



KCACR ROCHESTER DISTRICT

Quarterly Meeting - Sat 26th April 2025, Rodmersham

Draft 2

Attending:

Tim Ford (chair), Anita Perryman (secretary), Cathy Hall, Steve Fitton, Val Cooper, Annette Jacobs, Liam Mcgoldrick, Chris Dunster, Tim and Jay Ford, Chris M Trafford, Chris J Trafford, Stephen Trafford, Liz Symkiss, Gill and Mike Rannard, Alison Gerrish, Julie Palmer, Jean and Martin Andrews, Rob Still, Joseph Still, Matthew Cockell, Anthony Birch, Ron Blandford, Stuart Cox, Nigel Baker, Richard Bushell, Brian Lawson, Keith Tolputt, Neil Jones, Phillip Fagg, David Ridley

1. Welcome & Minute's Silence & Congratulations

A minute's silence was held for:

Bryan Boughton who was tower captain at St Helen's, Cliffe, for over 25 years and passed away on 28th February; and also for

Dennis Cox, a long time ringer at Boxley, Gillingham and Upchurch, who passed away on 27th March. Congratulations to Milton Regis, winners of both 6-bell striking competitions.

2. Apologies for absence

Alan Driver, Rona Joiner, Diana and Tim Wraight, Florence Hamp

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last quarterly meeting, held at Bobbing on 18th January 2025, were circulated prior to the meeting. Minor corrections were made and then the revised minutes were agreed to be correct. They were proposed by Cathy Hall and seconded by Alison Gerrish.

4. Matters arising

a. 6-bell Striking Competition Results

Thanks to Phil and Liz Barnes from the Maidstone district for judging our competition.

Trophies were presented. Congratulations to Milton Regis, who will represent the Rochester District at the Association Inter-District 6-bell Striking competition on 27th September.

i. 6-Bell Method Competition

1. Milton Regis
2. Tunstall
3. Bredgar

ii. 6-bell Call Change Competition

1. Milton Regis
2. Bredgar
3. Rochester Cathedral

b. Feedback on Raising and Lowering in Peal Training Event

The District held a training day for raising and lowering in peal at Milton Regis on Saturday 22nd February. Signup was limited to 6 learners. These trainees covered theory and practised ringing both up and down in peal. This is difficult to master and takes practice, especially as there are few opportunities at normal practices. Neil thanks the helpers. Positive comments were received from the attendees.

c. ART/Ringing Hubs

SF/NJ: The Association of Ringing Teachers M1 (bell handling) course at Staplehurst on 10th

May is fully booked. There is a M2F (Foundation Skills up to plain hunt and covering) at Dover on Sat 14th June which has places (book by the end of May). There is another M1 course at Felsted, Essex on 24th May (sign up by 9th May). The M1 course is useful for teaching hints and tips even if you don't complete accreditation. We would like more accredited teachers (there are only four in the district). The £30 cost is refundable following completion of the training day (contact the treasurer Peter Joyce). The M1 course has been improved and now offers a range of teaching strategies to choose from. Having an M1 accreditation should help cover teachers against legal proceedings if there should be an incident. Sue Bassett will try to set up more courses for teachers 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 (and for teachers to work towards accreditation). The hubs run regular training sessions at Lamberhurst and at Milton Regis and are quite well subscribed with learners, although they would do their best to accommodate more. More helpers are always welcome. Information about forthcoming hubs and how to book can be found at:

https://kcacr.org.uk/category/association_training/

More dates will be coming up.

Cathy thanks Steve for his efforts to organise and run hubs.

d. Launch of Firsts Month

CH/NJ Last year's Firsts Month was a great success. We recorded 26 performances involving 54 firsts by 36 individuals at 14 towers. Sittingbourne was the tower with the most firsts (13); Scott Pearce was the individual with the most (5) firsts. Achievements included 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.

This year's Firsts Month runs from 26th April to 26th May 2025. If you achieve any first in ringing, please could you submit it as part of the following event which has been set up on Bellboard:

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/event.php?id=20967>

Kent County Association — Rochester District Firsts Month

In Bellboard a performance should be submitted (as a quarter or general performance).

Then select edit, pick the option to link to an event and click the KCACR event as above.

Let's see if we can beat last year's total.

5. Election/welcome of new members

- **Freddie Symkiss** (junior) of Sittingbourne, proposed by Jay Ford and verified by Tim Ford
Freddie has been ringing for a while now. He is 12 years old, very keen, and applies himself.
- **Liam Mcgoldrick** of Rainham, proposed by D Wraight and verified by Neil Jones
Liam started ringing towards the end of last year. He is now confident with handling and learning plain hunting. This is already his second striking competition. He has high potential, is enthusiastic and willing to learn.
- **Liz Symkiss** of Sittingbourne is a returning member.

All three were seconded by David Ridley. They were elected unanimously and all were welcomed to the association.

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

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

6. Forthcoming events

- Thu 8th May: 6:30 pm: VE Day - Ring Out in Celebration
On the 8th May 1945 bells rang out across Britain as the nation took to the streets in celebration of Victory in Europe Day. Eighty years later we celebrate this momentous occasion by inviting you to recreate that moment at 6:30 pm local time (or when you can) and pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice so that we might live in a free world.
Upload your VE Day ringing to: <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/event.php?id=19733>
- Sat 17th May: 3 - 4:30pm Meopham: District Practice focusing on Grandsire and Stedman Triples
- Sun 18th May, Bell Sunday - Bell Sunday is supported by the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, as part of its *Ringling 2030* vision to raise the profile of ringing, encourage recruitment, and affirm its place in church and community life. More information and resources can be found on the CCCBR website at:
<https://cccbr.org.uk/2025/04/09/bell-sunday-2025-ringing-out-the-message/>
- Thu 29th May: 7:30 pm Advanced 10-bell practise at Rochester Cathedral
- Sat 31st May: 2 - 5pm Frinsted: Training Event: Conducting and Coursing Orders - we will be requesting learners to book in advance
- Sat 14th Jun: District Outing to the Bishop's Stortford area (Stansted Mountfichet, Bishop's Stortford, Hatfield Heath, Sawbridgeworth and Old Harlow)
- Sat 19th Jul: 10am - 12:30pm Higham: District Practice and Quarterly Meeting
- Sat 2nd Aug: Ringing Discovery Day in Medway at St Margaret's, Rochester. We hope to include: demonstrations, have a miniring available, displays, and give explanations to visitors. Helpers will be needed for: stewarding, serving refreshments, teaching backstrokes, etc. This needs to be a team effort. We are hoping to sign-up a lot of new recruits.

7. AOB

- The 2025 Handbooks are now available. Some were collected at the meeting, others will be making their way out through the ringer network to towers in the district.
- Canterbury Cathedral will be hosting the KCACR evensong for one more year. For 2026 the Association is looking for suggestions for a new venue. The venue should be able to host at least 50 people, have facilities for tea making and be willing to hold an evensong. St Michael, Sittingbourne, was suggested as a possibility.

Vote of thanks goes to Rodmersham for hosting, all those who helped with refreshments and to our striking competition judges.

The meeting closed at 18:27.