



LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1997

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

The Bellingringing Brett-Smith's A brief history

Robert Brett was born 1870 at Stanstead in Suffolk. He left school at the age of 12 and started work at Stanstead Hall where he worked in the garden and on the farm. When he was 14 he expressed a keen interest in bell ringing, his father learning of his son's enthusiasm put Robert under the guidance of the renowned Suffolk bell ringer Samuel Slater. Robert was a keen and apt pupil and was soon a member of the Stanstead Church Team, by 1890 his name was to be seen on many peal boards inside Suffolk churches.

Robert met his wife to be at Stanstead Hall where she worked as a kitchen maid,

Robert and Harriet were married on Christmas Day 1894. Between 1896 and 1898 they made a move from Stanstead in Suffolk to Mottingham in Kent, by this time they had three children, one boy and two girls. In 1900 came their second move. They moved to Victoria Road in Chislehurst and they then moved from Victoria Road to 68 Whitehorse Hill where Robert and Harriet spent the rest of their lives. Sometime prior to moving to Chislehurst from Stanstead in Suffolk Robert Brett had acquired a hyphen to his name and became Robert Brett-Smith. I do not fully know the reason why this occurred, but I did hear from one of the family that it was due to some mix up on the certificates at their

wedding, and the vicar said "right I will put you down as Robert Brett and Smith".



L to R (Back) David, Cyril, Lydia, Tom, Percy, (Front) Lizzie, Elsie, Emily, Millie, Anne.

In 1900 Robert became a member of the Saint Nicholas Band of Ringers and he remained a member till his death in 1935. During his years at Saint Nicholas he rang for service on a Sunday and always attended practice on a Monday evening and on quite a few occasions took part in peals of 5,000 and more changes. He was also a skilled hand bell ringer and was a member of the Camden Hand Bell Ringers, which had been formed by Thomas Groombridge Junior, son of the

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Quarter Peal Week

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Tower Captain at Saint Nicholas. The Camden Band were very popular and played at many concerts and gatherings over a wide area and were in great demand to play carols at the large houses in Chislehurst and the surrounding area during the Christmas period. The payment for playing in the large houses augmented the family budget and made Christmas a little bit easier for the family financially. It was Robert's desire that all the family should share in his love of bell ringing and obviously the potential of a family band of his own was always in his mind. In 1913 Robert bought a set of second-hand hand bells, he then taught four of his sons' to ring changes so that they would be fairly accomplished to a good standard before they started ringing bells in the church tower. In descending age they were Percy, Tom, David, Cyril. The eldest son was working away at this time, that was Jack, on Jack's return home he was also taught. The six girls in Robert's family were all taught. Jack, David and five of the girl's gave up after a few years but Lizzie progressed and became a member of the Saint Nicholas team. Robert, Percy and Cyril were in the team and on the 24 March 1925 rang a peal of 5,040 changes. Between the years 1921 to 1933 Robert and his son Cyril took part in ten such peals, Robert also taught his family to play tunes on the hand bells and in about 1920 the sons formed a family band, they played at concerts and were broadcast on BBC radio from the Savoy Hill studio on 2LO. In 1936 they also broadcast from Radio Luxembourg.

In the 1930s the Brett-Smith bellringing talents were used by Quaker Oats to advertise their product on radio. At this time they had the opportunity to turn professional but they found that the fees were low and expenses high.

From about 1950 they also took part in the Carol Levis' show. They were in demand at Christmas time and played in many large houses in Bickley, Chislehurst and the surrounding areas. The sons were all married except for Jack but they still met once a week for practice at 68 Whitehorse Hill. Sadly Jack died in 1931. When the families of Percy and David were old enough hand bells were acquired by both David and Percy and they formed two family hand bell bands.

With two bands of hand bell ringers obviously a much wider area was covered. Robert was a member of the Lewisham District of the Kent County Association Ringers, he was also a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths, in

this capacity he rung many peals in North West Kent, often taking part entailed walking to Bromley, Lewisham Farningham Eynsford and Shoreham which he was only too happy to do for his pursuit of bell ringing. throughout his life Robert always did arduous, demanding and physical hard work, when he first came to Chislehurst he worked as a carter then later on worked as a greensman on the Camden Place Golf Course.



