



Maidstone District

The Kent County Association of Change Ringers

Maidstone District

Chairman: Elizabeth Barnes

Secretary: Simon Davies

www.kcacr-maidstone-district.org.uk

Minutes

For the **Annual District Meeting** held on **Saturday 14th October 2017 at Leeds.**

Apologies for absence were received from: - Richard Young (Yalding); Sue Payne (East Malling); Dot Hooker (Otham); Charles Tassell (Ulcombe); Heather Knowler (Chart Sutton); Liz and Phillip Barnes (Wrotham Williams (Otham)); Clive & Nell Ticehurst (Lenham)

21 members signed the attendance book.

Election of a meeting chair: -

In the absence of Liz Barnes, Terry Barnard was proposed by Daniel Brady and seconded by Debbie Brady to be acting chairman. The membership agreed that Terry would chair the meeting.

2017/ADM01 Minutes and any matters arising from previous meeting: -

- a) 2017/QMC 8th July 2017 Barming

The minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

- 1.) 28th October 2017, Otford; KCACR Young Ringers Competition. Jane Higgs said that Maidstone District was unable to raise a full team, but young ringers from Maidstone District were encouraged to attend with the possibility of forming a scratch team with young ringers from other districts. The age limit for young ringers is 25.
- 2.) Other events for young ringers:
 - 25th November, Hollingbourne, Young Ringers practice.
 - 28th December, tbc (possibly Rochester District), Outing.

2017/ADM02 Election of new members: -

There were no nominations for membership.

2017/ADM03 KCACR Updates - Ringing Reforms: -

Daniel Brady summarised the proposals for restructuring County and District Officers. The purpose is to streamline the size of committees at County and District levels. At present the KCACR committee comprises 34 members, the reforms would reduce this number to the bare essentials – Chairman, Secretary, Ringing Master, Youth coordinator, 1 representative for each District, plus Central Council representatives. Other roles e.g. Bell restoration, Safeguarding etc. would report to, but would not be part of, the KCACR committee. Within Districts, the proposal is for the roles of Chairman and Ringing Master to be combined into a District 'Master'. Ringing is to be a specific focus of District Masters and subject to need District Masters will have the scope to create roles and to delegate activities. The underlying rationale is to reinforce the revised aims of the KCACR by placing greater emphasis on actual change ringing and Daniel stressed that the proposals are not designed to address perceived structural problems in any one District. The final vote on adoption of the proposed reforms will be

at the KCACR AGM on Easter Monday.

The proposals had majority support from the meeting.

It was proposed by Daniel and seconded by Terry Barnard that Maidstone District should take the lead and to adopt the new structure with immediate effect. The new structure was duly adopted by the meeting.

It was decided that a Master, two Assistant Masters, a Secretary, a Treasurer/Membership Secretary, two District Representatives, a Youth Coordinator and a Communications Officer should be elected.

2017/ADM04 Election of officers: -

1.) Master.

Liz Barnes - Proposed by Debbie Brady, seconded by Richard Barclay was duly elected.

2.) District Secretary.

Emma Tilston - Proposed by Terry Barnard, seconded by Roy Barclay was duly elected.

3.) Assistant Masters.

Terry Barnard – Proposed by Daniel Brady, seconded by Debbie Brady
Phil Barnes – Proposed by Terry Barnard, seconded by Richard Barclay

There being no other nominations they were both elected

4.) District Treasurer/Membership Secretary.

Sue Bassett - Proposed by Debbie Brady, seconded by Jane Higgs was duly elected.

5.) Youth Secretary.

Jane Higgs – Proposed by Roy Barclay, seconded by Liam Corette was duly elected.

6.) Communications.

Simon Davies – Proposed by Terry Barnard, seconded by Peter Titley was duly elected.

7.) 2 District Representatives.

Phil Barnes – Proposed by Chris Saunders, seconded by Jane Higgs
Daniel Brady – Proposed by Chris Saunders, seconded by Jane Higgs

There being no other nominations they were both elected.

The 120 Club Promotor is Mal Williams. Roy Barclay will continue to coordinate the draw until the end of the year. A new coordinator will be identified for 2018 onwards.

Simon Davies agreed to take on responsibility for the District bookstall.

Emma Tilston agreed to coordinate KCACR clothing sales.

Peter Titley proposed a vote of thanks for the outgoing committee for all their hard work over recent years and their contributions to our buoyant and thriving District.

The Acting Chairman presented Roy Barclay with an engraved tankard in recognition of 40 years' service on the Maidstone District Committee.

2017/ADM05 District Officers Reports (copies of all reports follow these minutes)

1.) Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report was circulated with the agenda.

2.) District Ringing Masters' Report

The Ringing Master's report was circulated with the agenda.

