KCACR ROCHESTER DISTRICT

Quarterly Meeting - Sat 18th July 2026, Holy Trinity, Queenborough

Draft Minutes

Attending:
Tim Ford (chair), Anita Perryman (secretary), Rona Joiner (ringing master), Val Cooper, Jayne Vousden, Mike Rannard, Gill Rannard, Margaret Funnell, Val Reckless, Chris Dunster, Steve Fitton, Alison Gerrish, Cathy Hall, Chris M. Trafford, Chris J. Trafford, Stephen Trafford, Marek Michalak, Nick Wheeler, Gary Christopher, Keith Tolputt, Rob Still, Nicola Prior, Chris Rapley

1. **Welcome, Minute's Silence and Congratulations**

Jackie Dyson, a former tower captain of Newington-next-Sittingbourne, sadly passed away in April.

NJ: Congratulations to The Kent Young Ringers team who came 2nd (with a very commendable 92%) out of 16 teams in the 6-bell method ringing category at this year's Ringing World National Youth Competition on 4th July in Nottingham. The band included Lily (Shorne), George (Rainham) and Lottie (Rochester Cathedral). The Essex Eagles came first with an impeccable piece of ringing scoring 99%! There were 43 teams in total at this year's contest from all over the country and the organising group need congratulating on successfully steering over 450 ringers around Nottingham, including use of its tram system, and getting us all back to St Mary's for the results in the evening.

2. **Apologies for absence**

Alan Driver, Annette Jacobs, Neil Jones, Florence Hamp, Jay Ford and Gill Rapley

3. **Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the last quarterly meeting, held at St Margaret, High Halstow on 11th April 2026 were circulated prior to the meeting. These minutes were agreed to be correct. They were proposed by Alison Gerrish and seconded by Cathy Hall.

4. **Matters arising**

a. **Results of District 8-bell striking competition at Harrietsham on 27th June**

1. Canterbury 95%
2. Lewisham 92%
3. Rochester 90%

Congratulations to Canterbury.

The Rochester District will be hosting this competition next year on 19th June 2027, please put the date in your diary. We are planning to throw a party, further details to follow in due course.

b. **Review of Firsts Month**

Our Firsts Month ran from 11th April until 16th May 2026 (see https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/event.php?id=23029)
There were 69 performances on Bellboard linked to our Firsts Month, many containing multiple firsts. This produced a total of 129 firsts, far exceeding last year's 35.
These occurred at 20 different towers. The tower with the most firsts was, once again, Milton Regis with 21 firsts (beating last year's 17). They needed to work hard because 19 firsts were recorded at the district practice at Grain, which was lots of people's first 4-bell

tower and first blows in Swirling Vortex of Doom Treble Place Minimus! Gillingham had a great Firsts Month achieving 18 firsts with many relatively novice ringers pushing themselves to ring heavier bells, circle the tower, ring on 8 and down in peal. Bredgar achieved 15 firsts, Newington 10 and High Halstow 9.
39 individual ringers achieved firsts, Chris Rapley achieved the most with 12, closely followed by Louise Manuell with 11, Jeanette Lawrence 8, Jean Andrews 7 and Gill Rapley with 6. Achievements included 42 of ringing a new method (including Devon Place Doubles and Banana Doubles), 20 visiting a new tower, 18 new achievements involving plain hunting, 17 achievements ringing a different (or half muffled) bell to something and 6 new conducting achievements. Other notable firsts included first time running a practice, first time organising an outing and achievements on handbells.
Congratulations to everyone that took part, everyone had some fun with this and stretched themselves in their ringing. We look forward to next year.

c. **Feedback on Tower Captain Seminar (Bredgar 9th May)**
NJ: The Tower Captain seminar was attended by 11 Tower Captains. The areas covered included a discussion on running a tower with 3 experienced tower captains, including a Q&A, a guide to various resources and where to find them, and safeguarding information.
RJ: This training may be repeated, with some tweaks based on feedback. A WhatsApp group has been set up to share information and build a community linking our tower captains. This could also be useful for prospective tower captains.

