

# THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

## LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held at St John the Baptist, Eltham on Saturday 8th October 2022

27 people attended in total representing 9 towers, including 1 out of District ringer.

### 1. Apologies for Absence/In Memoriam

Received from Nick Wilkins (Farnborough), Sue Cameron (Unattached), Philippa Rooke & Jim Rooke (Chelsfield), Lesley Barclay (Horton Kirby), Dave Gyles (Ash), Luke Potgeiter (Erith, St John's), Julia Pring (Lewisham), Ian Nurdin (Ash), June Gilchrist (Ash), Diane Reynolds (Eltham).

A minute's silence was held in memory of Isobel Bailey (Horton Kirby) and Deryck Jones (Dartford).

### 2. Minutes of Last Meeting (9<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at Eynsford)

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

Proposed: Tom Hinks, Seconded: Svetlana Sokolova. Voted unanimously.

### 3. Matters Arising not Covered Elsewhere

None.

### 4. Election of New Members

New Member	Tower	Proposed By	Seconded By	Competency Assessed By
Alison Jones	Sidcup	Debbie Runting	Alexander Runting	Tom Hinks

Alison was elected unanimously and being in attendance at the meeting, was welcomed to the Association and encouraged to come along and join in with the various events planned.

### 5. Officer Reports

#### Ringling Master

This has been a hugely successful year for district practices, which have been well attended, purposeful and productive. Everyone attending a district practice should rightly expect good quality ringing with reliable helpers, in order to enable them to make progress. As a district, we have consistently achieved good ringing at our practices this year, including on challenging rings of bells such as Westerham. High attendance has really helped this, and we would like to thank everyone who has come along to a practice this year. Ringing has very much been tailored to the needs of those present, and ringing has ranged from call changes to Surprise Major. In addition to the practices, a successful striking competition was held in July at Hayes. Many thanks to all towers who have hosted a district practice this year, and we wish our successors in the role every success in the year ahead.

#### Membership Secretary

The membership database is in its second year of operation for payments and generally it seemed to work well but with the usual few teething problems. Although most people paid online it is still possible to pay by cash if required. We currently have 171 members (135 adult, 6 junior, 17 senior and 13 life) and have had 11 new members elected which is obviously considerably up from the 2 we had last year.

#### Youth Officer

Young ringers in the district have continued to make good progress, with a range of quarter peals including young ringers being rung across the district in the last year. A quarter peal at Bromley in January was notable for 5 out of the 8 ringers being 25 or younger. We also held a young ringers practice at Downe in December, which was well attended, and it was great to see Lewisham District young ringers involved in the KYR team for this year's Ringing World National Youth Contest in Exeter.

## Training Officer

Following the post pandemic surge in enthusiasm for handbell ringing, this has been a focus of recent training events, including a well-attended training day in March and lots of developmental QP and peal opportunities for keen ringers. There was a lot of take-ups for the raising and lowering workshop to be held on 12th October and so I am planning a further workshop, focusing on handling while raising and lowering, later this year. I also hope to hold an evening discussion group on recruitment and retention, and a full training day on Doubles ringing in the spring. The district training YouTube channel continues to be well used, and members are reminded there is a wide-ranging stock of training recordings to suit almost every stage.

## 120 Club Administrator

Sales have gradually risen throughout this year as we all come back to ringing. 71 shares had been sold so far this year which is the same as last year, with a further 10 shares sold at this meeting. Thank you to everyone who has bought shares.

Accounts for 2021-22 were provided by Liz Brett earlier this year as shown below:

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
71 shares @£10	£710	Prizes	£540
Unclaimed prizes	£240	Council fee	£20
		Expenses	£10.15
TOTAL	£950	TOTAL	£570.15
		To BRF	£379.85

## **6.KCACR General Committee – Report from 30<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

- A vacancy remains for a Publicity Officer to help promote the activities of the KCACR. Please contact the County Secretary if interested.
- The County Committee have agreed to take on the Madams Court Mini Ring which has been freely donated. Details of how to hire, transport and assemble the mini-ring will be available shortly but a volunteer pool of ringers to assist assembly is sought. Please contact Doug Davis if you would like to be involved.
- The Tonbridge District hosted the Festival of Ringing & Inter-District 8-bell Striking Competition at Goudhurst in June. It was agreed the turnout was disappointing but it has been agreed to run something similar next year hosted by the Ashford District. Date potentially 17/6/23 but to be confirmed.
- The Association 6-Bell Striking Competition and Call Change Competition is due to take place on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September at Saltwood.
- This years Choral Evensong of Remembrance will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at Rochester Cathedral at 3.15pm.
- Members will shortly be receiving an electronic survey asking if there is any enthusiasm for a KCACR Annual Dinner.
- A London Bellingers Advent Carol Service is taking place on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022, 6.30pm at St John's Waterloo Road. All are welcome to attend.
- A murder Mystery event based around ringing is to be staged on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at the Mercure Hotel Tunbridge Wells.

After Natalie Slator had outlined the above, it was pointed out that the Inter-District competitions planned for 10<sup>th</sup> September had been cancelled due to the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 8<sup>th</sup> September but these had been rearranged for Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October, again at Saltwood. However, it was looking unlikely the Lewisham District would be able to enter bands for either of these competitions on the new date.

## **7. Election of Officers**

A number of officers had announced their intention to stand down in advance of the meeting, including the Secretary, both Ringing Masters, District Rep, Youth Coordinator and Newsletter Editor. New volunteers had been found in advance of the meeting for all but the Newsletter Editor which was discussed, with Debbie and Alexander Runting from Sidcup agreeing to take this on, at least as a trial for January. Liz Brett had already resigned as 120 Club Administrator a few months previously due to their impending move north with Liz Morris taking over, albeit without being formally elected until this meeting.

