

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held at Erith, Christ Church 12th October 2019

15 people attended representing 6 towers, 2 unattached members & Jen Thomas (Youth Officer, KCACR)

1. Apologies for Absence

Received from Eddie & Brenda Coode (Bexley), Debbie Runting (Sidcup), Stephanie Runting (Sidcup), Alexander Runting (Sidcup), Margaret Heald (Erith, St Johns), Lesley Barclay (Horton Kirby), David Holdridge (Eltham), Ian Mills (Eltham), Lee Lucas (Crayford), Dave Gyles (Ash).

Thoughts and prayers were extended from everyone present to Alan Munden (Greenwich), John Barnes (Chelsfield) and Eddie Coode (Bexley) who are all unwell at present, not forgetting Mary Andrews (Bexley) who has given so many years of service but is no longer able to ring.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting (13th July 2019 at Cudham)

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

Proposed: Nick Wilkins Seconded: Svetlana Sokolova. Voted unanimously.

3. Matters Arising not Covered Elsewhere

Nil

4. Election of New Members

There were no new members put forward for election.

5. Officer Reports:

Ringling Master; Nick Wilkins. There have been two practices every month over the last year, including August this year when we went to Wilmington, but excluding September.

These consist of one general practice often, but not always, on a Friday evening and one Surprise Major practice at Chelsfield on the second Wednesday evening of the month. Additionally, there has been a 10-bell practice on a Thursday evening at Beckenham every 2/3 months. The next is 14th November.

Last year on 17th November the call change striking competition was held at Farnborough and won by the host tower who claimed the youngest and oldest ringers on the day.

On 2nd March the District Method Striking competition was held at Ash and won by Chelsfield who then came 4th in the County Competition 2 weeks ago at Seal.

On 29th June a band from the District competed in the County 8 bell Striking Competition coming a close and creditable second to the home District, Rochester. The method was Turramurra S Major.

The District enjoyed a successful joint outing with the Tonbridge District to London on Saturday August 10th organised by Dan Jarvis and next year it's our turn to arrange it.

Turning to the general health of ringing in the District, the practices have seen varying numbers attending, from low to very high. It does worry me that some towers in the District seem to be struggling with low ringer numbers or worse still, there are towers that are silent, or virtually so.

As ever, I'm very grateful to those that support me with the ringing in the district. Diane, as deputy, deserves a mention.

Also, in relation to getting silent towers back to life, Graham Long deserves special praise for moving to Hayes and getting the bells there ringing as well as retaining Meridian Ringer responsibilities.

Finally, although not an official District practice, it's heartening that on Wednesday afternoons at Farnborough there's a training practice for improvers and particularly young ringers which is proving popular and productive. For this, thanks must go to Lesley Barclay as well as Jen Thomas and Catherine Lewis who assist and indeed run much of it, particularly when I'm away.

Membership Secretary; Rupert Cheeseman. 20 people have been elected this year, 18 adults, 1 junior and 1 associate member.

Training Officer; Tom Hinks. Tom was unable to attend the meeting as he was judging a striking competition in Somerset, but had sent through the following report.

We have held three successful training events so far in 2019: a handling workshop at Beckenham, a listening workshop in the parish rooms at Bromley parish church, and a 10-bell training day in East London. Of these, the two Wednesday evening workshops had the best take-up from the District. The next training event will be another Wednesday evening handling workshop on 6th November, again at Beckenham church. My plans for future training events include evening workshops on recruitment, handbell ringing, and simple conducting. Saturday training days can also be easily arranged, and a Plain Bob Doubles one is likely in the new year. Do please send requests for specific training to the training officer email address.

Tom was thanked for all his efforts in organising more training events than usual during the past year.

120 Club Administrator; Liz Brett. Fewer shares have been sold this year so donations to the BRF will be higher if those unsold numbers are drawn.

6. KCACR – Report from 3rd August 2019

Natalie Slator outlined the main points from the General Committee meeting:

- The Kent committee is seeking an independent examiner for the annual audit. If anyone is interested please contact the Secretary, Treasurer or Chairman.
- Consideration being given to alternating District meeting dates to free up more Saturdays for training.
- BRF grant of £20K has been agreed for Rochester Cathedral for augmentation and renovation.
- Training Fund guidelines adopted with Kent Young Ringers now having a separate fund. Charitable Trust status is being investigated.
- The Kent Mobile Ring project has been discontinued and the bells handed back to David Cawley who already has a tower in mind for them.
- The bookstall has ceased trading but some material may be accessed directly from Catherine Lewis. Clothing sales can be accessed via the County.
- The complaint and grievance policy reviewed annually has been adopted without any changes.
- The Association 8-Bell Competition will be held in the Tonbridge District on 27th June 2020 with a 9.45am draw. Note the proposed date change to avoid a clash with the 12-Bell.
- Essex Trophy – 12th September 2020 - Kent to host, Ashford confirmed. Suggested method Swindon S Royal.
- Kent Young Ringers – 4th April 2020 SECON, hosted by Essex, 28th June 2020 Farningham Trophy, 4th July 2020 Ringing World National Youth Competition, York.

Membership Database

The proposal for members to pay subscriptions online and to update their own details is driven by GDPR and data protection. The KCACR is seeking one or two Districts to trial the new system and Lewisham has been approached as the smallest District in terms of members. Several questions were raised concerning this request:

Does one tower representative collect subscriptions and update for all? Rupert Cheeseman confirmed Doug Davis has said they could. Anyone can pay the subs. There must be a way for non-internet users to access the information/system. Will consent be needed for a third party to access data? Payment of subs and updating database information are two very different things. New members – can they be elected at any time, not just at District meetings?

