



Maidstone District

# The Kent County Association of Change Ringers

## Maidstone District

**Chairman: Elizabeth Barnes**

**Secretary: Simon Davies**

**[www.kcacr-maidstone-district.org.uk](http://www.kcacr-maidstone-district.org.uk)**

### Minutes

For the **Annual District Meeting** held on **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at Staplehurst.**

**Apologies for absence were received from:** - Richard Young (Yalding); Sue Payne (East Malling); Dot Hooker (Otham); James Davis (Ulcombe/Lenham); Charles Tassell (Ulcombe); Heather Knowler (Chart Sutton); Neil Pedlingham (Lenham); Chris Bassett (Staplehurst); Phillip Barnes (Wrotham); other Otham and Barming ringers because of wedding commitments .

29 members signed the attendance book.

**2016/ADM01 Minutes and any matters arising from previous meeting: -**

- a) 2016/QMC 9<sup>th</sup> July 2016 Nettlestead

With a slight amendment the minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true record with no matters arising.

**2016/ADM02 Election of new members: -**

Sarah King of Mereworth was proposed by Douglas Bratt and seconded by Barry Evans, and Denise Edwards and Linda Hemsley, both from Barming, were proposed by David Earl and seconded by Terry Barnard. All three were duly elected.

**2016/ADM03 Forthcoming Events in the next Quarter: -**

- 1.) **District Practice – 12<sup>th</sup> November 2016.**  
This was being held at Hollingbourne with ringing from 10.00 till 12.30.
- 2.) **District Carol Service – 10<sup>th</sup> December 2016.**  
This was being held at West Peckham. Ringing from 3.30-4.30pm with mulled wine and mince pies after the service.
- 3.) **District Quarterly meeting – 14<sup>th</sup> January 2017.**  
This was to be held at Yalding. This will be one of the few afternoon meetings with ringing from 15.00 till 17.30 with a break at about 16.00 for a short business meeting and refreshments.

**2016/ADM04 Proposed Calendar for 2017/18**

The Secretary circulated copies of the proposed calendar and said that, so far, 4 towers had confirmed their venues. These were Aylesford for the QDM in April 2017; Barming for the QDM in July; St Michael's Maidstone for the practice in September; and Ightham for the ringing competitions in March 2018.

Chris Saunders confirmed that Leeds would be able to host next year's ADM in October 2017.

The Chairman said that the date in August 2017 was traditionally used for a social event and she asked the membership for their views on what type of event they wanted. The

District had run a BBQ for the last 4 years but perhaps a change was needed eg an outing, quiz night, dinner? She asked members to let the new Committee know what they wanted them to organise.

Daniel Brady said the County Youth Competition was on 22 October at Otford. It was open to those under 25 years old. If any towers had young ringers who would like to take part in the competition they should get in touch directly with Daniel.

**2016/ADM05 District Officers Reports (a copy of all reports follow these minutes)**

**1.) Chairman's report.**

The Chairman's report was circulated with the agenda.

**2.) Secretary's report**

The Secretary's report was circulated with the agenda.

**3.) Treasurer's report.**

The Treasurer presented the interim statement for 2016 to the meeting and explained that the final accounts were not due until the end of the year. It was worth noting that the membership had declined in the last year and monies from subscriptions had also reduced. This was not only because of declining membership but also the increasing age of the membership and increased number of members paying the over 65 rate of subscription.

**4.) District Representatives' report.**

The District Representatives' report was circulated with the agenda.

**5.) Ringing Masters' report.**

Jack Velvick summarised the Ringing Masters' report by saying that attendances at meetings continued to be very encouraging with lots of our less experienced ringers attending. As a result the decision was taken to stop specifying special methods at meetings and instead to tailor the ringing to suit those attending. Nevertheless the standard remained good and there was still a variety of ringing with rounds and call changes as well as plain and surprise methods.

**6.) Publicity Officer's report**

The Publicity Officer's report was circulated with the agenda.

It was proposed by Jackie Barlow and seconded by Daniel Brady that the reports be accepted and they were duly adopted by the meeting.

