



Maidstone District

The Kent County Association of Change Ringers

Maidstone District

Chairman: James Sawle
Secretary: Terry Barnard

www.kcacr-maidstone-district.org.uk

Minutes

For the **Annual District Meeting** held on **Saturday 10th October 2015 at Leeds.**

Apologies for absence were received from: - Richard Young (Yalding); Sue Payne (East Malling); Sue Brookes (Snodland); Dot Hooker and Mal Williams (Otham); Liz Barnes (Wrotham); Barry Evans (Mereworth); Rob Leach and Margaret Leadbeatter (Barming).

26 members signed the attendance book.

2015/ADM01 Minutes and any matters arising from previous meeting: -

- a) 2015/QMC 11th July 2015

The minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true record with no matters arising.

2015/ADM02 Election of new members: -

Jackie Blake of Lenham was proposed by James Davis and seconded by Emma Tilston and was duly elected.

2015/ADM03 Forthcoming Events in the next Quarter: -

- 1.) **District Practice – 14th November 2015.**
This was being held at Boughton Monchelsea and ringing was from 10.00 till 12noon.
- 2.) **District Carol Service – 12th December 2015.**
This was being held at the Broomfield. Ringing was from 3.30-4.30pm with mulled wine and mince pies after the service.
- 3.) **District Quarterly meeting – January 9th 2016.**
This was to be held at Harrietsham.

2015/ADM04 Proposed Calendar for 2016

The Secretary circulated copies of the proposed calendar and said that, so far, 7 towers had confirmed their venues. These were Harrietsham for the first meeting of the year; Mereworth for the February practice; East Sutton for the District ringing competition in March; Chart Sutton for the practice in June; Nettlestead for the quarterly meeting in July; Staplehurst for the ADM in October and West Peckham for the carol service in December.

Sue Bassett pointed out that in the past the calendar was a 15 month one, ie up till the March meeting of the following year. This was because the County Handbook, once issued, included a calendar of forthcoming events up till March. It was agreed this would be considered by the new Committee.

2015/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's interim accounts were circulated with the agenda.

4.) District Representatives' report.

James Davis gave a brief outline of the District Representatives report. The County proposal to issue membership cards caused a certain amount of discussion. This had been proposed in order to address the discrepancy between the number of members shown in the Handbook and the number of members who had paid their subscriptions. Daniel Brady also explained that membership cards were felt to be a suitable means of proving that members were entitled to the personal insurance cover provided by the Association. There was also discussion about the best way to distribute cards, given the problems encountered in 2014 with some of the Handbooks having gone missing. It was agreed the new District committee consider this issue at their next meeting.

5.) Ringing Masters' report.

Jack Velvick summarised the Ringing Master's report.

6.) Publicity Officer's report

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

The reports were then duly adopted by the meeting.

2015/ADM06 Election of officers: -

1.) District Chairman.

Liz Barnes - Proposed by Tom Barlow, seconded by Daniel Brady was duly elected.

2.) District Secretary.

Terry Barnard - Proposed by Jackie Barlow, seconded by Jack Velvick was duly elected.

3.) District Treasurer/Membership Secretary.

Sue Bassett - Proposed by Jackie Barlow, seconded by Debbie Brady was duly elected.

4.) 2 District Representatives.

James Davies – Proposed by Richard Barclay, seconded by Roy Barclay
Chris Saunders – Proposed by Debbie Brady, seconded by Darren Elphick

There being no other nominations they were both elected.

5.) District Ringing Master/s.

Jack Velvick – Proposed by Chris Bassett, seconded by Daniel Brady
Adam Brady – Proposed by James Davis, seconded by Roy Barclay

There being no other nominations they were both elected

6.) Publicity Officer

Roy Barclay – Proposed by Chris Bassett, seconded by David Earl was duly elected

7.) Committee Members.

Debbie Brady – Proposed by Jack Velvick, seconded by Adam Brady
Jane Higgs– Proposed by Chris Bassett, seconded by Daniel Brady

There being no further nominations they were all duly elected.

Tom Barlow proposed a vote of thanks for the outgoing committee for all their hard work over the last year.

