

# THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

## LEWISHAM DISTRICT

### Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held via Zoom, Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2020

24 people attended in total representing 13 towers, 2 unattached, 2 from outside Lewisham District. All were welcomed to our first District Zoom meeting with special mention for Phil Barnes (Chairman, KCACR) and Jen Thomas (Youth Officer, KCACR)

The meeting opened with Philippa asking if there were any objections to the meeting being recorded to help with taking the minutes. No objections were raised.

#### 1. In Memoriam

Five long standing ringers had passed away since January and each was mentioned before observing a one-minute silence in their memory:

John Cannell (West Wickham) - Was elected in 1947, a previous Tower Captain at West Wickham and a member for 70 years

Peter Skinner (Chislehurst, St Nicholas) - Tower Captain who died in March. Learnt to ring in the 1960s and was re-elected in 1995.

Percy Hicks (Bexley) – Taught to ring by Mary Andrews in 1972 and continued ringing until 2016. Rang many quarter peals and gave 48 years of service.

Geoff Mills – Passed away very recently and condolences were passed on to Ian and Diane. Known to many only through Facebook which he embraced when no longer able to ring.

Angus Ogilvie (Chislehurst, St Nicholas) – Learnt to ring at Brighton around 1970 and later joined Chislehurst St Nicholas and Eltham bands after he moved to the area. Rang many quarter peals before being forced to give up in 2012 after an earlier diagnosis of Parkinson's.

The total number of years' service given by these five people is in excess of 189 years and is a great loss to the District.

#### 2. Apologies for Absence

Received from Dave Gyles (Ash), Lesley Barclay (Horton Kirby), Chris Devine (Eltham), Graham Long (Greenwich), Ian Mills (Eltham), Luke Potgieter (Erith, St Johns).

#### 3. Minutes of Last Meeting (11<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at Hayes)

Posted to the County website and circulated via email to the District e-group. Agreed as a correct and accurate record.

Proposed: Diane Reynolds Seconded: Svetlana Sokolova. Voted unanimously.

#### 4. Matters Arising not Covered Elsewhere

Nil.

#### 5. Election of New Members

New Member	Tower	Proposed By	Seconded By	Competency Assessed By
Ed Webb	Lewisham	Julia Pring	Pauline Symons	Nick Wilkins
Christine Webb	Lewisham	Julia Pring	Pauline Symons	Nick Wilkins
Alex Webb (Jnr)	Lewisham	Julia Pring	Pauline Symons	Nick Wilkins
Olivia Stanton (Jnr)	Farnborough	Nick Wilkins	Lesley Barclay	Nick Wilkins
Zoe Applegate	Horton Kirby	Lesley Barclay	Nick Wilkins	Nick Wilkins
Rob Hodgetts	Bromley Parish	Tom Hinks	Dickon Love	Tom Hinks

Most of these have been held over since before lockdown started in mid-March so it was good to be able to elect these new members today, and Ed, Christine and Alex were with us on Zoom. All were elected unanimously using the Zoom poll facility set up in advance, and welcomed to the Association.

## **6. Officer Reports**

The reports had been circulated in advance via the District e-group but were also shared on screen at this point in the meeting.

### **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 year's 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 18s.

**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/UCuwovfc8KHEEEgsmTfLrJlJA/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://kacac.org.uk/category/association\\_news/weekly](https://kacac.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@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lewisham_district-subscribe@yahoo.co.uk)

### **Rupert Cheeseman**

No questions were raised about the contents of any of the Officer Reports and the only additional comment was from Liz Brett who mentioned that this year has shown the benefits of using online communication for running the 120 Club.

## 7. KCACR General Committee

### Notification of Rule Change

This item and the following one were the main reasons Phil Barnes was attending and he was asked if he would like to take the floor to explain. The wording of the proposed rule change was shared on screen for all to read.

The rule change concerns a proposal to reword the rule which relates to how the KCACR Central Council Representatives are elected. Phil explained the Central Council is an over-arching body which used to elect a new council every three years. Around two years ago this was changed so that representatives are now elected annually at each AGM and this is the word change needed to the current rules. It is completely non-controversial and will be proposed at the 2021 AGM. For now, this is just a notification.

Questions and comments were invited but nothing was raised.

### Notification of KCACR to Become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

A letter from Phil Barnes had been received prior to the meeting that was intended to be read out. Considering Phil was attending in person, he decided to explain the contents himself.

For around 12 months the KCACR General Committee has been looking into applying for Charitable Status for the KCACR as a whole – at present only the Bell Restoration Fund is registered as a charity which enables it to apply for grants only available to charities. The benefits for the Association as a whole are numerous including financial benefits such as Gift Aid and better funding opportunities only available to charities. In addition, it will also improve the governance of the Association allowing better communication with members which has been highlighted as being of particular importance this year. Becoming a **Charitable Incorporated Association**, would also provide financial protection for the Officers and to a lesser extent, the members for example in the unlikely event of the KCACR becoming bankrupt. Becoming **Incorporated** means the Association would become a legal entity which it currently is not in its current form.

The General Committee initially proposed to go ahead with becoming a **Charitable Incorporated Association** however questions have been raised that a CIA would fundamentally change how the KCACR is run, for example the Chairman could not be elected by the members but would be appointed by trustees, and other areas within the CIA model are also of concern.

