

**Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held via Zoom on  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

Present: Simon Ward (District Master), Bradley Hill (Deputy District Master), Ian Cresshull (District Secretary), Vicki Elliott (District Treasurer), Andrew Kelso (EACR Master), Sharon Lacey (EACR Secretary), Andrew Brewster (EACR Treasurer), Gareth Bennett, Pat Cresshull, Kath Downs, Maurice Downs, Janet Edwards, John Elliott, Vicky LeFèvre, James Green, Debbie Hill, Angela Kerrison, David Kerrison, David Learmonth, Alan May, Linda May, David Newton, John Pearson, Tim Peckham, Peter Smith, David Sparling, Andrew Taylor, Carol Taylor, Cherry Threadgold, Roy Threadgold, Marian Wood, Peter Wood.

The District Master chaired the meeting.

**1 Welcome**

The District Master welcomed the attendees. He explained how the meeting would be conducted using the Zoom system including how attendees could indicate that they wished to speak and how they could vote.

The Master gave the names of members and past members who had died in the previous year, these were David French of Shalford, Jean Lewis of Great Yeldham and David Wallis of Felsted.

**2 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Brian Meads, Nigel Bennett, Di Carpenter and Ellis Whitehouse.

**3 Minutes & Matters Arising**

The minutes of the Annual District Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

The minutes of the District Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

The Master signed both sets of minutes.

There were no matters arising from the minutes of either meeting.

**3 Officers Reports**

The Master read his report. The reports of the Secretary and Treasurer, having been circulated in advance, were taken as read. There were no questions arising from the reports.

**4 Election of new Members**

Tim Peckham (Shalford) proposed : Marian Wood, seconded : Roy Threadgold

## **5 Election of officers**

Andrew Kelso took the chair for the election of the Master.

The following were all elected unopposed :

Master            Simon Ward (proposed : Bradley Hill, seconded : Ian Cresshull)

Simon Ward returned to chair the rest of the meeting.

Deputy Master Bradley Hill (proposed : Richard Ould, seconded : Peter Smith)

Secretary        No proposal

Treasurer        Vicki Elliott (proposed : Robert Wood, seconded : Andrew Taylor)

The following were all elected unopposed :

Education            Roy Threadgold

Public Relations    Bradley Hill

Grants Applications Vicky LeFèvre

Social Committee   Susan Sherrington

Technical Officer    John Elliott

Website co-ordinator Ian Cresshull

Kath Downs thanked the District and Association officers for coping with the difficult circumstances that we had experienced in the past year.

## **6 Nomination of Association Officers**

There were no nominations.

Andrew Kelso said that nominations would close on February 1<sup>st</sup>. He also informed the meeting of the current Association officers and the roles that would become due for election in 2021.

## **7 Education**

Roy Threadgold gave a review of the training in 2020. These included a District evening for conductors at Kelvedon, the EACR course in April had been cancelled due to the COVID 19 pandemic, an online EACR training day had gone ahead successfully in November and Roy had hosted a 5 week online theory course also in November.

Looking ahead to 2021, Roy said that he expected that training will be focussed on the recovery from lockdown and the return to normal ringing, a lot of planning would be required to accomplish this.

Roy also mentioned the new Association Education fund that will be made up of a quarter of subscriptions

## **8 District Calendar for 2021**

The proposed calendar for 2021 had been circulated before the meeting.

The calendar is essentially the same as 2020 and the proposed events would start as soon as possible.

The Northern District would be the host for the ringing and tea following the Association AGM on May 3<sup>rd</sup> if this takes place.

## **9 Centenary of the Northern District**

The planned events to celebrate the centenary of the formation of the Northern District had not taken place due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

It was hoped that some of these could still take place once restrictions have been lifted and the celebrations would be held for the 101<sup>st</sup> anniversary. The list of “100 things to do” in the centenary will be updated and will now be “101 things to do”.

The plan to ring 100 quarter peals in the centenary year will be upgraded to 101 and, up to March 2020, 63 quarter peals had been rung.

## **10 Association Rule Changes**

Andrew Kelso informed the meeting that the proposed rule changes had not been discussed at the 2020 AGM because the meeting had been held virtually and the Association management committee had felt that since many members were unfamiliar with the technology discussing an important issue such as rule changes could not be successfully done online.

It was planned to discuss the rule changes at the 2021 AGM and, if necessary, this would be done virtually as most people are now familiar with the technology.

## **11 Ringling Survival and Recovery Strategy**

David Sparling gave a presentation on the CCCBR and Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) plans for supporting and training bands once the COVID 19 lockdowns are over.

## **12 Any Other Business**

1. Subscriptions. An excellent response from ringers in the Northern District; in just over one week, approximately 25% of our ringers have made payments (subs and / or donations) to the Association, either to the District Treasurer or directly to EACR by transfer. A big thank you to everyone for their efforts at this difficult time. Towers or individuals were asked to contact the District Treasurer for details of how to pay their subscriptions at the present time or if they did not intend to renew their subscription
2. Roy Threadgold asked if it was known how many towers had continued to hold practices using the RingingRoom.com website. The exact number was not known but some towers had been holding successful practices.
3. The following people would be nominated for Life Membership at the Association AGM in May, Brian Meads, John Harpole and Beth Johnson.
4. Gareth Bennett informed the meeting that he would probably be leaving the District in the near future and return to Wiltshire. He thanked the District membership for their friendship during his time living in Essex.

5. The matter of there being no nomination for the role of secretary was discussed. Ian Cresshull informed the meeting that he was prepared to stand for election for another year. He was elected to the role, proposed by Debbie Hill and seconded by Simon Ward.
6. Bradley Hill informed the meeting that due to the COVID 19 restrictions, it had not been possible to complete the rehangng work on Braintree bells. It was now hoped that the remaining work would recommence in April 2021. To date Braintree had raised £72,000 and needed to raise a further £10,000. An EasyFundRaising account had been set up and everyone was encouraged to use it to help raise the outstanding sum.

Simon Ward thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 5.30pm.

Signed .....

Dated .....