



KCACR ROCHESTER DISTRICT

Quarterly Meeting - Sat 20th Jan 2024, Gillingham

Minutes

Attending:

TF (chair), AP (secretary), AL, JF, PSB, CH, NW, NJ, ME, CE, SF, CMT, CJT, FH, AG, DR, RJ, PF, GR, EC, HC, TW, DW, DC, MR, VC, JL, JP, IW, AD, KT, JA and MA

1. Welcome & Minute's Silence

A minute's silence was held for DL who passed away in December. He rung at Minster-in-Sheppey and Queenborough and other Kent towers before moving away to ring elsewhere. He was involved in training many KCACR ringers, including EC and PB, and held committee positions.

2. Apologies for absence

MF, ES, KW, AW

3. Minutes of ADM

The minutes of the ADM were circulated by email prior to the meeting. They were agreed to be correct and were proposed by SF and seconded by KT.

4. Matters arising

a. Proposed changes to the election of new members

Concerns were raised at the ADM over proposed changes to the procedure for election of new members. The on-line system, membermojo, allows anyone to sign-up to the association and become an official member of a tower without approval from the tower captain. It was requested that this issue be considered by the KCACR committee. NJ reports that the membership rules are very old and no longer applicable for use with the online system. The association committee is aware of our concerns and revisions are being discussed. For now, we should use the online system, and clarify that the applicant has been signed off by a district committee member and their tower captain at meetings.

b. Feedback on November Quarter Peal Month

There were 14 quarter peals: 4 of major; 3 of triples; 2 of minor and 5 of doubles. They were rung at 10 towers within the district plus one quarter at Hollingbourne (with district members). They were called by 8 different conductors.

Action: All. Please let us know if you have feedback on events, or want anything to be done differently.

c. Posting meeting minutes to the KCACR website

It is planned to post the minutes of these meetings to the KCACR website. All attendees names will be abbreviated to initials for GDPR reasons. No members raised any objections.

d. KCACR AGM planning

The KCACR AGM will be held on Easter Monday, 1st April 2024, in the Rochester District at St Margaret, Rainham. We are in the process of planning open towers for ringers coming into and leaving Rainham. The service is scheduled for 12 noon, attendees will be asked to bring their own lunch or make their own arrangements. The AGM is scheduled to start at 2pm.

e. ART ringing hubs

The Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) is pushing for excellence in ringing teaching. Their M1 module covers how to teach bell handling to new learners. Once ringing teachers have attended an M1 course, they need to be observed practising their skills on new learners before they can gain accreditation. To benefit both those working towards accreditation and new learners, SB has organised some ringing hubs (workshops) across the county. In the

Rochester District these will be held at Milton Regis; the next one is Monday 29th January, 7:30 pm. A full list is available at:

<https://kcacr.org.uk/kcacr-art-m1-learning-hubs/>

Please encourage your learners and M1 teachers to sign up.

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

There is a feeling that the current email dissemination process does not reach all the ringers that might be interested and is not fast enough for some requests, nor does it facilitate discussion. Gagglemail is a free webmail based system for disseminating information and allowing discussion between those in a group. An invitation link is sent out and recipients choose whether to sign up. There is a 2000 member limit, it anonymises your email address and only stores messages for a limited time (although users can store messages at their end). If you wrote a message, then Gagglemail would then circulate it to other members within the group. Would this be of value to members? NJ

JF This should be proposed to the youngsters.

JP What sort of messages do you envisage? NJ For example, one short for wedding, cancelled practice, etc., things that need to go beyond a tower based group.

EC Not everyone checks emails immediately, so it might not solve that problem.

NJ The older generation may not use Facebook or WhatsApp.

EC Children's parents need to keep receiving messages in order to get them to events.

JF However, it might be useful to older young ringers who can get themselves to events.

DR We should try it and see if it is useful.

TF We need more than one platform to reach everyone.

A show of hands produced some interest.

Action: NJ to forward information to AP to circulate

g. **Firsts Month**

This year we will be holding a Firsts Month from 20th April and to 20th May 2024. This includes two district events with opportunities to ring firsts. Thinking about ringing firsts, it is worth celebrating achievements other than just ringing quarter peals. We should celebrate more stuff, for example, ringing for Sunday service for the first time, your first plain hunt, calling your first touch, organising a quarter for the first time, ringing in your first striking competition. We will set up an event on BellBoard, which can be used to record your firsts. It would be amazing if every tower could produce some kind of first. The district committee is happy to help with support, so please ask (preferably with a little notice). RJ

5. Election/welcome of new members

JP and EC of Rochester Cathedral

NJ JP and EC are now valuable members of the band who regularly ring rounds and call changes for Sunday services. They are happy on 6 bells and getting used to 8 and 10. They are assets to the band as personalities as well. JP has already had an article published in the Ringing World.

PSB of Northfleet

KT PSB is one of a group of congregation members who have been taught to ring since March; she is the third to become a member from that group. She is currently progressing from rounds on 6 to 8, and hopefully will soon be able to ring on Sundays.

All three were welcomed to the association.

6. Forthcoming events

- Sat 17th February, 3 pm, District Practice at Minster-in-Sheppey: focused on surprise minor (Kent, Cambridge, Beverley, Norwich)
- Sat 17th February, afternoon, Chalk, inter-district youth striking contest. The Rochester District has a trophy to defend!

- Sat 16th March, Training event at St Margaret, Rochester, Ringing Up and Down in Peal - sign-up will be required to keep the numbers sensible. We are currently recruiting helpers; St Margaret's ringers will be offered sign-up first.
- Sat 20th April, 3 pm, at Bredgar 6-bell Striking Comp & Quarterly Meeting
It was suggested that if possible each call change band should include a ringer in their first striking competition. This would tie-in with Firsts Month.
- Sat 15th June, district outing to Hastings
- Sat 22nd June, KCACR 8-bell striking comp in Canterbury district: 280 changes Canterbury Pleasure Bob Triples
- Sat 19th October, 3 pm, ADM (Tunstall TBC)
- Sat 14th December, 6 pm, Christmas social at Frindsbury Hall (tickets will be sold)

7. AOB

- NJ We would like to extend an invitation to the district to come on the Rochester Cathedral outing to Islington and Hackney on Saturday 3rd February. Details are available at: <https://kcacr.org.uk/rochester-cathedral-tower-outing-sat-3rd-feb-2024/>
- VC Association clothing prices have gone up a little, colour sheets are now available. Enamel lapel badges are in stock, these are £2.50 each direct, extra for postage.

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

The meeting closed at 17:03.