



Maidstone District

# The Kent County Association of Change Ringers

Maidstone District

Master: David Grimwood

Secretary: Betsy Piercey

<https://kcacr.org.uk>

## MINUTES

### Quarterly District Meeting

Saturday 3 July 2021 at 10.30 am

By Zoom

#### Attendees

David Grimwood, Master (Maidstone All Saints), Liz Barnes, District Treasurer/Membership Secretary (Wrotham), Phil Barnes, Association Chairman (Wrotham), Chris Bassett, District Representative (Staplehurst), Terry Barnard, Ringing Master (Aylesford), Joy Barnard (East Malling), Roy and Sallyann Barclay (Staplehurst), Graham Cuthbert (Harrietsham), Simon Davies (Wrotham), Doug Davis (Boxley), Cathy Kingham (Staplehurst), Sue Payne (East Malling), Tony Adams (Boughton Monchelsea), Betsy Piercey, District Secretary (Otham)

#### Welcome by the Master

The Master welcomed all to the Meeting with a special welcome to Doug Davis as the new Captain of Boxley.

#### 2021/QMC01 Apologies for absence

Mark Elvers, Communications Officer (Maidstone St Michael & All Angels), Jacqui Barlow (Maidstone St Michael & All Angels), Bert Boxall (Yalding), Sue Bassett (Staplehurst), Robin Hughes (East Malling), Colin Finnis (Barming), Brian Osmer (Otham), Margaret Fitzgerald (Loose), Keith and Dawn Foxwell (Stansted), Dot Hooker (Otham), Heather Knowler (Chart Sutton)

#### 2021/QMC02 Minutes and Matters arising DQM 1 May 2021, held by Zoom

Minutes: agreed

#### Matters arising from the Minutes:

- **eBells**

Phil Barnes reported there was very little interest in the **eBells** with only 2 sets out of the 10 loaned out. Phil recommended them and said they are surprisingly easy to use, with practice being the key to learning handbell ringing. (*Please contact Phil if you are interested*). The eBells come with a tuition book by Simon Gay. Liz said that handbells require a completely different type of learning and explained to the Meeting how the bells interact with each other. Doug recommended viewing Tom Hinks' Introduction to Handbell Ringing on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q1-nEcEwjlU> The Master thanked Liz and Doug for their input.

- **Membership update**

There were problems previously where two members shared an email address. Doug has carried out updates and overcome these problems and there are individual Usernames for all. Liz explained the new system but if anyone doesn't know their Username to access their personal record, they should contact her, Doug or Betsy, all of whom will be able to provide it. Liz urged members to please check their personal record and update their email address if necessary. It is now the responsibility of individual ringers to keep their record up to date – towers do not have access to members' records.

The Master thanked Doug for all his work on the database.

**2021/QMC03 Election of new members:** No new members were proposed.

- An interesting question was raised under this Item: could handbell change ringers who are not tower bell ringers be admitted to the KCACR? - the present Rules do not cover this possibility. If this situation should occur, the Master suggested a Motion should be put to the Association for a Rule change.

**2021/QMC04 Ringing recruitment and teaching**

- The Master opened the discussion by saying that recruitment would need to be underpinned by a programme of teaching, possibly beginning during the summer and autumn. Could such an intensive programme be set up? There are at least twelve ringers who have taken part in the ART training within the District which provides a firm base. It would be necessary to identify towers where teaching could take place. The towers would have to meet minimum standards, eg. facilities, ground floor rings, quality of bells and good ventilation. Phil said that it was important that those volunteering to train should be keen and not necessarily follow the ART programme too closely.
- The need to reach out to schools and scouts, cubs, etc. was discussed, together with the possibility of linking bellringing and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme to Year 9's.
- Moving on to recruitment specifically, the Master explained that Doug has developed a way of setting up cameras in ringing rooms and belfries which has been submitted to the General Committee for funding approval with the intention of increasing the visibility of ringing to the public, for use in towers across the District.
- Phil referred to the Essex practice of having a 'Bell Sunday' to raise awareness and engage people. The Master said that such a Bell Sunday would need to be supported by an explanatory programme which might include tea, cakes, trips up towers and demonstrations by a band of ringers. It was important that people should enjoy the event. It was also important that people should feel comfortable, and it would therefore depend on the extent to which Covid restrictions had been relaxed. Whilst it would not necessarily be essential to have the event on a Sunday, it would be useful to involve the clergy and he would be prepared to liaise with the clergy about this. Other suggestions made were: (a) that it was important to remember that not all ringers (and potential ringers) are religious but nonetheless are happy to participate in Sunday ringing and it was agreed that the

recruitment day didn't necessarily have to be on a Sunday, and (b) that ringers are widely varying individuals and do not necessarily enjoy social events and interactions.

- Suggestions were considered as to such an event taking place at a chosen location and involving KYR. It was agreed that it should be a District event, possibly two, in August. Possible towers were discussed. The Master asked for volunteers to assist him in setting the event up and Doug, Graham and Terry offered to help in various ways, such as obtaining the Maypole Ring and making contact with the Kent Messenger and BBC South-East. The need for leaflets and information was recognised, along with use of social media. As a first step, it was agreed to keep the event fairly small-scale. It was also agreed that it would be better for the event to take place in the morning.

**2021/QMC05 Any Other Business:** None.

The Master thanked everyone for attending and the Meeting closed at 11.42 am.

Betsy Piercey  
District Secretary  
8 July 2021