



The Kent County Association of Change Ringers

Maidstone District

Maidstone District

Chairman: Elizabeth Barnes

Secretary: Terry Barnard

www.kcacr-maidstone-district.org.uk

Minutes

For the **Quarterly District Meeting** held on
Saturday 9th July 2016 at St Mary the Virgin, Nettlestead.

The Chairman opened the meeting by inviting Terry Barnard to say a few words about Alan Phipps.

Eulogy

Alan passed away suddenly on 14 May 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.

Alan learned to ring at All Saints in Maidstone in 1996 under the expert care and guidance of Graham Heath and Mike Birkbeck. He quickly developed into a more than useful ringer both for the Kent County Association of Change Ringers and the Magistrates Association. He was a member of the band at West Malling and was a regular Sunday service ringer both there and at East Malling, helping to teach and mentor the less experienced ringers. He also regularly attended practices at those two towers and at Aylesford, Hadlow and Leeds. He was not a prolific peal ringer – just 8 for KCACR and 2 for the Magistrates Association – but he had rung about 200 quarter peals.

Of far more interest to Alan was ringing at as many different towers as possible. He had recently rung on the Isles of Scilly, Channel Islands and Isle of Man and as far afield as North America and Canada(in 2014) and South Africa, Zimbabwe and Kenya in 2015. He was particularly pleased to ring at Kilifi in Kenya, one of the most remote ring of bells in the world, where he rang one of the first two quarter peals ever in that country, which was also a first for one of the local ringers. Infact he had rung at some 5,700 different towers. It is poignant to note that the last ring of bells he “nabbed” was Richard Carter’s campanile in Norfolk. It is poignant because Richard Carter used to ring at West Malling.

Alan’s only remaining family is his niece Helen and her children, his sister having died tragically young when Helen was only 10. He will be sorely missed by his tennis friends, his colleagues in the Magistrates Association and all those he helped and rang with here in Kent. Rest in peace dear friend.

The Chairman asked all present to stand for a few moments silence for Alan.

Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Daniel Brady, Sally Anne Barclay and Chris and Sue Bassett (all Staplehurst); Phillip Barnes (Wrotham): and Sue Payne (East Malling).

36 members signed the attendance book.

2016/QMC01 Minutes and any matters arising from previous meeting:

2016/QMA 9th January 2016. The Chairman remarked on the continuing good attendance at District meetings, with nearly 60 members attending the last Quarterly meeting at Stansted. Maidstone District had come 4th out of six at the County 8-Bell competition.

There were no other matters arising. The minutes were agreed and signed.

2016/QMC02 Election of new members:

Name	Tower	Proposed	Seconded
Caroline Keir	Staplehurst	Daniel Brady	Debbie Brady
Adam Wright	Marden	James Sawle	Jane Higgs
Lisa Luisi	Mereworth	Barry Evans	Terry Barnard
Debbie Reeve	Mereworth	Barry Evans	Terry Barnard

All 4 were duly elected.

2016/QMC03 Forthcoming events

The Secretary outlined the next few events. These were:

- 1.) County Surprise Practice at Wrotham on Saturday 30 July from 10-12noon. Methods will be from the Standard 8.
- 2.) District Barbeque on 13 August in Ulcombe.
- 3.) District Practice at Wrotham on 10 September from 10-12noon.
- 4.) County 6-Bell competition on 24 September in the Lewisham District.
- 5.) ADM at Staplehurst on 8 October. Ringing from 15-16.30; Service at 16.30; Tea and Meeting from 17.30.

He reminded the meeting that he was intent on stepping down as Secretary. The Chairman said there could be other vacancies on the Committee and asked the membership to see if there were any volunteers to take on these roles.

2016/QMC04 Any Other Business.

The Family and friends of Alan Phipps have been working with the Keltek Trust to do something in lasting memory of him. A project has been set up to raise money to donate a bell in his name to augment the 4 bells at Monkton to a 6, subject to PCC and faculty approval. Details can be found at <https://mydonate.bt.com/events/alanhipps/314471> and have been emailed to all those on the Maidstone District circulation list.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the Nettlestead ringers for the use of the bells and the welcome refreshments. There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 11.26.

Terry Barnard
District Secretary
11th July 2016

Signed as a true record by the Chairman
on

(Date)_____