



## KCACR ROCHESTER DISTRICT

Quarterly Meeting - Sat 20th July 2024, Northfleet

### Draft Minutes

#### Attending:

Tim Ford (chair), Anita Perryman (secretary), Cathy Hall, Rona Joiner, Alison Gerrish, Keith Tolputt, Trevor Arnold, Hazel Clarke, Chris M Trafford, Chris J Trafford, Gill Rapley, Chris Rapley, Lee Cogger, Penny Scott-Beaulieu, Amanda Horrobin, Lou Manning, Ian Sainsbury, Louise Manuell, Jay Ford, Rob Still, Louise Fielder-White, David Ridley, Paul Fagg, Nick Wheeler, Florence Hamp, Peter Langford, Matthew Cockell, Ivo Wengraf (Oscar and Katia Wengraf), Gareth Lloyd-Evans, Valarine Cooper, Stephen Trafford [non-ringing hosts: Revd Gordon MacBean, Marion Fielder-White, Martin Fielder-White]

#### 1. Welcome & Minute's Silence

The ringers were welcomed to Northfleet by Reverend Gordon MacBean, the vicar of St Botolph, Northfleet.

A minute's silence was held for Derek Wilkinson of Northfleet. Derek was a life member of the association and former Tower Captain at Northfleet.

#### 2. Apologies for absence

Steve Fitton

#### 3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last Quarterly Meeting, held at Bredgar on 20th April 2024, were circulated prior to the meeting. They were agreed to be correct and were proposed by DR and seconded by CMT.

#### 4. Matters arising

##### a. Proposed Rochester District Rules for 6-bell Striking Competitions

As agreed at the April meeting, the District Committee reviewed a range of old rules for striking competitions and drafted a proposal for review at this meeting. The proposed rules were circulated in advance via email and on paper at the meeting.

ST queried the entry criteria rule 1a) Bands shall ring together regularly. District officers confirmed that ringers are not limited to entering for their home tower; they could enter for any tower where they ring regularly. This change acknowledges that many ringers now routinely ring at several towers.

TF: Another change introduces a mechanism to allow KYRs to ring as a team and for their own towers. This should encourage their participation without adversely affecting other bands.

The new rules were proposed by CH, seconded by RJ and voted in unanimously.

A link to these rules can be found on the Rochester District minutes page:

<https://kcacr.org.uk/rochester-district/district-meeting-minutes/>

##### b. ART

The Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) KCACR ringing hubs are taking a break over the summer, but will return in September. Many of the learners have progressed through M1 (Bell Handling) to rounds and are looking at call changes and plain hunting. Hence there will be an M2F (From Rounds to Plain Hunt) ART course at Rochester Cathedral on 31st August. There were 2 places for teachers left as of 19th July. These are best filled by those teachers who have completed M1 requirements.

c. **Feedback on Firsts Month**

RJ: This year in the Rochester District we held a 'Firsts Month' from 20th April to 20th May. The Bellboard event: <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/event.php?id=18809> records 26 performances involving 54 firsts by 36 individuals at 14 towers. Sittingbourne recorded the most firsts (13), closely followed by Milton Regis (10). Scott Pearce achieved 5 firsts, and Gill Rapley 4. Achievements include first blows at new towers, wedding ringing and striking competitions; first calling changes; first time ringing jump changes and first leading down in peal on 8; as well as the more usual firsts in new methods and quarters.

There was a round of applause for those who achieved firsts.

RJ is preparing a report for the Ringing World; she is looking for photographs to illustrate this.

**Action: If you have photos of firsts, please send them to AP**

d. **Feedback on District Outing**

AP: On Saturday 15th June, the District outing visited Sedlescombe, Battle (where the treble rope is in a square wooden pipe), all three towers in Hastings (including St Clements where you ring on a first floor free standing platform with the Christmas decorations) and St Leonards. 16 ringers came. The locals had fixed clappers and stays in time for our arrival. On the seafront in Hastings the wind and the seagulls were fierce! We finished up with drinks at the unreconstructed Horse and Groom (owned by ringer Alan Pink) in St Leonards. TF said that lots of rounds and call changes were rung and encourages learners to go on outings as it will improve their handling and striking.

e. **Feedback on KCACR 8-bell Competition, Saturday 22nd June, Waterloo Tower, Quex Park, Birchington**

TF: Five Districts entered the competition and all successfully completed the test piece of 280 changes of Canterbury Pleasure Bob Triples.

