

KCACR TONBRIDGE DISTRICT

ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING – Saturday, 7TH OCTOBER 2023

ST. MARY, HADLOW

The meeting was preceded by ringing 16.00 – 17.30 – Attendance 21

Coffee, Tea and homemade cakes were kindly provided by the Hadlow ringers.

Chair: Hamilton Woods, Secretary: Tessa Worthington. Minutes: Angela Clark.

1.00 WELCOME AND VOTE OF THANKS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. He also thanked the Church and the Hadlow ringers for use of the bells.

A special welcome was extended to Neil Jones, Chairman of the KCACR joining us from Chatham. Neil addressed the meeting, and thanked the committee for their work in one of the more active Districts and wishing us well for the coming year. He pointed out that volunteers are always needed and members were encouraged to get involved.

2.00 APOLOGIES

Names of apologies were received.

3.00 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st July 2023 at Westerham were agreed.

4.00 NEW MEMBER

Alison Wood, Edenbridge, proposed by Richard Dyson, Seconded by Ray Taylor was elected to membership.

5.00 KCACR REPORT

It was reported that the documents issued by the KCACR are all available on the website. Special attention was drawn to the Code for Ringing which is of particular interest.

5.01 STRIKING COMPETITIONS 2023 – MONKTON ON 30TH SEPTEMBER

Hadlow represented Tonbridge District in the Method Striking Competition and came Second.

Cowden had entered the Newly Founded Call Change Competition and were judged the winners.

6.00 REPORTS FOR THE YEAR 22/23

6.01 DISTRICT RINGING MASTERS Phil Jarvis and Emma Tamkin

Following the Covid Pandemic, this year we have tried to make the ringing vibrant, lively and more inclusive for all our members. District practices and meetings have been arranged on the 1st Saturday of each month from 10:00-12:00, with the exception of Christmas ringing and drinks at Lamberhurst and this year's ADM at Hadlow. This was to meet the wishes of our members as expressed in our 2017 survey and has resulted in increased attendances. Attendance has included newer ringers, whose requirements have been very well supported by the more experienced and established ringers. It is encouraging to see that this support has been readily available, for which we thank you. Our monthly practices take place in different towers across our District, and we thank the host ringers for making us feel welcome. Although we don't expect tea, coffee and homemade cake, it is much appreciated when it is there!

We organised a District Outing in East Sussex last November, which those who attended enjoyed. Nine method-specific practices on 6 and 8 bells were also organised, including Grandsire, Stedman, Cambridge, Norwich, London and Bourne and Double Norwich. Unfortunately, preparations for the district 6-bell striking competition had to be cancelled due to lack of interest. The competition was replaced by a well-attended District practice at Otford. 8 ringers from our District were selected to ring a competition touch of St Clements College Bob Major in the County 8-bell striking competition at Lympe last June. This involved months of special practices and we were just pipped into 3rd place.

We feel that there has been an encouraging resurgence of District activities, and we look forward to meeting even more of our members in the coming year.

6.02 ACTING DISTRICT SECRETARY - Tessa Worthington

Attendance at District Meetings and Practices has been much better this year with an average of 24. New learners have been very much in evidence. There has been little enthusiasm for one off district events this year such as a Trivia evening and striking competitions. This issue is to be put to members.

All District activities are posted on the KCACR website and are emailed to each member. There has been a recent hitch over news reaching the new members, therefore it is important that Tower Contacts pass on all such district news to their own tower members.

6.03 DISTRICT TREASURER & MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY - Hamilton Woods

Since the ADM last year we have had 11 new members join the Association. It is hoped that more new members will be forthcoming as a result of the "Ring for the King" initiative. The system for renewing membership and for people joining the Association has been changed and it should be completely clear what one has to do. On the KCACR website, go to 'Membership' for the full explanation of the process to be followed for renewal or joining or to 'My Membership' to look at your details. Clicking on 'Become a Member' takes you to the application form to be completed.

Since the beginning of the year a Spliced Fund amount of £40 has been sent to the BRF. It is expected that more Spliced Fund payments will be made in the last Quarter. The 120 Club profit of £696 has been sent equally to the BRF, Training Fund and KYR. Amounts to the Training Fund have been reduced as all student training fees now go to the respective churches. Expenses so far are £15 for stamps and stationery and £30 to renew the 6-bell competition trophy plaque. A fuller statement will be made at the end of the year.

6.04 DISTRICT TRAINING CO-ORDINATOR - Ray Taylor

Training sessions for early stages in ringing took place on all but one of the 3rd Saturday mornings last year. The missing session was only because it coincided with the County 8-bell competition. The sessions are proving to be very popular. They are often oversubscribed and the number of sessions each month is only limited by the availability of helpers. Thanks to all who have helped, especially those who help almost every month. Brian Butcher (the KCACR Bell Restoration Officer) kindly ran two Bell Maintenance sessions in our District, and an 'ART Teaching Bell Handling' course has been arranged at Otford for the end of October.

A Saturday Afternoon Ringing School is being piloted at Speldhurst from October 2023 for anyone who wants to practise and improve any aspect of their ringing technique. If it proves successful it could take place on most Saturdays, potentially between 4-6pm. Contact the Training Coordinator for information about any aspect of ringing training.