L to R (Standing) Robert Brett-Smith, Arthur Broom, George Long, (Sitting) Thomas Groombridge, Joseph Goodhew.

When the war broke out in 1914/15 he went into munitions and worked at the Woolwich Arsenal for a long time. After the war he returned to his first occupation of landscaping which he enjoyed. He often spent time cutting turf on piece work and was pretty conversant and skilled at land drainage as well as with different types of landscaping. His love of horticulture continued outside normal working hours, he rented an allotment on Whitehorse Hill to supply fresh vegetables to keep his large family well fed and top up the family budget. After some time he took on a second allotment thereby providing nearly all the family vegetables which were required throughout the year, even when the necessity had gone to provide fresh vegetables to his family of thirteen Robert still continued. Obviously his love of horticulture was pretty deep seated.

Sadly in 1935 at the age of 65 Robert died. His son, Cyril, continued ringing hand bell peals as well as tower peals up until 1947 and at this time he had taken part in 27 recorded peals altogether. Cyril was in the Beckenham bands from 1934 to 1935, Crayford 1936 to 1966, Christchurch, Erith 1967 to 1989. In 1989 at the age of 83 years Cyril was still a church bell ringer. Throughout the years at family gatherings the hand bells played, at the weddings of nieces and nephews, the bride was greeted on leaving the church by the sound of the hand bells arranged either side. Some of us of the younger generation would groan when it was suggested that the hand bells were got out and played but after a while we all sang along to Danny Boy or the Bluebells of Scotland etc, at Christmas time we would all sing Silent Night as well as many other carols.

About 1968/69 David and Percy now being retired decided that with David's set of hand bells he and Percy would tour the pensioner's clubs and do performances and entertain them. They had a good repertoire of music and it was easy to sing along with David and Percy and their hand bells, they were joined by brother Cyril in 1972 and the band of three continued until Percy was about 81 years of age.

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Altogether the Brett-Smith family had been connected with hand bell ringing and church bell ringing for a period of over 90 years or more.

Although there were many arguments over the bells, the family always got together regularly throughout the years. Sadly only the youngest sister now survives and is 83 years of age. Percy and David's family have not kept up the tradition of bellringing. Alas, I am sorry that many of us did not appreciate the beauty of handbell playing until it was too late.

George Culley.

Editor's Note

George Culley compiled this information from his late uncle Cyril Brett Smith and, although not currently a ringer, we shall be trying to encourage George to take up the exercise.

Thank you -

Your response to my request for prompt payment of the annual subscriptions for this newsletter have been most appreciated.

I haven't had an opportunity to collate all the responses so far, however the bank account now has a healthy balance in it, and the staff at Midland Bank have really enjoyed processing all your cheques for £ 3 and £ 4.

Please if you haven't settled up yet, drop me a line and just let me know whether you would still like to receive the newsletter, and if so a cheque for the balance due would be most appreciated.

If you would like additional copies, please give me a call and I can put them in the post the next day.

Your happy to help editor

Jeremy Byers

Notice of Annual District Meeting

The annual district meeting is to be held at

Dartford
on
Saturday 11th October,

with ringing from 3pm service at 4-30pm followed by tea and business meeting in the church.

PLEASE NOTE - evening ringing at Crayford from 7pm

Names for tea to Mrs Esther Correia (01322-220458) by Wednesday 8th October.



Did you remember it?

Initial responses indicate that a number of quarters were rung in the week. I am publishing those that I have received details of. I am proposing to send these up by e-mail to the Ringing World, so if any one has any additional quarters to add, and would like them sent to the comic, please let me have your details (and donation if you would like one to be sent)

Thank you to all those who took the trouble and time to organise and ring (successful or unsuccessful attempts), I hope you enjoyed it.

The details are as follows:-

St George's Bickley. 13 Sept. 1260 Plain Bob Minor: Roger Standingford 1, Nick Wilkins 2, Jeremy Byers 3, Chris Lawrance 4, David Kingston 5 (C), Jeremy Clitheroe 6.