d. **Feedback on District Outing to Kingston upon Thames (13th June)**
On Saturday 13th June 15 ringers came on the district outing. We visited the Surrey towers of Thames Ditton and Kingston upon Thames where some of our ringers had their first go at ringing on 12. We had lunch in a sunny Bushy Park with very expensive beer rather than near the tower after lunch, East Molesey, as they had their carnival that day. We then went on to Hersham and finished up with the interesting bells at Esher.

e. **Feedback on Ringing touches of Stedman Triples training event**
This training event was held at Milton Regis and Tunstall on Saturday 11th July. It was led by Tom Hinks, Lewisham training officer. 6 learners were signed up. All the learners had the opportunity to ring Stedman Triples with a steady band around them. Those who wanted to, rang touches with a stander to help. Feedback has been positive, learners thought that this was well run, extremely useful, they got a lot out of it and has allowed them to progress beyond what would have been possible at their home towers. There was a request for a consolidation session in the near future.

f. **Feedback from KCACR**
SF: A ringing open day was held in Dartford, on 11th July, to promote ringing and recruit some learners, following the success of the event in Medway last year. The association 6-bell striking competitions are being held locally at Chalk on 26th September. The call change event is open to all bands, you are encouraged to enter a band. District representatives can bring things to the association meetings, so if you have something you would like them to raise, please let your reps know.

g. ART/Ringing Hubs
Hub info can be found at: https://kcacr.org.uk/association/training/
There will be a hub on Monday 3rd August, then the Milton Regis hub is taking a break for the summer. Many of their original learners have now progressed onto call changes and plain hunt. If you have any learners who you think might benefit from these training sessions,

please recommend the hubs to them. Refreshments are normally provided!

h. Ladies Conducting Group

RJ: The next Ladies Conducting Group meeting is scheduled for Sat 22nd August. Please contact Rona if you are interested. Several attendees have called quarters since the last meeting, including Cathy, well done. For the next session, we are looking at first steps in coursing orders, if this sounds overly challenging do not worry, if you learned to plain hunt by numbers then you already have some experience with this.

i. Surprise Major Practices

RJ: Surprise major practices have been running monthly on the first Tuesday of each month. The next will be on Tuesday 4th August at Rochester Cathedral. We are ringing Cambridge, Yorkshire, Bristol, Cornwall and learning Lessness, but if you can treble bob on 8 you would be welcome. Please let Rona know if you are coming for planning purposes.

j. Planning for the KCACR 6-bell competitions Sat 26th Sept at Chalk

The KCACR 6-bell striking competitions are being held in the Rochester District on Saturday 26th September at St Mary the Virgin, Chalk (Church Lane, Gravesend DA12 2NL) (car park).

Schedule: 9:45 am draw for methods, max. 6 teams (3 last year)
2 pm draw for call changes, max. 10 teams (less entered last year)

Lunch: is not being provided, however, the church will be open and a picnic area available.

We will need volunteers to help out with stewarding and refreshments. Chalk can provide some volunteers, but not enough to cover all day.

Stewarding: we need two volunteers in the morning and two in the afternoon. They will be supervising in the ringing chamber and timing the ringing.

Refreshments are requested for both competitions (hot and cold drinks, cake or biscuits) (Lottie has volunteered to make cupcakes). Other volunteers to bake would be appreciated. We are also looking for people to help out with serving and clearing in each session.

Volunteers:

stewarding: Tim Ford and Keith Tolputt (TBC) in the morning; Rona Joiner and Nick Wheeler in the afternoon