2015/ADM07 Any other business.

Daniel Brady reminded the membership that the Youth Striking competition was on 24 October at Chalk and a County Surprise Major practice is on 31 October at Wrotham.

Emma Tilston had been asked by the Vicar of Lenham to pass on his thanks for the District's efforts in supporting Lenham and in particular James Davis for his personal efforts in re-starting a local band after the bells had been silent for 3 years.

James Davis said that he had now moved from Marden to Ulcombe and that he had resumed weekly practices there.

Chris Bassett proposed a vote of thanks to Leeds for the use of the bells and to Chris Saunders for the excellent hot meal.

The Chairman explained that an email had been received from Catherine Lewis as the District still had no clothing representative and asked if there was a volunteer for this post? He explained that this was not an onerous task. No stock was required to be kept, only copies of catalogues. Chris Saunders said this could be combined with the role of bookstall.

There being no further business the acting Chairman closed the meeting at 6.50pm.

Terry Barnard
District Secretary
12th October 2015

Signed as a true record by the Chairman
on

(Date) _____

Chairman's Report to the ADM 2015

The year started on a positive note, with the postponed 2014 district striking competitions held together for the first time. Five towers were represented in the Call Change competition, and four in the Method competition – a significant improvement over previous years.

Most of the practices through the year were well attended averaging over 30 attendees, and we rang at Birling, Barming, Bearsted, Linton, West Malling, and Lenham. The various special methods were also attempted, mostly with success, including Duffield, Superlative Surprise, Lincolnshire Surprise and Cambridge Surprise Major; Grandsire, Middlesex and Single Oxford Bob Triples; Beverley and Surfleet Surprise Minor; St Simon's Bob and Winchendon Place Doubles. In addition, various other methods were rung from Rounds to Spliced Surprise Major.

Less well attended was the second striking completion of the year – this time the 2015 striking competitions - with only two bands in the Call Change competition and two plus a scratch band in the Method competition.

The County AGM in Marden was notable for the District for two reasons: Tom Barlow was elected as a Vice President of the Association, and Daniel Brady being elected County Chairman.

The final event of the calendar was the barbeque again held in Marden with the Jubi-Peal mini-ring and handbells available during the evening.

The success or otherwise of the district is dependent on the people who turn up to events. We are lucky in continuing to have a core group of about 25-30 ringers who support most of the events. Almost half of those participating members are on the committee and have an active say in the future direction of the District. However, most towers in the district are not represented at any event. On positive note, we did have more than twenty new members join the district this year, including several new members from the new Lenham band who have become regular attendees at the district events.

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 2015 District ADM.

It is with sadness that I have to start this report with the passing of 4 people in the District since the last ADM. Derek Wood, for many years a loyal and regular member of the Staplehurst band passed away on 23 October 2014. Fred Asprey, a former Maidstone District Secretary and Captain at Lenham, died on 10 December 2014. Reg Foreman, a past ringer at Barming before moving to East Kent, passed away on 28 December 2014, and Sid Watts of Marden died on 29 July 2015. We all mourn their passing.

For 2015, Maidstone District hosted the County AGM. This took place at Marden Memorial Hall on Easter Monday. The highlights of the event were the election of Tom Barlow as a Vice President of the Association, and Daniel Brady being elected as the County Chairman. We have had very positive feedback from among the 108 people who attended that the arrangements for the meeting, the lovely 3-course meal, and the bar, were very well organised. Thanks for this are due largely to the ringers of Marden who shouldered most of the responsibility for organising the event including liaising with the Memorial Hall and the caterers for the event, the West End Tavern in Marden.

The re-arranged District 6 bell competition for 2014 held at Otham in November was a success with 5 teams entering the call change competition and 4 teams for the striking competition. However the 2015 competition at Ightham in March this year reverted to type and only 2 teams were entered in each completion, with a scratch band from among those who turned up to listen making a third band in the striking contest. Staplehurst won both competitions (again) and represented the District at the County 6-bell competition coming a very creditable second. Well done. The annual outing scheduled for August failed to materialise. This was a great shame since otherwise events throughout the year have been well received and very well attended. The QDM at Birling in January, and the District Practices at Barming in February and West Malling in July were the best attended each with 34 ringers. The average attendance for the year was 27, an increase on previous years.