St Nicholas' Chislehurst. 10 Sept. 1344 Plain Bob Triples: Peter Skinner 1, Maralyn Evans 2, Colin Wyld 3 (C), Roger Long 4, James Pailing 5, Angus Ogilvie 6, Mark Jones 7, Leonard Dumper 8.
For Lewisham District Quarter Peal week.

St Alfege's Greenwich. 11 Sept. 1260 Grandsire Triples:

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Jim Odell 1, Bill Lanyon 2, Freda Canon 3, Graham Long 4, Jeremy Byers 5, James Hardy 6, Nigel Parsons 7 (C), Jeremy Clitheroe 8.

In thanksgiving for the life of Diana Princess of Wales and for Lewisham District Quarter Peal week.

St Mary Cray, Kent. 14 Sept. 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: Simon Morris 1, David Macey 2 (C), Alex Britton 3, Margaret Macey 4, David Kingston 5, Nigel Pointer 6.

In thanksgiving for the life of Marie Morris, mother of the 4th and grandmother of 1st and 2nd.

1. First quarter peal at first attempt.

In addition I know of a quarter of Bob Triples at Bexley, and James Hardy and myself were involved in a couple of attempts which were unfortunately destined not to succeed.

Details of any other quarters rung in the week and attributed to the district would be appreciated.

Jeremy Byers



Editor's Column

Apologies to all readers for the delay in getting this out this quarter. I have included the officers reports that were available at the time of going to press, so that the district can come armed with questions to the Annual Meeting

Also due to a pressure on space this quarter, one or two items haven't made it in (KCACR Rule changes, Crossword Solution, to name but a few), I will make every effort to get them in next time.

In an effort to add my own support to the Ring in 2,000 campaign I am in the process of putting together an article/handout which hopefully can be used alongside the KCACR leaflet. I hope to have some with me at the next district meeting and I will be only too happy to let you have a master, and even make amendments should they be so desired.

Finally, good news - I now have an E-mail address, so you can now E-mail me should you so desire. Please enter the subject as "Lewisham District Newsletter" and hopefully they'll end up in the right mailbox.

As always please send any articles, news items or general information to me
Jeremy Byers
2 Carlton Court

Beckenham

Kent

BR3 4PP

☎ 0181-289-5675

✉ E-mail to Jeremy.Byers@virgin.net

Copy deadline for next issue 1ST DECEMBER -
Christmas & New Year items would be appreciated

Any Other Business



At the meeting the programme of events will be arranged for 1998, so please bring your diaries and if possible check if you able to offer your tower for one of the following events:

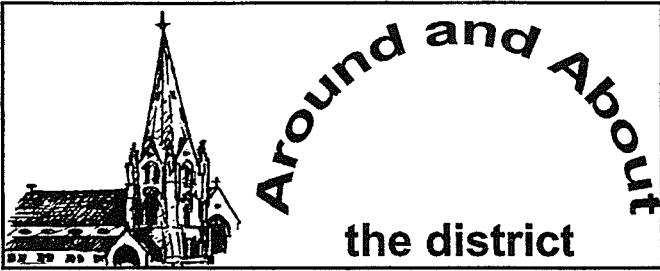
Quarterly Meeting	10 th January
Six Bell Striking Competition	March - this was held on the 3 rd Saturday this year.
Quarterly Meeting	April - as the 2 nd Saturday is in holy week it may be set for the 3 rd Saturday
Quarterly Meeting	11 th July
Annual Meeting	10 th October
Call Change Competition	November - this will be held on the 3 rd Saturday this year.
Carol Service	12 th December

Please help the district by offering your towers for these events, if every tower takes a turn at hosting a district event we should only trouble you once every three or so years.

At the annual meeting there will be the annual election of the district officers. If you wish to propose a candidate, please forward the name of the candidate with names of proposer and seconder to me.

Please also remember that the Call Change competition is coming around again and entry forms will be being sent out nearer the date.

