

## EACR – Northern District

### MINUTES of the District Meeting held at Great Dunmow on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2014

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

Members Present: 28

#### 1 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

JT welcomed everyone and was pleased that there were so many members present.

Apologies were received from K Champness, I and P Cresshull, J Culemann, P and V Darkins, T and W Earle, I Hamilton, B Hill, D Hill, P Kelly, V LeFèvre, A Taylor, C Threadgold

#### 2 Minutes

Subject to the two amendments under 2(a) below, the minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Proposed: M Downs

Seconded: P Smith

#### 2(a) Matters Arising

6 M Wood pointed out that she had not suggested that the tutors on the bell-handling course should visit the students in their home towers to follow up on their progress. She had merely said that the students should have their achievements reinforced in their home towers.

7 A correction was needed to the information regarding the Ringing Roadshow. This is held every four years and not two or three as stated.

#### **Action: AA**

JT reminded members that any outstanding sponsorship monies or donations from the Summer Walk and Ring should be paid in to the Treasurer.

M Downs (MD) stated that he wished to talk about the Striking Competition but would raise this in Any Other Business.

#### 3 Membership

##### *New Ringing Members*

Gareth Davies (Junior) – Braintree

Jon Wallis – Felsted

Lukas Wallis (Junior) – Felsted

Susan Sherrington – Gosfield

Elisabeth Isaac – Shalford

##### Proposed

D Hill

D Learmonth

D Learmonth

W Turner

R Threadgold

##### Seconded

P Smith

K Champness

K Champness

V Turner

P Wood

##### *Re-joining Members*

Graham Wingrove – Witham

##### Proposed

J Taylor

##### Seconded

P Chapman

All the above were unanimously elected.

#### 4 Achievements List

JT reported that 28 Quarter Peals (QP) and 1 Peal had been rung in the District between 1<sup>st</sup> May and 31<sup>st</sup> August. He noted that the following members had scored a first in either a method or technique:-

D Carpenter, I and P Cresshull, J Elliott, D Learmonth, A Mackle, C Mackle, E Pilgrim, P Smith, R and C Threadgold, W and P Upson, P and M Wood, H Yarwood-Gowers, A Adams, I Hamilton and V LeFèvre.

## **EACR – Northern District**

JT mentioned that K Thompson had also rung her first Quarter Peal but that, as this was in September, it would be included in the numbers announced at the Annual District Meeting in January.

Special QPs rung during the period included the provisionally-named Tour de Wethersfield Treble Bob Major, composed by Roy Threadgold (RT), one rung in Felsted as the Caravan passed through the village with a further QP there to mark the 450<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of Felsted School. D Learmonth pointed out that another QP had been rung as part of those celebrations to mark the occasion of the Queen's visit to the school. A QP was also rung at Wethersfield to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Roy Threadgold's first QP.

M Downs (MD) mentioned that a QP to celebrate John Warboys 80<sup>th</sup> birthday had been planned for later this month.

### **5 Education**

JT stated that a very successful training session on Plain Bob Doubles had been held in Gosfield.

He mentioned that the Association Training Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> November would consist of four groups, namely Plain Bob Doubles, Grandsire Doubles, Plain Bob and Grandsire Triples, and Surprise Minor. Currently, the following applications had been received; 2 for Plain Bob Doubles, 2 for Grandsire Doubles, 2 for Triples and 1 for Surprise Minor. Members were encouraged to put their applications in as there were only 6 places in each group. The on-line application form was now available. JT also asked for members to volunteer as helpers in all the groups, especially for the Triples and Surprise Minor sessions.

Coggeshall, Felsted, Finchingfield and Wethersfield were the towers to be used for this training.

RT wondered if there was any interest in holding some hand-bell sessions on Sunday afternoons in October. Several members expressed interest in this. MD mentioned that such sessions had been available at the tower where he learned and that hand-bells had even been used within some of the services. JT and RT would discuss this further outside the meeting.

**Action: JT and R Threadgold**

### **6 Events**

The Summer Walk and Ring had been appreciated by those who took part and it was felt that another such event next year should be planned, although with shorter walks between towers.

Those who had visited the Ringing Roadshow said that the event was excellent but that on this occasion the catering arrangements had been very poor. Visitors had had to wait a long time for food at the one outlet provided. Good weather on the day meant that the mini-rings were well patronized.

JT and Kelly had organised an 80's Disco to raise money for restoration work to be carried out on the bells at St Mary's Bocking. The event had raised £1,000 but it was sad that no bell-ringers had joined in.

### **7 Any Other Business**

JT reminded members that November was Quarter Peal month and the aim was to ring a QP in all the ringable towers. M Downs said that ringers might organise a day out to ring at a number of towers.

**Action: All Tower Captains**

## **EACR – Northern District**

This year there would be no District Carol Service as there was a combined Association service at South Weald on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December.

JT stated that nominations for all the Committee positions were required by the year-end and pointed out that the current Master, Secretary and Treasurer were not standing for re-election.

The ADM would be held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January and therefore the Advance Practice that month would be on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January.

MD then raised the question of the 8-bell striking competition pointing out that the method was announced at the beginning of May and the team should be assembled and practices begun immediately. This year the team had been almost a scratch band and more work needed to be done on this for next year.

He also mentioned the 10/12-bell group which he would be starting again in October beginning with ringing at the Cathedral from 2.30 pm on 19<sup>th</sup> October when the practice may be augmented by some of their ringers. Following this the regular practices would resume at Bocking and Braintree. In the latter case ringing would be in the evening prior to the service. He would welcome other ringers to the group and would be pleased to receive the names of those who may be interested and who could ring Grandsire and Stedman Caters competently. He still hoped to ring a QP before the year-end with past and present District Officers. MD also wanted to encourage others to conduct on eight or ten bells. He felt that there was not enough 8- and 10-bell ringing in the District and the Advance Practice should be used to develop this.

JT then thanked Rev Patten for the service, Gaynor Potter for providing the tea and the Great Dunmow ringers for the use of the bells.

The meeting was then declared closed and members were encouraged to ring further at Stebbing.