

**MINUTES of the Annual District Meeting held at Wethersfield on
Saturday 6th January 2018**

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

Members Present: 41

The Master welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Andrew Brewster, Di Carpenter, Peter Chapman, Graham and Margaret Sandford-Jones, Carol Taylor, John Taylor and Isobel Thompson.

2(a) Minutes

The minutes of the District Meeting held on 7th September 2017 were accepted as an accurate record, and signed by the District Master.

2(b) Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3 Officers Reports

The Master read out his report, whilst the secretary and treasurer circulated copies of theirs. There were no questions raised following these reports.

Peter Smith passed his thanks to the District, and to John Harpole for all his hard work in running the Association.

4 Membership

Thomas Yeomans, Halstead, James William Lawson, Witham and Zoe Rowe-Pearce, Wethersfield were elected as new Members and Richard Paxford, Kelvedon has joined our district from the North East. All were in favour.

5 Nominations for Association Officers

Nominations for Association Officers should be with the Secretary by 1st February.

6 Education

John Elliott spoke to everyone saying the training days are an opportunity to do something you wouldn't necessarily be able to do in your own towers. Support of 8 good ringers, with practice and theory sessions, is a much better opportunity than struggling in your home tower. 8 places are available and interested students should contact the Secretary by 3rd February also stating what you would like to ring.

Maurice Downs suggested that Belfy Management would be useful. For example learning how long it takes to ring a touch of 120 (6 minutes). Timing being important when ringing a service touch.

7 District Calendar

Discussion about the Striking Competition in April, prompted John Harpole to share with us that he judged the SW District call change competition. However, there is currently no final – should we hold an association wide call change final? Possibly late summer/autumn and invite the Essex Young Eagles to join in, to help them gel into a band.

At the moment it seems all the Districts have different rules. In the Southern District they have to be able to ring rounds, Queens and Titums. There would have to be a harmonisation of the competition piece and rules for 2019 and the donation of a trophy.

8 Election of District Officers

John Harpole took the chair and the following were elected:

Master – Simon Ward

Deputy Master – Gareth Bennett

Treasurer – Vicki Elliott

Secretary – Linda Ranby

5 Any Other Business

Beginning in March on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 10.00am, Toppesfield will be holding a Stedman practice. Should anyone be interested in attending they should contact Vic Turner.

The funeral of Libby Lawrence was to be held on Wednesday 10th January at 2.30pm, and there was a request for someone to take the handbells to be played at the service.

Ringling Remembers is the 100th Anniversary of WWI. This is Nationwide and backed by the government. Therefore, as we are all getting older, we should cease this opportunity to recruit new and younger ringers as they are our replacements.

Janet Edwards said that the millennium "Ringling from the top" involved resources from a central source and discussion meetings. Roy Threadgold confirmed that Central Council will be involved. Ian Kerwin from Willingale has been interviewed on a local radio station.

David Learmonth asked should Saturday morning ringling school be resurrected for this purpose. RT agreed. Janet suggested that a ringling school would be required in every district.

Ian Cresshull added that as they did in the millennium, all towers should ring on the day. There should also be certificates for each tower.

Whilst ringers are shopping online through Easy Fundraising, they have managed to raise £362 for the Association.

Peter Smith showed concern regarding child protection, saying that it is still a big worry. RT responded by saying that the first point of call is the Church Parish Council, and our contact from the Association is Roger Collins. Backup from the bellringing community should give all the help and support needed. The Central Council also give good support. John Elliott added that there is a legal responsibility from the church, wardens, vicar, incumbents and PCC.

John Harpole reminded everyone that the Essex Ringing Course was being held 5th-7th April this year and the closing date would be 9th February for student applications. Under 18 years were offered a discount and there was also a Semken Scholarship place. Help was required both for ringing on the course and to help with teas too.

Simon Ward, the incoming Master, introduced himself to the members.

The District thanked Wethersfield for hosting the meeting and for supplying the tea, and the meeting closed.

Evening ringing then took place.

LR 02.05.18

Signed

Dated