6.05 DISTRICT NEWSLETTER - Angela Clark

At the ADM last year I was appointed Editor of the Newsletter. It is similar to the quarterly Look To, but is published fairly regularly and strives to give an up to date picture of events in the Tonbridge District. The first edition appeared in October 2022 and No.8 was circulated in September 2023 - it is named Rounds & About. Each edition is posted on the District website and is sent to each Tower contact for onward circulation to their Tower Members. Snippets, stories, events, and tower news are always welcome, as well as photographs.

6.06 ASSOCIATION YOUTH OFFICER - Jen Thomas

We have some very enthusiastic youngsters in the Tonbridge District. Three formed a joint team with youngsters from the Maidstone District to take part in the Association Young Ringers' Striking Contest at Stansted in February. Hannah (Sevenoaks) joined the Kent team to participate in the South East England Striking Contest (SEECON) at Caterham in April and enjoyed an exciting weekend in York and Doncaster for the national Youth Striking Contest (RWNYC).

A newspaper article in the middle of March featuring the youngsters at Seal Chart resulted in three of our young ringers being filmed for a Sky News broadcast on "Ringing for the King". Four were part of the group of 22 young ringers filmed by George Perrin at Aylesford in April to feature in the YouTube videos "Discovering BELLRINGING" and "Enjoyment from BELLRINGING" which were commissioned by the CCCBR. It was lovely to see them and hear them speak about their enjoyment of ringing.

Some of our youngsters are very happy to ring only in their own towers, but any who can ring unassisted in their own towers, preferably able to ring rounds, are most welcome to come along to our monthly sessions for Kent MINI-Ringers (youngest and newest ringers) and Kent Young Ringers. Dates of sessions and details of towers can be found on the KCACR website or from the Youth Officer or District Secretary. Our next sessions will be on Saturday 28th October: 10:00-12:00 for Kent MINI-Ringers and 14:00-16:00 for the older, more experienced Kent Young Ringers.

6.07 ASSOCIATION SAFEGUARDING OFFICER – Emma Jarvis

Ringers who require a DBS certificate need to contact their Parish Safeguarding Adviser who will help them to apply for the relevant level of DBS according to the role they hold.

The KCACR website has a Safeguarding tab which contains current information regarding Safeguarding Training plus contact details of the four Diocesan Safeguarding Teams. All Safeguarding Training is online. There is no plan to return to offering bespoke Leadership Training to Tower Captains or Ringing Masters. Ringers in different Dioceses are not necessarily expected to complete the same level of training and in some Dioceses a bespoke Local Leadership Course is offered. Our four Dioceses broadly agree that a more suitable Leadership Training Course needs to be devised. The CCCBR Safeguarding Team is working with the National Safeguarding Team to address this.

7.00 ELECTION OF DISTRICT OFFICERS 2023-2024

It was noted that the District Secretary post for the Tonbridge District is vacant and thanks were given to Tessa Worthington who is undertaking the role of Acting District Secretary. Holders of the current posts were willing to stand again with the exception of Steve Newlands, Representative on the KCACR.

The following were proposed, seconded and appointed:

OFFICE	OFFICER 2023/24
Ringling Master	Phil Jarvis
Deputy Ringling Master	Emma Tamkin
Training Co-Ordinator	Ray Taylor
Acting District Secretary	Tessa Worthington
Treasurer, Membership Secretary & Meetings Chair	Hamilton Woods
District Representatives	Eric Roughley Tessa Worthington
Newsletter Editor	Angela Clark
120 Club Treasurer/Administrator	Ray Taylor
Committee Members	Dmitry Zhuravlev Janice Byrne Mike Worthington

8.00 OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman, Hamilton Woods, thanked members of the committee for their work during the year, which had been considerable. He also thanked them for standing again and wished them well for the coming year.

8.01 FUTURE OF THE DISTRICT STRIKING COMPETITION

Phil Jarvis suggested the meeting should take stock in relation to how the District Striking Competition can be progressed. He pointed out that entry by towers would encourage others to enter a team, but it was essential that a good number of teams register before the judges are booked. Neil Jones reported that all Districts are struggling in this way, but that things are looking up. Following discussion, it was agreed that the 6-Bell Competition would not take place in 2024.

8.02 TRIVIA EVENING

It was reported that the Committee had held discussions relating to the reinstatement of a social event which was not only fun, but was a source of funds for the BRF. It was noted that the Barn Dances had been replaced by annual Trivia Evenings which had been halted during Covid.

It was also noted that support for any event planned was essential owing to the expense involved as well as a considerable amount of work by all involved. It was agreed that the Committee would consider a social event further on a date to be advised.

8.03 REPORT FROM NEIL JONES

The Chairman of the KCACR drew attention to various Rule changes which related to new members joining the Association. All details are available online. Assistance with any aspects of joining is available from the Membership Secretary.

8.04 FUTURE EVENTS

25TH October – A service for the new incumbent at Cranbrook.

1st-14th November – Whole District – Quarter peal and ringing triumph fortnight

4TH November 10.00-12.00 District Practice – Kemsing

19th November – KCACR Service at Rochester Cathedral.

2nd December 16.00-18.00 Christmas Drinks and Bells – Lamberhurst

6th January 2024 10.00-12.00 District Quarterly Meeting – Penshurst

9.00 120 CLUB

The draw took place for the 120 Club with the following results:

7th October 2023 draw at the District Annual Meeting at Hadlow	1	£40	78	Bobbie Fairclough	Oxford
	2	£30	53	Emma Tamkin	Speldhurst
	3	£20	51	Lamberhurst Ringers	Lamberhurst
	bonus	£9	108	Catherine Lewis	Brasted

AC Oct.23