

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS - LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Quarterly Business Meeting held at Bromley Common, St Luke's on Saturday 13th April 2024

27 attendees signed the register of attendance, representing 12 different towers.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Rhiannon Meredith (unattached); Ian Nurdin (Ash-by-Wrotham); Natalie Slator (Erith, Christ Church); Lesley Barclay (Horton Kirby) and Nick Wilkins (Farnborough).
2. A **minute silence** was kept in memory of ringers lost since the last meeting:
 - Mary Andrews (10th August 1936 – 4th February 2024), ringer at St Mary's Bexley and District Secretary for 40 years.
 - Len Dumper (3rd May 1939 – 15th February 2024), ringer at Eltham for 34 years.
 - Raymond John Derry (22nd August 1932 – 19th February 2024), ringer at Ash-by-Wrotham.
3. The **minutes** of the last meeting were circulated via e-mail to the district e-group. Chris Lawrance pointed out his misspelled surname. The minutes were corrected, accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
Proposed: Peter Norwood Seconded: Nigel Pointer

There were no matters arising.

4. Three **new members** were elected unopposed and welcomed into the Association:
 - Bromley, St Peter & St Paul: **Elizabeth Johson** proposed and witnessed ringing down by Tom Hinks.
 - Bromley Common, St Luke: **Alison Uluadam** and **Debbie Banks** proposed by Chris Lawrance and witnessed ringing down by Nigel Pointer.
5. **New competition rules** were proposed by Nigel Pointer for approval. New set was circulated prior the meeting to receive feedback from district members and make any corrections if needed.
David Holdridge commented positively about having one set of rules instead of two: call change competition rules and method striking competition rules are now combined. Nigel reassured that we aren't trying to make competitions difficult, strict and stressful. We'd like to encourage ringers to take part, not the opposite. Rules are there as a guide to how competitions should run, and bands will not be unnecessarily penalised.
All attendees voted in favour of the proposed rules update.
Nigel reminded everyone about upcoming district competitions on the 11th of May on the back 6 at Crayford, the draw is at 2 pm. Cathy Hall kindly agreed to judge. Deadline for entries is 5th of May. Towers don't have to enter a band for both competitions. For the Call Change Competition, no more than 3 peal ringers allowed in a band. Nigel encouraged all attended to enter one or both competitions if they can.
Officers will try to offer advice to the bands that are willing to take part but short on ringers.

6. A **County Rep update** was provided by Peter Norwood.

Mailchimp to Member Mojo: It was reported that the new system had worked well and over 1200 members had submitted their membership renewals online. Districts can now use the system to email their members without having to maintain their own email lists.

Succession Plan, Business Recovery Plan & Document Storage: It was confirmed that Districts could use secure cloud-based storage space for historical documents. The necessary instruction documents have been written pertaining to the Treasurer's role.

Feedback from Events & Districts: 4 teams entered KYR Striking Competition. The Tonbridge District Team had all under 18's ringing and the Ashford band won.

A question from Ashford District – Why obituaries were not featured on the KCACR Website? The Website relied on the districts to provide information and the districts had a responsibility to submit such information direct to the Website.

Forthcoming Events:

- 8-bell Striking Competition & Ringing Festival: 22/06/2024 Quex Park with BBQ. Method to be Canterbury Pleasure Bob Triples.
- RWNVC – National Youth Contest: 06/07/2024 London.
- Essex 10-Bell Trophy Competition: 14/09/2024 St Martin of Tours, Epsom (KT17 4PX). Spliced Plain and Little Bob Royal.
- 6-bell Striking Competitions: 28/09/2024 Lewisham District for both method and call change competitions. Progress report awaited in due course.
- Choral Evensong – 17/11/2024: Canterbury Cathedral was very supportive of hosting this event which may include ringing before the service, evensong from 5.30 p.m. and light refreshments/tea.

Date of next meeting: 27th April 2024 in person, online and recorded.

7. The **120 club draw** was held by Liz and Peter Morris:

| Number | Prize, £ | Name | Tower |
|--------|----------|-----------------|--------------|
| 34 | 20 | Unsold | BRF |
| 50 | 10 | David Holdridge | Eltham |
| 92 | 10 | Rachel Dean | Horton Kirby |
| 68 | 5 | Unsold | BRF |

Liz notified that there are more shares to sell. Instructions on how to purchase a share can be found on KCACR website or via email to 120club@lewishamdistrict.org.uk.

8. **Any Other Business**

- Philippa's Save Our Spire Pilgrimage: From 5th to 10th May Philippa Rooke will be walking from St Martin's Chelsfield to St Martin's Canterbury along the Pilgrims Way and North Downs Way. It's nearly 70 miles in 6 days. Any sponsorship received will be split between the Spire Appeal and Christian Aid. The purpose of the Spire Appeal cause is to protect Chelsfield bells that are threatened by water ingress from the big holes the parakeets have made in the wooden spire. Philippa's hoping for support and not only financial. Everyone is welcome to join her for part or all the way, meet for lunch on route, or visit any of the pilgrim churches together. Some ringing might be organised if there's enough interest.
- Greenwich Choral Evensong is on Sunday 28th of July, ringing at 4:30 pm, refreshments provided. This year is 200th anniversary of the tenor bell.

- Ruth Pointer notified that some learners received negative comments when visiting towers. It's extremely important to be welcoming, helpful and encouraging towards all learners no matter what level they are at. We need more ringers and must communicate with learners thoughtfully to avoid them giving up.
- David Holdridge proposed a vote of thanks to Graham Long for playing the organ and to the Bromley Common band for making arrangements to host the meeting and providing hot beverages.

There has been no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed and the ringers returned to the tower for further ringing.