

Lewisham Annual District Meeting

Officer Reports – October 2020

Ringling Master

There were at least two (conventional) practices every month from October 2019 to early March this year until Covid19 brought a juddering halt to ringing as we know it – or knew it...!

These consisted 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. Host towers were Bexley, Hayes, Erith St John, Chislehurst Annunciation and Lewisham.

Additionally, there were two 10 bell practices at Beckenham on Thursdays 14th November and 13th February.

Last year on 16th November the call change striking competition was held at Horton Kirby and won by Chelsfield.

On 7th March the District Method Striking competition was held at Crayford also won by Chelsfield. Disappointingly only Chelsfield and Crayford, the host tower, entered.

Sadly, the planned joint outing with the Tonbridge District to London on Saturday August 8th which I had partly already organised had to be cancelled.

Turning to the general health of ringing in the District, the practices saw varying numbers attending and ringing ranged from rounds and call changes up to Surprise Major and Surprise Royal and Stedman Caters at Beckenham. As expressed last year, it does worry me that some towers in the District have been struggling with low ringer numbers and I can only see this situation getting worse once we return to some sort of new normal following the Covid19 ringing restrictions. May I thank those who have contributed to the recent tower survey. The results will be useful at District level to see how many towers are active and identify those where ringing has yet to resume. I am also feeding the results up to County level.

This year, following the ceasing of conventional practices, we have held Zoom and Ringing Room sessions. These have occurred approximately once a month since normal practices ceased, usually on a Saturday morning. I'd like to thank Rupert for being able and willing to lead a lot of the ringing and he has built up an excellent and loyal following. Ringing has ranged up to plain hunt on 11 and Grandsire Triples.

As ever, I am very grateful to those that support me with the ringing in the district.

Nick Wilkins

Membership Secretary Report

The District currently has **199** members (**163** adults, **15** 80 & over, **3** 18 & under, **15** life, **2** Associate, **1** Vice President) down from **219** (**112** adults, **62** over 65, **16** over 65 and 25-years membership, **12** junior, **15** life, **1** Associate, **1** Vice President) members last year. As you can see from the breakdown there has been a change of membership categories this year to simplify things. Some of this drop is due to the removal of the 65 and over and 25 years membership free category where some members who were no longer active, previously remained on the books.

As we have only held one meeting so far this year there have only been 2 new members elected but hopefully there will be a few more at the ADM.

For payment of next years subs, it is the intention of the County to make it possible for individuals to pay online. More details nearer the time but for anyone not happy to do it this way then the old traditional way will still be possible. Subs next year will again be £15 for 18-80 and £7.50 for under 18's.

Rupert Cheeseman

Training Officer

Training events in the district this year have been popular and well-attended. A raising and lowering workshop in early March was hosted by Beckenham and gave district members the opportunity to hone their skills at ringing up and down - singly and in peal. The online training sessions which were run on Saturday mornings from April through to July were very well attended, with sometimes up to 40 attendees from the district and around the Association. Topics included handbell ringing, method structure, listening skills and conducting. All the talks can be found on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuwovfc8KHEEEgsMTfLrIjA/videos>

Tom Hinks

120 Club Administrator

This has been a difficult year to say the least! However, we have managed to keep the draws going. 68 shares have been sold for the current year (88 in the previous year). Thanks to everyone who bought shares and particular thanks to Phillipa and Nick for carrying out virtual draws. We have also managed a couple on Zoom meetings during virtual district practices.

For I think the first time, most of the applications for shares this year were made via email – this is in many ways much easier. Up-to-date application forms are available on the Lewisham District website. Emailing applications saves both paper and postage and I have also been emailing share certificates back to members. Most payments have been by bank transfer. I would encourage those who are happy to continue membership each year to set up a Standing Order with their bank – this is even easier to administer. A Standing Order for payments of £10 per share to be made in February or March for the new draw year (starting in April) will ensure continuing membership.

Accounts for 2019-20

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
88 shares @£10	£880	Prizes	£540
Unclaimed prizes	£170	Council fee	£20
		Expenses	£12.43
TOTAL	£1050	TOTAL	£572.43
		To BRF	£477.57

Elizabeth Brett

Newsletter Editor/PR

It's obviously been a strange year and with 2 district meetings being cancelled only two Newsletters were produced. A paper copy of the January one went to all towers as usual but for the October one it was decided that, for the first time, only an online version would be produced for downloading from the County website. I foresee this continuing all the time we are having virtual meetings, but the intention is to go back to hard copies for each tower once we are back meeting in person again.

Whilst the District website has continued to be updated, the County website has now become much easier to update and so both Debra and myself have increasingly been using that to provide information to the District. If you haven't already, then please sign up to the KCACR Mailing List by visiting https://kcacr.org.uk/category/association_news/weekly to receive a news summary every Saturday morning with important District announcements. We will also continue to send out information to the District yahoo group and the tower contacts group so again, please sign up to the yahoo group if you have not done so already by sending an email to lewisham_district-subscribe@yahoogroups.co.uk

Rupert Cheeseman