



Maidstone District

# The Kent County Association of Change Ringers

## Maidstone District

**Chairman: James Sawle**  
**Secretary: Terry Barnard**

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

## Minutes

For the **Annual District Meeting** held on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2014** at **All Saints, Staplehurst**.

**Apologies for absence were received from :** - James Sawle (Marden); Sue & Chris Bassett (Staplehurst); Richard Young (Yalding), Tina & Paul Bastow (Aylesford), David Earl (Barming); John Wale (Bearsted); Sue Payne (East Malling).

22 members signed the attendance book.

In the absence of the Chairman, the membership agreed that Daniel Brady would chair the meeting.

### **2014/ADM01 Minutes and any matters arising from previous meeting: -**

- a) 2014/QMC 12<sup>th</sup> July 2013

The name of one of the new members was incorrectly recorded. It should read Julie Swift of Bearsted, NOT Julia. With this amendment the minutes were signed by the acting Chairman as a true record with no matters arising.

### **2014/ADM02 Election of new members: -**

Simon Davies, from Wrotham, was proposed by Liz Barnes and seconded by Phillip Barnes. Simon used to ring in South Wales but had recently returned to ringing. Emma Tilston and Robin Hughes, both from East Malling, were both proposed by Sue Payne and were seconded by Terry Barnard. All were duly elected.

### **2014/ADM03 Forthcoming Events in the next Quarter: -**

- 1.) **District combined Call Change and Striking competition – 8<sup>th</sup> November 2014.**  
This was being held at Otham and the acting Chairman explained the rationale for a combined competition and the rules that had been adopted by the committee to ensure one band could not win both trophies. Roy Barclay said full details were on the Maidstone District website and in the latest issue of the Belfry
- 2.) **District Carol Service – 13<sup>th</sup> December 2014.**  
The Secretary explained this was being held at the 4-bell tower of Addington to encourage the band there following the death of their Captain, Bryan Ebdon, last year. Ringing was from 3.30-4.30pm with mulled wine and mince pies after the service...
- 3.) **District Quarterly meeting – January 11<sup>th</sup> 2015.**  
The Chairman said this was proposed to be held at Birling, but confirmation was still being sought.

### **2014/ADM04 Proposed Calendar for 2015**

The Secretary circulated copies of the proposed calendar and said that, so far, 6 towers had confirmed their venues. These were Barming for the February practice; Bearsted for the quarterly meeting in April; West Malling for the quarterly meeting in July; Leeds for the ADM in October; Boughton Monchelsea for the practice in November and the soon to be augmented ring at Broomfield for the carol service in December.

**2014/ADM05 District Offices 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's interim accounts were circulated with the agenda.

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

The District Representatives report was circulated at the meeting.

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

The Ringing Master's report was circulated at the meeting.

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

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

The en-bloc adoption of all these reports was proposed by Daniel Brady and seconded by Terry Barnard. The reports were then duly adopted by the meeting.

**2013/ADM07 Election of officers: -**

**1.) District Chairman.**

James Sawle - Proposed by James Davis, Seconded by Adam Brady was duly elected.

**2.) District Secretary.**

Terry Barnard - Proposed by Richard Barclay, seconded by Chris Saunders was duly elected.

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

Sue Bassett - Proposed by Phillip Barnes, seconded by Roy Barclay was duly elected.

**4.) 2 District Representatives.**

James Davies – Proposed by Terry Barnard, seconded by Roy Barclay  
Chris Saunders – Proposed by Terry Barnard, seconded by Roy Barclay

There being no other nominations they were both elected.

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

Richard Barclay – Proposed by Adam Brady, seconded by Terry Barnard  
Jack Velvick – Proposed by Phillip Barnes, seconded by James Davis

There being no other nominations they were both elected

**6.) Publicity Officer**

Roy Barclay – Proposed by Phillip Barnes, seconded by Adam Brady was duly elected

**7.) Committee Members.**

Barry Evans – Proposed by James Davis, seconded by Terry Barnard  
Debbie Brady – Proposed by James Davis, seconded by Chris Saunders

There being no further nominations they were all duly elected.

**2018/ADM08 Any other business.**

Liz Barnes explained that Wrotham bells were currently out of action following a broken wheel, but that a simulator was available at the village hall.

