



LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS www.kcacr.org.uk

January 2007

Eltham Win Call Change Competition

The annual district call change competition was this year held at Eltham on the 18th November. This year saw five teams enter, from Eltham, Crayford, Erith, Horton Kirby and Chelsfield. The ringing was generally of a good standard and the results were as follows:

1 st Eltham (rang 1st)	13 faults
2nd Chelsfield (rang 5th)	21.5 faults
3rd Crayford (rang 2nd)	29.5 faults
4th Erith (rang 3rd)	30 faults
5th Horton Kirby (rang 4th)	43 faults

Congratulations to Eltham for a fine piece of ringing on their own bells. Thanks must also go to the Eltham ringers for hosting the competition and providing an extremely good tea (and somewhere warm for the



Newsletter Subscriptions Due

The newsletter coffers are running short of money so it's time for us to collect subscriptions again. The cost is £5 for a year's worth of issues and can be made via cash or cheque made payable to "Lewisham District Newsletter". Payment can be sent to the editor at:



Dominic Meredith
20 Alexandra Road
Sydenham
London
SE26 5NL

or alternatively you can come along to a Beckenham practice night and pay in person!

A Word from the New Editor

Taking on the task of editing a newsletter is always a slightly daunting task, especially when my predecessor made such a good job of it, but here is my first attempt and I hope you enjoy reading it.

I would like to put in a request for articles. One of the features I'd like to do is a regular column for notable peals and quarters, for example ringing milestones, firsts in method, ringing for special occasions and so on. Any articles (even simple updates on recent activities in your tower) would be gratefully received, preferably by e-mail to dominicmeredith@gmail.com.

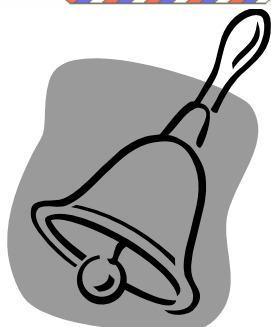
The months since the last newsletter have been fairly quiet, the notable exception being the district call change competition (see front page). However the Christmas and New Year period is always a busy one for bellringers so we've all got busy days coming up.

Best Wishes for the festive season,

Dominic Meredith

"Doctor, Doctor, I need psychiatric help! I keep thinking I'm a bell!"

"Take two aspirin and if you're not better in the morning give me a ring."



How do you make a handbell sound beautiful?

Sell it and buy a violin.

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First Quarter-Peal Congratulations!

Lizzie Duffey of Beckenham recently rang her first quarter after less than a year of ringing. A fantastic effort, especially considering the excellent quality of the striking.

Beckenham Guild

Beckenham, Kent

St George

Sunday, 17 December 2006 in 40mins (14cwt)

1260 Doubles

540 Plain Bob, 480 Grandsire, 240 St Simon

1. Elizabeth Duffey
2. Sara C Hardy
3. Dominic D Meredith
4. Jeremy R Byers
5. James J Hardy (c)
6. David P Macey

First Quarter-peal at first attempt: 1

Around the District

Ash-by-Wrotham

Out here in the sticks we are beginning to make some progress. We are now managing to have more Saturday practices when we get all 6 bells striking. We have two more returnees-to-ringing joining us. Anyone who makes the mistake of visiting the church while we are practising is considered fair game and is offered a pull, which is at least raising awareness and local interest.

Our training day in December fulfilled and even surpassed our expectations though several in the band got a few shocks. Being moved away from tenor cover and having to work for a living.... Ringing methods after a 22 year gap..... Ringing away from home for the first time.....etc. Coordination was more of a problem for some than others (especially at the tea break) though the treat of light, easy going bells was quite disconcerting at times. Our grateful thanks to James and his volunteers and to the towers who let us loose on their bells.

Other recent treats have included splicing parties, change ringing on handbells (must get some tune(s) learnt by Christmas) and refurbishing pulleys.

Still, a very happy Christmas to you all.

John Stook

Beckenham

November and December have proved to be very profitable months for the Beckenham band. Our learners continue to make solid progress and have now become vital members of our Sunday service band. Frequent visitors from other towers

have allowed us to make progress on the more advanced methods too. Recent practices have seen advanced Surprise Major and even some Surprise Royal rung! Our handbells are also getting plenty of use. In addition to change ringing on them we have also been attempting to master some carols (again with help from our visitors) in preparation for ringing in the pub over Christmas (why bother going up a tower if you can just cut straight to the bar?).

