

## EACR Northern District

Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held at Gosfield on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2011-01-08

The Master welcomed everyone to the meeting particularly Mary Bone (Representative from the Executive Committee).

Apologies of absence are recorded on the roll.

The minutes having previously been circulated were proposed as a true account by Richard Ould and seconded by Marian Wood and duly signed by the Master.

### **Matters arising**

Peter Wood asked that his name be amended to Wood not woods. (Duly done)

The frame for the bells at Ridgewell is due to be installed week commencing 10.1.11

The Quiz night raised £272.60 for the Bell Restoration Fund.

**Changes to Membership Rules** (It was noted by Brain Meads that this was actually a rewriting of the rules)

Mary Bone (exec Committee) spoke about some of the proposed changes and advised members to look at the proposals on the EACR website. It is anticipated that further amendments may be made to the rules following consultation regarding member's suggestions at the forthcoming executive committee meeting in February. Mary reminded members that these new rules would be voted on at the Association Annual General Meeting in May. However she suggested that members might like to consider if members who have reached the age of 65 should pay full subscription fees or perhaps a reduction of 50%.

### **Nominations for Membership**

Pauline Barnes Stebbing proposed by P Wood and seconded by M Wood unanimous

Gordon Bateman Coggeshall Proposed by B Meads and seconded by J Edwards unanimous

Brain Blackburn Coggeshall proposed by B Meads and seconded by J Edwards unanimous

**Reports** (Except for the Quarter Peal Month report all other reports had been circulated and taken as read). There were no questions concerning any of the reports.

The report from the executive committee was accepted without question.

### **Election of Officers**

Master Peter Smith proposed by Peter Wood and seconded by Marian Wood unanimously voted in.  
Deputy Master Ian Hamilton proposed by Marian Wood and seconded by Roy Threadgold unanimously voted in.

Secretary Valerie Darkins proposed by Peter Wood and seconded by Marian Wood unanimously voted in.

Treasurer Vicky LeFevre proposed by Peter Smith and seconded by Di Carpenter unanimously voted in.

Contacts for: Education Roy Threadgold  
Child Protection Valerie Darkins  
Public Relations post not filled  
Grants Application Committee Vicky LeFevre

### **Nominations for Association Officers and Life Members**

The Master asked Brian Meads (association master) if the current association officers were happy to continue in their role. Brian replied that he believed that they were happy to do so. The Master suggested that if members had other members in mind for any of these roles that they should make their nominations by completing the appropriate form on the association website.

The Master discussed the two nominations for Life Membership. The first for Wendy Godden had been proposed by Yvonne Towler and seconded by Mark Button. The second for John Tipping proposed by Peter Sloman and seconded by Cathryn Corns.

### **Ringling Achievements** (these had been circulated to members)

The Master highlighted the firsts that had been achieved and noted that in 2010 there had been a total of six first quarter peelers.

### **Draft Programme**

The draft programme had been circulated and the Master asked members for their thoughts on it. Brian Meads suggested that the district practice proposed at Ridgewell should be kept as solely a district practice and therefore should not be advertised in the Ringing World.

### **A.O.B**

The Master referred members to the Progressive Training Programme, which had previously been circulated, and asked that this should be taken back to towers and members to report back with comments from other ringers.

The Master read out a card from Alistair and Janet Donaldson thanking members for all the kind thoughts and gifts that they had received.

The Master also expressed his thanks for all that Alistair had accomplished during his time in the district and asked members present to express their thanks to Alistair. Ian Hamilton said that without Alistair encouraging him to try new things he would have been reluctant to do so. Di Carpenter said that Alistair helped Felsted ringers develop when they were new to ringing. Vicki Bennett stated that she hoped that Alistair would soon be back to ring with them at Kelvedon. Wendy Turner also thanked Alistair for all his support with their new ringers at Toppesfield. Sue and Graham Tobbell from Finchingfield echoed these thoughts. John Smith reported that Alistair had been a significant help at St Gregory's (Sudbury) and often ran the practices, which had very much been appreciated. Mary Bone stated that Alistair often rang in the North Western District ringing Surprise Major Methods for which she was extremely grateful. She also said that Alistair willingly lent the use of his mini ring at association events, exhibitions and shows. Roy Threadgold said that when he wanted to take a group of youngsters from Wethersfield to Loughborough Alistair subsidised the cost of a coach so that they could travel together.

The Master thanked Wendy Turner for her role as Co-ordinator for helpers for the Saturday Ringing School and asked if someone was willing to take this role on. There were no volunteers.

Mary Bone reminded members of the Ringing Course in April and said that applications to attend would be welcomed.

Janet Edwards said that she had taken over as the co-ordinator for helpers for the ringing course and as Yvonne Towler was not allowed to pass on e-mail addresses for members already on the helpers list would anyone willing to be added to the list contact her with their contact details.

Peter Wood expressed his thanks to all the district officers for all that they do.

Brain Meads thanked everyone in the Northern District for their efforts in raising funds for the Bell Restoration Fund. He also praised the Master for having all the reports available for members as this made for a quick meeting.

### **Votes of Thanks**

The Master thanked the Gosfield Ringers for the use of their bells and for the very warm welcome received. He also thanked Terry Streamer for an enjoyable service and for her kind comments regarding the singing. Thanks were given to David Patmore for organising the afternoon. Peter Wood once again had stood in as

organist and was thanked for becoming the resident organist!  
Finally a very big thank-you was given to everyone that had helped  
to provide a magnificent tea.

Members present 31

Apologies received 20