

**MINUTES of the Annual District Meeting held at Felsted on  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

|          |                    |           |
|----------|--------------------|-----------|
| Present: | John Elliott (JE)  | Master    |
|          | Vicki Elliott (VE) | Treasurer |
|          | Linda Ranby (LR)   | Secretary |

Members Present: 42

The Master welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from A Brewster, Q Brown, V Chapman, J Culemann, G Davies, B Hill, D Hill, P Kelly, L Ould, J Pearson, J Thompson, K Thompson, V Turner and W Turner.

2(a) Minutes

The minutes of the District Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2015 were accepted as accurate record and duly signed. Proposed by Peter Wood and seconded by Maurice Downs.

2(b) Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3 Officers' Reports

JE read out his report. He spoke about training and especially supporting ringing centres. There are a core of people able to lead training sessions, and simulators can be used to assist. He also made people aware that there is lots of advice available to protect children and vulnerable adults. The child protection officer is there to assist everyone.

The Treasurer's and Secretary's Reports were circulated - they raised no questions.

4 Communication

The tower correspondent on occasions are no longer ringing or in contact with the band which makes communication very difficult. There was an appeal for any changes in correspondent to be notified by the end of January to get into the latest Annual Report.

Members not signed up to EACR Yahoo for the latest notices were encouraged to do so.

## 5 Membership

Members who had recently passed away were remembered.

Nominations for Membership

Julie Wilkinson, Bocking was re-elected to the Association.

Proposed by Alan May and seconded by Lawrence Carter

Pheobe Howorth, Felsted was elected as a Junior Member

Proposed by David Learmonth and seconded by Vicky LeFevre

Isobel Thompson became a Junior Member from a Friend.

## 6 Nominations for Association Officers

Vicki Chapman would be standing down as Association Secretary in May after eight years in the post. Nominations for a replacement should be in by 1<sup>st</sup> February.

There were also vacant posts for Independent Examiner and PR Representative.

## 7 Education

Handbell ringing sessions are popular each year, so a further training day will be held this year.

The district will be holding two training events, these will cover varying abilities.

We were reminded that the Northern District Support Group (NDSG) is there to help anyone. JE reminded people that he does need to co-ordinate a whole band to assist so to give him as much notice as possible. The usual requirement is Plain Bob Doubles, but this is also for other methods people may be having difficulty with and at any tower within the district. He wants to make this a pleasant experience for learners, explaining his terrifying experiences as a learner with Hilda Snowdon as his mentor.

## 8 2016 Calendar

### (a) Striking Competition

To encourage more teams to participate the event was going to be held on 16th April at Great Yeldham as it previously seemed to clash with people's holidays. We are also to resurrect both Rounds and Call Changes and Method Ringing competitions. Towers were urged to combine with a neighbouring tower if they didn't have enough people to enter a band on their own.

Janet Edwards, said Coggeshall were proud to get through to the finals but would like to get through on merit and not by default. She also said that last year the Northern District was the only District at the final to put one team through. All the others had two teams competing.

- (b) The plans for a District outing this year are likely to be a mini outing, comprising of ringing, and the possibility of walking to a pub for lunch, then walking to a second tower in the afternoon.

(c) The District Meetings are not very well attended because they are too long. The proposal is to shorten them, by having tea, meeting and evening ringing. The ADM and carol service to stay the same and this would be reviewed again at the ADM in 2017.

There was much discussion, regarding whether the service should be dropped or not and whether a full tea was necessary.

JE then proposed we start with a short scripture, refreshments, meeting and evening ringing. This was seconded by Maurice Downs.

9 Election of Officers

JE and IC both wished to stand down from their current posts. John Harpole, the Association Master was at the meeting so took the chair for the election of officers. He thanked the current Officers for all their work over the past year. The following officers were elected for 2016:

|                              |                        |                            |
|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Master - Roy Threadgold      | Proposed Vicki Elliott | Seconded Cherry Threadgold |
| Deputy Master - John Elliott | Proposed Vicki Elliott | Seconded Andrew Taylor     |
| Treasurer - Vicki Elliott    | Proposed Peter Wood    | Seconded Marian Wood       |
| Secretary - Linda Ranby      | Proposed Peter Wood    | Seconded Marian Wood       |

RT said it was 40 years since he was last District Master.

10 Any Other Business

Mary Bone reminded everyone of the Essex Ringing Course dates and reminded members that applications had to be in by 12<sup>th</sup> February. She also asked for helpers and thanked the Northern District towers as they are heavily used for the course.

Maurice Downs said that the 10-bell practice he used to organise on a Sunday afternoon had been taken on by Jonathan Thompson.

Following John Warboys not ringing due to ill health, Peter Smith suggested we send a message of support to let me know we were thinking of him in our prayers.

The treasurer reminded everyone that subscriptions were due.

JE thanked the vicar and ringers of Felsted for supplying the venue and a lovely tea. He also thanked Brian Meads for playing the organ.

The meeting closed at 7.28pm and further ringing took place.

LR 02.05.2016

Signed *R. Threadgold* .....

Dated *7th May 2016* .....