

## EACR – Northern District

MINUTES of the Annual Meeting of the Essex Association of Change Ringers – Northern District held on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2012 at St Peter ad Vincula, Coggeshall

Present: Peter Smith (PS) District Master  
Ian Hamilton (IH) Deputy District Master  
Vicky LeFevre (VLeF) Treasurer  
Valerie Darkins (VD) Secretary

Members Present: 34

### 1 Welcome

PS welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Brian Meads in his capacity as Essex Association Master, Ros Rutter and Ian and Pat Cresshull.

### 2 Apologies

P Adams, E Andrews, A Brewster, Q Brown, K Champness, P Chapman, P Darkins, R Dunhill, J Elliott, V Hamilton, D Hammond, B Hill, D Hill, E Jolley, P Kelly, D Learmonth, A and L May, L Ould, R Ould, G Tobbell, S Tobbell, J Watkins

### 3 Minutes

The minutes of the last Annual Meeting were accepted as an accurate record.

Proposed : P Wood  
Seconded : T Earle

### 4 Matters Arising

There were no matters raised.

### 5 Nominations for Membership

Ringing Senior Pat Wood – Bocking

Proposed: T Earle

Seconded: A Cansdale

David Jennings - Ridgewell

Proposed: C Threadgold

Seconded: P Darkins

Ringing Junior

Simon Cummings – Stisted

Proposed: T Earle

Seconded: A Cansdale

Friends

Alan Whaley

Maureen Rigg

Alan Rigg

Proposed: P Darkins

Seconded: C Threadgold

All the above were unanimously elected.

Confirmation of Non-Resident: None

### 6 Reports for 2011

In addition to his report, PS mentioned the Diamond Jubilee weekend (2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> June) and asked the members to consider whether or not they wished to ring Quarter Peals for this.

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VD mentioned that her report had not made mention of the evening of 17<sup>th</sup> century ringing which Roy Threadgold had arranged. Roy said that it had been the culmination of a long-held interest in the early history of ringing and felt that all had enjoyed it. Brian Meads agreed that it had been both enjoyable and very challenging. In the course of the discussion, Peter Wood raised the possibility of an evening practice of the Five-rings Triples that had been composed for the Olympics.

In the Treasurer's report, Maurice Downs queried the number of adult member's subscriptions shown as received which did not agree with the sum shown. VLeF confirmed that it was a typing error; a late amendment to the draft accounts, after information received from the Association Treasurer, necessitated the transfer of one amount of £8 from subscriptions to donations and the corresponding reduction in the number of ringing members had not been made on the face of the accounts.

There was a discussion regarding the continuation of the Ringing School in the light of current attendance. It was agreed that the school would be suspended for the Spring term during which time the Committee would consult the towers as to their requirements and how the school could satisfy these. It was hoped that the school would resume in May. Janet Edwards felt that part of the problem in running it was the enormous time commitment required from the helpers. She also felt that it had lost its focus in teaching people the basics of ringing and was concentrating on furthering progress for ringers. Marion Wood wondered if, as it was originally set up to encourage people to ring for the Millennium, it had actually run its course and should now cease. Cherry Threadgold felt it might need to be a monthly, rather than weekly, event. Adrian Semken commented on the lack of communication when sessions had been cancelled. IH felt that the tower captains needed to be contacted to find out what their requirements from the school were and PS said that the Committee would meet to discuss how this could be ascertained and it would report back at the next meeting.

**Action: District Officers**

IH reported on the progress made in the BBM meetings and suggested that it might be helpful to organise Quarter Peals shortly after each session to allow those interested to get a longer practice in the various methods covered during the year. He also felt that the BBM meetings could be used to practice Five-rings Triples and Doubles for those interested. He also asked the members to let him know of any methods they would like studied in these sessions.

PS explained that Debbie Hill was unwell and had been unable to ring recently. He added that the Advanced practices had received good attendance and had produced some very good ringing. The sessions had taken ringers out of their comfort zones and had resulted in some good Quarter Peals being scored. PS expressed his thanks to Debbie and the meeting agreed with his suggestion that best wishes for a speedy recover should be sent to her.

**Action: District Secretary**

IH reported on the Quarter Peal Month saying that 29 had been scored involving 23 of the 31 towers currently ringing with 13 people as conductors. However, of the quarter peals scored during the year 22/23% had been during November and the question was raised about the amount of quarter peal ringing during the rest of the year. About 38% of the membership had been involved in this ringing and the hope was expressed that this could be increased over the coming year. Maurice Downs mentioned that 15 members had taken part in the two Grandsire Caters quarters. IH confirmed to Roy Threadgold that a report on the Quarter Peal month would be sent to the Ringing World.

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### 7 Election of District Officers

Master – Peter Smith

Proposed: VD

Seconded: P Darkins

Deputy Master – Ian Hamilton

Proposed: P Darkins

Seconded: E Jolley

Secretary – Annemarie Adams

Proposed: M Wood

Seconded: P Wood

Treasurer – Vicky LeFevre

Proposed: D Carpenter

Seconded: D Hill

PS mentioned that family issues would probably mean that he could not continue in office beyond this year and the membership should commence searching for a successor.

PS also expressed his thanks to VD for all the help and support she had provided to both him, the other committee members and the whole District over the years she had been in office.

The contacts for Education, Child Protection and Grants Application remained Roy Threadgold, VD, and VLeF respectively. There was currently no contact for PR.

### 8 Nominations for Association Officers and Life Members

Brian Meads stated that as far as he was aware all the current officers were willing to remain in office. He pointed out that nominations for the posts needed to be received by 1<sup>st</sup> February 2012. He also mentioned that the change in the rules meant that there would be three new elected officers, namely Education, PR and Technical Advisor. The current Technical Advisor had indicated that he was not willing to stand again and therefore a new nominee needed to be found. Marion Wood confirmed the nomination procedure and Brian Meads stated that the nomination forms could be downloaded from the Association website. He also confirmed that he was willing to stand again for office.

### 9 Ringing Achievements

PS made special mention of the Silent and Unconducted Quarter Peal and commented that a few more first Quarter Peals would be welcome. He also asked members to let him know of any omissions in the list.

### 10 Draft Programme

PS said that if members had come across ringing events in other Associations or Districts that they would like to have in our District, they should mention them to him and he would try to include them.

Maurice Downs queried the March meeting and felt that it should just be an evening meeting. PS pointed out that there had been afternoon ringing at this meeting for the last couple of years. Marion Wood said that, as the tea would be in the church on this occasion, it would be sandwiches rather than anything more substantial.

### 11 Any Other Business

PS said that the minutes of the September meeting, as it was an ordinary meeting, would be presented at the March meeting. Only the previous ADM minutes were to be accepted at this meeting.

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Brian Meads said that tower captains should draw the attention of potential students to the Essex Ringing Course. He also mentioned that Hilary Donoghue was organising the helpers and he had her contact details. He also pointed out that potential helpers needed to be realistic about their capabilities and should be able to ring competently inside to the methods in their chosen group.

Adrian Semken asked that the Newsletter be circulated more quickly.

PS said that Black Notley had expressed their thanks for the help, both with practices and ringing for weddings and funerals, that they had received during last year and PS encouraged members to continue to support them.

### 12 Votes of Thanks

PS expressed his thanks on behalf of the meeting to the Coggeshall tower for providing the ringing venue, to all those involved in preparing the delicious tea, to the organist, Philip Prior, for his contribution to the service and to the Vicar for organising the service and conducting it in a very friendly and Christian manner.

The meeting was then declared closed and participants encouraged to go on to ring at Earls Colne.