

**Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held via Zoom on
Saturday 8th January 2022**

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), Vicki Chapman (EACR Communications Officer), Pamela Ayling, Gareth Bennett, Pat Cresshull, Kath Downs, Maurice Downs, Janet Edwards, John Elliott, Tim Forsey, Nick Holland, Sarah Holland, James Green, Debbie Hill, , Vicky LeFèvre, Marianna Marriott, Alan May, Linda May, David Newton, Tim Peckham, Susan Sherrington, Peter Smith, Andrew Taylor, Cherry Threadgold, Roy Threadgold, Ian Kerwin.

The District Master chaired the meeting.

1 Welcome

The District Master welcomed the attendees and opened the meeting with a prayer.

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 Alan Syder (Braintree), Patrick Alexander (Shalford), Tom Monk (Witham), Jo Carter (Gosfield) and John Gilbert (Stebbing). The meeting held a minute's silence in their memory.

2 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Di Carpenter, David Learmonth, John Pearson, Marian Wood and Peter Wood.

3 Minutes & Matters Arising

The minutes of the Annual District Meeting held on 9th January 2021 had been circulated in advance. There were no comments or corrections to the minutes and they were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting, proposed : Roy Threadgold, seconded : Peter Smith.

The minutes of the District Meeting held on 4th September had been circulated in advance for information only

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

4 Officers Reports

The Master read his report which highlighted some aspects of ringing in the Northern District in 2021.

The Secretary's report had been circulated in advance. The secretary informed the meeting of two minor corrections and the report was accepted as suitable for publication in the EACR Annual Report, proposed : Janet Edwards, seconded : Peter Smith.

The Treasurer's report and statement of accounts had been circulated in advance. The Secretary informed the meeting that the difference in number of members listed in the two documents was because the statement of accounts only showed members who paid their subscriptions to the District Treasurer but the report also included members who paid their subscriptions directly to the Association Treasurer.

There were no questions arising from the reports.

5 Election of new Members

Nicholas Elliott (Kelvedon), Associate member, proposed : John Elliott, seconded : Andrew Taylor

Marianna Marriott (Shalford), Ringing member, proposed : Roy Threadgold, seconded : Cherry Threadgold

6 Election of officers

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

The following were all elected unopposed :

Master	Simon Ward (proposed : Peter Smith, seconded : James Green)
Deputy Master	Bradley Hill (proposed : Peter Smith, seconded : Vicki Elliott)
Secretary	Tim Peckham (proposed : Roy Threadgold, seconded : Ian Cresshull)
Treasurer	Vicki Elliott (proposed : Robert Wood, seconded : Andrew Taylor)

The following were all elected unopposed, proposed Pat Cresshull, seconded : Maurice Downs :

District Trustee	Simon Ward
Education	Roy Threadgold
Public Relations	Bradley Hill
Grants Applications	Vicky LeFèvre
Social Committee	Susan Sherrington
Technical Officer	John Elliott
Website co-ordinator	Ian Cresshull

7 Nomination of Association Officers

There were no nominations.

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

8 Education

Roy Threadgold gave a review of the training in 2021. This included an evening ringing the 17th century Plain Changes on the 21st century Ringing Room software.

Roy updated the meeting on the work of the Association's Recruitment and Training sub-committee which had been meeting regularly in the past year. The committee has a fund that receives £2 from each member's subscription. Towers are encouraged to apply for grants from the fund for any recruitment or training purpose. Braintree have already benefitted from grants for books, a white board and money towards the installation of a simulator. Details of how to apply for grants are on the Association website or towers should contact Roy directly. The subcommittee are currently planning to produce a Recruitment handout and also considering creating a "First pealers' club" to assist ringers who want to ring their first peal but do not have the necessary contacts.

The chairman presented a list of ringing achievements of District members in 2021. The list is appended to these minutes.

9 District Calendar for 2022

The proposed calendar for 2022 had been circulated before the meeting.

The chairman highlighted some items on the calendar including the addition of a District Call Change striking competition to be held at Rayne on June 11th.

Vicki Chapman said that the CCCBR would be recommending ringing to coincide with service at St Pauls Cathedral to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II on Friday 3rd June. Maurice Downs suggested that it may be possible to form a District band of ringers who had rung on the day of the Queen's coronation.

10 Centenary of the Northern District

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

The plan to ring 100 quarter peals to celebrate the centenary had been successful with the last one being rung on the morning of the meeting. The Deputy Master presented some statistics showing the number of Quarter Peals rung at individual towers and by individual ringers.

It was uncertain how many people had participated in the "101 things to do", the chairman said that he had managed 57 of the items on the list. The District officers would be interested to hear of the results from any District members.

11 Association Spending Strategy for bequests

Andrew Kelso told the meeting that due to two generous bequests the Association was in the fortunate position of having nearly £500,000 in the Bell Restoration Account. A sub-committee had been formed to investigate how best to spend this money to the benefit of the ringing in Essex.

Andrew led a discussion about this topic asking the attendees for their views on a number of points. He concluded by asking members to contact him if they had any particular thoughts or ideas relating to this matter.

12 Association Communications and Public Relations Workgroup

Vicki Chapman gave an introduction to the work of the Communications and Public Relations Workgroup. She added that the workgroup should have a representative from each District but to date the Northern District had been unrepresented.

Vicki gave several examples of events in 2022, including football related and royal anniversaries, which could be opportunities for church bells to be rung.

13 Any Other Business

1. Andrew Kelso highlighted four Association events that would be held in 2022

Essex Ringing Course	7 th – 9 th April
AGM	2 nd May
Striking Competition Finals	9 th July
Association Dinner	8 th October
2. Gareth Bennett informed the meeting of a series of Zoom based bellringing seminars that were being organised by the Gloucester and Bristol Association. These are open to all ringers. The Secretary will circulate the details to District members.
3. The Secretary said that he had two boxes of kettles, cups, plates and cutlery that was owned by the District but had not been used for several years because recently most churches have the facilities to make refreshments. He suggested that they be donated to a church, or similar, who could make use of them. There were no objections to this plan.
4. The District Officers were thanked for their work through what had been another difficult year.
5. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 5.45pm.

Signed

Dated

EACR Northern District

Personal Achievements January 2021 – December 2021

Quarter Peals

- 1st Quarter Peal in hand : Bradley Hill, Debbie Hill
- 1st Quarter Peal in hand on an inside pair: James Green
- 1st Plain Bob Major : Ellie Gray
- 1st Plain Bob Major as conductor : Bradley Hill
- 1st Plain Bob Caters : Ellie Gray, Ellis Whitehouse
- 1st treble to Caters : Vicki Elliott
- 1st Caters and as conductor : Bradley Hill
- 1st Cambridge Surprise Minor : Ellie Gray
- 1st Plain Bob Minor and Minor as conductor : Ellis Whitehouse
- 1st as conductor on handbells : Simon Ward
- 1st Stedman Triples : Debbie Hill, James Green, Bradley Hill
- 1st Surprise Major as conductor : Bradley Hill
- 1st Treble Bob Major : Ellie Gray
- Most mixed Doubles methods : Peter Chapman, Debbie Hill, Bradley Hill
- Most mixed Doubles methods as conductor : Bradley Hill
- 1st treble to mixed Minor : Ellis Whitehouse
- 1st inside to mixed Minor : Ellie Gray
- 1st mixed Minor as conductor : Bradley Hill
- 1st Quarter Peal : Jodie Hill