



The Kent County Association of Change Ringers

Maidstone District

Master: Elizabeth Barnes
Secretary: Dr Emma Tilston

Maidstone District

MINUTES

for the **Tower Captains Meeting** held on **Saturday 13 January 2018** at **14:30** at **Linton**.

Present: - Alison Gerrish & Darren Elphick (Aylesford), David Earl & Colin Finnis (Barming), Ian Parker (Bearsted), Sonya Walsh (Boughton Monchelsea), Simon Pope (East Farleigh), Joy Barnard & Emma Tilston (East Malling & District Secretary), Nigel Baker (Hollingbourne), Michael Webb (Hunton), Simon Davis (Ightham & District Communications), Peter Smith (Linton), Jacqui & Tom Barlow (Maidstone, St Michael's and All Angels), Mal Williams (Otham), Sue Bassett, Janet Bowden & Daniel Brady (Staplehurst & District Rep), Justin Southwell (Wateringbury), Nick Crutchfield (West Malling), Elizabeth & Phillip Barnes (Wrotham & Master, Assistant Master, District Rep), Richard Young (Yalding), Terry Barnard (Assistant Master), (17 towers represented)

2018/TCM01 Apologies for absence were received from: -
Christine Fairfax (Boxley); Sue Payne (East Malling); Chris Saunders (Leeds); Laurence Bond (Lenham); Graham Heath (Maidstone, All Saints); Charles Tassell (Ulcombe)

2018/TCM02 Items from County

- 1. New GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) requirements**
This item was moved to the Quarterly District Meeting held at 16:00.
- 2. Safe-guarding and safe-guarding training**
No further updates have been issued by Nigel Spencer. The most recent (dated 11 November 2017) update has previously been circulated to all towers and can be found at:
<https://kcacr.org.uk/association/safeguarding/>

2018/TCM03 District Events
This item was moved to the Quarterly District Meeting held at 16:00.

2018/TCM04 General Discussion
Phil Barnes asked how many towers rang for Sunday service every week.
Twelve towers rang every week for Sunday service.
East Farleigh, Hunton, Linton and Otham rang for Sunday services according to benefice arrangements.
Shortages of service ringers were being overcome by co-operation between neighbouring towers (service times permitting).
Four towers (Aylesford, Barming, Bearsted and Staplehurst) were self-sufficient for ringers for service ringing and practice night.

Many towers reported that they were reliant on the support of regular 'visiting' ringers to their practices.

Nigel Baker (Hollingbourne) reported that 16 ringers attend practice on a Monday evening, but that they were limited to rounds and call changes and plain hunt on 6 and 7 because many of the visiting ringers were less experienced ringers from

Tunstall and Borden (Rochester District). Nigel also reported that Lenham had insufficient stronger ringers to support their inexperienced ringers.

Sue Bassett said that at Staplehurst they held dedicated practices for 2 – 3 learners and used selected stronger ringers to ring around them. When they were asked most ringers were willing to come and help.

Phil Barnes suggested that shortages of ringers could be addressed by engaging with other towers and the District. He also said that regular visitors should be encouraged to bring stronger ringers with them.

Simon Davies said that it would be easy to publicise which towers needed extra help and the nature of the help required via the District website, Facebook and the regular e-mails about District Practices. Related to this it would be helpful for all concerned if tower details were kept up-to-date.

[Action point for all towers: please make sure that the details for tower contacts and practice night are correctly stated on Dove's Guide, Love's Guide, County website, District website, church porch, church noticeboard, etc. – a full list, with website addresses, is provided at the end of these minutes]

Nigel Baker said that in the past the District Ringing Masters [Assistant Masters] had made 'official' visits to practices during the year as a means of gauging the 'health' of individual towers. He asked if the Ringing Masters still did this.

Phil Barnes responded by stating that all the District Officers were volunteers.

Many of the District Officers provide support to as many towers as they can, subject to other commitments and constraints. Even though not all towers would be visited by a District Officer during the year, the District used other means to monitor the 'health' of towers, such as the recent KCACR ringing census and the use of different towers for the monthly District Practices.

Jacqui Barlow said that Maidstone, St. Michael's and All Angels was very grateful for the on-going and invaluable support it had received from Terry Barnard.

Sonya Walsh (Boughton Monchelsea) said they had asked Daniel Brady to attend some of their practice nights to help with various issues.

Liz Barnes said that towers should be pro-active with respect to requesting and obtaining assistance. All towers should aim to ring well struck rounds and call-changes. Where there was insufficient capability within the band to do this, then small groups of inexperienced ringers with potential should be encouraged to attend practices at other towers. They would then bring their improved skills back to their home tower. Similarly, participation in District Practices provided monthly opportunities for the less experienced to ring with more experienced ringers. For tower captains District Practices were an opportunity to recruit stronger ringers to practice night and to exchange ideas with others about issues such as recruitment and retention, and the development of ringers.