Mary Andrews



County 6 Bell

The results of the competition on 27th September were

1. Canterbury	4 ½	faults
2. Tonbridge	9	faults
3. Ashford	10 ½	faults
4. Maidstone	13 ½	faults
5. Lewisham	19	faults
6. Rochester	31	faults

Thank you to the ban from Erith for representing the district, I trust the non return of the "Improvers Trophy" didn't cause too much embarrassment. (This is now the correct result!)

Christchurch Erith.

With the tragic death of John Bowsher in a car accident the ringers have lost a close and dear friend. He was always so actively involved with his ringing both at Christ Church and St Leonard's Seaford to where he and Mabel retired to join their daughters and families.

John and I have known John and Mabel for about thirty years and we are going to miss his liveliness and enthusiasm. We spent many happy hours together especially during our October ringing holidays.

We rang a quarter peal in celebration of John's life on Monday 1st September before his funeral.

All our thoughts are with Mabel, Lynn, Jill and Joanne at this sad time.

On a happier note my John would like to thank everybody for the good wishes he received after his recent operation. Fingers crossed everything is progressing well.
Mary Hill

Midweek Weddings

Like them or loathe them most of us get them at our tower at some or another. Those people who have the thankless task of organising a band know how hard it can be to get enough ringers together.

At one such event recently, one of the ringers was heard to remark "we ought to form a Friday band", so that's what this article is all about - not to meet every week, but to form a group of people who are **generally** available for midweek ringing during the day.

Baby sitters permitting, I am usually around and am prepared to stand up and be counted - if you can do the same then please get in touch with me, with a view to publishing a list of names and phone numbers in the next newsletter. Don't worry if you haven't got transport, there might be other people going your way who have.

Come on, get on the phone to me and let's see if we can help some poor long suffering organisers!

Sara Hardy

☎ 0181-659-2631

Training Subcommittee

The training subcommittee have put together a programme of events for the coming 18 months. Dates for the diaries include:

Bridging Another Gap - Saturday 8th November 1997

Grandsire Triples and Plain Bob Triples & Major for those who only ring on 6 bells. Also treble bob for those who normally ring plain methods. (Please contact Catherine Lewis to book in advance 01959-563767)

Surprise Royal Practice - Wednesday 12th November
at All Saints
Maidstone

Holy Week 1998 - Simulator Sessions are being planned.

All the above are advertised on the yellow posters which should be in your towers *NOW!*

**HOLY TRINITY BELLRINGERS
DARTFORD**

invite you to a

**"BACK TO SCHOOL"
QUIZ EVENING
ON
Saturday, 18th October 1997
7.30pm for 8.00pm
at**

**Holy Trinity Church Hall
High Street, Dartford**

Tickets: £3.50 (including supper) available in advance from the bellringers and from Trinity Fare cafe at Holy Trinity Church

*All money raised goes towards
Holy Trinity's Bells Restoration Project*

QUARTER PEALS

RW PAGE

1997

[1]	12/04	CHISLEHURST ST N 1250	Lincolnshire Surprise Major	97/665
[2]	27/04	CHISLEHURST ST N 1260	Plain Bob Doubles (468 cover)	97/665
[3]	05/05	Dartford (62 Chastilian Road)	1260 Plain Bob Minor	97/690
[4]	18/05	BEXLEY	1280 Bristol Surprise Major	97/666
[5]	18/05	CHELSEFIELD	1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor	97/830
[6]	18/05	ERITH CH CH	1260 Plain Bob Triples	97/785
[7]	28/05	ERITH CH CH	1250 Cambridge Surprise Major	97/785
[8]	15/06	BROMLEY	1260 Grandsire Triples	97/834
[9]	15/06	CRAYFORD	1260 Doubles 2m.	97/835
[10]	08/07	BROMLEY	1260 Grandsire Triples	97/834
[11]	13/07	BEXLEY	1344 London Surprise Major	97/858
[12]	27/07	EYNSFORD	1260 Stedman Triples	97/881
[13]	29/07	FARNINGHAM	1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor	97/831
[14]	29/07	FOOTS CRAY	1269 Grandsire Doubles	97/831
[15]	31/08	BECKENHAM	1259 Grandsire Caters	97/914
[16]	06/09	CHELSEFIELD	1260 Doubles 2m.	