The district barbecue this year was once again held at Marden. Again we extend thanks to Chris Barker for offering his home and garden to host the event. We had a mini-ring, handbells, and two polypins of ale and it was a good fun evening. But the most welcome aspect of the day was seeing our County Vice President, Tom Barlow up and about and enjoying a well earned pint following major surgery at Papworth Hospital. The District Carol Service was held at Addington, 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 end of the service.

During the year we have elected 28 new members, twice as many as last year. This included 19 at the QDM at West Malling in July, 10 of whom were from Lenham as they seek to re-establish the band under James Davis' guidance.

For 2016 once again we have a full programme of events planned.

Terry Barnard
Maidstone District Secretary

1 October 2015

District Ringing Masters' Report - 2015

Ringing at District events this year has been very positive; we have continued to set 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.

After the apathy of the last few years it was most encouraging that the District Striking Competitions, in their new joint format, attracted an entry of nine bands at Otham on Saturday 8th November being judged by Rhian Bagshaw and Terry Barnard. It was great to have five bands enter the Call Change section and four bands in the Method section.

December saw the usual Carol service, this year at Addington. It was nice to meet the new learners here and for several people to have their first attempt at Bristol Minimus, alongside the other rather restricted number of methods on four!

The winter Quarterly District Meeting is normally well attended and this year was no exception as 34 ringers came to the first event of 2015 at Birling on Saturday, 10th January, despite the late change in timing from morning to afternoon. We were able to ring both special methods, Grandsire Triples and Lincolnshire Surprise Major, as well as Kent, Stedman, Erin, Bristol, and of course plenty of Rounds and Call Changes and some Plain Hunt.

The first District Practice of 2015 on Saturday, 14th February was a great success with 34 ringers experiencing the newly refurbished ring of six at Barming (not exactly the same 34 who went to Birling the previous month!). This enabled several successful attempts at both special methods - Beverley Surprise Minor and Winchendon Place Doubles - along with a variety of other methods from call changes upwards.

After the success of the belated 2014 combined Striking Competitions it was rather disappointing that only two bands entered the 2015 Call Change section and two plus a scratch band in the Method Section in March. Are these a waste of time? Please let us know.

In early April, the Maidstone District hosted the KCACR AGM, which was a great success. Around 50 people rang at Marden either pre-service or post-meeting; although the same cannot be said for the

routes in and out where some towers received no visitors. We thank all those who were stewards at the open towers and we have passed your comments to the county committee.

The following week it was pleasing to see 30 ringers at Bearsted for the Spring Quarterly Meeting. This enabled us to have several successful attempts at both the special methods, St Simon's Bob Doubles and Surfleet Surprise Minor as well as plenty of call changes and some plain hunt.

Despite a lower attendance than at recent meetings, the 16 ringers who came to the District Practice at Linton on Saturday 13th June enabled us to ring both special methods, Cambridge Major and Single Oxford Bob Triples, along with Erin Triples, Bob Triples and three leads of Kent. There were also lots of Rounds - particularly useful for the ringers from Lenham's up and coming band who it was pleasing to see at the Practice.

The lovely warm sunshine certainly brought out the crowds to West Malling on Saturday 11th July for the Summer Quarterly District Meeting. The attendance book showed 32 names but it is estimated that in fact around 40 ringers were present at some time during the morning - the largest attendance at a District Meeting for many years. This enabled us to ring both special methods, Superlative Major and Middlesex Triples, along with Grandsire Triples, plenty of Call Changes and even a touch of 5-spliced Surprise Major (including Bristol!). At the short business meeting no less than 19 new members were elected to the Association, and it was pleasing to see so many of them there.

The weather was kind to us for the District Barbeque on Saturday 15th August. Around 30 ringers and friends attended the event at Marden which featured not only delicious food but also the traditional mini-ring.

There were 24 ringers at the District Practice Meeting at Lenham on Saturday 12th September which enabled us to ring the two special methods, Duffield Major (successfully) and Single Oxford Bob Triples (not so successfully). There was also plenty of opportunity for Rounds, Call Changes and Plain Hunt. It was good to see a number of the newly trained Lenham band keenly taking part.

