

EACR – Northern District

MINUTES of the Annual Meeting held at Braintree on Saturday 5th January 2013

Present: Peter Smith (PS) District Master
Ian Hamilton (IH) Deputy District Master
Vicky LeFèvre (VLeF) Treasurer
Annemarie Adams (AA) Secretary

Members Present: 39

PS welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Brian Meads, in his capacity as Essex Association Master, and Fred and Mary Bone from North West District.

1 Apologies

P Adams, A Brewster, M Cook, I Cresshull, P Cresshull, P Chapman, P Darkins, V Darkins, J Edwards, J Elliott, V Elliott, L May, J Pearson, E Pilgrim, G Tobbell, S Tobbell

2(a) Minutes

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

Proposed: M Wood
Seconded: A Cansdale

2(b) Matters Arising

There were no matters raised.

3 Report of October Management Meeting

PS informed the meeting of the salient points raised at the Management Meeting. He pointed out that tower correspondents, whose e-mail addresses were accessible from the EACR website, needed to inform AA of any change to these so that the Webmaster could ensure that the website remained up-to-date. There were two Life Memberships from this District, namely Janet Edwards and Heather Semken. It was agreed that the Report would be circulated with the Minutes.

Action: AA

4 Officers' Reports

M Downs raised the question of whether the Accounts needed to be agreed by the meeting but this was considered unnecessary. R Threadgold queried the almost 50% increase in the membership fees and it was pointed out that this was due to the new ruling whereby members over 65 were now required to pay a subscription, rather than merely make a donation. There was a balancing decrease in the donations received.

5 Nominations for Membership

Ringling	Julie Rust – Ridgewell	Proposed: D Jennings Seconded: D Jude
	Linda Ranby - Braintree	Proposed: D Hill Seconded: L Ould
Ringling (under 18)	Michael Mead – Ridgewell	Proposed: D Jennings Seconded: D Jude

All the above were unanimously elected.

In addition, Alan and Maureen Rigg, elected friends of Ridgewell last year have transferred to Ringling membership.

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6 Election of District Officers for 2013

PS retired as Master and was thanked for his contribution to the District by B Meads. The following officers were unanimously elected.

Master – Ian Hamilton

Proposed: M Downs

Seconded: M Wood

Deputy Master – Angela Pannell

Proposed: R Threadgold

Seconded: A Cansdale

Secretary – Annemarie Adams

Proposed: P Smith

Seconded: I Hamilton

Treasurer – Vicky LeFèvre

Proposed: D Carpenter

Seconded: M Downs

The contacts for Education, Child Protection and Grants Application remained Roy Threadgold, Valerie Darkins and VLeF respectively. The PR contact role, which had been vacant for some time, was undertaken by Vicki Elliott.

7 Nominations for Association Officers and Life Members

PS pointed out that the role of Technical Advisor was still unfilled. Additionally, both the Education and PR officers were retiring as of the AGM and the meeting was asked to identify possible candidates for these roles.

B Meads also mentioned that the Central Council representatives were also to be elected this year. He was standing down from this as his role as Chairman of the Ringing Foundation meant that he was an ex-officio member of the Council. Another representative would therefore need to be elected in his stead.

Nominations were also required for the Independent Examiners and IH proposed that Richard Dunhill, one of the current examiners, should continue in the role. This was seconded by M Downs.

The Master, Secretary and Treasurer were willing to stand again and nominations were required for these. The forms could be downloaded from the internet and that the deadline for nominations was 1st February.

8 Nomination for Life Membership

PS asked members to consider the citation for Evelyn Reeve prior to the AGM in May.

9 Achievements

PS had distributed the Achievements list and said that there had been no first peals and few first quarter peals rung. He hoped this would change in the coming year. However, he was impressed by the variety of methods rung. He also asked that the list be displayed in the towers as this may encourage more quarter peal attempts.

Action: Tower Captains

10 Education

Both the Intermediate and Advanced practices were well-attended and were hoped to attract more interest over the coming year. D Learmonth raised the question of the training for beginners. The plan had been to identify towers that needed help and arrange specific training for them but this had not been achieved. B Meads stated that the Ringing School had run for about thirteen years and a new approach was probably due. The Committee was asked to look into this and provide a new training plan to meet the District's needs.

Action: IH, AP, VLeF, AA

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Given the poor attendance at the District Meetings and the need for only three meetings in the year, IH raised the question of running a District Training Day instead of the March meeting and this was felt to be a positive step. K Downs said that the basic 'building blocks' were Plain Hunt, Plain Bob Doubles, Grandsire, Stedman and Cambridge as these could be extended to ringing on higher numbers of bells. She also felt that conducting should have a higher profile in the teaching. M Downs pointed out that to hold this in March required gaining the information from the towers quickly.

Action: IH, AP, VLeF, AA

R Threadgold said he was prepared to run a short theory course at this home and it was agreed that the membership would be advised of this once dates had been established.

Action: R Threadgold, AA

11 2013 Calendar

PS asked whether members wished to change the format of the District Meetings in view of the generally poor attendance. R Threadgold thought that the format was not a problem.

Special dates for ringing were the 60th anniversary of the Coronation and in due course the arrival of the Royal Baby. There was also the Centenary ringing at the Cathedral in which PS had expressed an interest from the District to David Rothera. The organisation of this was to be the task of the new officers.

Action: IH, AP, VLeF, AA

B Meads was concerned that there was little interest within the District in the 6 and 8-bell Striking Competitions. He was keen that the towers should put together bands to take part in this as the rules allowed adjoining towers to combine to form a band. He was also disappointed that the Quiz night had been cancelled and hoped that new interest in it could be generated for this year.

M Bone was asked to talk about the Essex Course. She pointed out that as Easter was early this year the deadline for applications was also earlier and encouraged information to be sent to the towers quickly. She also said that helpers were needed to ensure that all the groups could be run. Help was welcome, even if it could only be for one of the days. As V Darkins was unable to provide the tea on the Thursday this year, they were looking for someone else to take on the provision of sandwiches. Help was also needed to provide tea and coffee in the morning and afternoon on each day. Again any help, even for one of the sessions, would be greatly appreciated.

Action: All towers

12 Any Other Business

PS asked that the information being provided to the towers via e-mail should be printed out and displayed in the towers and members to be encouraged to take part in events.

PS expressed his thanks, on behalf of the meeting, to the Braintree tower members for providing the ringing venue and the delicious tea. He also thanked the Vicar, Charles Mason, for the service and the organist, Norman Plaistow, for his contribution to it.

The meeting was then declared closed and further ringing took place at Stisted.