Congratulations :

Sally Davis - 1st Treble Bob [5]
 Clare Pruden - 1st in method inside [5]
 Cathy Hall - 1st in hand [3]
 Hannah Saunders - 1st Surprise Major [7]
 Mary Andrews - 1st in method [4] and [11]
 Rupert Cheeseman - 1st in hand as Conductor [3]
 Mark Jones - 1st in method, 1st Surprise Major as Conductor
 and circled tower [1]

PEALS

RW PAGE

1997

[1]	07/06	GREENWICH	5003 Grandsire Caters	97/682
[2]	08/06	DARTFORD	5056 Yorkshire Surprise Major	97/682

From Ringing World up to and including edition No. 4506 for
 September 5, 1997.

Jim Rooke

PRESS OFFICER'S REPORT 1996-7

Bookstall

Sales of most books are down compared to last year's figures, except for one-per-learners which have risen by about 20 per cent. (This might be taken to show that towers are taking the Ring in 2000 effort seriously).

Because of the Arts Fayre at Bexley, I have added some Shire Albums to the bookstall stock, also Sherbourne's green leaflet "Twenty Questions about Bellingring", so please buy some. Patrick Braund's widow has also given us some different titles to sell for the Bell Restoration Fund.

Now that Andrew Young has left the District, one of my useful contacts for getting replenishments for the bookstall via county events has gone, so I would be very grateful if anyone going to the surprise royal practices at Maidstone, county training days or committee meetings could let me know well in advance so that I can contact the Librarian, Hazel Basford (who lives in Broadstairs) to arrange a transfer of supplies.

	1997	1996
Number of one-per-learners sold	22	19
Number of other books sold	17	20
Total value of books sold	£50.06	£91.10
Total value of other things	£14.40	£20.80
ex P. G. Braund books (donation to B.R.F.)	£12.00	---

I approached Bexley, Lewisham, and Greenwich Library Services about buying the "Anyone can be a Ringer" video, but only Bexley responded by buying two.

Sweatshirts etc.

These now come from a new supplier, and the range of types of clothing to which the K.C.A.C.R. logo can be applied has been enlarged - see the colour brochure. The logo can also be supplied on its own as a badge, price £5.

Ring in 2000

Many people had a go at bellringing at the Bexley Arts Fayre and we must thank the people who set up (and dismantled) the exhibition and jubi-peal and helped on the stall all day. It would be interesting to know whether anyone has started learning to ring church bells as a result of the experience!

Ring in 2000 has now officially been launched. Central Council are offering to run local training courses for ringers involved in teaching beginners, if there is a demand. I have lots of K.C.A.C.R. information yellow leaflets to give away if anyone wants some.

Reports

I have sent 2 items to The Ringing World during the year but didn't see them published.

Jessica Vale

SECRETARY'S REPORT - OCTOBER 1997

Membership

The District has 172 practising members. This figure includes 5 Life Members and one member who is entitled to free membership. There are 2 Associate Members. Two Non-Resident Life Members were elected. Comparative figures for 1997 and 1996 at the time of the A.D.M. are as follows:

	1997	1996
Practising Members	150	152
Senior Citizens	9	7
Junior Members	13	14
Total	172	173

New members were elected from Bickley, Chelsfield, Eynsford, St. John's Erith, Hayes, Sidcup and West Wickham - 16 in all, 12 adults and 4 juniors. It was good to be able to welcome all these new members and particularly pleasing to have the entire new band at St. John's Erith elected at the April meeting.

The subscription is awaited from Non-Resident Life Member.

Death

Members who attended the January Quarterly Meeting were very sorry to learn of the death, on 23rd December 1996, of Mr. Patrick Braund of Sidcup. An in memoriam to him is printed in the Association's current Handbook and tributes to him and several quarter peals were recorded in The Ringing World. His widow, Mrs. Sheila Braund, has kindly given the District a number of his ringing books to be sold for the benefit of the Bell Restoration Fund.