Chris Saunders reminded the membership that Hollingbourne had arranged a barn dance at Downswood Hall on 15 November in aid of the church bells.

The acting Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Staplehurst for the use of the bells and to Sue Gullett and helpers for the splendid tea.

Chris Saunders reminded members the bookstall was open.

There being no further business the acting Chairman closed the meeting at 6.25pm.

Terry Barnard  
District Secretary  
13<sup>th</sup> October 2014

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signed as a true record by the Chairman  
on

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

## **Chairman's Report to the ADM 2014**

The monthly practices followed the same pattern as previous years where the winter events are typically well attended by approximately thirty people (carol service at East Farleigh; practices at Benenden and Yalding and meeting at Boxley), and then the numbers dropped for the meeting at Marden and practices at Hunton and Lenham. The striking competitions were also poorly attended with three teams (representing only 2 towers) at the Call Change competition and only one team entering the Method competition.

On a positive note, we did have more than ten new members join the district, including several junior members who were able to ring together at Boxley, and also attend a Young Ringers Practice at Ashford in January. There was also a very successful barbeque held in Marden with the Trafford Ring where many non-ringers were also persuaded to have a go.

The success or otherwise of the district is dependent on the people who turn up to events. We are lucky in having a core group of about 25-30 ringers who support most of the events. Approximately half of those participating members are on the committee and have an active say in the future direction of the District. However, on closer inspection most of those people come from very few towers – and most towers in the district are not represented at any event. While this has been a trend over previous years, it is now resulting in insufficient teams entering the striking competitions.

Apart from the district events, the committee is responsible for producing the district newsletter – The Belfry. In order to keep The Belfry relevant to the district members we created a subcommittee to focus on the production and content, and accordingly they conducted a survey of the district members. We expanded the scope of the survey to also understand what people wanted from the district. Based on the number of the respondents, it would seem that the majority were those people who already enjoy the current events and regularly read the Belfry.

The committee is keen to organize events that the members want to attend. As ever, please contact one of the committee members with ideas for new events or join the committee yourself.

James Sawle – Chairman.

## District Secretary's report for 2014.

It is with sadness that I have to start this report with the passing of 5 people in the District this year. Bryan Ebdon, captain at Addington, passed away on 7 October 2013. Valerie Carter, a past ringer at West Malling and wife of former captain Peter Carter, passed away on 7 February 2014. Peggy Piers-Jones, mother of Simon Wigg, passed away on 11 April. Julian Simpson, former captain at East Malling, passed away on 15 April, and Jack Bishop, for many years a ringer at Snodland, passed away on 13 June. We all mourn their passing.

For the third year running the District 6 bell competition was a major disappointment. Initially 3 teams were entered, but this gradually withered till just one team was entered, so the Committee had no choice but to cancel the competition at Stansted and hold a district practice instead. The annual outing was also cancelled due to lack of interest, both from participants and those willing to organise it. This was a great shame since otherwise events throughout the year have been well received and well attended. We even had a 12 bell practice at Benenden for which we thank Rod and Karen Lebon. The District Practice at Yalding in March was the best attended with 32 ringers, and even the very hastily organised practice at Stansted had 16 there. The average attendance for the year was 22.

The district barbecue this year was held at Marden, for which we extend thanks to Chris Barker for offering his home and garden to host the event. Once again we had the Trafford mini-ring, handbells, and two polypins of ale and it was a good fun afternoon. The District Carol Service was held at East Farleigh, with ringing before an enjoyable service. Daniel Brady again put together a small but very effective choir from District Ringers who performed festive pieces at the end of the service.

The call Change Competition at Mereworth was won by Staplehurst, with Marden picking up the trophy for the team with most ringers who had not competed before. Kent again won the Essex Trophy, and four ringers from the Maidstone District were in Kent's winning band.

During the year we have elected 14 new members, which is an increase on the last few years, and 6 of these are Junior members, which augers well for the future.

For 2015 we have a full programme of events planned, and Maidstone District will be hosting the KCACR Annual General Meeting. This will be at Marden on Easter Monday, 6 April 2015.

Terry Barnard  
Maidstone District Secretary

2 October 2014

## DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT FOR ADM 2014

In spite of the poor attendance figures for practice meeting's it seems there is life in the District. Most towers have a practice of some sort, though perhaps not every week, with a more common feature of neighbouring towers sharing their practice evening to pool resources, so hopefully their ringers can take something positive from the venture, especially as towers struggle to attract learners young or old.