If we agree to take part in the trial, perhaps we will be able to influence in how it works. It was mentioned that membership numbers may decrease with the introduction of fees in January for those who are currently entitled to free membership.

Rupert Cheeseman to send an email to Doug Davis raising our questions and to confirm our agreement to taking part in the trial.

Rupert said he still had some membership cards that have been uncollected and asked that next year they be handed out at the same time as the new Handbooks.

County AGM

St Nicholas Chislehurst has been confirmed as the venue. Briefly, we urgently need a catering contact to feed around 50 people for no more than £10-£12 per head. We also need somebody to organise a bar selling craft beer/soft drinks and a raffle selling tickets on the day and coordinating prizes beforehand. Nick Wilkins will be arranging several routes in from Kent and stewards

will be needed in towers that will be asked to be available for ringing. Individual towers will be contacted in the New Year. Natalie Slator offered to coordinate the raffle. Sue Cameron mentioned that a Facebook group for Chislehurst might be a source for local information.

Risk Assessment

All towers should have a risk assessment – County template to be circulated by email to tower contacts for discussion and feedback.

ART Courses

Everyone is encouraged to go on ART courses which are currently free of charge for Kent ringers.

Matters Arising: The subject of coordinating District Meeting dates to aid training which was raised at the General Committee Meeting, was brought up for discussion. There was no strong feeling either for or against but picking the first Saturday each quarter could be difficult at New Year.

7. Election of Officers

Peter Morris took the chair for appointment of the Chairman.

Role	Name	Proposed By	Seconded By
Chairman	Philippa Rooke	Sue Cameron	Natalie Slator
Secretary	Debra Say	Nick Wilkins	Peter Morris
Membership Secretary	Rupert Cheeseman	Sue Cameron	Natalie Slator
Ringling Master	Nick Wilkins	Rupert Cheeseman	Ann Saunders
Deputy Ringling Master	Diane Reynolds	Nick Wilkins	Sue Cameron
Training Officer	Tom Hinks	Rupert Cheeseman	Natalie Slator
District Rep	Natalie Slator/Chris Davine	Diane Reynolds	Liz Brett
120 Club	Liz Brett	Nick Wilkins	Chris Davine
120 Club Assistant	Deryck Jones		
Youth Officer	Nick Wilkins	Rupert Cheeseman	Diane Reynolds
Newsletter Editor	Rupert Cheeseman	Debra Say	Sue Cameron

It was decided in view of the increasing number of young ringers in the District, a newly elected post of District Youth Officer be created, a role which Nick Wilkins has been fulfilling unofficially, and is happy to continue. Thanks were extended to Natalie Slator and Chris Davine for running the bookstall for a number of years which has now been disbanded.

8. Event Updates and Results

- Chelsfield represented Lewisham District in the County 6-Bell Striking Competition held on 28th Sept at Seal and came fourth.
- District Practices – 18th Oct Bexley, 8th November Hayes, 6th Dec tbc.
- Joint outing with Tonbridge to London in August was a great success. Lewisham to arrange in 2020, provisional date set for 8th Aug. Nick Wilkins to liaise with Catherine Heathcote from Tonbridge District.
- Call Change Competition – to be held at Horton Kirby on Sat 16th Nov, all towers encouraged to enter.
- District Meeting Venues 2020 – Hayes confirmed for Jan, provisionally Chelsfield for March, Shoreham for July and Erith, St Johns for October.
- County Youth Competition takes place at Sturry on 2nd Nov. Youth is classed as 25 or under. Any towers with ringers fitting this category to let Nick Wilkins know.
- Carol Service – Graham Long had emailed the District committee prior to the meeting to suggest a District Carol Service which he was happy to coordinate. A discussion took place to see how many members would attend such a carol service and it was generally felt that another event at that time of year when many already have other ringing/family commitments might be too much. A vote was taken and only 50% of those present would support this proposed event which was felt insufficient for the carol service to go ahead. Philippa Rooke to report back to Graham Long.
- Philippa outlined a Ringers Evening taking place at Chelsfield on Sunday 20th Oct at 6.30pm with guest speaker Neil Jones, Tower Captain of Rochester Cathedral. All are welcome and details can be found in the Oct Newsletter.

9. 120 Club

Profits Allocation- This subject was being revisited after the question was raised at the April meeting. The Kent Young Ringers are now being funded separately to the Training Fund and the BRF and so there was a suggestion that the allocation of profits could be split between BRF/KYR/Training. Liz Brett advised that the beneficiary cannot be changed for this year but could be altered from April. This subject will now be carried forward to the January meeting with Liz emailing the District e-group to outline the options beforehand.

The draw took place as follows:

	Prize	Number	Name	Tower
1 st	£20	74	Philippa Rooke	Chelsfield
2 nd	£10	44	Helen Simms	Ash
3 rd	£10	27	Nigel Parsons	Unattached
4 th	£5	52	Lesley Barclay	Horton Kirby

10. Any Other Business

Rupert Cheeseman thanked contributors to the latest Newsletter.

11. Vote of Thanks

Liz Morris proposed a vote of thanks to Mother Monica Cameron for taking the service, to Edward Sage for playing the organ and the Erith Christ Church band for providing such a lovely tea and allowing us to ring the bells. There was also a special mention for the home-made cakes and desserts which we all enjoyed.

Next Meeting – Saturday 11th January 2020 at Hayes

SIGNED as a true record by.....

DATE.....