The alternative now being looked at is for the KCACR to become a **Charitable Association**. The main difference of not being Incorporated is no separate legal entity and the protections for officers are fewer, although these are generally more suited to businesses with buildings, property and employees and so the extra hassle and overheads of going down the Incorporated route is now deemed unnecessary.

The financial benefits of becoming a charity under the **Charitable Association** model remain, so Gift Aid, the ability to apply for certain grants plus we would still be electing trustees to improve the governance, whilst remaining accountable to both the members of the Association and in addition, the Charity Commission. These are the legal implications.

Once the KCACR becomes a charity, it will be necessary to re-state the objects of the Association to enable it to fit the aims of a charity and the charitable objects proposed are in line with the original draft constitution which can be read here <https://kacac.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Constitution-820.pdf> The proposal to make the KCACR a Charitable Association will be brought to the 2021 AGM and there will be another opportunity to discuss this again at our January QDM .

Questions/comments were then invited for Phil:

**Q.** Does the County own any property in its own right e.g., mobile rings etc as a Charitable Association cannot own property?

**A.** The only property currently is a Chairman's badge plus a few competition trophies. If the situation arose in the future where the KCACR owned any property, the Charitable Association could at that point become Incorporated fairly easily. The process the other way to become unincorporated is much more difficult.

**Q.** Have any other ringing associations already been down this route?

**A.** Not since the option of a CIA existed which was around 2014, but many are full charities including nearby Essex and Sussex, the latter since the 1970s.

## 2021 Subscription Renewals

It is still expected that next year's subs will be paid by individuals online although there should still be the option of paying via your tower/tower captain. Rates remain the same as this year, £15 for adults 18-80 and £7.50 for junior members. Further details will be provided once this information is received from the County. Phil Barnes commented that paying individually and each member maintaining their own records, will improve communication through the recording of email addresses and simplify the payment of subs which will now go direct to the County rather than through several District channels before being sent on to the County Treasurer.

Members elected at today's meeting will pay half the annual subs mentioned above. Please contact Rupert for details of the County bank account to make an online payment.

## 2021 County AGM

Impossible to predict what will happen regarding the global pandemic and its effect on the 2021 AGM which is currently re-scheduled to take place in the Lewisham District on Easter Monday (5<sup>th</sup> April). Phil Barnes was pressed regarding a date for a decision and his thoughts were that a final decision would be made and communicated around February.

## 8. Election of Officers

A notice asking for any nominations had been circulated via the e-group in the weeks before the meeting and the table below was shared in advance, as well as on screen at the meeting:

<b>Nominations for Officers 2020-21</b>			
<b>Post</b>	<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Seconder</b>
Chairman	<b>David Holdridge</b>	Philippa Rooke	Debra Say
Secretary	<b>Debra Say</b>	Rupert Cheeseman	Liz Morris
Membership Secretary	<b>Rupert Cheeseman</b>	Debra Say	Pete Morris
Ringling Master	<b>Nick Wilkins</b>	Lesley Barclay	Debra Say
Deputy Ringling Master	<b>Diane Reynolds</b>	David Holdridge	Ian Mills
Training Officer	<b>Tom Hinks</b>	Ian Mills	Diane Reynolds
District Rep	<b>Natalie Slator/Svetlana Sokolova</b>	Liz Brett	Chris Davine
120 Club Administrator	<b>Liz Brett</b>	Natalie Slator	Shirley Scarth
120 Club Assistant	<b>Deryck Jones</b>		
Youth Coordinator	<b>Nick Wilkins</b>	Lesley Barclay	Jim Rooke
Newsletter Editor	<b>Rupert Cheeseman</b>	Dave Gyles	Brenda Barton

A Zoom poll was prepared in advance with all attendees able to vote for each post individually. All were elected unanimously and with Philippa not standing for re-election, she thanked both Sue Cameron and Debra Say for their diligence as Secretary during her tenure, and the wider committee for their ongoing support, and thanked David Holdridge for volunteering to take over as the new Chairman.

Nick Wilkins then spoke on behalf of everyone to thank Philippa for all her hard work and commitment over the past five years. The last two years especially have been very time consuming with the 2020 County AGM which was then cancelled, plus the Coronavirus situation, in addition to her other commitments which include tower captain, church warden, archivist, chorister, pension trustee and amateur dramatics, and Nick wished Philippa every success in the completion of her degree this year. A virtual round of applause was given to show our appreciation.

## 9. 120 Club Draw

Liz & Les Brett made the October draw on screen as follows:

	PRIZE	NUMBER	NAME	TOWER
1 <sup>st</sup>	£20	86	Unsold	BRF
2 <sup>nd</sup>	£10	118	Unsold	BRF
3 <sup>rd</sup>	£10	81	Sue Cameron	Unattached
4 <sup>th</sup>	£5	91	Unsold	BRF

## 10. Any Other Business

Rupert Cheeseman thanked everyone who had contributed to the latest Newsletter which was now available online. Virtual District Practice dates have been arranged up to the end of 2020 and are in the District calendar on the KCACR website.

Tom Hinks was thanked for all his hard work in arranging online training sessions via Zoom from April right through until the summer that were well attended and enjoyed by Lewisham District members and beyond. Tom confirmed that further online training will be arranged if local lockdowns become a feature once again.

The meeting was then called to a close.

**Date of next proposed meeting – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January via Zoom**

**SIGNED as a true record**

By.....

DATE.....