

EACR – Northern District

MINUTES of the District Meeting held at Sible Hedingham on Saturday 11th May 2013

Present: Ian Hamilton (IH) District Master
Annemarie Adams (AA) Secretary

Members Present: 19

1 Welcome and apologies for absence

IH welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from P and V Darkins, J Elliott, D Learmonth, V LeFèvre, W and A Pannell, C Threadgold and J Watkins.

IH explained that comments had been made at the Annual District Meeting (ADM) in January about waiting a year to approve the previous ADM minutes. The minutes of meetings are now produced within a fortnight and are available on the website in draft form for members to review. They are also circulated about a fortnight prior to any meeting along with the agenda and any supporting papers. IH felt that in future each meeting should approve the minutes of the previous one and this was agreed. In view of this change, both the minutes of the September 2012 and those of the ADM would be agreed at this meeting.

2 Minutes of the Meeting on 5th January 2013

IH reviewed the action points from the ADM and commented on the very informative theory sessions that Roy Threadgold had held from February to April.

M Downs (MD) stated that there were fourteen people involved in working towards the quarter peal (QP) to be rung at Chelmsford Cathedral. Two practice QPs had been rung in local towers which had been helpful in improving the ringing. Although he felt that more practice was needed, a QP would be attempted at the Cathedral on 19th May. One of the proposed band could not now ring and MD said that, if necessary, a member of the Cathedral ringers would be able to help. Following the QP, he hoped to keep the band together in order to continue ringing on these higher numbers with the aim of ringing another QP by the end of the year. There was a good nucleus of ringers in the District capable of ringing on these higher numbers and he wished to encourage this, thereby increasing the confidence of those taking part.

The minutes of the Annual District meeting were then unanimously approved.

Proposed: M Wood
Seconded: A Taylor

3 Minutes of the Meeting on 1st September 2012

These minutes were unanimously approved.

Proposed: R Threadgold
Seconded: V Elliott

4 Report of Management Meeting – 2nd February 2013

IH mentioned that all the Districts in the Association were having difficulty in finding members willing to take on administrative roles. He pointed out that this District still did not have a member on the Social Committee and encouraged people to consider undertaking this role.

EACR – Northern District

5 Membership

The following people were elected members:

New Ringing Members	Proposed	Seconded
Christopher Watson – Great Easton	G Potter	J Gilbert
Samuel Newton – Pebmarsh	P Darkins	V LeFèvre
Joanna Bisset-Smith – Stebbing	S Gilbert	N Bromley
John Taylor – Witham	K Champness	I Cresshull
Re-joining the Association		
S Walker – Black Notley	D Hammond	E Andrews
Friend		
Emily Thompson	J Elliott	V Elliott

6 Communication

The monthly newsletter was being widely circulated and well-received. MD pointed out that the Advance Practice was a good vehicle for moving ringers on to 10 and 12-bell ringing and encouraged members to join it. One improvement would be to publicise the method to be rung at this practice so that participants had time to study it beforehand.

Action: IH to discuss this with D Hill

IH reminded members that the Northern District Facebook page was active and proving useful in providing information about practices and events at short notice. He then read the following notes prepared by Angie Pannell who manages this resource.

The Facebook page is up and running we currently have 28 “likes” but I would like to encourage more people to follow the page by hitting ‘like’. This way the postings will appear on their own newsfeeds. I would also encourage those who follow the page to share posts on their own wall to circulate the page better.

For those “non-Facebookers” who are concerned about things going on Facebook that they do not have access to, I only include details (names and/or photos) of people who also use the site. It has not happened yet, but if anyone else posts onto the District page something that I think is inappropriate, it will be removed.

7 Achievements

IH informed the meeting that Angela Pannell was now compiling this list using Bellboard as all the Campanophile entries were automatically copied on to this resource. This was done on a weekly basis. However, in changing to this new method of collecting the data some of the QPs rung towards the end of 2012 had been missed as they had not appeared in the Ringing World where there could be delays of weeks, or even months, before publication. IH listed those that were known to have been omitted and Roy Threadgold made some further additions. In reviewing the achievements, IH said he was impressed with the variety of methods being attempted.

8 Education

IH thanked Roy Threadgold for the very enjoyable and informative theory sessions he had run between February and April.

A successful training session on Plain Bob Triples and Major had been held and IH asked members to let him know of any specific training that they would like

EACR – Northern District

organised in the District. One problem that affected most towers was bell handling and a training session was being planned for this. IH asked members to provide him with the names of those who would find this useful.

IH informed the meeting that both he and David Learmonth had been trained on Module 1 of the ITTS (Initial Teacher Training Scheme) teaching programme. They were now putting this knowledge into practice and would report back to the September meeting on the results.

9 Quarter 2 Events

IH stated that preparations were in hand for the Striking Competition at Gosfield on 8th June. For the first time for some years, this would include bands ringing call changes as well as those ringing methods. Bands from Wethersfield, Stisted and Great Bardfield had already indicated they would take part and IH encouraged other towers to consider entering, reminding them that towers could combine to form a band.

He reminded the meeting that there was evening ringing at Pentlow, a beautiful, rural round tower, on 13th July and that the summer BBQ would be held at Vic and Wendy Turner's house on 3rd August with ringing at Toppesfield beforehand.

10 Any Other Business

M Wood informed the meeting that there would be no practice at Finchingfield on 22nd May and this information would be put on Facebook.

A Cansdale asked whether the format for the District meetings was to be that of this one with just tea and biscuits. IH said that this had been a result of the situation at Sible Hedingham where the tower captain could not attend and there was no band to provide the normal ringing tea. In addition, the church currently had no vicar. M Cansdale said that she would be happy to help with any catering should this situation arise in the future.

P Smith said that Black Notley were currently practising on a Friday from 5.45-6.45 pm in order to help their young learners. He asked anyone available at that time to go along and help. P Smith was asked to find out if Black Notley were prepared to accept more learners from other towers. It was felt that this information should be put on Facebook.

V Elliott raised the question of the District Quiz. This had had to be cancelled at short notice as there were not enough members wishing to take part but there had been no feed-back as to why this had happened. In the following discussion, it was suggested that possibly the timing of the event (early November) was a contributing factor, given that there are many other events at that time of year. Members did not feel it was lack of interest in quizzes. D Newton suggested that some prospective dates should be e-mailed to the membership to ascertain when might be a better time to hold it.

Action: AA to e-mail dates to the membership

IH reviewed the AGM saying that B Meads had indicated that he would not stand again for Master at next year's meeting and members needed to consider who might succeed him in this role.

Two Life Members from Northern District had been named: Janet Edwards and Heather Semken.

The Essex Course would be held on 10-12th April 2014.

There was a new Education Officer in Richard Wilson and Nigel Taylor had taken on the role of Technical Advisor. The PR Officer position was still vacant.

The 6-bell Striking competition would be held at North Ockendon with the 8-bell taking place at South Ockendon. The touch for the latter competition would be 265 changes of St Clement's Triples.

EACR – Northern District

A Taylor informed members that A Semken's treatment was going well and he was currently in remission and awaiting news of whether further treatment was needed. He was ringing a little on Sundays but was still very weak.

IH then thanked members for attending the meeting and encouraged them to stay on and enjoy further ringing in the Sible tower.

Following this the meeting was closed.

AA – 19.5.13