

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held at St George's Beckenham on Saturday 8th January 2005

The meeting stood to observe a minute's silence in memory of Peter Rose of Dartford.

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed members to Beckenham as part of the centenary celebrations of the Beckenham Guild of Ringers, it being exactly one hundred years since Beckenham first hosted a Lewisham District meeting.

2. Attendance book

As a new innovation an attendance book was circulated for signing by those attending the meeting.

3. Apologies for absence

36 members attended the meeting with apologies for absence received from Mary Andrews (Bexley), Monica Hanscomb, Marc Hanscomb (Biggin Hill), Dominic Meredith, Ross Hartley (Beckenham), Andrew Sinclair (Crayford), Esther Correia (Dartford), Carol Eastaugh (Christchurch, Erith) and Philippa Rooke (Chelsfield).

4. Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held at St Mark Biggin Hill on Saturday 9th October 2004

The minutes were approved on the proposal of James Hardy, seconded by Nancy Gay.

5. Matters arising

Training

Nancy Gay thanked James Hardy and Margaret Macey for the assistance they had given to Biggin Hill by attending their practice night.

James Hardy said that he was planning to run three training courses this year: Plain Bob Doubles, Basic Conducting and Basic Maintenance. Details to be announced later.

Call Change Competition

Five teams entered and the winners were Crayford. Rhiannon Meredith reported that the judge had been very pleased with the standard of ringing.

District Carol Service

The Chairman said that this had been a very pleasant occasion and thanked the Horton Kirby ringers who had put so much hard work into organising it.

Rule Changes

Rachel Backhouse noted that the County AGM was to be held at Otford, which was conveniently close for those who felt strongly about the proposed rule changes to attend the meeting and make their views known.

6. KCACR Committee Report

Recruitment & Retention of Ringers Committee

The secretary reported that this County Committee, on which Len Morley was the Lewisham District's representative, had produced its report. This was to be discussed by the General Committee before distribution to the districts.

125th Anniversary

The secretary reported that a poster was available for every tower and had been enclosed with the Newsletter. Further information was also available on the County website. Memorabilia was now available and on sale at the meeting (tankards £5, mugs £3 and pens 25p). May was to be a quarter peal month and all towers were urged to ring a quarter peal to celebrate the 125th anniversary or, if this was not possible, a specific number of call changes. District secretaries have been asked to collate all details and send them to David Manger, together with any donations for *The Ringing World*.

7. Events

Forthcoming events included:

District

22 January District practice at St Mary Cray

5 March 6 bell competition at Biggin Hill (subject to confirmation after recent complaints.)

9 April Quarterly meeting at Bromley

County

26 February 8 bell competition at Beckenham

6-7 August Dover Regatta – districts invited to ring quarter peals

? September 6 bell competition to be hosted by Maidstone district

Other

17 September Essex trophy – 10 bell competition

8. District Open Day

The Chairman thanked Margaret Macey and Rhiannon Meredith for all their hard work in organising this especially as ill health had prevented Philippa Rooke from playing such an active part in the arrangements. Thanks were also due to all those who helped on the day, opening towers, stewarding, providing refreshments. £1,080.32 was raised for the BRF.

Nancy Gay apologised for Biggin Hill bells being unavailable at short notice on the day. The vicar had imposed restrictions on ringing after a complaint had appeared in the local press. The story in the press was not entirely accurate and the Biggin Hill ringers were being given a right of reply to try to set the record straight.

9. 120 Club

Rachel Backhouse reported that, as registration with the local authority had yet to be completed, it was not possible to sell tickets at the meeting but she would record any expressions of interest. Full information would be sent to towers as soon as the formalities had been completed.

10. Election of new members

The following new members were elected:

EYNSFORD

Anthony Peter Fisher Proposed by David Hilling seconded by Martin Luffman

WEST WICKHAM

Roger Michael Davie Proposed by Judith Fry seconded by Jon Fry

ST JOHN'S ERITH

David Brian Broadbridge Proposed by Margaret Heald seconded by Barbara Edwards

11. Membership subscriptions

Members were reminded that membership subscriptions were now due, £9 for adults, £4.50 for those under 18 and over 65, and should be paid to the Mark Jones, the Membership Secretary.

12. KCACR AGM

The secretary reported that, although the County Chairman was due to stand down at the AGM, he had been asked to stay on to oversee the 125th Anniversary.

Catherine Lewis, who is the County Training Convenor, is looking for people in the Districts who are willing to organise training events.

13. District website

James Hardy reported that Rupert Cheeseman was going to take over responsibility for updating the news section of the district website.

14. Young Ringers' Group

Rhiannon Meredith reported that she was planning to set up a Young Ringers' Group for ringers in the district who were under 25. The aim would be to organise ringing activities such as practices, outings and possibly social events to enable young ringers in the area to get to know each other. Members were invited to publicise this initiative to young ringers in their tower.

15. District Newsletter

Cathy Cheeseman thanked all those who had contributed to the Newsletter, copies of which were being sent out to all towers. Newsletter subscriptions remain at £5 for this year and were now due.

The Secretary urged anyone who was interested in taking over the production of the Newsletter to talk to Rupert and Cathy Cheeseman about what was involved as soon as possible. The current editors do not want to continue after this year and as the Newsletter has proved so popular and successful it would be a great pity if it were to end for lack of anyone willing to take on the editorship.

16. Vote of thanks

Margaret Macey proposed a vote of thanks to the Reverend Malcolm Hancock for taking the service and for the use of the bells, to Mark Jones for playing the organ and to the Beckenham ringers for a splendid tea.