At the time of his death Patrick was Editor of the District Newsletter and we are grateful to Mr. Jeremy Byers for taking on this task.

Meetings and Competitions

Quarterly Meetings were held at Bickley (evening ringing at Bromley), West Wickham, and Eynsford (evening ringing at Shoreham). The District's 6-bell Striking Competition was won by Christ Church Erith. The Call Change Competition is due to be held at Farningham on 15th November.

Covenants

At the January Quarterly Meeting, Mr. Bill Lanyon explained that, with the agreement of the Association's Treasurer, he had drawn up covenant forms and urged members who paid income tax at the standard rate to consider paying their subscriptions in this way. To date thirteen members have responded.

Membership Database

This has been the first year for the Association's Membership Database and everyone has co-operated by completing the new nomination form.

Craft Fair at Hall Place, Bexley

At the April Quarterly Meeting, Mrs. Carol Eastaugh drew members' attention to the August Bank Holiday Monday Craft Fair at Hall Place and it was agreed to take a pitch there for £35 in order to advertise local ringing, and possibly recruit some learners for the millennium. Arrangements were made to borrow the Jubi Peal from Mr. Walter Dobbie and with that attraction, the sale of ringing literature and other items, a profit of £114.50 for the Bell Restoration Fund was made on the venture. All those concerned deserve our appreciation for their hard work and particularly Mrs. Eastaugh for initiating this project.

2.

Farewell to Dr. & Mrs. A. M. J. Young and Family

Members were very sorry to have to say farewell to Andrew and Diana Young and their family at the July Quarterly Meeting. Andrew and Diana had made a considerable contribution to the District, both as office holders and, recently, in training the new band at St. John's Erith.

Bell Restoration Fund

Donations to the Bell Restoration Fund have been received from Biggin Hill, St. Mary Cray, West Wickham and Woolwich. Contributions from the remaining 26 towers in the District would be most welcome.

Financial Statement

Income		Expenditure	
143	Practising Members	1001.00	
1	Practising Member (½- year)	3.50	Postage, telephone and stationery
9	Senior Citizens	22.50	15.00
13	Junior Members	32.50	
2	Associate Members	4.00	
	Arrears	22.50	
	Bell Restoration Fund	<u>241.71</u>	
	Total	£1327.71	£15.00
	Balance	_____	<u>£1312.71</u>
		£1327.71	£1327.71
		_____	_____

1998 Subscriptions

Subscriptions for 1998, which are due in January, are as follows:

Practising Members	£8.00
Senior Citizens and Junior Members	£3.00
Non-Resident Life Members	£7.00
Life Members	£120.00

1998 Handbook

Details for the Handbook have to be submitted around the end of the year. The information in the current Handbook will be repeated unless changes of Tower Secretaries, ringing times etc. are notified to the District Secretary in good time. Quarter peal details are also required in the same form as in the current Handbook.

MRA

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held at Eynsford on Saturday, 26th July 1997

The Chairman, Mr. J. Rooke, opened the meeting by welcoming members and apologized for the change of date.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. J. Byers and Mrs. S. Hardy from Beckenham, Mr. A. J. Britton and Miss J. Vale* from Bexley, Miss P. Rooke, Miss A. Wilkins, Miss M. J. Wilkins and Mr. N. Wilkins from Chelsfield, Mr. L. Morley from Eltham, Miss H. Saunders from Christ Church, Erith, and Mrs. M. Macey from Foots Cray.

* arrived late following wedding ringing.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting, which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Mr. John Hill

The Chairman said how pleased he was to see Mr. Hill, following his recent major operation; also to see him at Ash.

Craft Fair at Hall Place

The Chairman thanked Mrs. C. Eastaugh and all those who had helped with the ringing display at Hall Place. In turn Mrs. Eastaugh added her thanks for all the help she had had with this venture which, the Secretary pointed out, had made a profit of £114.50 for the Bell Restoration Fund.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

The Secretary had received a letter from Mr. J. Byers, the Editor of the District Newsletter submitting the following motion:

To increase the annual subscription for the Lewisham District Newsletter to the following annual rates (to cover the October 1997 to July 1998 issues)

<i>First copy to any address/tower</i>	<i>£4.00 p.a.</i>
<i>Second or subsequent copies to the same address/tower</i>	<i>£3.00 p.a.</i>

This was seconded by Mr. J. Hardy and carried.

