

**Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held at Witham on
Saturday 4th January 2020**

Present: Simon Ward (District Master), Bradley Hill (Deputy District Master), Ian Cresshull (District Secretary), Vicki Elliott (District Treasurer), Andrew Kelso (EACR Master), Gareth Bennett, Pat Cresshull, Terry Earle, Wendy Earle, Janet Edwards, Tim Forsey, Julia Ibbotson, Vicky LeFèvre, James Lawson, David Learmonth, Alan May, Linda May, Heather Semken, Susan Sherrington, Peter Smith, Andrew Taylor, John Taylor, Cherry Threadgold, Roy Threadgold, Kieran Ward, Marian Wood, Peter Wood.

The District Master chaired the meeting. He welcomed those present and thanked the following :

David Martin for taking the service

Gareth Bennett for playing the organ

John Taylor, James Lawson and Graham Wingrove for arranging and providing the tea.

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Andrew Brewster, Christina Brewster, Maurice Downs, Kath Downs, John Elliott, Ellie Gray, Debbie Hill, Angela Kerrison, David Kerrison, Sharon Lacey, Brian Meads, Stephen Norris, Lin Ould, Richard Ould, John Pearson, Emily Thompson and Isobel Thompson.

2 Minutes & Matters Arising

The minutes of the District Meeting held on 7th September 2019 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting (proposed Gareth Bennett, seconded Roy Threadgold) and were signed by the chairman.

Simon Ward said that the transfer of Great Tey to the Northern District would not be taking place because the local ringers had decided to remain in the North-Eastern District.

The proposed e-mail poll of District members, asking for their preferences for format of District meetings, had not taken place although the committee still considered it to be a good idea.

3 Officers Reports

The reports from the Master, Secretary and Treasurer had been circulated in advance. There were no questions arising from the reports.

4 Election of new Members

There were no nominations for new Members.

5 Election of officers

Andrew Kelso took the chair for the election of the District officers.

It was agreed (proposed Peter Smith, seconded Terry Earle) that the present officers should be re-elected as a block.

The following were therefore re-elected:

Master	Simon Ward
Deputy Master	Bradley Hill
Secretary	Ian Cresshull
Treasurer	Vicki Elliott

Simon Ward returned to chair the rest of the meeting.

The following were all elected unopposed :

Education	Roy Threadgold (prop : Vicki Elliott, sec :Peter Wood)
Public Relations	Bradley Hill (prop : Simon Ward, sec : James Lawson)
Grants Applications	Vicky LeFèvre (prop : Vicki Elliott, sec : Terry Earle)
Social Committee	Susan Sherrington (prop : Vicki Elliott, sec : Bradley Hill)
Technical Officer	Gareth Bennett (prop : Ian Cresshull, sec : Simon Ward)
Website co-ordinator	Ian Cresshull (prop : Vicky LeFèvre, sec : Peter Wood)

6 Nomination of Association Officers

There were no nominations.

Andrew Kelso said that nominations would close on 1st February.

7 Education

Roy Threadgold said that he had held two theory sessions in 2019, one in April, with 8 attendees, on pure ringing theory and one in November, with 5 attendees, on the connection between the theory and practice of ringing.

A theory session on conducting was scheduled for Sunday February 9th and it was hoped that this would be a discussion sharing good practice between both experienced and novice conductors.

Training sessions would be held in March targeted at Doubles methods and in October targeted at Minor methods.

The closing date for applications for the Essex Ringing Course was February 15th. The course was due to be held on April 16th – 18th.

Cherry Threadgold asked about the selection process for applicants for the Essex Course. Andrew Kelso said that it was not based on the first people to apply getting one of the available places and that applicants who listed more than one option had a higher likelihood of getting a place.

8 Achievements

The recent Quarter Peal first achievements of District members were read out.

9 District Calendar for 2020

The proposed calendar for 2020 had been circulated before the meeting.

There would be a Tower Captains' meeting at Halstead on Sunday January 12th. All Tower Captains, or a deputy, were encouraged to attend.

The Northern District would be the host for the ringing and tea following the Association AGM on May 25th.

Simon Ward highlighted the "Raising and Lowering Expectations" meeting on June 13th at Shalford. He hoped that this would be a fun afternoon based on a competition for teams to ring up and down in peal. The rules for the competition were still be developed.

10 Centenary of the Northern District

Currently 46 Quarter Peals had been rung as part of the aim to ring 100 Quarter Peals in the District before the end of the District's centenary on November 27th 2020.

Peter Smith suggested that, if possible, a band of the present and past District Masters should ring the 100th Quarter Peal. This was agreed as a good idea and the total number of Quarter Peals rung would be monitored to allow it to happen.

A Peal was planned to be rung at Halstead on November 27th to commemorate the centenary of the first Annual District Meeting that was held there.

Vicki Elliott said that she had created a list of "100 things to do" to celebrate the centenary. The idea was that individuals record their achievements on the list and the person or tower achieving the most would be announced at the ADM in 2021. A copy of the list would be e-mailed to members.

11 Association Trustees and Rule Changes

Andrew Kelso said that a working group consisting of the senior Association officers and three Life Vice Presidents had developed a plan to reduce the number of Association charity trustees from its current 56 to 15. The reasoning behind this change was to make the management of the Association more effective. The 15 trustees would include 1 from each of the 6 Districts.

There would be 3 new sub-committees formed to work on Education, Bell Maintenance and Communications and these would report into the Management committee.

There would be a need for number of alterations to the Association rules to support these changes and also some other alterations regarding Associate membership, accounting practices and Non-resident life membership.

Full details of the changes in trustees and alterations to the rules were available on the Association website. The changes would be discussed and voted upon at the Association AGM in May.

Roy Threadgold asked whether members of the Management committee would be able to be under the age of 18 if they were no longer required to be a trustee. He was told that this would be the case.

Gareth Bennett asked whether the new category of Associate Member was aimed at people who had previously been ringers or anybody interested in ringing. He was told that it would cover both groups.

Andrew Kelso said that the District Officers would have to decide before the Association AGM which of them would become the District trustee if the changes were adopted at the meeting.

12 Any Other Business

- 1) Belchamp St Paul practices times have changed to Friday 7pm – 8pm beginners and 8pm – 9pm all abilities and all ringers would be welcome.
- 2) Andrew Kelso thanked the District for holding a successful Association Carol Service in December. He particularly thanked Coggeshall tower for providing excellent refreshments after the service.
- 3) Peter Wood said the that road between Stebbing church and Stebbing village would soon be closed for 5 months and may cause problems accessing the church.
- 4) James Lawson asked whether the arrangements for the District Outing in August could include consideration of those ringers that do not have their own transport. The possibility of hiring a coach for the outing was suggested. It was said that anyone who wanted transport should contact the District officers who would investigate whether someone could offer a lift.
- 5) Braintree bells are currently being refurbished at Whites of Appleton and are expected to be returned at the end of April.

The Braintree bell project had been selected for a grant from the Tesco “Bags of Help” scheme and this would be running at several Tesco’s stores near Braintree until the end of March.

Braintree would be holding an outing to Whites of Appleton on January 18th and places were still available.

Simon Ward thanked everyone for attending the meeting and said ringing would continue until 9pm.

The meeting closed at 7.17pm.

Signed . . . Simon Ward.

Dated9th January 2021.