baking and refreshments: Val Cooper and Anette Jacobs

Action: AP to send out updates and reminders

5. Election/welcome of new members

- **Gary Christopher** of Newington-juxta-Sittingbourne, proposed by Mike Rannard, seconded by Tim Ford, verified by Tim Ford
  Gary is a returning ringer. He began ringing in Newington in the 1970s as a teenager. He returned last year and is now an active and enthusiastic ringer. He covered to some doubles at the meeting today and has been helping out with the young ringers.
- **Janet Dell (known as Tui)** of Hoo St Werburgh, proposed by Margaret Funnell, seconded by Brian Trill, verified by Anita Perryman
  Tui has been learning to ring for 9 months, though she came a few times before that. She is now ringing call changes and learning to plain hunt.
- **Melissa French** of Hoo St Werburgh, proposed by Margaret Funnell, seconded by Brian Trill, verified by Anita Perryman
  Melissa has been learning to ring over the last year and is now ringing call changes.
- **Gloria Stedman** of Hoo St Werburgh, proposed by Margaret Funnell, seconded by Brian Trill, verified by Anita Perryman
  Gloria has been learning to ring over the last 6 months and is now ringing call changes.

- **Angela Slocumbe** of Queenborough, proposed by Val Reckless, seconded by Chris Rapley, verified by Steve Fitton
  Angela (who is missing this meeting because she is morris dancing) first learned to ring in the 1980s. She came back to ringing a couple of years ago and has also been attending the hubs.

All were elected unanimously and were welcomed to the association.
Action: New members to complete the online application and payment.
Action: AP: Pass newly elected members details to Doug.
Action: AP to request more membership certificates.

6. **Forthcoming events**
   - Thurs 30th July: 7:30pm Advanced 10-bell practice at Rochester Cathedral
   - Tues 4th August: 7:30pm surprise major practice at Rochester Cathedral
   - Sat 22nd August: 2pm Ladies Conducting Group - starting to think about coursing orders
   - Tues 1st September: 7:30pm surprise major practice at Tunstall TBC
   - Sat 19th September: 3-5pm district practice at All Saints, Maidstone (10)
   - Sat 26th Sept: Chalk will be hosting the KCACR 6-bell striking competitions (am and pm)
   - Tues 6th October: 7:30pm surprise major practice at Rochester Cathedral
   - Sat 17 October: 2-5pm Annual District Meeting at Bredgar
   - Sat 28 November: pm Workshop on ringing heavy bells (looking at the techniques needed to help master heavier bells) at Maidstone (TBC)

7. **Any Other Business**
   a. **Val Cooper/Jayne Vousden - Clothing**
   VC: Val has been procuring clothing for the association since July 2010. This is currently done on a non-profit making basis. Initially these were ordered from a company in Devon, but this was quickly changed to ProStitch in Gravesend. They were helpful but the owners sadly died. Their son took over the shop, but rents went up so he moved into his garage. Now they are not VAT registered which is good for us. Over the years Val has sold: 95 T-shirts (not including the green open day ones); 580 polos; 78 fleeces; 50 gilets; 80 sweatshirts; 60 hoodies and 16 rugby shirts (not including KYR clothing). The most popular colour is purple, then navy, followed by burgundy. Val thinks that it is now time for new blood. She has been working alongside Jayne for a few months and is confident that Jayne already knows the job.
   JV: My name is Jayne Vousden, and I ring at St Margaret, Rochester where I am also the tower secretary. I am going to be taking over as your new county clothing representative. I would like to thank Val Cooper for all her hard work whilst doing this role for many years. She has now decided that now is the time to step down and to hand it over to me. I have known Val for many years as we used to ring together at St Margaret, Rainham. I have been shadowing Val for a few months now and I now feel ready to take over, I have done a couple of orders, and all has gone ok so far. I do work full-time Monday to Friday, and I will respond to your orders in the evenings and at weekends. I am very much looking forward to my new challenge in taking over this new role and getting to know and meeting other bell ringers. I shall look forward to receiving your clothing orders and I will do my best to help you, and keep you updated with the process of your orders. My contact information is below for any enquiries.
   jaynevousden@btinternet.com
   TF: A vote of thanks to Val for her hard work over the years.
   Action: JV to send new price list to Doug Davis to put on the website.

b. Training Needs

RJ: We have been planning training events based on what we think that people want. If you have a training need please tell us. Even if you think that it is just you, we can compile requests to plan for the future. Please contact Rona or the committee.

A vote of thanks goes to Queenborough for hosting and providing refreshments.

The meeting closed at 17:38.