

EACR – Northern District

MINUTES of the Annual District Meeting held at Toppesfield on Saturday 17th January 2015

Present: Ian Hamilton (IH) Master
Jonathan Thompson (JT) Deputy Master
Annemarie Adams (AA) Secretary

Members Present: 33

The meeting was joined by the following visitors; A Brewster, C Brewster, P Eaves and S Turner.

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Q Brown, K Champness, J Culeman, G Davies, T Earle, W Earle, J Edwards, B Hill, J Ibbotson, P Kelly, V LeFèvre, A May, L May, G Pye, I Thompson, C Wallis, J Wallis and L Wallis.

2(a) Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th September 2014 were accepted as an accurate record.

Proposed: M Downs

Seconded: D Carpenter

2(b) Matters Arising

All actions had been completed.

3 Report of October Management Meeting

IH highlighted three issues from the meeting.

- (i) New District Officers were to be given an evening's training on the actions they needed to take in order to comply with the Charity Commission's regulations.
- (ii) The Public Liability Insurance had been increased from £2 to £5 million at a cost of £50. This insurance covers meetings, halls and public events involving reasonable activities.
- (iii) This District would be responsible for providing the tea and biscuits at the October Management Committee meeting.

4 Officers' Reports

These raised no questions.

5 Nominations for Membership

Friend

Gareth Pye

Isobel Thompson

Proposed

John Elliott

John Elliott

Seconded

Andrew Taylor

Vicki Elliott

The above were unanimously elected.

The contacts for Education, Child Protection, PR, Grants Applications and Social Committee remained Roy Threadgold, Valerie Darkins, Vicki Elliott, Vicky LeFèvre and Kelly Thompson respectively.

6 Nominations for Association Officers and Life Members

Members were asked to submit nominations for existing, or new members, for the Association posts to Vicki Chapman by 1st February 2015.

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7 Education

IH reviewed the achievements for the year. Five places had been awarded to District members on the Essex Course and eight on the Association Training Day.

Ian Cresshull would be taking over running the Advance Practice from Debbie Hill, who would remain active in developing ringers by assisting IH in the Beyond Bob Minor (BBM) Practices. It was intended that the BBM practices would be organised to act as a 'feeder' for the Advance Practice.

He also mentioned those having rung a first Quarter Peal or having achieved a first in method or technique. Specific milestones had been reached by I and P Cresshull ringing their 1,000th QP together, A Taylor ringing his 500th QP and V LeFèvre ringing her 700th QP.

In October Roy Threadgold had organised an afternoon of hand-bell ringing at Wethersfield. Four groups were set up and 14-16 people joined in. It was thought that this was an event that could be repeated.

M Downs (MD) reviewed the 10-bell group. In September he had organised some Sunday afternoon ringing at the Cathedral. The group had rung both Grandsire Caters and Cinques, the latter including Linda Ranby ringing the method for the first time. A Quarter Peal of Grandsire Caters had been rung by past and present District Officers whose appointments ranged from the 1960's to 2014. MD said he would continue to run these practices this year but was looking for someone to take it over next year. He also asked that members respond to his e-mails regarding the practices so that he could be sure of enough ringers at each session.

IH stated that there would be another District Training session in March and asked members to contact the Committee with suggestions of methods that would be useful in developing ringing in the area.

IH also encouraged members to contact Hilary Donoghue regarding their availability as helpers on the Essex Course (9th-11th April).

8 2015 Calendar

The calendar had been completed with the exception of some venues later in the year. A venue needed to be established for the Striking Competition and bands needed to begin practising now for the event.

Peter Wood pointed out that the other two meetings during the year did not have services and he felt that services should be included.

The National Youth Competition would take place on 11th July this year. Roy Threadgold (RT) had no plans to enter a team. Christina Brewster said she was putting together an Essex band following the success last year and would liaise with RT to see if there were any youngsters he felt might be ready to take part. She said she needed to know where the youngsters were in the District and what they wanted to do. She felt she needed help to get this started and find a way to put young ringers in touch with each other. Cherry Threadgold said they were planning a young ringers party on 14th February from 4.00-7.00 pm. This was likely to be at Black Notley but was still to be confirmed. Once the venue was confirmed the information would be available on the website.

Peter Smith (PS) asked about plans for the summer event. In 2014 a summer walk and ring had been held, which was enjoyed by 12 members. This was organised as it was felt that after several years holding a summer barbecue an alternative event needed to be attempted. PS felt that the walks between the

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towers were too long. Marian Wood felt that barbecues were more sociable and attracted more people together with their partners. A venue for such an event was needed. Previously it had been held at Vic and Wendy Turner's house and at Boydells Farm, although the latter was limited by the work of the farm. There was a suggestion that an evening event might be a solution, perhaps held in a village hall and that the District quiz might be revived. Someone to organise the event would be needed in due course. A major problem in arranging such an event was the unwillingness of people to commit to taking part ahead of time making catering very difficult. Kelly Thompson said she would be happy to help in organising such an event.

9 Election of District Officers for 2015

All the Officers were standing down, although for a variety of reasons. Only one nomination, for the Treasurer, had been received in advance of the meeting and members were then invited to nominate candidates for the other roles. The following members were elected to the Committee roles.

		<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
Master	John Elliott	P Smith	A Taylor
Deputy Master	Ian Cresshull	P Cresshull	P Smith
Treasurer	Vicki Elliott	V LeFèvre	K Champness
Secretary	Linda Ranby	M Downs	A Dickinson

10 Any Other Business

A Brewster read an open letter from the Association Master, John Harpole, regarding the future activities of the Association.

The collection from the church service raised £62.50 for the Bell Restoration Fund.

IH then thanked Marian Wood for planning and taking the service, Peter Wood for providing the service sheets and playing the organ, Vic and Wendy Turner for organising the tea and ringing in Toppesfield church.

Peter Smith thanked the outgoing Committee members for their contributions to the District.

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