

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held at Erith, St John's on Saturday 9th October 2021

22 people attended in total representing 10 towers, including 1 out of District ringer and 1 non-ringer.

1. Apologies for Absence/In Memoriam

Received from Nick Wilkins (Farnborough), Sue Cameron (Unattached), Graham Long (Greenwich), Doug & Nancy Fisher (Chelsfield), Alison Warner (Crayford), Dave Gyles (Ash).

A minute's silence was held in memory of Jean Thody, a former ringer at Hayes and KCACR member from 1995-2005.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting (10th July 2021 via Zoom)

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

It was pointed out that the minutes are titled 'Annual District Meeting' but should be 'Quarterly District Meeting. Debra Say to correct.

Proposed: Liz Brett, Seconded: Natalie Slator. Voted unanimously.

3. Matters Arising not Covered Elsewhere

At the July 120 Club draw, number 17 won one of the two first prizes but was wrongly attributed to Liz Brett. The holder of number 17 was actually Lesley Barclay and the winnings have been passed on.

4. Election of New Members

New Member	Tower	Proposed By	Seconded By	Competency Assessed By
Zoe Applegate	Horton Kirby	Lesley Barclay	Nick Wilkins	Nick Wilkins
Peter Oates	Eltham	David Holdridge	Diane Reynolds	David Holdridge
Daniel Oates (Jnr)	Eltham	David Holdridge	Diane Reynolds	David Holdridge
Thomas Green	Eltham	David Holdridge	Diane Reynolds	David Holdridge

All were elected unanimously

5. Officer Reports

Nick was unable to attend in person but had provided a report to be read out in his absence.

Ringling Master

The last year has been dominated by Covid restrictions which has meant very little real tower bell ringing until recently. Consequently, until the last couple of months, practices have generally been held online using Ringing Room in conjunction with Zoom. Ringing Room is a clever platform and this enabled us to maintain some form of contact with each other although, I think it true to say, a number of us, me included, found it more difficult ringing methods online than on proper tower bells. That said, it has been a way of learning and some ringers have made excellent progress on Ringing Room.

I recall we quite often managed Stedman and Grandsire Triples and did very occasionally try Surprise Major. We also had some fun ringing things such as plain hunt on eleven. I'm particularly grateful to Rupert who enthusiastically and capably looked after some of the online ringing.

Most recently there has been 'in person' practices on the reasonably well-ventilated ground floor rings at Chislehurst (St Nicholas) and Shoreham.

In November we held an online call change striking competition on Ringing Room judged by Caroline Stockmann. The results were close with Eltham and Crayford scoring the same but Crayford being deemed the winners by virtue of their ringing speed - if peal length, the Crayford band would have been in the pub a full hour before the Eltham ringers!

In March we held a method competition ringing 120 changes also on Ringing Room. Tom Lawrance amusingly announced the results using motor racing analogies and Crayford were again the winners.

Having served as Ringing Master for six years it was probably about time for me to stand down and give someone else a chance in any event and, I'm afraid, the very limited normal ringing over the last year has reinforced my view on this.

Additionally, I've had additional family responsibilities which some of you will be aware of.

I'm therefore not seeking re-election but would like to thank everyone in the District for their support and wish my successor the very best of luck moving forwards.

Hopefully they will get as much satisfaction and pleasure out of the role as I did up until the last year and push standards upwards at the monthly practices, both 'normal' and 'advanced' as well as the ten bell practices.

Finally, I apologise that I'm not personally at the ADM but I'm spending a few weeks in Spain trying to relax after a demanding year so far which has included the death of my aunt on Easter Sunday and sorting out Probate and the sale of her property.

Nick was thanked for everything he has done over the past 6 years and particularly for the last 18 months.

Membership Secretary

The database finally went live this year but the membership secretary is currently locked out of the system so is unable to provide figures for our District at present. With the lack of real ringing this year, only two new members have been elected although an additional 4 have now been elected today. There was a short discussion about the new system for paying subscriptions which has had some teething problems but should be easier in 2022. A question was raised about any lapsed ringers and whether they just need to pay or whether they need re-electing. Rupert advised that there was probably no need for re-election.

Training Officer

We've had another busy and successful year of training events in the Lewisham District. During the lockdowns of November and January-March, we held 4 online handbell training mornings, using zoom and ringing room. I also delivered a Zoom talk on 'ringing oddities' (about methods, not people!) and have made some further short training videos for the district YouTube channel. Last Saturday, we held a very successful handbell training morning in person at Bromley parish church, which included three quarter peals. The five students made lots of progress, thanks to the hard work of all the helpers involved.

Looking forward to the year ahead, I'm planning to run another handbell training day, some workshops on recruitment, retention and running a successful practice, and hopefully some training on tower bells in the New Year. We also have a bank of resources available on the district training YouTube channel.

Many thanks to everyone who has helped with a district training event over the last year.

120 Club Administrator

Once again, this was a difficult year. However, with a number of virtual practices and meetings on Zoom we were able to keep the draws going. September saw the first 'live' draw for well over a year during the District practice at Shoreham. 61 shares have been sold so far for the current year (68 in the previous year). Thanks once again to everyone who bought shares

Once again, 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.