3.) Publicity Officer's Report

The Publicity Officer's report was circulated with the agenda.

4.) Treasurer's & Membership Report.

The Treasurer's report was circulated with the agenda.

5.) Secretary's Report

The Secretary's report was circulated with the agenda.

6.) District Representatives' Report

The District Representatives' report was circulated with the agenda.

It was proposed by Chris Bassett and seconded by Debbie Brady that the reports be accepted and they were duly adopted by the meeting.

2017/ADM06 Forthcoming Events in the next Quarter: -

- 1.) District Practice – 11th November 2017, Hunton.
Roy Barclay said that because it would be Armistice Day, the local incumbent had agreed to attend and that the 1 minute of silence would be observed.
- 2.) District Carol Service – 9th December 2017, Addington.
- 3.) District Quarterly meeting – 13th January 2017, Linton.

2017/ADM07 Proposed Calendar for 2018/19

Jacqui Barlow suggested the committee to identify an alternative tower for the practice scheduled for February 2019. She reported that she had recently rung at Nettlestead and the pigeon debris falling through the rope holes constituted a health risk.

Roy Barclay confirmed that Staplehurst would be able to host next year's ADM in October 2018.

2017/ADM08 Any other business.

1. Jacqui Barlow asked the new Communications Officer about future plans for producing a District Newsletter. Simon said that a recent committee meeting the

view had been that a newsletter had outlived its usefulness and that other channels of communication were considered to be more appropriate at the present time.

2. It was reported that Liz wishes to reinstate Tower Captains' meetings. Roy said that these had been discontinued because there had been too few issues requiring discussion and attendance had dwindled. However, it has been a few years since the last meeting and it was felt it could be useful. It was suggested that Tower Captains be asked to provide a status report for their towers in advance of a Tower Captain's meeting being organised.
3. Chris Bassett praised the recently published 'Manual of Belfry Maintenance' by the CCCBR Tower and Belfries Committee, cost £12 (<https://ccabr.org.uk/product/manual-of-belfry-maintenance/>) and recommended that every tower purchased a copy. He also said that the article on the Whiting Society's website about bell rope wear and repair (<https://www.whitingsociety.org.uk/articles/stay-making/rope-maintenance.html>) was an additional source of information about Steeple keeping.
4. Chris Bassett asked Daniel for an update on the Church of England's requirements for safeguarding. Daniel said that Nigel Spencer was going to contact all towers with clarification of Chris Mew's (CCCBR) latest update. Briefly, responsibility for overseeing the participation of tower officers and individual ringers in safeguarding training lies with PCCs. Training courses should be run by the Diocese and taken every 3-years, with the costs borne by the PCC. For ringers who ring at multiple churches transferability of training will be at the discretion of the Disclosure Officer at each church.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Leeds for the use of the bells and to Chris and Debbie for the excellent tea provided.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 6.39pm.

Simon Davies
Outgoing District Secretary
14th October 2017

Signed as a true record by the Chairman
on

(Date) _____

Chairman's Report

Chairman's remarks 2016-17

The District has had a busy and productive year. Our meetings and practices have been well attended and there is generally a friendly and mutually supportive feel to the district. Terry has described the ringing activities in his ringing master's report and Simon some of the social activities in his secretary's report. I should like to express particular thanks to the two of them for their hard work on behalf of the District during the past year – and also to the other members of the committee.

One in particular needs mention this year – Roy Barclay, who has been the District Publicity Officer for more years than anyone can remember. He has announced that he is standing down this year and I hope that everyone will join me in thanking him for his long and loyal service to the District.

As we look forward I hope that all District members will find something within our programme that fits their needs. If not, then please let the District officers know so we can try to arrange what you would like.

Liz Barnes

Ringling Masters' Report for 2017 ADM

Once again over the last 12 months we've seen encouraging attendances at all the district events. Attendance levels have ranged from 21 at both Wateringbury and St Michael's Maidstone, up to 46 at Barming in July. This is very healthy compared to some of the other Districts within the Association. Of necessity a lot of the ringing at these events has been rounds and call changes to cater for our less experienced ringers. But we have also rung more advanced methods, up to surprise major and even Grandsire and Stedman Caters at our 10-bell practice on the glorious Taylor ring at All Saints Maidstone.

As with last year we purposely did not set any special methods as this has allowed each practice to cater better to those in attendance. It also meant that there was more time to devote to individual requests when any were forthcoming.

The District ringing competition at East Farleigh on 11 March was well attended with 4 teams for the call change competition and 5 for the method competition. A very close fought contest saw Aylesford win the call change shield and Staplehurst just pip Aylesford for the method competition. The Staplehurst call change band also won the shield for the band having the most ringers never to have previously rung in a striking competition.