Debra Say took the chair for the appointment of the Chairman.

<b>Nominations for Officers 2022-23</b>			
<b>Post</b>	<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Secunder</b>
Chairman	<b>David Holdridge</b>	Liz Brett	Debbie Runting
Secretary	<b>Robert Hodgetts</b>	Tom Hinks	Helena Mattingley
Membership Secretary	<b>Rupert Cheeseman</b>	Liz Morris	Jeremey Byers
Ringling Master(s)	<b>Nigel Pointer/Ruth Pointer</b>	Jim Hardy	Tom Hinks
Training Officer	<b>Tom Hinks</b>	Natalie Slator	Ann Saunders
District Rep	<b>Debra Say/Svetlana Sokolova</b>	Helena Mattingley	Peter Morris
120 Club Administrator	<b>Liz Morris</b>	Les Brett	Liz Brett
Youth Coordinator	<b>Becca Hardy</b>	Jeremey Byers	Nigel Pointer
Newsletter Editor	<b>Alexander Runting/Debbie Runting</b>	Nigel Pointer	Jim Hardy

Formal thanks were given to Diane who has spent 8-9 years as Deputy Ringing Master, running the ringing at District Practices when necessary. Rupert was thanked for many years of producing the Newsletter and Liz was thanked for taking on the 120 Club. Finally, Debra was thanked by the Chairman for the last four years as Secretary and for keeping the Chairman organised.

## **8. District Updates**

### **District Call Change & Method Competitions**

Both these competitions were held on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July at Hayes and the certificates were presented to the winning bands by the Chairman. The results were as follows:

#### **Call Change Competition**

1<sup>st</sup> Greenwich

2<sup>nd</sup> Chelsfield

3<sup>rd</sup> Crayford

4<sup>th</sup> Farnborough

#### **Striking (Method) Competition**

1<sup>st</sup> Crayford

2<sup>nd</sup> Chelsfield

3<sup>rd</sup> Greenwich

The new Ringing Masters were asked about their plans for these competitions in 2023 with it being felt that July was not the best time to hold them. It was explained we had little choice this year due to Covid lockdowns in the spring and the need to hold them before the Inter-District events intended to be held in September. Nigel & Ruth Pointer have plans to assess ringing in the district over the coming months with the competitions possibly being held next spring, maybe on the same day once again, depending on the potential number of entries.

### **Timing of Future District Meetings**

At the 2021 Annual District Meeting it was agreed to trial holding two of the quarterly meetings in the morning, to be reviewed at this 2022 Annual District Meeting. A discussion was therefore invited with the majority of members present expressing a preference for afternoon meetings. The July 2022 meeting held in the morning, allowed a district social to take place - a walk from Eynsford to Shoreham for more ringing, stopping for lunch on the way - and most members were in favour of having another social event in July 2023. This would necessitate a morning meeting, so for 2023, January, April and October meetings will be in the afternoon and the July meeting in the morning.

## **9. 120 Club Draw**

	PRIZE	NUMBER	NAME	TOWER
1 <sup>st</sup>	£20	67	Diane Reynolds	Eltham
2 <sup>nd</sup>	£10	98	Unsold	BRF
3 <sup>rd</sup>	£10	89	Sue Cameron	Unattached
4 <sup>th</sup>	£5	119	Debra Say	Crayford

Liz said she was intending over the coming months, to investigate the possibility of paying prizes directly into the bank account of shareholders – with their agreement. Hopefully this will remove the need to write and post cheques each month and thereby reduce costs. The option of receiving a cheque will remain for any shareholder not wishing to opt into direct payment of prizes.

### **Rule following death of a shareholder**

Deryck Jones sadly lost his battle with cancer in August this year, having been a staunch supporter of the 120 Club with more shares than anyone else. He also assisted Liz Brett on many occasions as her glamorous assistant. His death highlighted that the current rules did not cover how we managed shares in this instance for the remainder of the 120 Club year.

The Lewisham District Committee have taken advice from the Kent County treasurer and considered and discussed several suggestions and have agreed to add a new rule/condition, to be printed on all future share certificates and will be added to the rules and conditions displayed on the KCACR website.

*‘Upon the death of a shareholder – Administrator will note against relevant numbers that the shareholder is deceased and any prizes drawn against those numbers for the remainder of the year will record the name of the deceased with those prizes being donated to BRF’*

A discussion then took place about whether winnings should instead be paid to the estate of the deceased, or donated to the member’s tower. It was explained that the District Committee had considered all possibilities before making this decision which was the easiest from an admin point of view, removing the need to establish who might be the executor. Not all shareholders are ringers so the option of a tower donation is irrelevant. The County Treasurer will be taking this new rule to the other Districts.

## **10. Any Other Business**

Nigel Pointer thanked everyone for the opportunity to lead the ringing and extended his personal thanks to Tom and Diane as outgoing Ringing Masters. He asked everyone not to shy away from telling him what you want to ring and confirmed he would be contacting towers to find out what ringing was being done and what help was required.

An email had been received from Graham Long advising of a pigeon infestation at Woolwich. A letter had been sent to the church giving various options, including removal of the bells as opportunities to ring them were very limited, but it has been made clear that there will be no ringing at present for safety reasons until the situation is resolved.

## **11. Vote of Thanks**

Jim Hardy proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev Caroline Risdon for taking the service, to Marcus Wibberley for playing the organ, and to the Eltham ringers for a lovely tea.

Date of next meeting – Saturday 14th January 2023 – St Luke’s, Bromley Common