

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held via Zoom, Saturday 16th January 2021

24 people attended in total representing 11 towers.

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

1. In Memoriam

Sylvia Mackenzie, a long-standing ringer at Eynsford, had passed away very recently and a minute's silence was observed in her memory.

2. Apologies for Absence

Received from Sue Cameron (Unattached) and Lynne Proudfoot (Farnborough)

3. Minutes of Last Meeting (10th October 2020 via Zoom)

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: Liz Brett. Voted unanimously.

4. Matters Arising not Covered Elsewhere

Nil

5. Election of New Members

There were no new members to elect.

David Holdridge said that it was possibly unfair to elect new members and ask them to pay fees at the moment without any ringing happening. Dave Gyles from Ash asked about potentially electing two new ringers as Associate Members which David Holdridge confirmed was possible if these ringers wanted to feel part of the Association. Debra asked that the membership application forms be completed and forwarded to her in order that they can be elected at the April meeting.

6. KCACR General Committee

Application for Charitable Status

This was discussed in detail at our Annual General Meeting in October with the KCACR Chairman, Phil Barnes, in attendance to explain and answer questions. However, this proposal will not now be brought to the AGM in April 2021 due to various issues that still need to be resolved. This subject will be revisited as and when we receive further information from the County Committee.

2021 County AGM

The County have made the decision once again to hold the 2021 AGM online via Zoom on Easter Monday (5th April) with potentially a County social being held in the Lewisham District in June/July.

Membership Renewal Online

Rupert Cheeseman explained that details of how individuals could renew had been sent to tower captains to forward onto their band members. Around 80 out of 200 members have already paid online and although towers cannot see who has/has not renewed, Rupert does have access to this information and will chase any outstanding renewals. Going forward this process will be easier with email addresses being collected this year. Credit cards can be used to make payment via PayPal without needing to sign up for a PayPal account. Note: each member must have their own email address.

2021 Handbook Updates

Reminder for tower contacts to check their tower details using the login for the KCACR website provided, plus upload any obituaries or other announcements – weddings, births, anniversaries – ready for publication in the new handbook.

Diane Reynolds asked about the 2020 handbook which had not been received due to the pandemic. Rupert advised he had collected them and given half to Nick Wilkins to distribute, but that he still had the other half to sort in due course.

A question was asked whether the County still intend to produce a printed handbook this year which we believe is the case, but members will once again need to request a copy if required, via a link which Debra will email once details are received from the County Handbook Editor.

ART Survival & Recovery Champion

More information can be found about this on the Central Council website but it is a new idea intended to help towers return to ringing following the Covid pandemic. The basic intention is not to create work but to enable the sharing and distribution of relevant information. Philippa Rooke has volunteered and her name has been sent to the County Secretary. More details are awaited but if anyone else is interested, please get in touch with Nick Wilkins.

7. Event Updates & Results

A virtual District Call Change Competition was held on 21/11/20 via Ringing Room/Zoom with four bands entering – Ash, Chelsfield, Crayford and Eltham – judged by Caroline Stockmann. Joint first were Crayford and Eltham but Crayford were declared overall winners due to their better peal speed which was nearly an hour quicker.

A virtual District Striking (method) Competition will be held on 6/3/21. Joint bands will be permitted due to the nature of virtual ringing and Nick will organise a judge.

It is hoped the 2021 Call Change Competition can go ahead in person on the usual third Saturday in November, 20/11/21.

The County Committee have not yet made any decisions about whether the 2021 inter-District competitions will be held in person or virtually.

Virtual district practices will continue to be held on the second Saturday of every month from 10am-12pm for consistency. In months when there is a quarterly meeting, the district practice will take place after meeting utilising whatever time remains.

Training

Tom Hinks confirmed he has another handbell training session planned for 30/1/21 using Ringing Room/Zoom, similar to the previous session held in November 2020 with an introductory talk followed by separate breakout rooms for ringing. More training talks are planned for February with dates to be confirmed.

Nick asked Tom about his view on eBells. Tom explained these are replica handbells for ringing online with both weight and a motion sensor to give the feeling of real handbells. They are expensive at £45 each but useful for those learning to ring handbells and to use with Handbell Stadium.

9. 120 Club Draw

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

	PRIZE	NUMBER	NAME	TOWER
1st	£20	40	Foots Cray Tower	Foots Cray
2nd	£10	2	Peter Morris	Crayford
3rd	£10	98	Unsold	BRF
4th	£5	16	Deryck Jones	Dartford

As is usual, there will be no draw in February with the final draw of this year taking place on 6/3/21 during the Virtual Striking Competition.

Renewals can be done anytime from now by emailing Liz if renewing, and completing and the form which can be found on both the County and District website for members joining the 120 Club for the first time. Payment must be made by bank transfer. There is also the option to set up a standing order to renew automatically each year which is worth considering.

10. Any Other Business

Doug Fisher (Chelsfield) asked ringers to consider recording their tower bells to enable the recording to be played before online services. Both Chelsfield and Farnborough have done this previously for some special occasions and Doug offered his help if any towers would like to do the same.

Rupert Cheeseman said the winter Newsletter wasn't quite finished but should be online later and an email would be sent once this was available.

Three Lewisham District members are celebrating 50 years of membership this year – Nick Wilkins (Farnborough), Angela Wilkins (Farnborough) and Ann Rueff (Unattached) – and all three were congratulated.

A general discussion about long memberships led to Debra asking if anybody knew the whereabouts of the quarterly meeting minutes prior to 1996 as these were not contained in the 'Secretaries bag' of paperwork passed over when a new secretary is elected. Mary Andrews had served many years as Secretary but had previously confirmed she did not have the missing minutes. Ian Mills (Eltham) suggested going through old handbooks to find out who had taken over from Mary Andrews to try and locate the missing items.

The meeting was then called to a close with everyone invited to join the District Tower in Ringing Room for some virtual ringing practice and whilst the details of this were being announced, Jim Rooke confirmed he was in possession of the quarterly meeting minutes from 1987-1996. These will be handed over to Debra when possible later this year.

Date of next proposed meeting – Saturday 17th April via Zoom

SIGNED as a true record

By.....

DATE.....