As ever, visitors of any standard are always welcome, whether they want to extend their ringing repertoire or simply gets some more practice in.

Erith Christchurch

Reduced numbers for recent practices have meant that those of us who have attended have been ringing Minimus methods - good practice in counting to four and back! We have also entertained our neighbours by playing 'Twinkle, twinkle, little star' with varying degrees of success - in fact it is a very useful exercise in bell control.

Christchurch is holding a Christmas Tree festival this year, together with the Greenwich and Bexley Hospice. Individuals and groups were invited to sponsor a tree which they could then decorate. We agreed to take part and decided (surprise, surprise!) to decorate our tree with bells. We accumulated a variety of bell-related decorations; some quite tasteful, others less so! Part of our practice on 11th December was spent decorating our tree. We adopted the simple method of putting everything we had on to the tree - the final result was actually quite effective! As we go to press, the festival has yet to take place; there is a prize for the best decorated tree - will we win?

As a large number of visitors will be coming to the festival, we have produced a flyer outlining bell ringing and its place in the church - one never knows, we may attract some new recruits.

Elizabeth Brett



The Cinque Ports Ringing Centre at Dover

SATURDAY MORNINGS FOR BEGINNERS

From 10 am to 12 midday

Admittedly we are rather far away, but a few members of the Lewisham District have visited the Centre and may like to know that Saturday morning practices now include basic methods. Up to half-an-hour is still devoted to bell handling if needed, but rounds and call changes, and other exercises begin at a much earlier stage than before. The shortened coffee break at 11 o'clock marks the end of the beginners' session and the start of method ringing, on either five or six bells as required.

The success of the new agenda is of course dependent upon there being enough "inside" ringers to offer this repertoire, and we are most grateful to those who have already given generously of their time. This was to have been for a trial period only, but it has been so popular that we hope to enlist enough help for it to continue.

It would be good if we could build up a team of tutors who could undertake to come on a regular basis, once a month say, with those who can't make a fixed commitment standing in for them on the odd occasion. This will take some time to establish and all help will be much appreciated, from anyone who rings reliably to touches of Plain Bob or Grandsire.

Please contact Peter or Barbara Dale with offers of assistance, tel. 01304 823217 or email ptdale@dsl.pipex.com; a map showing car parks in Dover is available on request.

District Training Day

District Training Day Saturday 10th March 2007

Are you struggling with Plain Hunt or Plain Bob? Are there learners in your tower who would benefit from a one-day course where they will have the opportunity to learn the theory behind Plain Hunting and Plain Bob and be able to practise these skills with the support of experienced ringers?

If you or anyone else in your tower is interested please contact the District Training Officer, Dave Brown as soon as possible as numbers are limited.

Contact details: Telephone 020 8778 2167 or 01322 667705 or e mail chris@cwebb.fsnet.co.uk

A poster advertising this event for you to put on your tower notice board is enclosed with this Newsletter.

David Brown
District Training Officer

Minutes from the Last Meeting

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held at St George's Beckenham on Saturday 14 October 2006

The meeting stood to observe a minute's silence in memory David Hollis of Lewisham

1. Apologies for absence

31 people attended the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Ian Mills, Len and Pauline Morley, (Eltham), Lesley Barclay (Horton Kirby), Rachel Backhouse (Christchurch Erith), John Stook (Ash-by-Wrotham), Bill Lanyon and Graham Wood (Woolwich), Monica Hanscomb (Biggin Hill), Margaret Macey (Foots Cray) and Yvonne Wright (Sidcup).

2. Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held at Holy Trinity Dartford on Saturday 8 July 2006

The minutes were approved on the proposal of James Hardy, seconded by Jim Rooke.

3. Matters arising

Fund in memory of Lynn Briers

Gabrielle Stook asked if any further progress had been made as to how best to establish a fund to aid towers in danger of going out of union. James Hardy replied that it would be very difficult to administer. Since the purpose of this fund was to address a problem that had been specific to Ash and seemed unlikely to occur elsewhere it might be better for Ash to keep the fund to ensure that the tower never had a similar problem.

James Hardy commented that this had highlighted the whole issue of towers being in or out of union. If a tower had no ringers, or none who were KCACR members, it went out of union, giving the message that the County was not concerned about it. This was untrue since towers out of union were still eligible for grants from the BRF and the District undertook to provide ringers for special occasions for towers that had no resident ringers. He suggested taking a proposal to County Committee that the concept of in/out of union be abolished. The meeting supported this idea.

