

## EACR – Northern District

### MINUTES of the District Meeting held at Witham on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2014

Present: Ian Hamilton (IH) Master  
Jonathan Thompson (JT) Deputy Master  
Annemarie Adams (AA) Secretary

Members Present: 18

IH opened the meeting by welcoming John Harpole from Basildon, who had been elected the new Essex Association Master at the AGM earlier in the week.

#### 1 Apologies

D Carpenter, J Culemann, K Champness, D Learmonth, V LeFèvre

#### 2(a) Minutes

The minutes of the last Annual Meeting were accepted as an accurate record.

Proposed: J Elliott

Seconded: P Wood

#### 2(b) Matters Arising

K Thompson had taken on the role of representing the District on the Association Social Committee.

IH reported that both the ringing in the afternoon following the AGM on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2014 and the associated tea at Sible Hedingham had been well supported. He thanked D Jude, V and W Turner, J Lewis, K Abbie, G Tobbell, W Upson, M Wood, D Carpenter, K Thompson, V Elliott, D Jennings's wife and V Hamilton for their help in making the afternoon so successful. B Meads said that the towers available after the tea were a little early and suggested that the ringing times for these should start at 6.00 or 6.30 pm.

**Action: AA to amend the procedure note**

#### 3 Membership

##### *New Ringing Members*

Lydia Swan (Junior) – Black Notley  
Michael Abrahams – Earls Colne  
Donna Goodchild – Earls Colne  
Jennifer Buhaenko-Smith – Stebbing  
Angela Knight – Stebbing  
Graeme Knight – Stebbing

##### Proposed

E Andrews  
K Abbie  
K Abbie  
P Wood  
M Wood  
P Wood

##### Seconded

D Hammond  
T Beadle  
I Hamilton  
M Wood  
P Wood  
M Wood

##### *Re-joining Members*

Mark Barnes – Castle Hedingham  
David Osgood – Great Yeldham

##### Proposed

M Brewster  
V LeFèvre

##### Seconded

P Darkins  
I Hamilton

##### *Friend to Ringing Member*

Philip Cornwell – Great Yeldham

All the above were unanimously elected.

None of the new members was present at the meeting. IH asked everyone to encourage prospective new members to come to the meeting at which they were being elected.

#### 4 Communication

The Report of the February Management meeting had been circulated and IH drew attention to the fact that the Colne Engaine bells had been repaired and were again ringable.

#### 5 Achievements List

IH highlighted the following achievements within the District.

## **EACR – Northern District**

Jackie Cornell from Coggeshall rang her 1<sup>st</sup> QP trebling to Plain Bob Minor.  
John Randall from Kelvedon rang his 1<sup>st</sup> QP as tenor behind to Plain Bob Doubles.  
Michael Mead from Ridgewell rang his 1<sup>st</sup> QP inside to Plain Bob Doubles.

There following QPs resulted in 1<sup>st</sup> in method achievements for those named.

Original Minor – D Carpenter, K Champness, D Learmonth, I Cresshull (1<sup>st</sup> as C)  
Snowdrop TB Minor – D Carpenter, V LeFèvre, P Smith  
Oxford TB Minor – K Champness  
Kent TB Minor – A Mackle

Matt Bayley from Witham conducted his 1<sup>st</sup> QP of a Major method (Plain Bob Major).

In addition, Pat and Ian Cresshull rang their 1,000 and 1,100 QPs respectively.

IH also mentioned that Alistair Donaldson, a former District Master, had rung his 1<sup>st</sup> QP of Original Minor at Felsted.

### **6 Education**

A District Training Day working on Grandsire Triples had been held in March and JT reported that the students had all made progress. He said that the next step was to follow up the students to make sure that further progress was being made.

**Action: IH and JT**

R Threadgold had held a six-week course in bell handling and the seven students had all benefitted from having three different teachers working with them at each session. M Wood pointed out that the progress made by the students needed to be carried on in their home towers.

