

MINUTES of the Annual District Meeting held at Halsted on

Saturday 7th January 2017

Present:	Roy Threadgold (RT)	Master
	John Elliott (JE)	Deputy Master
	Vicki Elliott (VE)	Treasurer
	Linda Ranby (LR)	Secretary

Members Present: 35

The Master welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from A Adams, A Brewster, K Champness, I Cresshull, P Cresshull, J Culleman, I Hamilton, D Learmonth, C Taylor, I Thompson and S Ward.

2(a) Minutes

The minutes of the District Meeting held on 3rd September 2016 were accepted as an accurate record.

Proposed: J Wilkinson

Seconded: M Wood

2(b) Matters Arising

The training session to be held in March, was going to be held at Gosfield instead of the proposed Castle Hedingham due to the bells being too challenging for learners. It was felt that the learners would benefit more by just concentrating on what they would be learning rather than worrying about difficult bells too!

Brian Meads (BM) said that Coggeshall had an excellent turn out for the Heritage Open Day. They had 30 people visiting, whilst open for 3 hours. Saffron Walden, Felsted and Henham also had good response. A number of towers had problems registering for 2016, others confirmed that once registered an information pack is sent including bunting and posters, which makes it easy to organise.

Alan May reported that the counterwork had been completed at Bocking, but further work was due mid-January.

3 Officers' Reports

The Master thanked the other Officers for keeping him on the rails and everyone else for their support, then went on to report that practices in the District vary considerably but overall was pleased that the towers always try to ring whatever the conditions.

BM questioned why the numbers didn't tot up on the Treasurer's Report. VE explained that it was because some subscriptions were paid in arrears, and others sent to Andrew Brewster, the Association Treasurer directly.

JE explained that a functioning District required attendance from the Members, and would like to see some improvement at the meetings this year. BM agreed, but reflected that when he started ringing most Districts only had one event per month. Now our calendar is full of events. Other Districts are combining the meetings with other events to improve numbers. RT reiterated the format had changed for the meetings from 2016. Maurice Downs (MD) reported that the September meeting was renowned for lower attendance, and added although they managed some good ringing of Grandsire Caters for Remembrance Day at Braintree, it had to be called short so as not to overrun into the Service.

4 Communication

A meeting of tower captains/representatives held at Halstead had been very useful in getting to know what was happening in the district.

5 Membership

Nominations for Membership

	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
<i>New member</i>		
David Mead, Ridgewell	Cherry Threadgold	Valerie Fullman
Gareth Bennett, Felsted	Vicky LeFevre	Diane Carpenter
Susan Warner, Halstead	David Kerrison	Angela Kerrison
David French, Shalford	Cherry Threadgold	Peter Wood

The above were unanimously elected.

6 Nominations for Association Officers

No proposals were put forward.

7 Education

In 2016 we had two very successful training sessions and also a series of three Saturday mornings, concentrating on ropesight. A further two training mornings were to be held this year, one in March and the other in October.

8 2017 Calendar

Peter Smith questioned whether Colne Engaine was a suitable tower for the striking competition. MD agreed it would be for the finals, but not for the heats.

The District was to look into the possibility of Earls Colne for the 8-bell and Colne Engaine for the 6-bell competition.

Ridgewell had been booked for the heats. Valerie Fullman said the White Horse had a function room and should contact them to see if it was free for the results.

9 Election of officers

The following offers were re-elected:

Master – Roy Threadgold

Deputy Master – John Elliott

Treasurer – Vicki Elliott

Secretary – Linda Ranby

Education – Roy Threadgold

PR – Linda Ranby

Grants Application – Vicky LeFevre

Social Committee – Vicki Elliott

Child Protection – Roger Collins, Assoc CPO (in the absence of a N Dist. Rep)

Julie Wilkinson was concerned that there is no communication regarding child/adult protection and safeguarding, especially when there is a lot going on in the media at the moment. Janet Edwards said this information should come to the Secretary to be passed to the members.

10 Any Other Business

Maurice Downs wished to continue ringing 10-bell quarter peals during the Spring.

Vicki Elliott hoped there would be further events for the young ringers as we have 16 in our District.

Peter Wood announced that Great Bardfield were now back in action after having their work carried out.

Brian Meads thanked the Officers for their work during the year. RT also thanked Katie Deboucher and the organist for the Service and Halstead for supplying the tea and bells.

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

LR 02.05.2017

Signed 

Dated 6.5.17