The County 8-bell competition was held on 24 June at Shoreham in the Tonbridge District, at which the Maidstone District band came a very creditable second with 67%, just behind the winners, Lewisham District with 72%. Maidstone District hosted the County 6-bell competition at East Malling on 23 September, with Staplehurst representing the District. After some excellent ringing from all the entrants they were placed fifth. We are very grateful to the ringers from East Malling for their excellent hospitality.

It is very pleasing that ringers have found district events to be both fun and useful occasions to meet other ringers, and gain the confidence to visit other towers. This is a function district events perform very well, and I hope this continues. I would always encourage any ringer, new or well-established, to visit other towers and other districts. Building up experience in this way greatly helps the development of individuals and of ringing in general.

During the year 22 new members have joined the Association including a number of junior members. This bodes well for the future of the District and we extend a warm welcome to them all.

I have certainly enjoyed my first year as your Ringing Master and I hope district practices continue to be a positive and fun experience for everyone.

Terry Barnard

Publicity Officer's Report

Ringling has received a great deal of media publicity this year, but unfortunately for the wrong reasons. We are all very much aware of what happened at York Minster just before Christmas and I will not go into the rights and wrongs of the situation. Suffice it to say that we should use what we have learned from this sad episode to ensure that we all maintain a close relationship with the clergy and PCCs of the churches in which we are privileged to ring.

In our own District *The Belfry*, for 35 years one of the main channels of communication with towers, has not appeared at all during the past 18 months. At a recent District Committee Meeting it was felt that *The Belfry* had outlived its usefulness and that social media, internet and the web were now a far more effective way of disseminating information and receiving feedback. It was therefore decided that no further issues would be published. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have helped in its production over so many years and particularly to the many who have contributed articles.

The District website continues to be updated regularly and, along with the newly revamped KCACR and Central Council websites, forms a publicity scenario which is more all-embracing than we have ever known before.

Finally, as most of you will know, I am not standing for re-election this year. Having been on the District Committee for 40 years, during which time I have filled the roles of Ringing Master, District Rep and for the last 35 years Publicity Officer, I feel that the time is now right for me to take a back seat and hand over to someone new with fresh ideas and energy to push things forward in the years to come. Thank you all for the support you have given me over the years.

Roy Barclay

Publicity Officer

4th October 2017

Treasurer's & Membership Report

KCACR MAIDSTONE DISTRICT



TREASURER'S INTERIM REPORT TO

ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING

14TH OCTOBER 2017

Set out below are the Accounts for the period

1st January 2017 to 30th September 2017 (projected to the year-end).

The End of Year Report for 2017 will be published at the January 2018 Quarterly Meeting.

<u>Expenditure</u>		<u>Income</u>	
Administration	0.00	Subscriptions	1,634.50
120 Club stationery & postage	00.00	Donations to BRF	715.00
120 Club Annual Licence	20.00	Training Fund (Note 1)	142.60
Fund Raising–120 Club (Note 2)	590.00	Fund Raising – 120 Club	1,300.00
Total Expenditure	610.00	Total Income	3,792.10
		SURPLUS	3,182.10
<u>Due to County</u>		<u>Funds in Hand</u>	
Brought fwd at 01.01.17	163.75	District Bank Account	76.67
Surplus at 01.10.2017	3,182.10	County Administration Float	87.08
Subscriptions to County	-1,634.50		
To County Training Fund	-142.60		
To County BRF (Note 3)	-1,405.00		
Total	163.75		163.75

Spliced Fund Donations

Subscriptions Detail

<i>Bearsted</i>	<i>187.00</i>			
<i>Boxley</i>	<i>100.00</i>	<i>2016 late Subscription</i>		<i>20.00</i>
<i>East Farleigh</i>	<i>40.00</i>			
<i>East Malling</i>	<i>50.00</i>	<i>Adult</i>	<i>113</i>	<i>1,125.00</i>
<i>Hunton</i>	<i>80.00</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>86</i>	<i>427.50</i>
<i>Ightham</i>	<i>40.00</i>	<i>Junior</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>50.00</i>
<i>Marden</i>	<i>80.00</i>	<i>New Life Member</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0.00</i>
<i>Staplehurst</i>	<i>45.00</i>	<i>Life Members</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>0.00</i>
<i>Wateringbury</i>	<i>50.00</i>	<i>25+ year members</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>0.00</i>
<i>Yalding</i>	<i>30.00</i>	<i>Associate</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>12.00</i>
	<i>702.00</i>	<i>Total members 2017</i>	<i>266</i>	<i>1,614.50</i>

Notes:

- (1) Training Fund – The Training Fund is intended to give financial support to members of the Association (individuals, towers or Districts) for expenditure related to training costs (see County Website for details). Since April 2017 members' donations at meetings have been paid to the Training Fund.
- (2) 120 Club - This sum represents the projected expenditure if/when all the 120 Club prize cheques are presented. Uncashed cheques after the year end will be treated as donations to the KCACR BRF.
- (3) Belfry Repair Fund - Donations for the part-year January-September 2017 as follows:

Spliced Fund (Wedding Fees) Donations	702.00
Donations (Yalding & E. Malling meetings)	13.00
120 Club (projected net profit)	690.00
	1405.00

Sue Bassett, Honorary Treasurer

1st October 2017

Honorary Treasurer's Report to Maidstone Annual District Meeting - October 2017

The financial year runs January to December annually. The Interim Report overleaf has taken into account income and expenditure to 30th September 2017 with a projected sum for 120 Club prize expenditure, not including administration, postage or stationery costs (yet to be advised).

As Honorary Treasurer for the past 4 years, I am happy to continue in this role if the meeting so wishes. In particular, I would like to thank all towers that have been able to make their subscriptions and donations to the District Bank Account via the internet. Provided they also send me an email to give full details about the payment, it makes my job so much easier, particularly as NatWest is closing so many branches.

Looking at some simple statistics for the Maidstone District over the past 5-years, it becomes clear that our membership profile (and potential income to KCACR) is changing. Whilst most of us are aware of this through our own tower attendance, it may be of interest to note that Adult and Junior membership numbers have remained fairly static, but overall membership numbers are increasing slightly. This is due to members reaching Senior status and many of these also have 25+ years' membership, so no longer pay a subscription. In 2017 the Senior membership is well above the average of the past 5-years and this has a financial impact for Subscription Income to KCACR. However, this can be offset against the generous donations received from towers in respect of the Spliced Fund, but this income too has been variable. Some churches remain popular for weddings but others have suffered competition from alternative venues, which impacts directly on the amounts able to be donated.

The 120 Club continues to be a popular and positive income generator. I would like to thank Mal Williams for being such an excellent organiser and promoter of this lottery. He has been running the club since its inception and more than deserves special thanks for all his hard work to raise funds for the KCACR Belfry Repair Fund.

Sue Bassett

District Secretary's report for 2017 District ADM.

District events throughout the year have been well received and very well attended. Terry addresses this in his report.

The 2016 Carol Service was held at West Peckham – Thank you to Liz Barnes, Barry Evans for coordinating that – also thanks to all at the church.

The District BBQ was hosted by Liz and Phil Barnes. We were very well looked after by our hosts with a great selection of snacks, pizza, salad and ice cream. Additionally the beer brewed and supplied by Chris Bassett went down very well. It was also nice to see a good selection of wines and non-alcoholic beverages.

There was ringing on the 12 bells ring from rounds and call changes to methods. There was also half tone bell ringing with Pachelbel, Aura Lee and Waltzing Matilda - rather nice to see so many people taking part and enjoying this. Finally all 8 handbells were rung - and sounded marvellous.

The event was planned as a non-profit making event - but as with these things - it turned out it did well making approx £100 which will go to the ringing training fund.

A very big thank you to Liz and Phil for hosting and organising a perfect summer event - also a big thanks to all those that helped and attended.

For 2017/18 once again we have a full programme of events planned.

Finally – a huge thanks to Emma Tilston for general support and excellent minute taking.

Simon Davies

Maidstone District Secretary

3 October 2017

District Rep's Report 2017.

1. From 2018 there will be only one Handbook per Tower, members who wish to have a copy can download it online or alternatively it can be ordered when details of next year's handbook are requested in December by the Secretary .
- 2 . This is the second year of ringers who are paid up members of the KCACR being issued with a membership card , anyone who has not received one should see the Treasurer .
- 3 . The County and the District have been upgraded and well worth visiting for future events in the year –i.e –the district Carol service in December .
- 4 . The County now has a Youth Officer to encourage and help with the progress of younger ringers, look out for events that have been organised around the County in the future.
- 5 . The idea of having a mobile ring of bells which available to all districts is slowing moving to completion ,a trailer to carry the bells has been ordered and should be finished by the end of the month, anyone wanting to use would have to collect it and tow it to their chosen venue, anybody who knows of a vacant Barn or garage where it can be stored contact the General Secretary.
- 6 . The Augmentation project at Broomfield has finally after some three years been completed, the problems encountered when raising the bells has been overcome by installing new clappers, we are awaiting to install rope guides to help with the long draft.
- 7 . Safeguarding – Tower captains may have already been approached by their PCC or secretary as the position of the Canterbury Diocese is that they have decided every ringer is required is to be trained in an entry level of a Safeguarding course .

I am not standing for re-election but the position of District Representative has also taken on the looking after the district bookstall and sales book for KCACR clothing , to make a central contact in the district when orders are dispatched .

Chris Saunders