

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting, St John's, Sidcup 12th January 2019

25 people attended representing 9 towers, 1 unattached member and 1 from Rochester District

1. Apologies for Absence

Received from Pete & Liz Morris (Crayford), Sue Cameron (unattached) & Deryck Jones (Dartford)

2. Minutes of Last Meeting (13th October 2018 at Ash)

Posted to the website and circulated in the Newsletter. Agreed as a correct and accurate record.

Proposed: Rupert Cheeseman Seconded: Brenda Barton. Voted unanimously.

3. Matters Arising not Covered Elsewhere

Nil

4. Election of New Members

New Member	Tower	Proposed By	Seconded By
Bernadette Katchoff	Chislehurst, St Nicholas	Peter Skinner	Chris Davine
Lee Lucas	Crayford	Rupert Cheeseman	Debra Say
Rachel Dean	Horton Kirby	Lesley Barclay	Tracey Burch
		Witness to Lowering	Nick Wilkins
Michelle Vardy	Horton Kirby	Lesley Barclay	Tracey Burch
		Witness to Lowering	Nick Wilkins
Peter Rushbrook	Horton Kirby	Lesley Barclay	Martin Bailey
		Witness to Lowering	Nick Wilkins

All were elected unanimously and welcomed

5. KCACR – Report from 24th November 2018

- Role Descriptions and GDPR – The outline of jobs that needed doing in Districts would be circulated as advice. A Membership Communications subgroup will be set up to work on the issue of GDPR and advise.
- Insured thresholds – Members wished to know if 75+ members were insured to teach and whether students of an older teacher were insured. Would it be possible to push up insured thresholds to 80 without impacting the insurance costs?
- Mid-week 10 bell practices – Phil Barnes is planning bi-monthly meetings to focus on three towers; Ashford, Maidstone and Rochester (if possible)
- Treasurer's Report – Margaret Funnell advised that Districts need to be encouraged to collect and send in subscriptions promptly by 31/01/2019.
- Feedback from around the districts to the proposed Rule Changes for AGM 2019 was noted. Personal accident cover for over 75s was considered most important.
- The issue of District Bookstalls was raised as the Rochester bookstall had been dormant for some time. Was it worth retaining? Catherine Lewis agreed that the bookstalls needed updating and might be better to order online. Sale of KCACR Clothing and other miscellaneous items (videos, glasses, badges) were a similar issue. They both need a proper website process with more publicity. Catherine will report back to next General Committee.

Officers' Reports:

- Training – David Grimwood is working on a series of training sessions for 2019 and requested a budget from the Training Fund to support these and members' expenses. Doug Davis commented that we should use simulators more in training. Phil Barnes proposed and all agreed that a maximum of £2,000 be available for training in 2019.
- Youth – Jen Thomas reported that everyone had been very impressed with the Youth Trophy which had now been engraved with the past 3 years' winners. The SECON event would now be at Horton Kirby on 06/04/19. Volunteer helpers are needed. A budget to support Youth events, shirts, and competition entrance fees would be useful. Jen Thomas agreed to present a budget in February.
- Central Council Representatives – Phil Barnes reported that the next meeting of the Central Council may be in the London area over the first full weekend in September 2019.
- Bell Restoration – Brian Butcher reported that the Faversham restoration proposals to rehang and recast a light 10 had been opposed by a large number of very strong conservation groups. Local ringers had not been represented in decision-making. They and Brian Butcher had grave concerns that retaining the existing bell frame, fittings and bells would not improve them for the long-term engineering or safety, so Brian could not recommend BRF or Rehangng Team support at this stage. Brian Butcher commented that the tower at Faversham was not a strong structure and a new metal bell frame could help to stabilise it. After much discussion it was agreed that Phil Barnes would write a letter expressing concerns about retention of old bell frames, etc., being a fundamental flaw as bell installations were functional not beautiful
- Health & Safety – Peter Simms reported that he had not been made aware of any accidents within the Association but there had been an issue at Eastry where a stay had been broken by a visitor. Phil Barnes reported that he had been contacted by both the visiting band from Monkton and the Tower Captain at Eastry to provide advice on the issue to each. The accounts given by the two parties were different but it appeared that the novice visitors had overreached themselves and discussion ensued as to how such bands could be supported within the Association. No conclusion was reached but Jen Thomas commented that Tonbridge District had Stewards appointed to oversee a group of towers to provide advice as needed. Phil Barnes also asked District Reps to ensure that the basic competence of ringers was assessed by District officers before election of new members, as required by the rules.
- The issue of Dementia and fitness to ring had been raised by a member for advice from the Association insurers. The insurers had suggested the Association needed to do Risk Assessments but Tower Captains also needed support and guidance. It was a difficult issue of competence, protection of themselves and other ringers. Brian Butcher suggested that if a ringer with dementia had been stopped from driving then they were likely to be unsafe to ring. Phil Barnes and Peter Simms agreed to work on this issue with David Kirkcaldy of the Central Council.
- Safeguarding – Nigel Spencer emphasized that he would not be seeking re-election at the AGM. It was not an onerous task but would need someone who could work within procedures, confidentially and promote good practice. Suitable candidates should be made known to Nigel asap.
- Publicity – Jen Thomas expressed disappointment that the Young Ringers' feature in Blue Peter had been postponed again.
- Grant application – Works to replace one bell at Chilham had now reached a happy ending. After a short discussion it was agreed to accept the Trustees recommendation to authorise a grant of £1,516.11 towards this work
- Handbook timetable details have been circulated by Doug Davis. Doug advised that an Order Form for Handbooks would shortly appear on the Website. Details to be sent to District Secretaries.