**2016/ADM06 Election of officers: -**

**1.) District Chairman.**

Liz Barnes - Proposed by Jackie Barlow, seconded by Debbie Brady was duly elected.

**2.) District Secretary.**

Simon Davies - Proposed by Jackie Barlow, seconded by Tom Barlow was duly elected.

**3.) District Treasurer/Membership Secretary.**

Sue Bassett - Proposed by Debbie Brady, seconded by Jack Velvick was duly elected.

**4.) 2 District Representatives.**

Chris Saunders – Proposed by Daniel Brady, seconded by Jackie Barlow  
James Davies – Proposed by Debbie Brady, seconded by Jack Velvick

There being no other nominations they were both elected.

**5.) District Ringing Master/s.**

Jack Velvick – Proposed by Sue Bassett, seconded by Debbie Brady  
Terry Barnard – Proposed by Jackie Barlow, seconded by Jack Velvick

There being no other nominations they were both elected

**6.) Publicity Officer**

Roy Barclay – Proposed by Debbie Brady, seconded by Sue Bassett was duly elected

**7.) Committee Members.**

Jane Higgs– Proposed by Terry Barnard, seconded by David Earl  
Clive Ticehurst – proposed by Daniel Brady, seconded by Joy Barnard  
Emma Tilston – proposed by Nell Ticehurst, seconded by Clive Ticehurst

All three nominees were all duly elected.

The Chairman thanked the outgoing committee for all their hard work over the last year.

**2016/ADM07 Proposed Rule Change**

Daniel Brady said that the County Committee were proposing a rule change on the aims of the KCACR which will be voted on at the County AGM on Easter Monday.

He explained that at present the Association have 5 aims and it is proposed these be reduced to a single overarching aim which will state that:

*'The aim of the Association is to foster ringing in the historic county of Kent by promoting and protecting the interests of ringing and ringers'.*

Further information on the background to this proposed rule change can be found at <http://kcacr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Primary-purpose-0816.pdf>

**2016/ADM 08 Any other business.**

1. The Chairman said that members may have seen an item on the County website that the Association has been generously donated a light ring of 6 bells (tenor 0.75cwt) and is considering the creation of a mobile ring for the County, at a cost of approximately £7,000. The County Committee would welcome views from the membership on this proposal and had created a survey form which is on the

website for views to be given. Further details and the Survey Form can be found at: <http://kcacr.org.uk/a-mobile-ring-for-the-kcacr/>.

2. Also on the County website is an item on the Council Review Action Group (CRAG). The Council in question is the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers. The Central Council (CC) is the representative body of all who ring bells in the English tradition. Founded in 1891 the Council is made up of over 200 members representing 65 societies and associations (like KCA) from all over the world. KCA elects 5 members to the CC on a 3-year term.

The CC has 15 permanent committees which cover a range of different specialties including Education; Public Relations; Publications; Bell Restorations; Redundant Bells; Peal Records, Methods & Compositions which aim to provide expert knowledge on their speciality. However it is considered by some to be stuck in old fashioned ways and needs updating to be relevant to today's ringers.

At this year's meeting it was decided that an independent working group should be set up to undertake a detailed review of the Council which will report back at the next meeting in May 2017 with recommendations for change. The review group, CRAG, needs a lot of input from a whole range of ringers and details of how you can have your say are also on the County website at: <http://kcacr.org.uk/review-of-the-central-council-part-2/>. The next deadline for feedback is 31 October.

3. Chris Saunders said that the current 5 at Broomfield would soon be augmented to 6, as the bell arrived today. Brian Butcher will be in charge of the work.
4. Debbie Brady asked whether the facility on the District website to upload District events direct to smartphones could be reactivated. Not all those who wished to take advantage of the facility were able to utilise it. Daniel Brady said there were some issues with it and he would speak about this outside the meeting.

**2016/ADM 09**

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Staplehurst for the use of the bells and to all the ringers for the excellent tea provided.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 6.35pm.