2.

5. ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Completed Membership Nomination Forms had been received for:

Mr. David Gregory of St. George's, Bickley

Proposed by Mrs. V. Cruickshank, seconded by Mrs. M. Sanderson

and

Mr. Steve Gill of St. John's Sidcup

Proposed by Mr. J. Hills, seconded by Mrs. Y. Wright.

These members were elected.

The Secretary had received a subscription for a Mr. R. Shaw, a member at Downe but unfortunately the Membership Nomination Form had not been returned to her and as there was no one at the meeting who knew Mr. Shaw, this election had to be deferred until the next meeting. The Secretary was asked to write to Mr. King and explain the position.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Newsletter

Mr. Hardy asked those members who had not yet paid for their Newsletters for the next year to do so as soon as possible as at present the account was in the red. Mrs. N. Robins subsequently asked what the deficit was as she would be prepared to contribute towards the outstanding amount. Unfortunately, this information was not available.

Quarter Peal Week

Mr. Hardy reminded members of the Quarter Peal Week, 6th - 14th September, and asked that as many towers as possible should attempt a quarter peal during that time. Help could be arranged if necessary.

Central Council Bellhandling Video

The Secretary said that she had been sent a copy of the Central Council Bellhandling Video and proposed to hand this to Miss Vale. Any who wanted to borrow it should contact Miss Vale and should return it to her after use. Dr. Andrew Young said that he understood that the video was very good. He stressed that it should be circulated as widely as possible. On behalf of the Country Training Sub-Committee, he said that emphasis was placed on all training of learners being as high a standard as possible.

3.

Ringling School - 8th November

Dr. Young said that the Ringling School on 8th November would be another in the 'Bridging the Gap' series, concentrating on getting people on to eight-bell ringling - Plain Bob, Grandsire and Kent Treble Bob. Further details would be available soon.

Bookstall

Miss Vale said that sweatshirts had gone up in price. She pointed out that it was possible to purchase the logo separately. Ringling information cards giving details of service ringling and practice nights for church notice boards were available.

General Committee Meeting - 5th May

Reporting on the General Committee Meeting held at Leeds on 5th May, Mrs. Hill mentioned that Mrs. Wraight was organizing a team for the Essex Trophy. Personal Accident Insurance was now up and running - the Secretary confirmed that she had received papers about this. Mrs. Hill pointed out that all members who were teaching people to ring were now covered by this insurance, **providing the instructor's subscription was paid by 31st March**. Policies would be distributed to all towers. No one had yet offered to take over the position of Handbook Editor. The 1996 accounts were still in the hands of the Auditor, who was not able to complete his work until the outstanding tax on the Centenary Fund had been refunded - Dr. Young assured members that the tax claims had been submitted. In order to build up the amount of money in the Bell Restoration Fund, it had been suggested that each District should be asked to raise £1,000 annually by donations and fund-raising. Members did not think that this was a realizable objective.

Regarding the Personal Accident Insurance, Dr. Young said that ringers of all ages were covered.

Collection

Since no collection had been taken at the service, a tin had been placed by the door for any members who wished to contribute and had not already left a donation in church.

Dr. & Mrs. A. M. J. Young, Nicholas and Rebecca

The Chairman said that as it was the last meeting which Dr. & Mrs. Young would be attending, since they would shortly be moving away from the area, he would like to take the opportunity of thanking them for their considerable contribution to the District, both as office holders and, most recently, in training a new band at St. John's, Erith. On behalf of the District he wished them well in their new home and new work. Dr. Young thanked members for their good wishes.

Votes of Thanks

Dr. Young proposed votes of thanks to the Rev. Richard Freeman, Rector of Eynsford for permission to use the church for the service and the Church Hall for the business meeting and picnic tea, to Mr. Allan Gillott, who conducted the service, to Mr. Mark Jones for playing the organ and to the Eynsford ringers for the local arrangements; also to the Rev. B. J. Simmons for permission to use the bells at Shoreham for evening ringling.

