

EACR – Northern District

MINUTES of the District Meeting held at Halstead on Saturday 7th September 2013

Present: Ian Hamilton (IH) District Master
Angela Pannell (AP) Deputy District Master
Vicky Le Fèvre (VLeF) District Treasurer
Annemarie Adams (AA) District Secretary

Members Present: 22

1 Welcome and apologies for absence

IH welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from D Carpenter, K Champness, V and J Elliott, A Handley, D Learmonth, D Patmore, E Thompson, G and S Tobbell and C and R Threadgold.

2 Minutes of the Meeting on 11th May 2013

The minutes of the meeting held on Saturday 11th May were unanimously approved.

Proposed: M Wood
Seconded: K Downs

(a) Matters arising

IH mentioned that there was still no representative of the Northern District on the Association Social Committee and encouraged members to consider taking on this role.

3 Membership

The following people were elected members:

<u>New Ringing Members</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
<u>Coggeshall</u>		
Thomas Benson (Junior)	B Meads	P Lewis
Jacqui Cornell	J Edwards	A Taylor
Jochen Culemann	J Edwards	B Meads
Richard Harrison	B Meads	A Taylor
Laura Reynolds	B Meads	A Taylor
Simon Ward (returning ringer)	B Meads	A Taylor
<u>Pebmarsh</u>		
Oscar Fellows (junior)	P Darkins	I Hamilton
Rupert Fellows (junior)	P Darkins	I Hamilton
<u>Witham</u>		
Harry Yarwood-Gowers (junior)	P Chapman	J Taylor
<u>Friends to Ringing Members</u>		
<u>Kelvedon</u>		
Emily Thompson (junior)	J Elliott	V Elliott
H John Randall	J Elliott	V Elliott

4 Communication

IH said that although information was being sent out regularly to the membership, but very rarely was there any response.

The Quiz had been moved to early next year to see if, by moving away from November, there may be more interest.

EACR – Northern District

B Meads asked how comprehensive the members' e-mail listing was and requested a list of those at Coggeshall so that he could ensure all those ringers with e-mail addresses were included.

Action: AA

M Downs asked that both the distribution list and the EACR website should be used to inform members of practices that had to be cancelled.

Action: AA

M Downs pointed out that all members could receive the EACR notices. The instructions for joining this distribution list were on the EACR website <http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/EACR-Notices/info>.

M Downs informed the meeting that a band had been assembled to ring at Chelmsford Cathedral in celebration of the centenary of the bells. A quarter peal (QP) of Grandsire Cinques was rung successfully on Whit Sunday. The band consisted of both experienced 12-bell ringers and those moving up to ringing on this number. Two successful QPs had been rung in preparation for the Cathedral QP. A further QP of Grandsire Cinques was planned for 24th November in the District's QP month. He pointed out that those wishing to be involved needed to have some practice on the Cathedral bells prior to the attempt and that the Cathedral ringers were keen to encourage members to join in the evening Sunday service ringing. However, the first Sunday of the month was usually reserved for a QP and members wishing to join the Cathedral ringing on a Sunday should check with B Meads or M Downs beforehand that general ringing would be taking place. B Meads congratulated M Downs on both organising and conducting the Whit Sunday QP and thanked him on behalf of the District. M Downs said that 14 or 15 ringers needed to be involved in the practices so that there were enough to be called on in case of last minute changes to the band.

5 Achievements

The listing had been circulated prior to the meeting. IH made special mention of the successful QP rung by Northern District ringers at the Cathedral.

6 Education

The Bell School had been disbanded at the beginning of last year and towers were now able to ask for assistance in helping their learners to progress. So far this year Coggeshall was the only tower to ask for help and a series of seven sessions was put together where additional experienced ringers would assist them. As a direct result of this, there are five new members joining the Association plus an additional returning ringer. Laura Reynolds, one of the Coggeshall learners, expressed her thanks for the help they had received.

Other towers were encouraged to ask for such help if necessary to progress their learners.

B Meads said that A Semken was now in remission from his cancer and had returned to ringing but, as yet, was suffering from lowered stamina as a result of his treatment.

IH raised the question of the Beyond Bob Minor practice. In the past this had involved moving ringers from the basic methods to others requiring only a small change from their normal repertoire, plus something a little more challenging for those helping viz St Clement's to Buxton Bob Minor or Childwall, or Cambridge Surprise Minor to Purple Sprouting Broccoli Treble Place Minor. The format of these sessions would move to including QP attempts.

M Downs said there were three 10-bell towers in the District but felt that they were under-used. He thought there were more than enough people in the District to build a very good 10-bell band ringing Grandsire and Stedman Caters with the aim of later having the ability to develop and increase the group to ring Grandsire

EACR – Northern District

Cinques. Practices take place on a Sunday afternoon and the next one is on 15th October at Bocking.

However, it was worth noting that the Advance Practice rings on 8 and 10 bells and takes place on the third Saturday each month.

7 Quarter 4 Events

One of the events in this quarter would be the 10-bell practice at Braintree. M Downs or Peter Smith would run the practice on 19th October as it would be take place on the normal Advance Practice night. The methods involved would be Plain Bob and Little Bob moving on to Grandsire and Stedman Caters, but with rounds and call changes and plain hunt for those just starting to ring on this number.

B Meads mentioned the Association Annual Dinner on 5th October at the County Hotel in Chelmsford and encouraged members to get tickets for this occasion from Andrew Brewster.

He also mentioned the Association Training Day on 23rd November but said that no details were available as yet.

The Carol Service would be on 7th December at Ridgewell, and Daphne Jude and Wendy Turner were organising this.

8 Nominations for District Officers

IH announced that with regret Angela Pannell had stood down from her role as Deputy Master. He said that this would be a loss to both the Committee and the District. Her work in putting together a team for the 8-bell Striking Competition was appreciated and she had done a great deal of work in visiting the various towers in the District and encouraging the ringing. He hoped that she would continue to encourage ringers at all levels and looked forward to ringing with her in future. The membership then expressed their thanks to her with a round of applause.

He went on to say that nominations, not just for the Deputy Master role but for all the District Officers, needed to be sent in by 1st December. The Officers would be elected at the January ADM.

9 Any Other Business

IH mentioned that the ADM 2014 would move from the first Saturday in the month to the third Saturday, 18th January.

The Rev John Blore was thanked for his informal service that provided a lovely end to the ringing practice and a thoughtful start to the meeting.

Valerie Darkins and Maureen Cansdale were thanked for their hard work in producing and serving a delicious tea.

Allen and Maureen Cansdale were congratulated on celebrating their Golden Wedding the previous week.

IH also thanked the Halstead ringers for the use of the bells.

As there had been no collection during the informal service, it was suggested that people make a contribution as they left which would go to the Bell Restoration Fund.

Following this the meeting was closed.