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 & Jack

District Rep's Report 2015

Another year rolls on and the Maidstone District is in much the same shape as 2014. Sunday ringing seems to hold up quite well but more towers it seems struggle on a practice night. On the positive side Lenham are back in Union again, an army of new recruits from various towers were elected members at West Malling and Kent's newest tower at Broomfield gives the District another ringable 5.

It is an opportunity for those wishing to make progress to find a tower where they could have the chance to reach the next stage going on from Call Changes to Plain Hunt and develop their handling skills to feel more confident. We all hope that will eventually feed through to see them become part of District meetings every month and at a later date the challenge of a Striking competition!

The County committee have looked at several areas of ringing that needed upgrading and a priority in the light of the number of ageing ringers in the handbook. Firstly on training, they have appointed a Training Officer who is Peter Dale [see front of handbook for phone number to get advice] he arranged a ITTS Module 1 course to train the trainers, that is teaching tower captains good habits in teaching new recruits to raise the standard of new ringers but also to get them through the early stages as quickly as possible so they can be part of a practice night and feel they are making progress. Secondly as an incentive to make ringing competitions more inclusive there is now a County Youth Striking Competition which is scheduled for the 24th October at Chalk, near Gravesend.

There was also a request to help ringers who wanted to ring something more advanced. A County Surprise Major practice has been organised on a trial basis at the end of a month that didn't clash with any of the 6 District meetings - see the Belfry for further details. It has also been brought to the County Committee's attention that there is a discrepancy between the number of Ringers in the Handbook and those who are recorded as paying their subscription to a Treasurer. With this in mind a database of names of members has been set up to get a true total of County membership and also because once becoming members of the KCACR they are covered by the county insurance policy. To clarify this and prove you are a 'member' from 2016 it is proposed that each paid up member when they have paid their yearly subscription will be issued with a membership card.

The 2016 KCACR Annual General Meeting will be in the Rochester District on the 28th March at Tunstall.

Chris Saunders/James Davis

KCACR MAIDSTONE DISTRICT ADM – SATURDAY 10th OCTOBER 2015

Publicity Officer's Report

Our District Newsletter *The Belfry* reached a landmark this spring when issue number 100 was published in May. A bumper issue included reports and pictures of the County AGM and of Tom Barlow being elected as a Vice-President of the KCACR. It also featured a ringers' cryptic crossword and a look back to the previous landmark issues.

At the present time we are receiving enough copy for *The Belfry* to be published approximately quarterly. However, whilst I am grateful to those who regularly contribute, it would be nice to see contributions from others. It doesn't have to be a literary masterpiece – your Editor can always knock an article into shape if required. Similarly more feedback would be appreciated (including constructive criticism if appropriate). After all it is your newsletter and we want to provide what you want.

The website continues to be well received and is regularly updated on District news and events. Again, if you wish something to be publicised ask me to post it on the website - there is no wider potential audience!

Finally, as mentioned in the Editorial to Issue 100 of *The Belfry*, it is my intention not to stand for re-election at the 2017 ADM. By that time I will have been on the District Committee for 40 years and editor of *The Belfry* for thirty-five. I will also be reaching a landmark age and feel that it will be time to take a back seat in District ringing. Hopefully giving two years' notice will enable a willing replacement to be found.

