

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held at St John's Erith on Saturday 10th January 2004

The Chairman, David Holdridge, welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2004 and especially Eric Roughley, the County Chairman.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Richard Bing (Woolwich), Dominic Meredith (Beckenham), the Hanscombs (Biggin Hill), Roger Long (St Nicholas Chislehurst), Debra Say (Crayford), Deryck Jones (Dartford) and Sara Hardy (Beckenham).

2. Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held at Bexley on Saturday 11th October 2003

Subject to two minor amendments the minutes were approved on the proposal of Nancy Gay, seconded by Cathy Cheeseman.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

The Call Change Competition held in November 2003 was very successful, attracting entries by teams from ten different towers, including Shoreham who were congratulated on entering a team so soon after training a new band. The ringers of Downe were thanked for ably hosting the event.

The District Carol Service at Beckenham was unfortunately only poorly attended, but those who went enjoyed the intimate atmosphere of the service that took place in the choir stalls and the excellent refreshments provided afterwards. Thanks go to Mark Jones for playing the organ, Lucy Weston for her solo singing and to the Beckenham ringers for hosting the event.

4. KCACR Committee Meeting report

St John's Deptford

There was concern about possible work being carried out on the bells at Deptford by a ringer who is not a member of KCACR and therefore not covered by the County's insurance. At the last County committee meeting it had been agreed that a meeting should be arranged at Deptford by Peter Romney to include the incumbent (Rev. Christine Bainbridge), the Lewisham District Chairman and Ringing Master (David Holdridge and Jim Hardy), and the Southwark Diocesan Bells advisor (Bob Cooles). It was suggested that Graham Long from Woolwich, who has been taking ringers to Deptford and has been in contact with the incumbent about this matter, should also be involved. Since nothing further had so far been heard, it was agreed that the District Secretary would contact Peter Romney to see if progress could be made on arranging the meeting.

Recruitment and Young Ringers Group

This group, set up by the County, has yet to meet. Len Morley, who is the Lewisham District representative on the group, asked for any ideas towers might have on strategies for recruitment. Nancy Gay (Biggin Hill) spoke of the advantages of training several young people at once and attracting them initially through a tower open day or by arranging for the church's young people's group to visit. Another suggestion to publicise ringing was to have a mini ring erected in a shopping centre. Towers were encouraged to pass any further ideas and suggestions to Len Morley for him to feed into the group.

Child Protection Act

Len Morley stressed the importance of this and said that the County's policy was to back whatever safeguards the PCC wanted to put in place. There are useful guidelines at the back of the Ringers' Diary and helpful information on the Central Council's website, including a sample form to download to obtain parental permission for a child to learn to ring. General discussion revealed that tutors at a number of towers in the district are expected to be police checked. It was noted that this is a comparatively straightforward and speedy process and is required for teaching youngsters to ring even if the person concerned has already been through a CRB check for another purpose.

5. Events

The Chairman drew attention to the list of District events on a poster which was included with every tower's newsletter, and urged members to attend.

County events included the Six Bell Striking Competition on 25th September 2004 which it was the Lewisham District's turn to host. Penge had been proposed as the venue. The County Eight Bell Striking Competition was to be held at Ospringe, on 26th June 2004, the method was Double Oxford Bob Major.

Dover will be hosting a Regatta on the weekend of the 14-15th August. Every District was invited to provide a quarter-peal band to add to the festivities.

A major event for 2005 is the KCACR's 125th Anniversary service and dinner to be held at Canterbury Cathedral on 14 May 2004.

The secretary drew attention to training events organised by the County for which there was a poster for every tower and also to a number of Ringing schools throughout the country that are advertised in *The Ringing World*.

6. Fund raising ideas for the Bell Restoration Fund

A number of suggestions were made. These included a:

- sponsored quarter peal day
- 120 club with a monthly draw
- District tower open day
- raffle at each Quarterly Meeting

After some discussion Philippa Rooke agreed to organise a district tower open day to take place on Bank Holiday Monday 3rd May 2004. It was hoped to include some towers where bells had only recently been installed to make the open day more attractive, which could best be achieved by including one or two towers bordering on our district such as Otford and Chevening. Jeremy Byers agreed to organise a raffle for the next quarterly meeting. The 120 club was especially appealing because of the possibility of obtaining money from interested non-ringers. The Secretary agreed to contact other Districts that were already running 120 clubs with a view to finding out how best to organise this and to report back to the next meeting.

7. Election of new members

The following new members were elected:

GREENWICH

Kenneth George Deller proposed by Bill Lanyon, seconded by Freda Cannon

Patricia Dale proposed by Bill Lanyon, seconded by Freda Cannon

8. Subscriptions for 2004

Members were reminded that subscriptions for 2004 were now due. They remained unchanged at £9 for adults and £4.50 for under 18s and over 65s. These should be paid to the Membership Secretary, Mark Jones.

9. Nominations for County Officers

Members were told of the current vacancies for a Handbook Editor (with the possibility that this post may be split so that one person deals with advertising and the other does the editorial work), a Membership Officer and a Publicity Officer. In addition the Central Council representatives for 2005 were up for election. Members were encouraged to consider possible nominations for these posts. Such nominations should be sent to the General Secretary, Margaret Funnell, by 31st March 2004 in time for the County AGM on Easter Monday, 12th April 2004.

10. District Practices

Jeremy Byers, Deputy District Ringing Master, drew attention to the schedule of District practices and urged people to attend. He particularly encouraged local ringers to attend when a district practice was being held at their own tower.

11. Introduction to the Lewisham District

Mark Jones said that he was working on an *Introduction to the Lewisham District* for new members.

12. Newsletter

Mark Jones congratulated Rupert and Cathy Cheeseman for another excellent District Newsletter. Rupert Cheeseman apologised that it appeared too late to be circulated prior to the meeting. He reminded everyone that annual subscriptions for the Newsletter were now due. The cost was unchanged at £5.00.

13. Bookstall

Jim Rooke reminded everyone about the bookstall. Some new County leaflets were available as well as some bargain mugs and the usual range of ringing books. Freda Cannon commented that some ringing leaflets were on display in Bromley Library. Cathy Cheeseman said that she had placed them there.

14. Vote of thanks

David Kingston proposed a vote of thanks to the lay reader, Ann Richardson, for an enjoyable service, to the organist Roger Chapman and to the ringers of St John's Erith for a splendid tea.