Terry Barnard  
Outgoing District Secretary  
9<sup>th</sup> October 2016

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Signed as a true record by the Chairman  
on

(Date) \_\_\_\_\_

## **Chairman's Report to ADM 2016**

Thank you to all the district officers for their efforts throughout the year and particularly to Terry for guiding me through as a newbie on the Committee and ensuring that all district events have run seemingly effortlessly. It has been good to see a continued enthusiasm for our events particularly from the newer members. In addition to our local events, the district has been hosting County Surprise Major practices organised by the County Chairman, Daniel Brady, which have also been very well supported. Please do let the district Committee know if members of your tower would like a local training event concentrating on a particular method or skill.

Elizabeth Barnes

## District Secretary's report for 2016 District ADM.

It is with sadness that, once again, I have to start this report with the passing of 2 ringers who were stalwarts in the District. Martin Pring passed away on 26 March 2016. He was a member of KCACR for 50 years having been a member of the band at Aylesford for many years before moving to Maidstone and joining All Saints 26 years ago. Alan Phipps, from West Malling, passed away suddenly on 14 May 2016 whilst on a tennis holiday in Corfu. He was 67 years old. As well as ringing and tennis, he was also a keen cyclist and a Magistrate and rang peals for both the KCACR and the Magistrates Association. They will both be sorely missed and we all mourn their passing.

The District 6 bell competition for 2015 held at East Sutton in March was a success with 6 teams entering the call change competition and 3 teams for the striking competition. There was a new name on the shield for the call change competition with a combined Suttons team (East Sutton/Chart Sutton) winning for the first time and Staplehurst triumphed in the method competition and represented the District at the County 6-bell competition. Well done to both teams.

District events throughout the year have been well received and very well attended. The QDM at Stansted in April was the best attended with 50 ringers present. The average attendance for the year was 31, yet again an increase on previous years.

The district barbecue this year held at Ulcombe and hosted by James Davis. We had the Dewby's Bells mini-ring, two polypins of ale and plentiful food and it was a good fun evening. The District Carol Service was held at the augmented 5 bell tower at Broomfield, with ringing before a very enjoyable service. Daniel Brady again put together a small but very effective choir from District Ringers who performed at the service.

During the year we have elected 17 new members, including two associate members at Broomfield who had donated the two bells to augment the ring from 3 to 5.

For 2017/18 once again we have a full programme of events planned.

Terry Barnard  
Maidstone District Secretary

3 October 2016

## **DISTRICT REP'S REPORT**

### **AGM STAPLEHURST 9<sup>TH</sup> October 2016**

Although limited to the number of towers I had a chance to visit over the last year, the overall impression is that most towers seem to have a weekly practice, and those that don't, it seems, happen on a fortnightly basis. Those visitors who are able to travel can make all the difference to a tower's ringing evening or whether it takes place at all.

The biggest problem, as we all know, is finding new recruits, not only to replace those we have lost, but to be our future if we are to progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond!

The K.C.A.C.R. general committee (at last) is undertaking and looking at ways of appealing to a wider audience, in the hope of bringing new people in, while there are still experienced ringers in our midst who can teach and train them.

With the aging ringing population, and finding quite often we have an aging congregation in our home churches, which has been our traditional procurement ground in finding new members, this has now fallen on stony ground. We can only hope these new initiatives help and overcome the situation we find ourselves in to make things happen.

Not only recruitment, but training/teaching/instilling rope skill, is also a key area, and those who teach, or who feel they could with help and a refresh in guiding a new member through initial training and rope handling, so they are able to be fairly quickly giving them enough competence to be part of a practice night, should look out for courses now available especially designed for 'teachers' and how to teach and instil good ringing habits from the start. Otherwise contact the County Training Officer (see Handbook) for more information.

The Bookstall is here with books from basic instruction to more advanced methods.

**CRS**

## **Ringling Masters' Report for 2016 ADM**

Over the last 12 months we've seen encouraging attendance levels at many district events and some new faces. A lot of the ringing at district practices has catered to ringers at the rounds and call changes stage and those moving on to plain hunt. We haven't been following the previously established convention of setting special methods for every district practice, and we feel this has allowed each practice to cater better to those in attendance. We have had limited and balanced feedback on this. It has meant that there is more time to devote to individual requests when any are forthcoming.