**Action: Teachers from the course**

IH said seven students had gained places on the Essex Course and felt sure that the intensive three-day training they had had would be a boost to their ringing and would be something they could capitalise on.

In November, the District would be hosting the Association Training Day. He would like the tower captains to provide information as to what methods would be helpful for their ringers. It was likely that there would be a need for groups doing Plain Bob Doubles, Plain Bob Minor and Grandsire Doubles. However, IH would like suggestions for the fourth group. He would also be canvassing the other District Masters to find out what methods they would find useful for their ringers.

**Action: IH and Tower Captains**

### **7 Events**

The main event over the summer months would be a Summer Walk and Ring on 19<sup>th</sup> July on the Suffolk border taking in Belchamp St Paul, Clare, Cavendish and Pentlow towers.

There were several options for taking part. The afternoon would begin with a picnic lunch and ringing at Belchamp St Paul, following which there were three options.

Option 1 – Drive to Clare and ring, have tea at Clare, then drive to Cavendish to ring (or drive to Cavendish and have tea prior to ringing), have supper and then go on to ring at Pentlow.

Option 2 – Walk to Cavendish, have tea and then ring there prior to dinner in one of the Cavendish pubs, following which there is ringing at Pentlow.

Option 3 – Walk to Clare and ring, then walk to Cavendish to ring have dinner and then ring at Pentlow.

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The ringing times were listed in the programme for the day attached to these Minutes. There would also be photographs of the routes on the website in due course.

In order to raise money for the Bell Restoration Fund, those taking part would be looking to members to sponsor them for this event.

### **Action: All members**

The District Striking Competition would be held at Belchamp St Paul on 7th June. Coggeshall wished to take part and Stisted/Bocking, Wethersfield and Witham also indicated interest but would confirm this definitely in due course. It was hoped that other towers would join in. There would be both a call changes and method competition. There was no requirement to be a member of the Association to participate in the District heats, although there was to participate in the Association finals.

### **Action: Tower Captains**

Janet Edwards mentioned the outing she was organising to the Whitechapel Bell Foundry on 26<sup>th</sup> July. She planned to arrange for ringing in two London towers on that day, one before lunch and one after. Some tickets were still available and members should contact her if they wished to join this tour.

A coach had been organised to visit the Ringing Roadshow which was held every four years and which would be in Newbury this year on 6<sup>th</sup> September. Janet Edwards was organising this and anyone wishing to go to the Roadshow should contact her. The show covered all aspects of ringing with the opportunity to try out mini-rings and attend the lecture sessions. The cost would be £25.00, which included the £10.00 entrance fee. She required a deposit of £10.00 when members booked their place on the coach.

B Meads mentioned the Annual Dinner taking place on 4<sup>th</sup> October at the County Hotel in Chelmsford. He admitted that it was rather expensive at £34 per ticket but felt that such an event could not be arranged for a lower price and still maintain the quality. He pointed out that the food at the hotel had improved a great deal in the last couple of years and felt it was value for money. All the funds raised by the raffle would go to the Bell Restoration Fund.

## 12 Any Other Business

M Downs (MD) talked about the 10-bell practices he ran monthly on Sunday afternoons. He said that numbers attending had dwindled and wondered if it was still a viable practice. IH thought he should continue running it and encourage people to have fun ringing on the higher numbers. MD was also looking to encourage new conductors of methods on these numbers. He would like to ring a QP of Grandsire Caters with past and present District Officers before the end of this year. The next practice would be on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May at Bocking between 2.30 and 4.00 pm. Current methods under study were Grandsire, Stedman Caters and Erin Caters and anyone interested in taking part in these practices should contact MD.

As a means of raising funds for the Bell Restoration Fund, K Thompson suggested an inter-District Quiz evening with six teams, one from each District. This was felt to be an interesting idea worth following up.

IH then thanked John Elliott for the ringing at Kelvedon and John Taylor and the Witham band for organising the tea and meeting, and arranging for further ringing at Witham.

The meeting was then declared closed.

Signed .....

Date .....