

Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting, Greenwich, 13th January 2018

26 people attended representing 12 towers.

It was with great sadness that the meeting was preceded by a minute of silence in memory of Roger Long of Chislehurst who died shortly before Christmas. He was a longstanding member of the District and Association.

1. Apologies for Absence:

Alex Britton; Sue Cameron (both unattached); Mary Andrews (Bexley).

2. Minutes of last meeting (ADM at Chelsfield on 14th Oct 2017)

Posted on website and circulated in the Newsletter. Agreed as a correct and accurate record. Proposed: Lesley Barclay; Seconded: Jim Rooke.

3. Matters Arising not covered elsewhere

None

4. Rule Change Proposal.

Philippa Rooke summarised the proposals which had been initially discussed at the ADM in October 2017. A number of issues had been raised which she had taken up with the KCACR Chairman Daniel Brady.

Regarding things to be clarified:

- a. *Whether the Master (at County level) would have sub-committees to assist with some of the workload.*

Not yet decided

- b. *Who could represent the Master at the County meeting if they were unable to attend. As it reads, it would be just the secretary, and the current secretary would not have the time available to attend both District and County meetings which may lead to a post to be filled in the district if the rule change went ahead.*

As at the moment, if the Master was unable to attend, they could be substituted by anyone.

- c. *When will changes come in to affect, and whether there were different timelines for County and District. One part of the rule change proposal states it would be immediately after the AGM if the change was supported, another part stated November.*

The positions elected at the AGM would change with immediate effect. District reps would stay on the general committee until the district ADM's in October, when districts would elect a new committee (compliant with the rule change if passed). This would make the November meeting the first one with a fully reformed general committee. Basically this is to prevent districts needing to do any reworking of their committee's mid-year.

- d. *The term of office for the County Master - the rule change states 3 years, but is that only an election every third year or re-elected annually?*

This is to formalise the current gentleman's agreement of a 3 year term. There would still be an election each year. This could possibly be amended to read "a maximum term of three years" or something to that effect.

The meeting discussed these points at some length and Philippa suggested that anyone with a particular interest should attend the County AGM on Easter Monday. Particular concern was expressed regarding the lack of a formal 'substitute' to attend Committee meetings should the District master be unable to attend. There was a need for a democratic process to nominate a substitute.

It was noted that there is no consistency across Districts regarding office holders and responsibilities.

5.Membership and Handbook Update.

Rupert Cheeseman said that subscriptions were now due. In addition, all members needed to sign a form (distributed to towers) stating that they were willing for their personal data to appear in the handbook and on the website (this is to ensure compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation).

Handbooks: Each tower will receive ONE free copy. Additional copies may be purchased - £4. The Handbook may also be downloaded from the KCACR website at no cost to members.

6. Election of new members.

New Member	Tower	Proposed by	Seconded by
James Butler	Dartford	Deryck Jones	Natalie Slator
		Witness to lowering	Natalie Slator
Lina Pupeikiene	Greenwich	Graham Long	Alan Munden
Justina Pupeikyte (Jnr member)		Graham Long	Alan Munden
Lily Tang		Graham Long	Alan Munden
		Witness to lowering	Shelagh Norman
Joanna Colston	Eynsford	David Hilling	Richard Barker
		Witness to lowering	Rupert Cheeseman

Nick Wilkins asked for the ratification of the election of Jo Dorling as a non-resident Life Member following election before a peal at Chelsfield on 15th October 2017.

All of the above were elected unanimously.

7.120 Club Draw

	PRIZE	NUMBER	NAME	TOWER
1 st	£20	71	John Chenery	Horton Kirby
2 nd	£10	115	Deryck Jones	Dartford
3 rd	£10	14	Liz Brett	CC Erith
4 th	£5	57	Mark Backhouse	CC Erith

8.KCACR Committee Report.

- Finance. Funds in General Account were getting low – all subs would go to this account.
- ART Courses – Two had been held in the County.
- Diocesan Safeguarding – Full details on County website; Canterbury under way, Rochester to follow.
- Mobile Ring. Trailer now delivered; storage now sought.
- Census. Thanks to all who sent in forms; null returns also needed. Data now being analysed.
- Handbook. One per Tower free. Full information on County website.
- Proposed Rule Changes. Much feedback had been received (to their surprise!)
- County 8-Bell competition: Sat 30th June 9.45. Maidstone District to host.
- County 6- Bell competition: Sat 22nd Sept. 9.45 Rochester District to host.
- Youth competition – tba.
- Finance – Tonbridge and Canterbury districts had been awarded ‘floats’. Funds getting short and subscriptions were likely to rise and the Over 65 concession removed.

There was general agreement at the meeting that the subscriptions were very good value; particularly as they included insurance. There was some discussion on what the County spent money on.

9.Report on previous and upcoming events.

County Youth Competition – 14th November at Otford. Congratulations to the Lewisham District Band who came 2nd out of four. They are a young band- all well under 25. Towers are urged to encourage young ringers to meet those from other towers.

Call Change Competition – 18th November at Sidcup.

1st. Crayford; 2nd – Chelsfield; 3rd – Farnborough.

Philippa presented the trophy to Crayford and certificates to all three towers.

Forthcoming meetings:	Erith, St.John's	April 14 th
	Crayford Ju	ly 14 th

A venue is still needed for the ADM on Oct 13th.

Sat 24th February. District 6-Bell competition at Downe. Draw 2.30.

Sat 17th November. District Call Change competition. Draw 2.30. Venue – TBA

District Practices: 26th Jan Chislehurst, Annunciation 7.30 – 9pm

16th February Biggin Hill (tbc) 7.30 – 9pm

16th March Woolwich (tbc) 8 – 9.30 pm

Nick Wilkins spoke about Quarter Peal Week; 9th -18th March. He asked for volunteers to coordinate a cluster of towers. It was hoped to ring a Quarter in every Tower.

10. AOB.

- Rochester District were fundraising for Motor Neurone Disease – ringing Ray Morgan Bob Triples.
- There is no ringing at Bexley; damage to the tower.
- Bromley Common; access to belfry is currently difficult as there has been a breakdown of the agreement with Hope Church, the new tenants.
- Lesley Barclay and Nick Wilkins had appeared on BBC London news on 5th January, talking about bellringing.
- Edward Gormley said that he had written an article about his journey in July on the 'Strike Back Express' – copies were available from him. He had also written a book, which he hopes to publish, on the restoration and re-consecration of the bells at Southwark cathedral.
- Nick Wilkins gave details of the annual joint Lewisham/Tonbridge outing to London; this year it will be on Saturday 11th August. It was hoped to ring close to our district, visiting three towers north of the river and three to the south. A Weatherspoon's pub had been suggested as a suitable lunch stop!

11. Vote of thanks.

Andrew Sinclair proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar, Rev. Chris Moody for taking the service, to the organist Graham Long and to the Greenwich band for an excellent tea and for permitting all to ring the bells.

Philippa Rooke thanked Liz Brett for taking the Minutes of the meeting.