

**MINUTES of the District meeting held at Castle Hedingham on
Saturday 11th May 2019**

Present: Simon Ward (District Master), Bradley Hill (Deputy District Master), Vicki Elliott (Treasurer), Roy Threadgold, Peter Smith, Tim Forsey, Ellis Whitehouse, Debbie Hill, Ellie Gray, Janet Edwards, Julia Ibbotson, David Newton, Kieran Ward, Marian Wood, Peter Wood.

The District Master chaired the meeting.

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Terry Earle, Wendy Earle, Maurice Downs, Kath Downs, Vicky LeFèvre, Pat Cresshull, Ian Cresshull, Susan Sherrington, Laurence Carter, Cherry Threadgold, Andrew Taylor, Heather Semken

2(a) Minutes & Matters Arising

The minutes of the District Meeting held on 2nd March 2019 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the chairman.

2(b) Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3 Election of new Members

Nominations for Ringing Membership:

Unattached	Timothy Forsey
Gt Bardfield	Susan Cornell
Halstead	Joy Bradshaw

The above were duly elected.

4 Education

a. Ringing School

There were only 1 ½ sign-ups for the ringing school so it was cancelled.

Janet Edwards felt that people tend to learn in their own tower so unless there is a large number of people, they won't get involved in a course.

Roy Threadgold suggested a reunion practice for the Ringing Remembers learners in November.

Peter Smith suggested contacting towers to see if there are the learners that want the course.

Vicki Elliott mentioned that there were a number of learners that did not get on the Essex ringing course and therefore may appreciate a course.

Debbie Hill suggested that running a course of a Saturday may prevent people from coming as they have other commitments but holding it on a weekday evening may increase interest.

b. Training Session, Gosfield

This session concentrated on Grandsire Doubles. There were 2 learners that made great progress and felt the session was very helpful. We had a high number of helpers turn up.

c. Basic Theory Training Session

There were 8 attendees and all felt the session was extremely helpful. There is interest for further sessions.

5 Achievements

The recent Quarter Peal first achievements of District members were read out.

6 Centenary of the Northern District

Simon Ward said that on 9th June 1919 at the Association AGM the Northern District was created. The minutes of the new district's first ADM were dated 27th November 1920. He proposed that we ring 100 quarter peals during the period June 9th 2019 to Nov 27th 2020.

Janet Edwards suggested we had a social for the AGM 100 anniversary on 27th November 2020

Simon Ward suggested that there were a lot of peals rung in 1919 and we should re-create as many as possible 100 years on. Peter Smith added that they might not all be on peal boards in towers and that we should check paper records.

Roy Threadgold mentioned that we are hosting the teas and ringing after the association AGM next year in May. He proposed that we did something then.

7 District Calendar

Simon Ward read through the events on the calendar throughout June.

Regarding the Coggeshall monthly 10 bell practice, Vicki Elliott commented that there is no direct communication about it and that if a separate email was sent to the District or Association on behalf of Coggeshall ringers this would give it more prominence and a method (plain hunt on 9 or 10 for now) would give some ringers confidence to attend having looked at it. Janet Edwards said that she would do this but at the moment they don't get enough ringers to commit to what they will be able to ring.

Bradley Hill confirmed that the 'Advance Practice' at Braintree was to allow people to be able to ring methods that they wouldn't normally be able to ring in their home towers. It was not for advanced methods and everybody is welcome.

Simon Ward highlighted that there will be a mini outing in August. Ringing will be at Helions Bumpstead, Radwinter and Saffron Walden. More information will be released once this has been organised.

8 Any Other Business

- (1) On the 25th May there is a practice at Toppesfield.
- (2) The Essex Association dinner is currently £30 but goes up to £34 this week.
- (3) Braintree bells will be out of action Nov 2019 to April 2020 due to refurbishment.
- (4) All annual reports have been distributed – next year there is a requirement for information on tower postcodes and simulator details.
- (5) At the Association AGM there were 2 new life presidents, 2 new life members and 3 life members under the 50 year rule.
- (6) The Association is planning on reducing the number of Trustees it has. This is being reviewed by a working group.
- (7) The Association six bell striking competition final will be held at Eastwood and the 8 bell striking competition will be held at Rochford.
- (8) The Association carol service will be held at Coggeshall on 7th December.
- (9) Steve Nash would like any comments or feedback on the ringing course.
- (10) The Association has a new Secretary – Sharon Lacey
- (11) Donald Heath of Romford tower has recently passed away. He has left a bequest of ½ his Estate to the Association. Andrew Kelso would like suggestions on what the Association should do with the funds. Janet Edwards suggested that we build a training centre somewhere in the district for all to use.
- (12) Peter Wood announced that Gt Bardfield have had their hand bells refurbished.
- (13) Simon Ward expressed his thanks to David Newton and his wife for providing teas and biscuits.
- (14) Simon Ward explained that Great Tey would like to re-join our district. The members all felt this was a good idea. Simon would look into how this can be arranged officially. He added that he would like to ring a quarter peal in October at Great Tey to represent they re-joining. Vicki Elliott though this was a good idea as it would be 100 years since the 1st meeting there.
- (15) Peter Smith asked if Roy Threadgold's ringing assessment can be circulated by email.

The meeting closed at 18:11.

Signed

Dated