4. KCACR Committee Report

Association prayer

No decision had yet been made as to whether to have a modernised version of the Association prayer since not all Districts had responded.

5. Reports

Ringling Master's report

James Hardy made the following points in his report:

- Many members have made progress in various areas of ringing, with several 'firsts' in new methods.
- Organisation of events has suffered this year, partly because the Ringing Master has had family and work pressures. Thanks are due to the Deputy Master Rupert Cheeseman for arranging the events.
- Turnout for most practices has been limited but generally a good standard of ringing has been achieved, however we are still failing to attract 'locals' to attend when the practice comes to their tower.
- Recruitment is a major problem for many towers and, with a few exceptions, more needs to be done to attract new people to the exercise.
- Some individuals have arranged ambitious projects again this year e.g. Nigel Pointer has started to organise a series of silent and non-conducted quarter peals. Ross Hartley has organised Surprise Royal quarter peals.
- At County level we did not do well in the 8-bell competition. However Chelsfield missed first place in the 6-bell competition by only half a mark.
- Thanks to Ross Hartley for producing the Newsletter again this year and to Rupert Cheeseman who has taken over the Lewisham District website. Thanks to all who have helped out during the year.
- Sad event – death of David Hollis during the practice at Beckenham. He will be greatly missed for his friendship and invaluable contribution both at Beckenham and to the exercise as a whole.
- Asked all to give support and encouragement to the new Ringing Master.

Secretary's Report

Christine Webb made the following points in her report:

- Quarterly meetings were quite poorly attended, as were District practices despite being advertised well in advance and programmes being provided for every tower.
- The District Call Change competition attracted 6 entries, one more than the previous year, and was won by Crayford. The 6-bell competition attracted 4 entries and was won by Chelsfield, who narrowly lost to Willesborough in the County

- competition at Newington next Sittingbourne. In the County 8-bell competition the District team came 5th out of 6.
- Lack of support meant that a District Practice at St Mary Cray, followed by mulled wine and mince pies, replaced the Carol Service.
- The 120 club got off to very successful start and this has continued in its second year with even more shares being sold. Thanks are due to Rachel Backhouse for organising it so efficiently and for her effective salesmanship.

Membership Secretary's Report

Mark Jones made the following points in his report:

- Current membership totals 188, this continues the steady decline in membership over recent years
- The financial statement shows total income was £2,231 of which £1657 is membership subscriptions and the remainder went to the BRF.
- Mark gave notice of his intention to stand down as Membership Secretary next year.

6. Election of Officers

The following officers were not seeking re-election:

James Hardy (Ringing Master), Len Morley (District Representative), Ross Hartley (Newsletter Editor), Christine Webb (Secretary).

The retiring officers were thanked for their hard work especially the Ringing Master who had held that post for ten years.

The following officers were elected unopposed:

Chairman

Jeremy Byers Proposed by Philippa Rooke seconded by Nancy Gay

Ringing Master

Rupert Cheeseman Proposed by James Hardy seconded by Cathy Cheeseman

Assistant Ringing Master

Ross Hartley Proposed by Rupert Cheeseman seconded by Nicholas Wilkins

District Representatives

Brenda Barton Proposed by Rupert Cheeseman seconded by Carol Easthaugh

Sara Hardy Proposed by Ross Hartley seconded by Cathy Cheeseman

Newsletter Editor

Dominic Meredith Proposed by Ross Hartley seconded by James Hardy

Sales Representative

Jim Rooke Proposed by Freda Cannon seconded by Jon Fry

Secretary

Alice Baverstock Proposed by James Hardy seconded by Nicholas Wilkins

Membership Secretary

Mark Jones Proposed by Dominic Meredith seconded by Nancy Gay

7. Election of new members

The following new members were elected:

ST JOHN'S ERITH

Stephen Potgeiter Proposed by Margaret Heald seconded by David Broadbridge

Luke Potgeiter Proposed by Margaret Heald seconded by David Broadbridge

BECKENHAM

Elizabeth Duffey Proposed by James Hardy seconded by David Brown

Rosemary Stretton Proposed by James Hardy seconded by David Brown

SIDCUP

James Roddy Proposed by Yvonne Wright seconded by Mark Backhouse

David Roddy Proposed by Yvonne Wright seconded by Mark Backhouse

BIGGIN HILL

Douglas William Fisher Proposed by Nancy Gay seconded by Nicholas Wilkins

Fred Driver Proposed by Nancy Gay seconded by Nicholas Wilkins

8. Programme for 2007

The Secretary outlined the programme for the coming year, and, where appropriate, asked for towers willing to host forthcoming events, subject to confirmation by the incumbent.