It's noticeable that a number of ringers (particularly new ringers) have found district events to be useful occasions to meet other ringers in the area and build up useful connections, or the confidence to visit another tower. This is a function district events perform very well, and I hope this continues. We would always encourage any ringer, new or well-established, to visit other towers and other districts. Building up experience and connections in this way greatly helps the development of individuals and of ringing in general. We hope district practices continue to be a positive experience for everyone and would always welcome feedback on ways to improve this.

Adam Brady will be standing down as ringing master due to being unable to attend a large number of district practices.

Jack Velvick

## **KCACR MAIDSTONE DISTRICT ADM – SATURDAY 8<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2016**

### **Publicity Officer's Report**

Nationally, ringing seems to be receiving increasing media exposure. Barely a week goes by without mention of ringing either on television or in the press. Then there are such initiatives as the recent national Heritage Open Days, in which a number of our District towers participated.

Unfortunately however, due to health issues in April (now hopefully resolved) I have been unable to give as much time to District publicity matters this year as I would have wished. Ringing in general has had to be put on a back burner and this is particularly so with *The Belfry* which has only been published once this year, in January. I am now in the process of updating the issue which had been scheduled for April and hopefully this will appear fairly soon after this ADM.

I have, nevertheless, been able to regularly update the District website which continues to be well received. Remember that if you wish something to be publicised ask me to post it on the website - this is the best way to disseminate information to ringers in the District and, indeed, beyond.

Finally, I would like to remind members that, if re-elected, this will be my last year as Publicity Officer. I will not be standing for re-election at the 2017 ADM. My recent health scare has convinced me even further that it will be time for me to step down from my role and from the District Committee.

**Roy Barclay**

***Publicity Officer***

***30<sup>th</sup> September 2016***

# KCACR MAIDSTONE DISTRICT



## TREASURER'S INTERIM REPORT TO ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING 8<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2016

Set out below are the Accounts for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016  
with expenditure on prizes for the 120 Club projected to the year end.  
The End of Year Report for 2016 will be published at the January 2017 Quarterly Meeting.

### Expenditure

Administration	9.72
120 Club stationery & postage	54.00
120 Club Annual Licence	20.00
Fund Raising-120Club (Note 1)	590.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>673.72</b>

### Due to County

Brought fwd at 01.01.16	173.47
Surplus at 01.10.2016	2,899.68
Subscriptions to County	-1,559.00
To County BRF (note 3)	-1,350.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>163.75</b>

### Spliced Fund Donations

Barming	100.00
Bearsted	136.00
Boxley	100.00
East Farleigh	20.00
East Malling	50.00
Hunton	120.00
Ightham	60.00
Mereworth	50.00
Yalding	10.00
	<b>646.00</b>

### Income

Subscriptions	1,559.00
Donations to BRF	764.40
District BBQ	0.00
Fund Raising – 120 Club	1,250.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>3,573.40</b>
<b>SURPLUS</b>	<b>2,899.68</b>

### Funds in Hand

District Bank Account	76.67
County Administration Float	87.08
	<b>163.75</b>

### Subscriptions Detail

2015 late Subscription	10.00	
Adult	117	1,110.00
Senior	77	385.00
Junior	6	30.00
New Life Member	0	0.00
Life Members	20	0.00
25+ year members	29	0.00
Associate	4	4.00
<b>Total members 2016</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>1,559.00</b>

### **Notes:**

- (1) This sum represents the projected expenditure if/when all the 120 Club prize cheques are presented.  
(2) Donations to the Belfry Repair Fund for the part-year January-September 2016:

Spliced Fund (Wedding Fees) Donations	646.00
Donations (various meetings & donations)	118.40
120 Club (projected net profit)	586.00
	<b>1,350.40</b>

Sue Bassett, Honorary Treasurer  
1st October 2016