There are three towers where things have been rather quiet for a while - Ulcombe, Lenham and Addington. Lenham after hosting a meeting for the first time in several years are having the occasional practise night [contact- James Davis for details] and Addington after the sad loss of Bryan Ebdon are trying to get the band back together and start ringing again, hopefully we can give them some encouragement at the carol service later in the year.

At last the county committee seem to be getting its act together and raising the profile of Training, not only having Training Officer but giving him resources and a budget, helping those who do the teaching, to have more Ringing Centre's where learners can get a more intense and one to one help with their learning curve and become part of the band sooner, so as to prevent the high out drop rate that we see after so much hard work. At the moment the only Ringing Centre we have is at Dover, if you have a learner who you may benefit call PETER DALE his telephone no is in the front of the Handbook to book a place. The sessions usually take place on a Saturday morning.

Maidstone may not have a striking contest but it does have its own mini ring, Walter Dobbie's Jubi Ring, restored and refurbished, was enjoyed by many from around the country at the Ringing Roadshow at Newbury. Well done to all who got involved in seeing the project through.

As you may see, there is a new ringing tower on the calendar for 2015, when Broomfield becomes a 5. Everything is in place, with a bell coming from Keltec Trust and the new treble having been cast at Taylor's. Once work on the tower roof has been completed the project will get under way, with only the problem of being let down with the timber for the frame. We are looking forward to being part of the District, and with a spare pit one may even be a 6.

It is good to hear that the project at Barming is nearing completion and will back ringing again – if everything goes to plan – on Remembrance Sunday.

Finally just to say please keep Tom Barlow in your thoughts as he is not in the best of health , having quite a hard time at the moment and I'm sure we would like to send him our best wishes.

Chris Saunders and James Davis

## **District Ringing Masters' Report - 2014**

Ringing at District events this year has been variable; we have reintroduced special methods which have enabled a little more focus for the more seasoned ringer. Personally we think this has helped to give people more of a reason to get out of bed on a Saturday and come out and play. This has certainly not detracted from other pieces of ringing at these meetings; normally each District event has seen a range from Rounds and Call changes, through to Plain Bob, Grandsire and Stedman, plus our special methods.

November saw a rather depleted number of people at the Call Change competition with three bands entering and being judged by Terry Barnard. It was disappointing that only two towers were represented here. On the theme of competitions, the June method ringing competition was cancelled as only one band entered; it is worth remembering that the same thing happened last year!

December saw the usual Carol service, this year at East Farleigh. It was nice to have a good range of ringing on all eight here.

The January meeting at Boxley was well attended, at which ringing included both special methods, including many people's first try at Alnwick Surprise Minor. Also featured was a performance of rounds on six, by a band of junior ringers, the average age being only 13. This goes to show the excellent recruitment going on in some of our District towers, especially as all of these youngsters are from non-ringing families.

The February meeting took place outside the District at Benenden, where some people had the opportunity to ring on twelve for the first time. We managed to achieve Little Bob Maximus and Stedman Cinques at the top end, which included many people's first method ringing on twelve. March and April saw practices at Yalding and Marden respectively, both events attracting a similar number of people, where both special methods were again achieved (York Surprise & Single Oxford Minor at Yalding and Single Oxford Bob Triples & Bristol Surprise Major at Marden), it was slightly disappointing that there were not more at Marden, as this was preceded by the Spring Quarterly meeting.

In May there was a successful practice at Hunton with ringing ranging from Rounds to Cambridge Minor. One of the special methods Double Oxford Bob Minor was achieved, the other Beverley Surprise Minor was sadly not rung due to a lack of people. It was good to see this event work well given the number of known absences and allowed Junior Ringing Master Jack to run the ringing. In June, the striking competition was replaced by a practice, which went very well (considering the poor take-up of the competition), even the hurriedly decided on special method, Woodbine Delight Minor, was achieved.

