreed to be correct and were proposed by CH and seconded by NJ.

4. Matters arising

a. Posting meeting minutes to the KCACR website

The minutes of these meetings are now being posted to the KCACR website. All attendees names have been abbreviated to initials for GDPR reasons, however, this may make them difficult to follow. Attendees were asked if they object to having their full name published in the attending section of the minutes posted on the website. No objections were raised.

b. KCACR AGM Feedback

The KCACR AGM was held on Easter Monday, 1st April 2024, in the Rochester District at St Margaret, Rainham. They welcome Joanne Pohl, from Rochester, as the new general secretary. Sue Bassett, leaving that post, is the new association training officer.

They wish to publicise that there is money available in the Training Fund. This is used to fund ART M1 and M2 training free to members and the expenses for Kent Young Ringers. It could also be used to provide simulators and associated equipment to support training projects.

They welcome other applications for training expenses.

c. Results of Striking Competition

6-bell method competition:

1st scratch band 75%

2nd Bredgar 71%

3rd Tunstall 64%

Congratulations to the scratch band and to Bredgar who will represent the Rochester District at the KCACR inter-district competition on 28th September in the Lewisham District.

Call change competition:

1st Bredgar 76%

2nd Rochester Cathedral 57%

Congratulations to Bredgar for their win.

Well done to the following, who achieved firsts:

Joanne Pohl: first striking competition

Matthew Cockell: first striking competition

Annabel White: first method striking competition

Thank you to Doug Davis for judging. This was the first call change competition held in the Rochester District since 2019.

d. **Proposed Rochester District Rules for 6-bell Striking Competitions**

The KCACR striking competition rules are not really appropriate for district competitions. It is proposed that some district rules are formulated. Some suggestions were read out, but this did not seem like the time for an extended discussion. It was suggested that the committee look at various old rules and draft a proposal for review at the next quarterly meeting. This was proposed by NJ and seconded by CH.

Action: Committee to discuss and agree a proposal for district striking competition rules.

e. **ART ringing hubs**

The Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) ringing hubs: a list of events is available at: <https://kcacr.org.uk/kcacr-art-m1-learning-hubs/>

Please encourage your learners and M1 (bell handling) teachers to sign up.

Report from Steve Fitton: The Milton Regis hub (7:30 - 9 pm every other Monday) is going well, with teachers numbering between 5 and 8 and students between 8 and 12. I

understand that some of the other hubs have not fared quite as well, but I don't have numbers. The majority of the current students are at a point in their training where they would benefit more from ringing rounds and call changes, but this would come under M2 training hubs. Currently I'm not aware of any M2 hubs in Kent but we are looking to run some later in the year.

NJ: There may be an M2 training hub at Rochester Cathedral on 31st August, however, this is yet to be confirmed.

f. **Gagglemail discussion list** for the district

NJ: This is in progress.

g. **Firsts Month**

RJ: This year in the Rochester District we are holding a 'Firsts Month' from 20th April to 20th May. This timeline includes both the district striking competition, and the district practice at Swanscombe: good opportunities to score firsts!

The purpose of the month is both to encourage members to stretch themselves to try new things, and to celebrate firsts at every level, from first time ringing a bell unassisted, to participating in your first striking competition. If you are proud of it, we want to know about it.

Other examples of firsts could be: ringing for Sunday service, calling your first touch, ringing in your first method, calling your first call changes, organising your first tower tour etc. We will be setting up an event on BellBoard which can be used to record your firsts. Wouldn't it be great if every ringing tower in the district was able to make a submission?

The district is happy to help with support, but please let us know sooner rather than later if this is required.

An event titled, "Rochester District Firsts Month", has been set up on Bellboard. The performance does not have to be a quarter or peal, it is possible to record general ringing with one person named and add the first, e.g, spliced bell rope.

Detailed instructions for linking to the event on Bellboard:

Submit your piece of ringing as usual.

Then go into 'amend' on the left hand side

Select the piece of ringing you want to add

Click 'edit' at the top

Select 'add to event'

There will be a drop-down box of the events you can add to, and Rochester District Firsts Month will be among them.

Click on that and then Save!

5. Election/welcome of new members

Gill Rapley of Sittingbourne, verified by Tim Ford

Gill is a returning ringer who used to ring at Minster and has rung a few quarter peals. She is now secretary for Sittingbourne.

Ayodele and Olapade Babatunde of Gravesend, verified by Keith Tolputt

Ayo and Ola are members of the congregation who have been learning, when they can, over the last couple of years. They have now reached membership criteria level.

All three were proposed by Jay Ford and seconded by Neil Jones. They were elected unanimously and were welcomed to the association.

6. Forthcoming events

- Firsts Month (see above)
- Sat 18th May, 10 - 11:30 am, district practice at Swanscombe focused on rounds, call changes and plain hunt
- Sat 15th June, district outing to Hastings
- Sat 22nd June, KCACR 8-bell striking comp in Canterbury district at Quex Park; this year's test piece is 280 changes Canterbury Pleasure Bob Triples. The new mobile belfry, the Touring Tower will be there, the legendary Quex BBQ and beer machine will be running at lunchtime, and there will be open towers in the afternoon. Everyone is invited for these.
- Sat 20th July, 3 pm, district practice and quarterly meeting at Northfleet
- Sat 19th October, 3 pm, ADM at Tunstall
- Sat 14th December, 6 pm, Christmas social at Frindsbury Hall (tickets will be sold)

7. AOB

- Handbooks were distributed.
- Well done to the Kent Yong Ringers (including ringers from Rochester Cathedral and Shorne) who finished a worthy third at SEECON (South East England Striking Contest for young ringers) 13th April at Bushy, Hertfordshire. The young ringers of Winchester and Portsmouth won. Our young ringers will be heading to the Ringing World National Youth Contest on Saturday 6th July in London.

Vote of thanks goes to Bredgar for hosting and providing refreshments.

The meeting closed at 17:43.