BIGGIN HILL

Stephen and Pam Campbell moved to Somerset on 3rd September. We wish them every happiness in their new home. The new Tower Secretary at Biggin Hill is:

Mrs. Nancy Gay,
4 Camelot Close,
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CALL CHANGE COMPETITION

The Call Change Competition will be held at Farningham on 15th November. A copy of the rules is printed in the Newsletter and invitations to take part in the Competition will be distributed at the Annual Meeting at Dartford.

ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING

The Annual District Meeting will be held at Dartford on Saturday, 11th October. The bells will be available from 3.00 and the service will be at 4.30 p.m. Tea and the business meeting will be held in the church and evening ringing will be at Crayford from 7 to 8 p.m. Names for tea, please, to Mrs. Esther Correia - 01322 220458 by the previous Wednesday.

CALL CHANGE COMPETITION RULES W.E.F. 1996

1. The Competition may be held annually for Sunday Service Bands within the Lewisham District.
2. Each tower shall normally be 'in union' with the Association. However, at the discretion of the District Officers, new bands may be allowed to enter for the first time only without being in union.
3. No band shall have more than three people in it who have previously rung a peal.
4. A tower shall be allowed to enter any number of bands but no ringer may ring for more than one band. If a ringer rings for Sunday Service at more than one tower then the home tower takes precedence.
5. Any tower wishing to enter, finding itself short of one ringer, can notify the District Ringing Master or Deputy Ringing Master, who can supply the extra member. The extra member must not have already entered the Competition.
6. The conductor shall call the changes from memory. No visual aids will be allowed.
7. Each team must ring call changes. No method will be permitted.
8. Call changes are to be made, on average, every fifth handstroke with the change made at the following handstroke.
9. Each team will be allowed two minutes practice rounds and call changes, (this will not be judged) standing the bells at the end of the rounds.
10. Each team will be judged on 120 rows, a handstroke and backstroke counting as two rows. A maximum of 12 whole pulls of rounds will be allowed for "settling down" before the start of the call changes. A steward in the tower will count the rows and inform the conductor when the required number has been reached. The conductor should then call 'stand' as soon as possible, having first - if necessary - brought the bells back into rounds. The opening rounds, up to 12 whole pulls, and the changes after 120 rows will not be judged. Failure to stand will not be faulted, but will be noted and taken into account in the event of a tie.
11. All ringing must be carried out with open handstroke leads. Faults will be awarded for closed handstroke leading.
12. **The entry forms for the Competition must be received by the District Secretary at least seven clear days before the date of the Competition. Neither late nor telephone entries will be accepted.**
13. The ringing will be judged by a competent judge from outside the District.
14. Any dispute or difficulty should be referred to the District Officers before the end of the Competition.
15. If a tower enters and subsequently has to withdraw, their entry fee will not be refunded.
16. The names of those taking part (up to nine in all) must be given on the entry form.
17. A representative of each tower shall be available for the draw and the order adhered to, unless the band has a prior commitment for service ringing at their own church.

LEWISHAM DISTRICT

1997 PROGRAMME

DATE	VENUE	TIME	EVENT
Saturday 11th October	Holy Trinity Dartford Crayford	From 3-00p.m. 4-30p.m. From 7-00p.m.	Ringling Service followed by Annual District Meeting Evening Ringling
Saturday 25th October	Christ Church* Erith	7-00 to 9-00 pm	Treble Bobbing, Kent and Cambridge Cambridge and into the Standard Eight
Saturday November Date to be confirmed at ADM	 Venue to be confirmed at ADM		More advanced Plain Method St Clements and Double Oxford Treble Bobbing Kent Bob and Cambridge Major
Saturday 15th November	Farningham		District Call Change Competition
Saturday 13th December	Bexley		District Carol Service

* denotes To be Confirmed

If you have any queries, or would like further information on any of the district events please contact James Hardy (0181-659-2631) or Jeremy Byers (0181-289-5675) for more information.