June ended with a fine BBQ at Marden, hosted by Chris. This was a really excellent event, with nearly all 144 pints of beer consumed! Ringing beforehand was very good including several Surprise Major methods and ringing on the mini-ring was excellent too. It was good to see some youngsters (non-ringers) having their first go at ringing on the Trafford ring. There were also some handbells to play with, some people dusting off their long forgotten abilities of ringing methods in hand, while others attempted silly methods (successfully!) like Woodbine.

Aylesford hosted the July Quarterly Meeting which saw 22 members, ringing from rounds upwards as usual, with attempts at both special methods (Superlative Surprise Major & St. Clements College Bob Triples). September saw a rare chance to ring at Lenham. Again ringing ranged from Rounds upwards and both special methods were rung (Lincolnshire Surprise Major & Single Oxford Bob Triples). The Single Oxford eluded us here unfortunately, however this was the first time in the year that a special method was attempted, but not achieved.

As Ringing Masters we are here to help with any ringing needs you have. Should you require help with any aspect of ringing, from help with teaching up to how to call a touch, please do not hesitate to talk to or contact us.

*Richard, Daniel & Jack*

## **Publicity Officer's Report 2014**

This year has seen a revival of our District Newsletter *The Belfry* with issues being published quarterly since the last ADM. This is largely due to the formation of a Sub-Committee charged with responsibility for ideas, content and distribution and, as Editor, I have found this a great help. Current members of the Belfry Sub-Committee are Sue Bassett, James Davis, Barry Evans and myself, and I am grateful to them for their help during the year. If anyone feels they have something to offer in this respect they are most welcome to join the Sub-Committee.

During the year a Ringers' Survey was conducted, part of which related to *The Belfry* and in particular its distribution. In view of the responses to that part of the Survey it was decided that the current practice of distributing *The Belfry* by digital means (as an e-mail attachment and posting on the District website) would continue, at least for the time being. Hard copies would still be available to those few towers without access to e-mail/the internet.

The possibility of chargeable printed copies being available to towers or individual members on request was raised in response to the Survey. This could, perhaps, be offered annually at the same time as KCACR subscriptions are paid and the mechanics will be considered by the District Committee in time for the 2015 subs renewal.

The website continues to be well received and is regularly updated on District news and events.

**Roy Barclay**

***Publicity Officer***

***24<sup>th</sup> September 2014***

## TREASURER'S INTERIM REPORT TO ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2014

Set out below are the Accounts for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014 with expenditure on prizes for the 120 Club projected to the year end.

The End of Year Report will be available at the January 2015 Quarterly Meeting.

<u>Expenditure</u>		<u>Income</u>	
Publicity	0.00	Subscriptions	1,583.00
Administration	9.00	Donations	432.00
Fund Raising – 120 Club (Note 1)	590.00	Fund Raising – 120 Club	1,160.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>599.00</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>3,175.00</b>
		<b>SURPLUS</b>	<b>2,576.00</b>

<u>Due to County</u>		<u>Funds in Hand</u>	
Brought fwd at 01.01.14	184.46	District Bank Account	76.67
Surplus at 01.10.2014	2,576.00	County Administration Float	98.79
Subscriptions to County	-1,583.00		
To County BRF (note 2)	-1,002.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>175.46</b>		<b>175.46</b>

<u>Donations Detail</u>		<u>Subscriptions Detail</u>		
<i>Boxley</i>	100.00	<i>Adult</i>	101	1,030.00
<i>East Malling</i>	50.00	<i>Senior</i>	64	325.00
<i>Hunton</i>	50.00	<i>Junior</i>	15	75.00
<i>Ightham</i>	40.00	<i>Life Members</i>	18	150.00
<i>Marden</i>	20.00	<i>Non-Resident Life</i>	0	0.00
<i>Staplehurst</i>	88.00	<i>25+ year members</i>	22	0.00
<i>West Malling</i>	10.00	<i>Associate</i>	3	3.00
<i>Yalding</i>	30.00	<b>Total (note 3)</b>	223	1,583.00
<i>Piltown Campanile</i>	44.00			
	432.00			

**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 2014:

Wedding Fees	388.00
Donations – Other	44.00
120 Club (projected net profit)	570.00
	1,002.00

(3) Members total 223 compared with 230 in 2013 and includes one new Life Member. Not included are any new members elected at or after the Aylesford (July) Quarterly Meeting (subscriptions awaited).

Sue Bassett, Honorary Treasurer  
1st October 2014