

## **EACR – Northern District**

### **MINUTES of the District Meeting held at Rayne on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012**

Present: Peter Smith (PS) District Master  
Ian Hamilton (IH) Deputy District Master  
Annemarie Adams (AA) Secretary

Members Present: 14

#### **1 Welcome and apologies for absence**

PS welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Peter Eves, an Essex Association Life Vice-President. He also announced that Peter Wood, who had been admitted to hospital, was now at home. PS said that the District sent its good wishes to him for a steady recovery.

Apologies were received from Q Brown, A and M Cansdale, D Carpenter, K Champness, I and P Cresshull, P and V Darkins, B Hill, D Hill, E Jolley, V LeFèvre, D Newton, R and L Ould, C Threadgold, J Watkins and P and M Wood.

#### **2 Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting, which had been circulated, were unanimously accepted and duly signed as a true record.

Proposed: J Elliott  
Seconded: R Threadgold

#### **3 Matters Arising**

Following a very enjoyable barbecue in August, PS again thanked Vic and Wendy Turner for hosting the event at which £200 was raised for the Bell Restoration Fund.

On behalf of the District, PS congratulated the team that had entered the National Youth Competition and come fourth equal. He had attended their first practice and then a subsequent one just before the competition. In the interim, an enormous improvement had been made and this was their greatest achievement. R Threadgold, who coached the team, said that they had worked very hard and had thoroughly enjoyed taking part. They had the disadvantage of ringing first and the practice rounds had proved difficult but the team settled as the test piece was started. It is hoped that the team will enter the competition to be held in York next year but an additional ringer will be needed as Bradley Hill will be over the age limit by then. B Meads said that, given the venue, it was unlikely that teams could make a day trip to compete so there was a move to look for cheap accommodation in York and make a weekend outing of it.

IH announced that a Conducting Workshop had been arranged for Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October. R Threadgold said that there was plenty of help and advice for those just starting conducting. However, there was then a void in providing help for those wishing to get to the next level of expertise. It was hoped that the workshop would help bridge that gap and help take people on to conducting more difficult compositions. He hoped that the capable conductors would attend so that they could have a brain-storming session. It was important that ringers who would benefit from the workshop should be identified and encouraged to attend. B Meads said he would come and help.

#### **4 Nominations for Membership**

One new ringing member was unanimously accepted:

Karen Abbie – Earls Colne

Proposed: I Hamilton  
Seconded: V LeFèvre

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### 5 Communication

IH pointed out that, although the District now has an e-mail contact for each tower, the information was not necessarily being passed on the individual members. In visiting some towers during the week, this District Meeting was not mentioned and so people were not being reminded of it and encouraged to take part. In order to address this, individual e-mails were being collected so that in due course a news sheet could be sent out monthly to all members. A list had been put together for each tower showing which e-mail addresses were missing. B Meads pointed out that some members might not want their addresses known. He also mentioned that there was a move to have a tower e-mail address on the Essex website, which would then go through to an individual's address without the latter information being revealed.

**Action: AA to e-mail the list of missing addresses to each tower**  
**Action: AA to gain tower correspondents' permission re Essex website**

PS mentioned that the position of PR contact for the District was still vacant and encouraged the members to try and identify someone who could take this on. Liaison with the press was not required as that would be done by Tracey Southgate, the Association PR Officer (TS). However, it would be helpful for her if there was a single contact in the District to act as a contact point. It would be two-way communication with information about Northern District events being passed to her and Essex Association information being passed back. B Meads pointed out that TS was always ready to help in raising the profile of local events. D Learmonth said that AA encouraged towers to keep TS informed of their activities as in the case of the Jubilee and Olympic ringing. M Downs confirmed that TS had been informed of their ringing on these occasions.

### 6 Achievements

The achievements listed in the Ringing World up to 31<sup>st</sup> August had been circulated. PS asked that any omissions should be given to him and he would amend the list. He noted especially the achievement by Ross Playle and asked that the list should be displayed in all towers to encourage others to get their names on the list for the next meeting.

### 7 Education

D Learmonth (DL) said that the Felsted bells were now back ringing following the building work in the church. However, no further training was currently planned. A private training day had been held with five learners who had progressed very well and whose handling had markedly improved with all but one being able to ring rounds by the end of the session. One of them had never rung beforehand. IH said that a follow-up day should be organised to take this group on to ringing call changes and he would be happy to help. The District was encouraged to take up such training days and towers should contact DL, PS or IH to organise these.

**Action: All towers**

R Threadgold said that the Ridgewell band were keen to set up a training day.

**Action: RT and DL to liaise on this**

### 8 Quarter 4

PS mentioned the 10-bell practice at Coggeshall on 13<sup>th</sup> October. He also encouraged people to ring during the November Quarter Peal month, especially those who attend the Conduction Workshop. He hoped the Quiz Night, also in November, would be well-attended. J Elliott said that it would be a 7.00 for 7.30 pm start and there would be a fish and chip supper. People would need to bring

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their own drinks and cutlery. The Kelvedon band would be ringing a Quarter Peal before the Quiz. It would be held in the church hall and numbers would be limited to 40 people this year. The vicar had agreed to be the Quiz Master.

### **9 Any Other Business**

J Elliott reminded the meeting of the special practice at Kelvedon on the first Tuesday of every month. He pointed out that there were few towers where ringers could make the transition to triples and major with the help of those experienced at this level. A short time with such help could equate to several month's work at a normal practice. Having someone to stand by and help an individual learner is especially helpful but to reach this level requires regular attendance at such practices. There are a number of expert ringers at this level but the need is to train others to take their place or this talent will be lost. M Downs pointed out that ringers could also attend the monthly Advanced Practice.

PS mentioned that nominations for District Officers had to be received by 1<sup>st</sup> December. He confirmed that he would be standing down at the end of the year and a new Master would have to be appointed. Any nominations should be passed to AA.

B Meads reminded members that the Annual Dinner would take place on 6<sup>th</sup> October and said that everyone should think about attending as it would be a very good evening. PS endorsed this and pointed out that it was an occasion when all those in the Association could get together.

PS then thanked Reverend Keith Holloway for the thought-provoking and inspiring service and undertook to send his thanks in writing. He also thanked B Meads for taking over playing for the service at short notice. The Rayne ringers were thanked for the use of their bells and also for the excellent tea they provided.

Following this the meeting was closed and the evening continued with ringing at Great Dunmow.