

## Minutes of the Annual Northern District Meeting held at Rayne on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Present: Andrew Kelso (Association Master), Sharon Lacey (Association General Secretary), Simon Ward (District Master), Tim Peckham (District Secretary), Vicki Elliott, John Elliott, Nicholas Elliott, David Newton, Peter Smith, Andrew Taylor, Cherry Threadgold, Roy Threadgold, Janet Edwards, Vicki LeFèvre, David Learmonth, Ian Cresshull, Pat Cresshull, Gill Peters and Ian Girard.

The District Master chaired the meeting which started at 6.00pm

### 1. Welcome

The District Master thanked the Rev'd Rachel Prior for leading the service. He then welcomed Andrew Kelso, Sharon Lacey, and the attendees to the Northern District Annual Meeting, mentioning that this year would be the 145<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Association. He thanked those who had provided the refreshments.

There was a moments silence to reflect on the sad passing of Vic Turner a well-respected member of the district.

### 2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Andrew Brewster, Tim Forsey, Emily Thompson, Isobel Thompson, Terry Earle, Wendy Earle, Carol Taylor, Alan May, Linda May, Maurice Downs, Kath Downs, Jim Green, Peter Wood, and Marian Wood. (Marian is recovering from illness. Peter Smith and Cherry Threadgold told us that she is doing well. Best wishes were given from the meeting).

### 3. Minutes & Matters Arising

The minutes of the Annual District Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2023 had been circulated in advance. There were no other comments or corrections to the minutes. They were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting, proposed : Janet Edwards, seconded : Peter Smith. This was agreed by a show of hands.

Matters arising from the minutes:

A list of Northern District practice nights has been compiled and placed on the Northern District website.

A link for Association Spending Strategy for bequests was emailed to the district on 9/1/23 so that comments could be made.

### 4. Officers Reports

The Master read his report which highlighted aspects of ringing in the Northern District in 2023. The Secretary's report had been circulated in advance.

The Treasurer's report and statement of accounts had been circulated in advance. There were no questions arising from these reports.

#### 5. Election of new Members

**Gill Peters** (Witham), Ringing member, (proposed: Peter Chapman, seconded: Eric Teverson)  
**Stephen Loeber** (Witham), Associate member, (proposed: Peter Chapman, seconded: Graham Wingrove)

**Ian Girard** (Rayne), Ringing member, (proposed: Simon Ward, seconded: John Elliott)

**Bernadette Morgan** (Rayne), Ringing member, (proposed: Simon Ward, seconded: Tim Peckham)

#### 6. Announcement of Life Members (50-year-rule)

**David Jarvis** (Gosfield), and **Michael Mason** (Shalford) were congratulated by the district on their achievement.

#### 7. Election of officers

Andrew Kelso (District Master) took the chair for the election of the Master.

The following were all elected unopposed:

Master	Simon Ward (proposed : Tim Peckham, seconded : Peter Smith)
Deputy Master	John Elliott (proposed : Janet Edwards, seconded : Andrew Taylor)
Secretary	Tim Peckham (proposed : Simon Ward, seconded : Roy Threadgold)
Treasurer	David Newton (proposed : Tim Peckham, seconded : Simon Ward)
District Trustee	David Newton (proposed : Simon Ward, seconded : Tim Peckham)

Appointed officers:

Education	Roy Threadgold
Public Relations	(vacant)
Grants Applications	Ian Cresshull (volunteered after the meeting)
Social Committee	(vacant)
Technical Officer	John Elliott
Website co-ordinator	Ian Cresshull

(Andrew Kelso mentioned the importance of having officers in all posts to represent the district at association committee meetings.)

#### 8. Nomination of Association Officers

There were no nominations from the Northern District.

## 9. Reports from Supporting Officers

a. Education Officer's Report: Roy Threadgold's report had been circulated in advance. He summarised the contents in a speech noting that the EACR Recruitment and Training Committee had been very busy.

M1 and M2 Association of Ringing Teachers Training courses can be arranged by Beth Johnson ([education@eacr.org](mailto:education@eacr.org)) once there are six prospective students. See <https://ringingteachers.org>

The Essex International Scout Jamboree is being held near Writtle from 27th July to 3rd August. Volunteers will be needed to man the mini-ring.

NB. There are over 40 documents on EACR Resources: <https://eacr.org.uk/education/links.html>

Need help with your 1<sup>st</sup> Peal. Join the 1st Pealer's Club: Contact Yvonne Towler on [jytowler@btinternet.com](mailto:jytowler@btinternet.com)

Ringing has been encouraged at Essex University as well as in schools. There have been Training Mornings at Toppesfield, Halstead and Stisted where methods including Grandsire Triples and Stedman have been practiced. Roy ran a two-afternoon "Ropesight" event at Wethersfield and plans to have another session soon.

b. Technical Officer's Report: The Steeple Keeping Course on the Essex Ringing Course was recommended.

## 10. District Calendar for 2023

The proposed calendar for 2023 had been circulated before the meeting.

The master brought the following events to the attention of the meeting:

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024, District Striking Competition.

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2024, District Social Evening.

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2025, Annual District Meeting.

It was noted that there were plans to rotate the Advanced Practice, held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month at Braintree, around six towers in the district. An extensive discussion ensued. Peter Smith said that a private group of ringers had started the Advanced Practice. It was then adopted as a District event at Braintree approximately 20 years ago. As such the practice should remain in Braintree. Simon Ward suggested a vote. Ian Cresshull wondered if there was a need for a change. Vicki Elliott was concerned about the long ladder at Braintree which is a challenge for less mobile ringers. David Learmonth thought that, may be, the Advanced practice is too advanced.

Andrew Kelso questioned what do the basic learners have? John Elliott suggested that on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month there should be a "basic" practice. Ian Cresshull felt that these practices should be "to advance", rather than "advanced". Andrew Taylor suggested that for a good attendance, Saturday practices should be in the morning. Nicholas Elliott noted that too many venues on the calendar were tbc (to be confirmed).