Phil Barnes summarised the help available to towers. The Assistant Masters can provide help for individual towers with specific issues. For more substantial training needs, then District-level training could be organised. For ideas about teaching and how to make practices more interesting there were several sources:

1) CCCBR

<https://cccbr.org.uk/services/education/ringing-practice-toolkit/>

<https://cccbr.org.uk/services/education/ringing-practice-toolkit/foundation-skills/>

<https://cccbr.org.uk/services/education/the-education-column/>

<https://cccbr.org.uk/services/education/the-learning-curve/>
<https://cccbr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/LWHWH-StylesofLearning.pdf>
<https://cccbr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/LearningStylesQuestionnaire.pdf>
<https://cccbr.org.uk/services/education/young-people-and-ringing/>
CCCBR publications available for download and purchase:
<https://cccbr.org.uk/product-category/technical-teaching/>

2) Association of Ringing Teachers

<http://ringingteachers.org/resource-centre/teaching-tips>
<http://ringingteachers.org/resource-centre/shop>

3) Whiting Society

www.whitingsociety.org.uk/articles/articles.html#teaching
www.whitingsociety.org.uk/publications/publications.html

4) Resource Finder

www.bellringing.org/finder/view/getting-started/
www.bellringing.org/finder/view/other/

Ian Parker (Bearsted) said that he had attended an ART training course for teachers and had been very impressed by the professionalism of the trainer and the quality of the supporting material provided. Those attending of one of the training courses get a username which allows access to further teaching resources for 2 years. He encouraged even the most experienced of ringing masters/tower captains to attend an ART training course.

Phil Barnes said that Tower leadership was an issue that ART was beginning to address and that their articles on recruitment and retention were thought provoking.

<http://ringingteachers.org/resource-centre/recruitment-and-retention>
[See also www.bellringing.org/finder/view/recruitment/]

Daniel Brady said that in response to sufficient demand that ART would run specific training courses.

<http://ringingteachers.org/get-involved/host-day-course>

2018/TCM05 Any other business

Justin Southwell (Wateringbury) asked how many towers had a dedicated website and how useful they had found the website, with respect to recruiting new ringers.

Three towers reported that they had either a website, or used Facebook.

<http://bells.allsaintsstaplehurst.co.uk/>
<http://www.piltdown.org.uk/piltdownhousecampanile.htm>

Most towers did not have a website and relied on notices displayed on church noticeboards and in the parish magazine to recruit new ringers.

Phil Barnes said that information about developing websites and using social media could be found on the CCCBR website:

https://cccbr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Social_Media_Guidance_2013.pdf

A list of websites for other towers across the country can be found at:

<http://ringing.info/towers.html> (towers in bold are those with individual webpages)

Owing to the time, the chairman asked tower captains to encourage their ringers to engage with the District before thanking those attending for their time. The meeting was closed at 15:05.

[Action point for all towers: please encourage ringers of all standards to engage with the District]

Emma Tilston
District Secretary
20 January 2018

Signed as a true record by the Chairman
on

(Date)_____

Publicly accessible sources of tower information

The following organisations hold publicly accessible information about towers. It is the responsibility of individual towers to ensure that the information is correct and up-to-date in each instance. In addition to informing those listed below of recent changes affecting the ringing arrangements and contact details for tower officers, the content for each tower should be reviewed periodically, irrespective of the known need to make changes.

Organisation	Record type	Information requiring change	Contact
CCCBR, Dove's Guide http://dove.cccbr.org.uk/home.php	Individual webpage for each tower	Practice night	Dovemaster http://dove.cccbr.org.uk/contact.php?toID=DOVE (on-line contact form)
Love's Guide to Church Bells of Kent http://kent.lovesguide.com/	Individual webpage for each tower	None, but worth checking periodically	Dickon Love dickon@lovesguide.com
KCACR http://kcacr.org.uk/	Individual entry for each tower in the annual handbook Individual entry for each tower, via on-line county list of towers	Practice night Tower contact details (names, postal addresses, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers)	Handbook information is updated annually. Changes to be made outside of the annual update should be sent to: http://kcacr.org.uk/association/kcacr-officers/ Webmaster webmaster@kcacr.org.uk
KCACR, Maidstone District http://www.kcacr-maidstone-district.org.uk/index.html	Individual entry for each tower, via on-line district list of towers Tower contact list held by Maidstone District Secretary	Practice night Sunday ringing Tower contact details (names, postal addresses, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers)	http://www.kcacr-maidstone-district.org.uk/committee.html Secretary maidstonesecretary@kcacr.org.uk Publicity and website maidstonepublicity@kcacr.org.uk
Your church	Bell ringing information notices for noticeboards https://kcacr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/ringingtimesnotice.pdf Contact details for general information	Practice night Contact details for Tower Captain and Tower Secretary (names, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers)	Vicar Wardens Church office
Parish/village magazine	Listings under community groups and community diaries	Practice night Contact details for Tower Captain and Tower Secretary (names, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers)	Editor

Updated: January 2018