Roy Barclay

Publicity Officer

24th September 2015

District Calendar 2016/7

Date	Meeting	Tower	Bells	Times
09/01/2016	District Quarterly meeting	Harrietsham	8, (12-2-12)	Ringling 15.00 to 17.30. Quarterly meeting 16.00.
13/02/2016	District Practice	Mereworth	6, (9-1-7)	10.00 – 12.00
12/03/2016	District 6 bell Call Change/Striking Competition	East Sutton	6, (8-1-16)	Bells available 9.30. Draw 9.45 Competition 10.00am
09/04/2016	District Quarterly Meeting	Stansted (tbc)	6, (5-3-21)	Ringling 10.00 – 12.30 Quarterly meeting 11.00am
28/03/2015 Easter Monday	COUNTY AGM, Tunstall, (Rochester District)			
14/05/2016	District 10 bell Practice	All Saints Maidstone (tbc)	10, (32-0-20)	10:00 - 12:00
11/06/2016	District Practice	Chart Sutton	6, (14-2-16)	10.00-12.00
District Barbeque				
County 8 Bell Competition				
09/07/2016	District Quarterly Meeting	Nettlestead	6, (5-0-22)	Ringling 10-12.30pm Quarterly meeting 11.00am
10/09/2016	District Practice	Wrotham	8, (20-0-10)	10:00 - 12:00
County 6 Bell Competition				
08/10/2016	Annual District Meeting	Staplehurst	10, (19-2-7)	Ringling 15:00 - 16:30 Service 16:30 – 17:30 Tea & Meeting 17:30 Further ringing
12/11/2016	District Practice	Hollingbourne (tbc)	6, (13-3-2)	10:00 - 12:00
10/12/2016	Carol Service	West Peckham	3, (5-0-26)	16:30-17:30 Service Mulled Wine and mince pies
14/01/2017	District Quarterly Meeting	Yalding	6, (17-0-5)	Ringling 15.00 to 17.30. Quarterly meeting 16.00.
09/02/2017	District Practice	East Malling	6, (10-3-7)	10:00 - 12:00
09/03/2017	District Practice	East Farleigh	8, (7-3-0)	10:00 - 12:00

KCACR MAIDSTONE DISTRICT



TREASURER'S INTERIM REPORT TO

ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING

10TH OCTOBER 2015

Set out below are the Accounts for the period 1st January 2015 to 30th September 2015
with expenditure on prizes for the 120 Club projected to the year end.

The End of Year Report for 2015 will be published at the January 2016 Quarterly Meeting.

<u>Expenditure</u>		<u>Income</u>	
Publicity	0.00	Subscriptions	1,741.50
Administration	1.99	Donations to BRF	938.15
AGM Lunches	550.00	AGM Lunches	550.00
120 Club Annual Licence	20.00	District BBQ	46.90
Fund Raising–120Club (Note 1)	590.00	Fund Raising – 120 Club	1,280.00
Total Expenditure	<u>1,161.99</u>	Total Income	<u>4,556.55</u>
		SURPLUS	3,394.56
<u>Due to County</u>		<u>Funds in Hand</u>	
Brought fwd at 01.01.15	175.46	District Bank Account	76.67
Surplus at 01.10.2015	3,394.56	County Administration Float	96.80
Subscriptions to County	-1,741.50		
To County BRF (note 2)	-1,655.05		
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Total	<u>173.47</u>	<u>173.47</u>
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Spliced Fund Donations

Subscriptions Detail

<i>Bearsted</i>	357.00	<i>Adult</i>	112	1,085.00
<i>Boxley</i>	100.00	<i>Senior</i>	80	382.50
<i>Chart Sutton</i>	15.00	<i>Junior</i>	15	70.00
<i>East Farleigh</i>	40.00	<i>New Life Member</i>	1	150.00
<i>East Malling</i>	75.00	<i>Life Members</i>	19	0.00
<i>Ightham</i>	50.00	<i>Non-Resident Life</i>	0	0.00
<i>Marden</i>	40.00	<i>25+ year members</i>	26	0.00
<i>Platt Campanile</i>	5.00	<i>Associate</i>	4	4.00
<i>West Malling</i>	110.00	<i>Late subscriptions from</i>		
<i>Yalding</i>	50.00	<i>East Sutton 2013&2014</i>		50.00
	<u>842.00</u>	Total members 2015	<u>256</u>	<u>1,741.50</u>

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 2015:

Spliced Fund (Wedding Fees) Donations	842.00
Donations (AGM collection & BBQ profit)	143.05
120 Club (projected net profit)	670.00
	<u>1,655.05</u>

- (3) Members total 256 compared with 228 in 2014 and includes one new Life Member. Subscriptions Income includes £50 subscriptions for East Sutton 2013 & 2014.

Sue Bassett, Honorary Treasurer

1st October 2015