



KCACR ROCHESTER DISTRICT

Quarterly Meeting - Sat 18th January 2025, Bobbing

Draft Minutes

Attending:

Tim Ford (chair), Anita Perryman (secretary), Cathy Hall, Alison Gerrish, Margaret Funnell, Steve Fitton, Chris Dunster, Jean and Martin Andrews, Jemma Phillips, Chris M Trafford, Chris J Trafford, Louise Manuell, Rob Still, Jenny Fuller, Chris Rapley, Richard Bushall, Morris Ashmore, Alan Driver, George Marks, Caroline Marks, Liam Mcgoldrick, Nick Wheeler, Neil Jerome, Geoff Capeling, Jay Ford, David Ridley, Val Cooper, Annette Jacobs, Nevil Stonehouse

1. Welcome & Minute's Silence

A minute's silence was held for Nigel Pagram who rang at Cobham and died on the 7th January.

2. Apologies for absence

Neil Jones, Keith Tolputt, Hazel Clarke, Florence Hamp, Mike and Gill Rannard, Stephen Trafford, Gill Rapley

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the Annual District Meeting, held at Tunstall on 19th October 2024, were circulated prior to the meeting. They were agreed to be correct and were proposed by Steve Fitton and seconded by Cathy Hall.

4. Matters arising

a. Feedback on Quarter Peal Month

There were 17 quarter peals completed by the Rochester District (including 2 that weren't linked to the event on Bellboard). There were more quarters attempted, but some were lost! They were completed at 12 towers; Milton Regis (with 5 quarters) was the leading tower. There were 12 quarters of doubles, 1 of minor and 2 each of triples and major. Congratulations to all who rung in quarters and partial quarters.

b. Feedback on KCACR Evensong

There were over 50 attendees at the KCACR Evensong, held at Canterbury Cathedral. There was ringing prior to the service, a fine spread of light refreshments and the opportunity to look at the recently acquired personal ringing records of the late David Cawley and Vernon Benning, some dating back to the 1940s, including many photographs.

c. ART/Ringing Hubs

The Association of Ringing Teachers M1 course on 1st March and the M2C course on 29th March at Staplehurst are now both fully booked. Sue Bassett will try to set up more courses for teachers later in 2025 if you let her know that there is interest (email: training@kcacr.org.uk).

The hubs for learners aim to provide learners with some focused practice. Information about forthcoming hubs and how to book can be found at:

<https://kcacr.org.uk/learning-hubs-update-january-to-april-2025/>

The hubs are in demand for learners, more helpers would be welcome.

5. Election/welcome of new members

Paper certificates are now available again.

- **Jemma Phillips** of Upchurch, verified by Doug Davis
Chris Trafford: Jemma has been learning since the end of 2022. She rang for the coronation, and a funeral and a wedding as well as regular service ringing. She also makes excellent shortbread.
- **Jean Andrews** of Gillingham and Rochester Cathedral, verified by Neil Jones
- **Martin Andrews** of Gillingham and Rochester Cathedral, verified by Neil Jones
- **Chris Dunster** of Rochester Cathedral, verified by Neil Jones
Steve Fitton: Jean and Martin started ringing about 18 months ago, they have persevered despite various health issues and now ring regularly at Gillingham, Rochester Cathedral and Milton Regis.
Chris has been ringing for about a year. He is very keen, regularly attends hubs and is ringing rounds and call changes on Sunday mornings.
- **Keith Slucock** of Cuxton, verified by Rona Joiner
- **James Macdonald** of Cuxton, verified by Rona Joiner
- **Laura Macdonald** of Cuxton, verified by Rona Joiner
Neil Jerome: Laura and James are returning ringers, they rang quarters and peals in the 1990s. They came back to ring for the coronation and are now ringing for Sunday services. Laura is also helping out with teaching learners at the King's School, Rochester.
Keith has now been ringing about 4 years and rings regularly at Cuxton and Halling. He has also installed a webcam in the belfry so that the ringers can see their bells in action.
- **Morris Ashmore** of Sittingbourne, verified by Tim Ford
Tim Ford: Morris is now ringing the treble for methods and has rung a quarter peal on the tenor.
- **Joe Still** of Bredgar, verified by Tim Ford.
Tim Ford: Joe has been ringing for nearly 2 years. He is a steady ringer who is now plain hunting.

All 9 were proposed by Chris Trafford and seconded by Margaret Funnell. They were elected unanimously and all were welcomed to the association. Paper certificates were issued to the new members, however, there were not enough signed ones to issue to previously elected members.

Action: New members to complete the online application and payment.

Action: AP: Pass newly elected members details to Doug.

Action: Get more paper certificates signed (for previously elected members who did not receive them when they were elected).

6. Forthcoming events

- Thu 30th Jan: 7:30 - 9:15pm Rochester Cathedral: Advanced 10-bell practice: Grandsire and Stedman Caters; Little Bob and Yorkshire Major and Royal
- Sat 15th Feb: 3 - 4:30pm Upchurch: District Practice focusing on Plain bob doubles and minor, Grandsire doubles, Cambridge surprise minor
- Sat 22nd Feb: 2 - 5pm Milton Regis: Training Event: Raising and lowering in peal (signup required for max 6 learners)
- Sat 15th Mar: 3 - 4:30pm Gravesend: District Practice: Surprise Major
- Firsts Month from 26th April and to 26th May
- Sat 26th Apr: 3 - 5:30pm Rodmersham: 6-bell striking competition and quarterly meeting

7. AOB

- All members who have not yet renewed their memberships are reminded that it is now overdue. If membership is not paid before 2nd March, their names will not appear in the handbook.
Action: All to renew membership if not already done
Cathy Hall: The renewal is confusing for life members. Previously it was suggested that they go online to confirm their details, however there is no option for them to do this.
Action: AP to request clarification from Doug: Doug says that life members and over 80s just need to update their details if they have changed, there is no need to confirm, they will remain active members unless we are told otherwise.
- Tower secretaries are also reminded to check the entry for their tower is current for the website and handbook.
Action: Tower secretaries to check their tower entry for the handbook/website
- Cathy Hall: Why didn't people want the Christmas Social?
Reasons given were: the date clashed with the Strictly Come Dancing final; there was no ringing; it looked like the event was orientated towards youngsters; and it was too near Christmas.
The attendees thought that the proposed mini-tour to London with a Brick Lane curry on 13th December 2025 was likely to attract ringers (however, it might still clash with the Strictly final).
Alan Driver suggests a summer social event; for example, in the past bat and trap socials attracted ringers.
Cathy requests suggestions for future socials.
Tim Ford suggested that we might have a social event after a district practice.
- Margaret Funnell: Hoo St Werburgh is very short of ringers at the moment, can anyone help out? Practice night is Monday.

Vote of thanks goes to Bobbing for hosting and all those who helped make and serve tea and refreshments.

The meeting closed at 17:08.