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
68 shares @£10	£680	Prizes	£540
Unclaimed prizes	£240	Council fee	£20
		Expenses	£14.95
TOTAL	£920	TOTAL	£574.95
		To BRF	£345.05

6.KCACR General Committee – Report from 24th July 2021

Notice of Rule Change

Two proposed alterations to the rules which will be voted on at the KCACR Annual General Meeting had been received and were read out in accordance with KCACR Rule 15(ii):

Peal Fee Abolition Rule Change Proposal – Rule 10(i) wording to exclude “appropriate peal fees together with” and to delete (ii) entirely. The new Rule 10 to read “Peals rung by bands made up entirely of Members of the Association shall be credited to the Association and printed in the Handbook only if details of the compositions on seven bells and above are received by the Peal Secretary within two months of the performance or by 15 January of the following year, whichever is the sooner.”

Proposal to amend Rule 4(i) – There was considered a need for the following change, to include Handbell ringing. Change Ringing was considered legitimate on both Handbells and Tower bells. Without the change, unless a Handbell Ringer was also a tower bell ringer, they wouldn't be able to join the association. The General Committee endorsed the proposal to include the wording underlined in red below: -

“4. The Association shall consist of Practising, Associate, Honorary Life and Non-Resident Life Members. Practising and Honorary Life Members shall be eligible to vote at meetings of the Association. (i) Practising Members A Practising Member shall be deemed to be a person who can, without assistance, ring rounds and lower a bell or can ring a plain course on 6 or more handbells in a method. Such competency shall be confirmed by an elected Association or District Officer.”

Memorial Service

A choral evensong memorial service will be held at Rochester Cathedral on Sunday 7th November at 3.15pm to remember ringers who have died during the pandemic. Further details to follow and all are welcome.

Kent Young Ringers Competition

It is the turn of the Lewisham District to host this event which will take place at Farningham on Saturday 6th November. Help may be needed as we are asked to provide light refreshments. Would any towers with young ringers, ideally those under 18 but can be up to age 24, please notify Tom Hinks as the new District Youth Officer.

KCACR Festival of Ringing

This has been postponed once again and is now expected to take place in the spring of 2022, still at the previously proposed location of Benenden.

7. Election of Officers

The vacant position of Ringing Master had been advertised in advance of the meeting but with nobody willing to take on the role, Tom Hinks and Diane Reynolds had agreed to share the position for the coming year, with Tom also taking on the role of Youth Coordinator.

Philippa Rooke took the chair for the appointment of the Chairman.

Nominations for Officers 2021-22			
Post	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Chairman	David Holdridge	Lesley Barclay	Tom Hinks
Secretary	Debra Say	Rupert Cheeseman	Philippa Rooke
Membership Secretary	Rupert Cheeseman	Edward Gormley	Peter Morris
Ringling Master(s)	Tom Hinks/Diane Reynolds	Natalie Slator	Liz Brett
Training Officer	Tom Hinks	Peter Morris	Edward Gormley
District Rep	Natalie Slator/Svetlana Sokolova	Philippa Rooke	Tom Hinks
120 Club Administrator	Liz Brett	Les Brett	Liz Morris
Youth Coordinator	Tom Hinks	Lesley Barclay	Natalie Slator
Newsletter Editor	Rupert Cheeseman	Debra Say	Natalie Slator

8. Event Updates

District Practices

The November practice will take place on Saturday 13th November at Ash, another ground floor ring open to the church. 10am-12pm. The December practice will take place on Saturday 11th December, potentially at Westerham.

District Call Change Competition

This was due to take place on Saturday 20th November but considering people are only just returning to ringing, the Committee propose that this be postponed. We may consider holding the Call Change Competition on the same day as the District Striking Competition in March 2022.

Timing of Future District Meetings

As discussed at the April and July District meetings, the proposal is to hold the January quarterly meeting in the morning, the April quarterly meeting in the afternoon, the July quarterly meeting in the morning followed by a social event of some kind, with the Annual District meeting in October being held in the afternoon. A further discussion was invited but none was forthcoming and a show of hands indicated all were in favour of this proposal.

9. 120 Club Draw

	PRIZE	NUMBER	NAME	TOWER
1 st	£20	53	Unsold	BRF
2 nd	£10	71	Unsold	BRF
3 rd	£10	101	Rupert Cheeseman	Crayford
4 th	£5	88	Unsold	BRF

10. Any Other Business

Shoreham now practice on a Tuesday at 7.30pm

Rupert apologised for the lack of a Newsletter in April and July but thanked everyone who had contributed to the printed October Newsletter.

District meeting venues for 2022 will likely be Crayford, Eltham, Chelsfield and Greenwich (not necessarily in that order) but all are subject to confirmation. Erith Christ Church offered a venue if needed.

Half-muffled ringing for evensong will take place at Greenwich at the end of October. Please contact Graham Long if interested.

Lewisham are very short of service ringers on 1st/3rd Sunday of the month.

11. Vote of Thanks

Lesley Barclay proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev Neil Bunker for taking the service and for being so welcoming, and to Margaret Heald for organising the music for the service and the tea.

Date of next meeting – Saturday 8th January 2022 – venue to be confirmed

SIGNED as a true record

By.....

DATE.....