Striking Competitions

- SE England Youth Striking Competition – 06/04/2019, Horton Kirby. Volunteer helpers required, contact Jen Thomas.
- Tewkesbury Shield – 04/05/2019 - £15 entry. Touch of Stedman Caters. Agreed not to enter a team this year.
- County 8-bell Competition – 29/06/2019 - Rochester District – Tunstall. Plain Course of Turramurra Surprise Major.
- Essex Trophy 2019 – 14/09/2019 – Christchurch, Southgate. Stedman Caters. Cathy Cheeseman requested that "new" ringers be considered for the team. Phil Barnes agreed but commented that it was not the committee's job to mandate who takes part but a cohesive band would be needed.
- County 6-bell Competition – 28/09/2019 – Tonbridge District is discussing a venue.
- Essex Trophy 2020 – Kent to host on second Saturday in September. Phil Barnes to explore Ashford, agree host tower and touch.

Forthcoming Events

- AGM 2019 – Easter Monday – Chilham. Arrangements are in hand. Attendees would need to bring their own alcohol as no License was available.
- AGM 2020 – Set date (Rule 5) – Phil Barnes recommended the second Saturday in May would avoid clashes with Bank Holidays, Easter and school holidays. Agreed this would be circulated as a proposal for discussion by Districts at their January Quarterly meetings, then confirmation by General Committee in February.
- Dates of 2019 meetings - 23/02/2019, 27/04/2019, 27/07/2019 and 30/11/2019

Points Raised on some of the above issues:

Clarification has been sought and received from the insurers regarding the issue of extending insurance cover currently enjoyed by those up to age 75, to age 80. The insurers advise they are unwilling to extend cover irrespective of any additional premium. Older members retain the £1000 death benefit but are advised to check their own personal insurance for cover.

Rule Change Proposal – Philippa reminded everyone that this was the last opportunity to talk about the rule change proposal before the County AGM and she summarised the fee increases for the various age groups and life members, along with the proposal to reduce the number of members needed for a quorum at the General Council Committee meetings. No questions were raised from the floor so the proposals will now go to the AGM for discussion.

County AGM 2020 – The proposal to move the AGM to the second Saturday in May from 2020 raised several points:

- There are concerns about parking restrictions on a Saturday compared to a bank holiday Monday. A larger car park will therefore be needed.
- Any venue will need to have no conflicting weddings
- Many people have to work on a Saturday which could affect attendance
- Finding a suitable venue for the meeting could be more difficult on a Saturday compared to a bank holiday.
- Traffic in our district on a Saturday is a particular issue being the most northerly and with half the area being in south-east London. Many areas are completely gridlocked by lunchtime which would make travelling around very slow and difficult.

A question was raised asking why the date was being changed and Cathy Cheeseman (Assistant Secretary, KCACR) explained that it was felt having the AGM on Easter Monday impacted family time and was in school holidays. By moving the date, it was hoped to increase attendance.