The competition was judged by Paul and Kate Flavell from Kingston-upon-Thames. They made some general comments on the ringing, including that some of the ringing was a little slower than they expected and quite a few faults were accrued by the little bells and big bells not working together. They then moved on to announce the results, as follows:-

Canterbury District 86%

Lewisham District 84%

Rochester District 79%

Ashford District 77%

Tonbridge District 76%

Congratulations go again to the Canterbury District who were declared the winners.

The Quex Park ringers laid on a very nice barbecue lunch which was greatly appreciated.

Further ringing then took place at the Waterloo Tower as well as on the brand new ring of 6 bells that make up the CCCBR Touring Tower. St. Nicholas at Wade was also open for ringing later in the afternoon.

f. **Feedback on Ringing World National Youth Competition, 6th July, London**

Congratulations to the Kent Young Ringers who entered the 8-bell call change competition and came 3rd out of 13 teams. There was ringing at St Mary-le-Bow; some minirings; St Giles, Cripplegate; St Lawrence, Jewry; St Magnus the Martyr and St Olave, Hart Street where their competition took place. 36 teams entered the 6- and 8-bell method and call change competitions; over 300 young ringers were present on the day. Results and presentations took place at St Paul's Cathedral.

## 5. Election/welcome of new members

- **Matthew Cockell** of Bredgar, verified by Tim Ford  
TF: MC has been ringing for a year or two and can plain hunt and cover. He rang in the striking competition in April and is a keen member of the Bredgar band.
- **Robert Mitchell** of St Margaret's, Rochester, verified by Neil Jones
- **Louise Manuell** of Milton Regis, verified by Neil Jones  
CMT: LM has been ringing since the coronation. She is an asset to the Milton Regis band, rings regularly on Sundays and has rung for 3 weddings.
- **Amanda Horrobin** of Northfleet, verified by Keith Tolputt  
KT: AH only started ringing in April but has progressed quickly and has met the ringing membership criteria.
- **Mandy Holloway** of Swanscombe, verified by Jen Thomas (amongst others)  
KT: MH is one of the group of learners who started together in January last year. She is now Tower Captain and Parish Administrator at Swanscombe. She takes her duties seriously and now meets the membership criteria.
- **Sue Clay** of Swanscombe, verified by Jen Thomas  
KT: SC is a returning ringer; she was first elected in 2000, but her membership lapsed when the Swanscombe band became inactive. She has rejoined now that there is regular ringing again and supports the current learners.
- **Chris Rapley** of Sittingbourne, verified by Tim Ford  
TF: Chris Rapley is also a returning ringer.
- **April Leach** of Higham and St Margaret's Rochester, verified by Rona Joiner  
RJ: AL is a keen learner and rings regularly at several towers.

All 8 were proposed by PL and seconded by ST. They were elected unanimously and all were welcomed to the association.

## 6. Forthcoming events

- Thu 29th August 7:30 pm, Rochester Cathedral will be holding an advanced 10-bell practice and invite those in the District who want to ring methods on 9 and 10 bells to take part. Please let AP or NJ know if you are planning to come.
- Sat 21st September, 3 pm, District Surprise Major Practice at Milton Regis. This will focus on Cambridge, Yorkshire, Superlative and London Surprise Major.
- Sat 19th October, 3 pm, ADM at Tunstall
- Sat 14th December, 6 pm, Christmas social at Frindsbury Hall (tickets will be sold)

## 7. AOB

- VC: Clothing prices have been reduced (the supplier is no longer charging VAT due to changed circumstances; also KCACR clothing is now non-profit making). A new range of colours is available. KCACR clothing can only be sold to members. After an order is placed the clothing is likely to take about 2 weeks to be ready. Some half price purple items were available at the meeting. The KCACR webpage has not been updated yet. Further details available from [valcoop44@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:valcoop44@tiscali.co.uk)
- VC also has Lapel Pins available at £2.50 each
- Membership cards can be downloaded from the membermojo

Vote of thanks goes to the Northfleet ringers, Revd. Gordon MacBean, Marion and Martin Fielder-White for hosting and providing the ringing tea.

The meeting closed at 17:22.