2007

Quarterly meetings

13 January Christchurch Erith

21 April Venue yet to be arranged

14 July Chelsfield

13 October (ADM) Venue yet to be arranged

The date of the April meeting was changed to the third Saturday as several officers would be at the Hereford Ringing course on the second Saturday.

Striking competitions

3 March 2007 6-bell competition

17 November 2007 Call change competition

It was agreed that the Ringing Masters would arrange a suitable venue for these events.

Carol Service

There was no support for a Carol Service in December and very limited support for a District practice instead.

9. Bell Restoration Fund

Bookstall

Jim Rooke reminded the meeting of the bookstall, which had a wide selection of books about ringing and the proceeds of which go to the BRF.

120 Club

The draw took place and the winning numbers for this month were:

1st 78

2nd 83

3rd 23

4th 87



10. St John's Erith – change of contact details

Margaret Heald, tower secretary for St John's Erith advised that her e mail address was now billmargaret@btinternet.com.

11. Quiz at Horton Kirby

Nicholas Wilkins drew attention to the flyers that had been distributed advertising a quiz to be held at Horton Kirby on 10 November to help raise funds for the augmentation of the bells to a ring of eight and urged people to take part.

12. County Training Officer and District Training Officer

James Hardy told the meeting that, in his new role as County Training Officer he wanted to encourage the Districts to take on more responsibility for basic training. He thought this could best be achieved by the appointment of a District Training Officer. He proposed that this post should be created in the Lewisham District. The proposal was seconded by Nicholas Wilkins and carried.

James Hardy further proposed that David Brown be elected as District Training Officer. This proposal was seconded by Jeremy Byers and carried.

13. District Practices

Rupert Cheeseman, the newly elected Ringing Master, circulated a discussion paper about the best way forward for District practices. Although a calendar was produced for the whole year and circulated to every tower, practices were often poorly attended.

Some comments were:

- Hold District practices to coincide with the host tower's practice night
- Have a specific theme, although having specially themed practices, especially on elementary aspects of ringing, could conflict with the role of the newly created District Training Officer
- Hold some practices on a Saturday morning, but this could conflict with wedding ringing.
- Hold fewer practices, for example not holding a practice in the same month as a Quarterly Meeting.

Rupert Cheeseman thanked the meeting for the comments and announced his intention of seeking as wide a range of views as possible before formalising the plans for the coming year. He would welcome any further comments that anyone had.

14. Handbook 2006

Freda Cannon reported that the Handbook had been very late arriving and they were not being distributed to towers. Jeremy Byers replied that recently the Handbooks had not been available at the County AGM where they had often been collected in the past. He had the Handbooks delivered to him but was not able to organise a delivery to every tower. Instead the Handbooks had been taken to District meetings and practices for people to collect. Failing that it was up to towers to contact District Officers to make arrangements to receive their Handbooks.

15. Seating Arrangements

Cathy Cheeseman requested that in future the seating at meetings should be arranged to make it easier for those with a hearing impairment. She suggested arranging the chairs in a circle.

16. Call Change Competition

The Secretary advised members that entry forms for the call change competition were now available and could be collected from her. Any not collected would be posted out. Completed entry forms should be returned to the new secretary.

Note: The address is Alice Baverstock, 1 Turners Meadow Way, Beckenham BR3 4TB

17. Vote of thanks

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the Reverend Malcolm Hancock for conducting the service, to Mark Jones for

Agenda for the Next District Meeting (Christchurch Erith 13 January 2007)

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

LEWISHAM DISTRICT

AGENDA

- Apologies for absence
 - Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held at St Paulinus Crayford on Saturday 8 October 2005
 - Matters arising from the minutes:
 - Call change competition
 - District carol service
 - KCACR Committee Meeting report:
 - Proposed increase in peal fees
 - St Nicholas Deptford
 - Events: District & County
 - Bell Restoration Fund:
 - 120 Club
 - Election of new members
 - Any other business:
 - Membership subscriptions for 2005
 - Lewisham District Representatives
-

Next District Practice

Saturday 27th January 2006 - Beckenham (7-9pm).
