

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS - LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Business Meeting held at St Michael & All Angels, Maidstone on Saturday 1st July 2023

Ten members and friends signed the register of attendance. As the Chairman was unable to attend, the meeting was led on his behalf by Nigel Pointer, one of the Ringing Masters.

The meeting had been preceded by an open session of ringing at St Michael's.

1. In addition to those received from the Chairman David Holdridge as above, **apologies for absence** were received from Sue Cameron, Debra Say, Rupert Cheeseman, Nink Sampson and James, Lizzie and Becca Hardy.
2. No reports of members lost by death since the last meeting had been received.
3. The **minutes** of the last meeting were circulated in advance, accepted as a true record and signed by the acting Chairman.
4. No **new members** were proposed.
5. A comprehensive **County Rep update** had been provided by Debra Say in advance, and was shared with the attendees before the start of the meeting:

Report from General Committee Meeting held 29th April 2023

Safeguarding

More than half of the meeting was taken up with discussing safeguarding, as is this report, which contains important information that I will also send out by email next week. This issue came up specifically due to the Canterbury Diocese requesting that ringers and particularly tower captains, undertake additional safeguarding training which it was felt was disproportionate to the responsibility held and out of line with what was required by other church volunteers. Although this doesn't directly affect towers within the Lewisham District, in the course of discussions between the KCACR and Canterbury it has become clear that both Canterbury and Rochester are planning to carry out an audit of all bell-ringers this autumn and it would be naive not to consider that Southwark may follow.

It would therefore be prudent for all towers/ringers to review their safeguarding records over the summer and bring them up to date where necessary. There is a new Good Practice Checklist on the KCACR website under the 'Safeguarding' tab to help tower captains but in particular, it should be noted that the online safeguarding training that all ringers must complete – formerly known as C0 and C1 - needs to be undertaken every 3 years. It is also advisable to hold a 'Permission to Ring' form for all under-18's and for towers to keep a register of attendees, whether ringers or not. I'm happy to answer any general queries on these requirements but any specific questions should be directed to your parish Safeguarding Officer whose details should be prominently displayed in your tower as one of the requirements.

Discussions are ongoing between the KCACR Chairman and the KCACR Safeguarding Officer with the four Dioceses which cover Kent, in an effort to educate them about what we do and how ringing is organised, and to fight for an equitable solution in line with other church volunteers re safeguarding.

Membership Database & Mailing List

A new easier to use Membership Database capable of handling the weekly news feed is being introduced which will do away with the need for Districts to have a Membership Secretary. A new Association Membership Secretary is proposed but Doug Davis will fulfil this role for now until discussed by Districts at their ADM's and the AGM 2024.

Forthcoming Events

Central Council AGM & Roadshow 2023 – 02/09/23 in Ipswich

Essex Trophy 2023 – 09/09/2023 at St Mary's Walthamstow

Association 6-bell competitions – 30/09/2023 at Monckton. The striking (method) competition will be held in the morning open to one band from each District. The afternoon call change competition will be open to 10 teams from any tower.

Could the bands who won each of competitions recently held at St Mary Cray please make your ringers aware of this date and let me/David/Nigel/Ruth know if you are able to represent Lewisham District in these County competitions.

Choral Evensong – Date confirmed as 19/11/2023 at Rochester Cathedral.

The next General Committee Meeting is on 29th July 2023 so if there is anything you want me to raise at that meeting, please let me [Debra] know by 22nd July.

6. The **July 120 club double draw** was held during the meeting. It was noted that only 9 shares still remain unsold.

There were no further items raised under Any Other Business. Following the meeting, the ringers adjourned to lunch and then to a further session of ringing at All Saints Maidstone in the afternoon. The attendees noted their gratitude to the Maidstone ringers for hosting us, especially Jacqui Barlow, Graham Heath and Mike Birkbeck.