

EACR – Northern District

MINUTES of the District Meeting held at Gestingthorpe on Saturday 12th May 2012

Present: Peter Smith (PS) District Master
Ian Hamilton (IH) Deputy District Master
Vicky Le Fèvre (VLeF) Treasurer
Annemarie Adams (AA) Secretary

Members Present: 10

1 Welcome

PS welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially John Everett from the South-Eastern District.

2 Apologies

Apologies were received from D Carpenter, K Champness, P Darkins, T and W Earle, J Elliott, E Jolley, L Laurence, D Learmonth, D Newton, C Threadgold, V and W Turner, and J Watkins.

3 Minutes of the Last Meeting

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

Proposed: A Cansdale
Seconded: I Hamilton

4 Matters Arising

R Threadgold (RT) informed the meeting that the name of the team going to the National Youth Competition in Birmingham on 30.6.12 was the Jammy Dodgers. He said that fourteen teams had entered the competition, two of which were from Essex. PS asked RT to pass on good wishes from the District to the team. RT mentioned that the team were to be ringing for the service at Braintree the following day.

5 Nominations for Membership

One new ringing member was unanimously accepted:

Trevor Beadle – Earls Colne

Proposed: I Hamilton
Seconded: V LeFèvre

PS reported that three members of the District had been elected Life Members at the AGM following fifty years continuous membership of the Association, namely A Cansdale, K Downs and M Wood. This District had also been the only one from which all those being elected were present at the AGM.

6 Feedback from the Annual General Meeting – 7th May 2012

PS reported that Colin Chapman, Annual Report editor, had asked that any changes to the information contained in the report should be sent to him, via the committee, as they occurred in order that the data could be continually up-dated.

There was a vacancy on the Executive Committee for a Technical Adviser. The importance of this role had been highlighted when PS had had a call from Foxearth as to who they should contact for technical advice on the work needed to restore the bells there. PS asked that the names of any possible candidates should be passed to Brian Meads. Several people had already been approached and B Meads was concerned that they should not be contacted again.

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PS informed the meeting that those interested in taking part in the Striking Competition should contact IH.

The Essex Course 2013 was scheduled for 4th-6th April and PS asked that members make themselves available as helpers. There had been a shortage of helpers this year and the organisers were concerned that such a shortage might result in fewer groups being run next year.

PS congratulated those who had taken part in the 'Ringing for England' event. He pointed out that there were two further events taking place on 20th May at Harwich and 24th June at Waltham Abbey for which help was needed. He asked that people available to help should contact Tracey Southgate.

The centenary of the augmentation of the Chelmsford Cathedral bells was to be celebrated next year and an invitation would be extended to Districts and individual towers to go and ring a quarter peal there. The cathedral band would make themselves available to help those who did not have enough members capable of 10- or 12-bell ringing.

The centenary of the Diocese in 2014 was also mentioned.

7 Public Relations

PS again raised the issue of the lack of a PR contact for the District. The role only involved letting Tracey Southgate know of events in the District and being a contact point for her to pass information out to us. He asked that the names of any possible candidates should be passed to members of the committee.

8 Achievements

The achievements listed in the Ringing World up to 11th May had been circulated. PS asked that any omissions should be given to him and he would amend the list. He asked that the list be displayed in the towers in the hope of encouraging more QP ringing.

9 Training

PS invited IH to address this issue. IH stated that the Ringing School as it had been organised was no longer viable as there was both a lack of students and difficulty in finding enough helpers. It was felt that help for individual towers was the way training needed to be carried out in future. Once the Felsted bells were back ringing, a day's training for the Ridgewell ringers would be held as this would enable them to ring on Sundays without outside help. Beyond this, help would be given to bands depending on what they required and members were asked to let the committee know what they needed.

In addition to this, a new group was being established at Kelvedon on the first Tuesday of the month to encourage ringers who wished to move on to 7- and 8-bell ringing including Double Norwich CB Major. The first meeting of this group would be on 3.7.12 when the method would be Plain Bob Triples. This practice would be open to anyone but the method chosen needed to be studied in advance and people needed to be open to constructive criticism as one of the objectives of the group was to improve striking in the District.

A Cansdale mentioned that Halstead needed help with new ringers who were still learning basic handling. PS suggested that he speak to IH after the meeting.

Action: IH

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R Threadgold (RT) raised the question of training for conductors. There was little in place to help those wishing to move on from calling unaffected touches of Plain Bob Doubles to more challenging touches/methods. RT suggested an extended session, possibly on a Saturday, at which theory could be discussed in the afternoon and then practical work undertaken in the early evening. Alternatively, a day's training might be the way forward. PS undertook to look into this, identifying those who would benefit from such training. Thereafter a date and location would be arranged, preferably after September when RT would be available. Further discussion would be held at the next meeting.

Action: IH and RT to organise

10 Future Events

PS talked about the District Striking Competition and the need for towers to take part. M Wood felt that there were not enough towers in the District who would wish to take part. PS said that a decision needed to be made quickly as to whether it was viable or not. IH suggested that a team from the District might be entered into the Association competition. Two bands could go forward to the competition. M Wood felt it was too late to organise judges for a District competition and it was decided that it should be cancelled. The date planned for the competition would be used as a District Practice instead.

Action: AA to amend the Quarterly Programme

IH was to be in charge of the band from the District entering the 8-bell competition and Coggeshall was the best tower in which to practice for this.

PS encouraged everyone to ring for the Jubilee and the Olympics. Tracey Southgate should be informed of any ringing planned for these events.

The summer BBQ would be held at Vic and Wendy Turner's house following ringing at Toppesfield. Tickets would be available at the end of June from the committee as this would give the Turners an idea of the numbers attending.

The next District meeting would be held on 1st September and PS encouraged all to attend.

11 AOB

PS reminded the meeting that Ted Tennant had a supply of good quality, reasonably-priced stays and that he had a sample in the car if anyone wished to see them.

IH asked about charging for the tea and it was agreed that a voluntary donation of £3.00 should be given to the Treasurer.

10 Votes of Thanks

PS then thanked Reverend King for the service and the inspiring prayer for bell-ringers that she had written, which had encapsulated everything involved in the Exercise. He also thanked P Wood for playing and for his choice of hymn and then went on to thank all those who had helped to provide the tea.

Following this the meeting was closed and the evening continued with ringing in Gestingthorpe.