

**Minutes of the Maidstone District Annual District Meeting
held on Saturday 10th October 2009 at 6 p.m. at All Saints, Maidstone**

Present: Twenty-four members of the Association had signed the attendance book and seventeen had attended the service.

Vote of Thanks Chairman, Chris Bassett, opened the meeting by proposing a sincere vote of thanks to the Incumbent, Organist and Maidstone Ringers for the excellent service and tea which everyone had enjoyed. A round of applause was given.

2009/Q26 **Apologies for Absence:** Thirteen members' apologies were received; Andy & Diane Copas, David Earl, Mal Williams, Keith Foxwell, Tina & Paul Bastow, Adam Brady, Richard & Sallyann Barclay, Bert Boxall, Marguerite & David Allen.

2009/Q27 **Minutes of previous Meetings** had been sent to towers and posted on the website. These were approved and signed by the Chairman.

a) ADM 11 October 2008 – No matters arising.

b) Quarterly 11 July 2009 – Richard Young commented that the Walk Ring Walk event in August had been very enjoyable and sociable. Staplehurst had represented this district at the County 6-bell competition and came fourth only 4 marks behind the winners and 10 in front of the last team. It was a very close competition marred by a broken rope. News of Tony Cresswell's progress following the accident at Northfleet was posted on the KCACR website. Thirty identical shields ready to engrave had been purchased and The Striking Competition Shield was being adapted to keep them all together.

2009/Q28 **Officer's Reports for 2008/2009** – These had been sent to towers, posted on the district website and would be filed with these minutes. The Chairman thanked all officers for their support during the past year.

a) Chairman's Report: Noted without further comment.

b) Ringling Masters' Report: Noted without further comment.

c) Publicity Officer's Report: Roy Barclay emphasised the need for reprographic assistance to copy The Belfry for towers who would not accept digital copies.

d) Treasurer's Report: Pat Phipps confirmed that the BRF target for County would be met. The interim accounts presented at the ADM would be updated and presented at January 2009 Quarterly meeting.

e) District Representatives' Report: Filed with these minutes.

2009/Q29 **Election of new Members:** Judy Wood of Staplehurst and Jane Bird of Yalding had both been ringing about one year and were unanimously elected.

2009/Q30 **Election of Officers for 2009/2010** – The Chairman thanked committee members for their support and time given on behalf of the Maidstone District. Dot Hooker proposed a vote of thanks for the work of the Chairman and Secretary who after 4 years, wished to stand down.

- a) District Secretary – No-one proposed. Post fell vacant – see 2009/Q33a
- b) District Representatives – Chris Saunders and Malcolm Hitchcock were proposed and seconded then elected unopposed.
- c) Chairman – No-one proposed. Post fell vacant – see 2009/Q33b
- d) Treasurer and Membership Secretary – Pat Phipps was proposed and seconded then elected unopposed.
- e) Ringling Masters – Daniel Brady and James Sawle were proposed and seconded then elected unopposed.
- f) Publicity Officer – Roy Barclay was proposed and seconded then elected unopposed.
- g) Other Committee members – No-one was proposed and these non-portfolio posts remained vacant for another year.
- h) District Training Officer – No-one was proposed & post remained vacant.
- i) 120 Club Manager – Mal Williams was proposed and seconded then elected unopposed.

2009/Q31 **Future Events 2009 and programme 2010/2011**

- a) Call Change Striking Competition – 14th November at Ightham 0945 draw.
- b) Carol Service - 12th December at Broomfield 1630 ringing, 1700 service.
- c) April Quarterly – 10th April 2010 will not now include the 6-bell striking competition but timings were still yet to be confirmed.
- d) District Practice – 8th May 2010 venue may be switched to Boughton Monchelsea (due to wedding on 12 June). To be confirmed.
- e) 6-bell competition – 12th June 2010 venue may be switched to Hollingbourne. To be confirmed.
- f) Joint Practice with Tonbridge – 14th August 2010. All Saints Maidstone would prefer a morning practice.

2009/Q32 **Any Other Business:**

- a) Kent County Show – 16-18 July 2010. Charles Tassell of Ulcombe spoke about the proposals to have a “Village Green” arena with stalls, maypole and Morris dancing, town crier, village-type events. The Trafford Mini Ring had been booked for the Friday and Sunday (booked elsewhere on the Saturday) but hoped to get another mini-ring for 17th. This would be a good event to publicise bell ringing and volunteers would be needed to hand out leaflets, discuss ringing and give demonstrations. The County publicity boards were excellent and easy to transport. Charles would attend the November General Committee to discuss.
- b) Otham Bell Project – Concert in Otham Church on 24th October 2009 at 7 p.m. Tickets £8. Proceeds to belfry repair fund. Posters had been sent to all towers. Contact Mal Williams or Darren Elphick for tickets.
- c) Child Protection – A new registration scheme to begin on 12th October 2009 would require anyone teaching a young person or vulnerable adult more than twice a month to register. A useful Guidance Table had been published in the Ringing World on 11th September.
- d) District Book Club- Chris Saunders reminded members that various ringing books were available to purchase through him at any time.
- e) Meeting Cards – The meeting agreed that meeting cards should be produced (Tim Munt had offered to assist Chris Saunders with these).

- f) Competition Judges – Daniel Brady reported on the increasing difficulty of finding judges from outside the district. The meeting agreed that we could change the rules to allow judges from inside the district.
- g) 120 Club Draw- First; 62 – Gerald Sinfield, second; 129 – Heather Chawner, third; 39 – William Cox and fourth; 59 – John Levick.

2009/Q33 **Return to issue of non-election of a Chairman and Secretary** – Chris Bassett reminded the meeting that the rules state at Handbook Page 113 Paragraph 9(iii) that the ADM shall elect a District Secretary....

- a) District Secretary - The meeting was again asked for a proposal to fill the vacancy of District Secretary but no-one volunteered. Discussion took place as to what action could be taken to remedy this situation. Ideas included disbanding the District with towers to assimilate into other districts, informing the General Committee that the Maidstone District no longer existed or adjourn the meeting until the next Quarterly. It was proposed by Martin Pring, seconded by Daniel Brady and agreed to adjourn the meeting until 9th January 2010 at 1630. Sue Bassett agreed to write to all towers with the draft ADM minutes.
- b) Chairman – Daniel Brady volunteered and was then proposed by Darren Elphick, seconded by Graham Heath and elected unopposed.

2009/Q34 **Date of reconvening this meeting** - There being no further business this meeting stood adjourned until 9th January 2010, 1630 at Marden.

POST MEETING NOTE: The new Chairman, Daniel Brady, agreed to be the point of contact for correspondence/enquiries during the vacancy of the post of District Secretary.

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