



Maidstone District

The Kent County Association of Change Ringers

Maidstone District

Master: David Grimwood

Secretary: Betsy Piercey

<https://kacr.org.uk>

MINUTES

Quarterly District Meeting
Saturday 1 May 2021 at 2.00 pm
By Zoom

Attendees

David Grimwood, Master (Maidstone All Saints), Liz Barnes, Treasurer/Membership Secretary (Wrotham), Phil Barnes, Association Chairman (Wrotham), Chris Bassett, District Representative (Staplehurst), Sue Bassett, Association Hon Secretary (Staplehurst), Mark Elvers, Communications Officer (Maidstone St Michael & All Angels), Betsy Piercey, Secretary (Otham), Roy Barclay (Staplehurst), Graham Cuthbert (Harrietsham), Simon Davies (Wrotham), Barry Evans (Mereworth), Keith Foxwell (Stansted), Brian Osmer (Otham), Sue Payne (East Malling)

2021/QMB01 Apologies for absence

Sallyann Barclay (Staplehurst), Jacqui Barlow (Maidstone St Michael & All Angels), Terry Barnard (Aylesford), Joy Barnard (East Malling), Colin Finnis (Barming), Margaret Fitzgerald (Loose), Elizabeth Harland (Ightham), Dot Hooker (Otham), Heather Knowler (Chart Sutton), Peter Smith (Linton)

2021/QMB02 Minutes and Matters arising DQM 9 January 2021, held by Zoom

Minutes: Accepted. Matters arising: None.

2021/QMB03 Election of new members: No new members were proposed.

2021/QMB04 Membership Update

Liz Barnes thanked everyone for completing membership renewal under the new system. Hopefully the system will run even more smoothly next year. Liz presented a spreadsheet which showed a reduction again this year in membership numbers (*see Appendix*). However, despite the disruption of the pandemic, no tower has been lost completely with regard to membership.

2021/QMB05 Resuming ringing

The Master thanked the 19 towers that responded to his request for comments and input on ringing recovery in the District. Some are doing a great job ringing 2 or 3 bells. Out of the 19 towers, 5 reported being short on Sunday ringers.

(a) the need for refresher training

- Two or three towers reported they would appreciate support, others considered they could manage this themselves. Some ringers were very happy to ring but wished to stay within their

comfort zone of plain hunt and bob doubles, others were keen to learn more.

- Sue Bassett advised that the keen ones need to go to other towers. She suggested taking them to another tower once to introduce them so the tower knows their capabilities, checking with the tower in advance that the visit will be convenient.
- The Master suggested the idea of holding local striking competitions at tower practices, to be reviewed at a future meeting.

(b) a district-wide recruitment programme

- The Master recommended towers, if they haven't done so already, to view a presentation by Robert Pearce of the Truro Diocesan Guild of Ringers entitled The Bradoc Experience at: <https://tdgr.org.uk/the-bradoc-experience-robert-pearce/> This provides many excellent ideas worth consideration. These include making ringers visible to the congregation (e.g. CCTV) and the public, involving church leaders in recruitment campaigns and having ringing literature readily available.
- Graham Cuthbert suggested use of the portable **Maypole Ring** which Trevor Arnold is keen to make available and Barry Evans offered to help Trevor Arnold facilitate this.
- Regarding a recruitment drive, Sue Bassett emphasised the importance of having a training programme for teaching and having teachers to teach the trainers.
- The importance of initial intensive training over 3 or 4 weeks was suggested. Other ideas put forward were: bellringing articles in parish magazines, leaflets to give out (with QR code and complementary website to attract young people), CCTV camera in the bell chamber, purchasing dumbbells/mini rings, involving vicars, PCC and churchwardens to learn to ring.
- Phil Barnes suggested good venues for training would be Maidstone All Saints, Staplehurst and other towers with good sound control.
- **Handbells online training:** Phil Barnes said the Association has **eBells** available to be used with ringing software (Abel, Mabel, Mobil). They are very useful for learning and anyone interested should contact Phil for information. They are loaned for free with a small deposit payable.

The Master said towers are keen to help and suggested a tower captains' session in about 6 weeks time. He thanked everyone for their ideas and appreciated the enthusiasm shown.

Any Other Business: None.

2021/QMB06

The Master thanked everyone for attending and the Meeting closed at 3.30 pm.

Betsy Piercey
District Secretary
15 May 2021

APPENDIX

KCACR Maidstone District
Membership Summary 2021

	2021	2020
Adult	163	186
Junior	10	13
80+	16	11
Existing Life Members	18	18
Associate Members	6	7
Total Practising Members	207	228
Income	£2532	£2902.50
<i>From this many paying members</i>	179	206