Natalie/Chris were asked to go back to Phil Barnes at the next meeting on 23rd February to raise our concerns and to explain that whilst we are not completely averse to a change of date, it was felt that of all the Districts, Lewisham was not best placed to trial a new day/date in 2020. We would therefore like to ask if the date could remain as Easter Monday for 2020 and that if the date change from 2021 proves successful, then Lewisham will be happy to follow the new pattern

Nick Wilkins mentioned the possibility of Bickley as a venue as it has a suitable hall with good kitchen facilities and unrestricted parking. He offered to contact a friend who deals with the hall bookings there but Philippa Rooke asked him to hold off for now until the Chairman and/or Secretary have contacted Jeremy Clitheroe after the committee meeting. More help will be needed if Bickley is eventually selected as there is no local band. It was agreed that the committee would meet separately to start the initial planning and everyone was requested to start asking around for contacts for caterers and someone to provide a simple sound system.

6.Events

- Five bands, representing four towers, entered the call change competition in November which was won by the home band of Farnborough
- The Striking Competition will be held on Saturday 2nd March, provisionally at West Wickham
- The District practices on Fri 22/3 and Fri 5/4 at Chislehurst, Annunciation and Hayes respectively, are now confirmed and Nick Wilkins encouraged everyone to attend where ringing will be tailored to whoever turns up.
- The 10-bell practice at Beckenham on Thurs 28/2 is still awaiting confirmation
- Lewisham took part in the County Youth Striking Contest held at Kingsnorth in November. There were only four teams and Lewisham came last, but were congratulated on entering a band.
- This year's Call Change Competition will be held on Sat 16th Nov at Horton Kirby

7. Training

The new Training Officer, Tom Hinks, was at the meeting. He confirmed his plan was to hold one evening training event and one whole day event per quarter. He is trying to arrange a bell handling workshop at Beckenham on a weekday evening during the last week of January. The whole day session for ringing on higher numbers will be in London hopefully at St Dunstan and St Magnus the Martyr. Further details of both events will be sent to towers by email when confirmed. Tom confirmed he had had around five responses to his email sent at the end of November asking towers for their training needs.

8. Membership & Handbooks

Rupert Cheeseman reminded everyone that subs were due by the end of January and for this year, remain at £10 for adult members up to the age of 65, £5 for those 65 or over and those aged 18 or below. Members aged 65 or more with 25 years of unbroken membership are free.

Debra Say reminded tower contacts to update their tower details on the KCACR website by 25th February ready for the 2019 handbook. Login details have already been provided by email. Towers are now also additionally requested to add if they have a simulator in the notes box to aid County training.

Personal copies of the 2019 Handbook are free of charge but must be ordered through the KCACR website if required, by 25th March. One copy per tower will be provided automatically.

Notification of ringers who have passed away since the last handbook and any obituaries should be sent to Debra.

Please direct any questions re updating tower details to Debra Say and any questions re membership to Rupert Cheeseman.

9. 120 Club

	No.	Prize	Name	Tower
1st	80	£20	John Chenery	Horton Kirby
2nd	98	£10	Rachel Backhouse	Thatcham
3rd	35	£10	Daphne Paterson	Eynsford & Farningham
4th	6	£5	India Fergusson	Foots Cray

Liz Brett said she is still awaiting confirmation of the licence from Bexley Council who are being very slow. Numbers are now being sold for the April 2019 draw onwards via Liz/Deryck. Rules and application forms are on the District website.

10. Any Other Business

Members were encouraged to use the bookstall to buy or even just to look and then buy online. A list of books can be found on the KCACR website under 'Shop'.

Tom Hinks was congratulated for making the front page of Ringing World (Issue 5620 11/1/2019) for his part in the record length of 14-spliced Fourteen. Congratulations were also extended to Steph Runting (Sidcup) for her first peal, her 18th birthday and her appearance in the Blue Peter bell ringing feature.

A minute taker will be needed for the next meeting at Greenwich as Debra Say is unable to attend – there were no volunteers.

Rupert thanked contributors to the latest newsletter and asked that any further Ringing Remembers performances are added to bellboard.

11. Vote of Thanks

Ian Mills gave a vote of thanks to Chris Kitchener for taking the service and to Richard Sutton the organist. Thanks were also extended to the Sidcup band for providing a such a lovely afternoon tea.

Next Meeting – Saturday 13th April at Greenwich