

T H E
Hertford County Association
O F
CHANGE-RINGERS.

Founded Oct. 29th, 1884.

ANNUAL REPORT,

WITH A

LIST OF MEMBERS & PERFORMANCES

DURING THE YEAR ENDED ON 29TH OCTOBER, 1885.

HERTFORD :
PRINTED BY STEPHEN AUSTIN AND SONS.

Hertford County Association of Change Ringers.

This Association was founded at S. Alban's on the 29th October, 1884. It comprises at the present time Branches in seven different centres of the County; one of which, S. Alban's, contains three local Bands. The number of Ringing Members is 92, and of Honorary Members 2.

The first peal of the Association, viz., Holt's Original one part Peal of Grandsire Triples, was rung at the Church of S. Andrew, Hertford, by the Hertford Band; and it has been followed by seven others, as follows:—

S. Andrew's, Hertford	- - -	28th February.
S. Mary's, Harlow	- - -	21st March.
S. Andrew's, Hertford	- - -	4th July.
The Cathedral, S. Alban's	- -	29th August.
S. Peter's, Benington	- - -	23rd September.
All Saints', Hertford	- - -	24th September.
The Cathedral, S. Alban's	- -	26th September.
All Saints', Hertford	- - -	15th October.

Of these Eight Peals, that rung at All Saints', Hertford, on the 24th September, contained 5024 changes of Bob Major; the others were in Grandsire Triples. Holt's Original one part peal having been rung five times; Holt's ten part peal, once; and the five part peal by the Rev. C. D. P. Davies, once.

The Accounts are on the whole satisfactory. The expenses of starting the Association have all been met out of the first year's income. Subscriptions have all been paid excepting 1s. due from a member elected lately; there is but one bill outstanding against the Association, viz., that of Messrs. Witherby, Cornhill, for writing the eight peals into the book, to meet which there is in hand, as appears from the Balance Sheet annexed, the sum of 15s. 6d., and 1s. still due.

The property of the Association comprises an ample stock of printed Rules and Receipt Books, a very handsome

Peal Book bound in morocco, a Minute Book, and a proper box in which to preserve these articles.

Quarterly Meetings have been held at Hertford, at Hitchin, and at Sawbridgeworth, besides the Annual General Meeting at S. Alban's; and all have been well attended. On the occasion of the Annual Meeting there was a Special Service in the Lady Chapel of the Cathedral, with a sermon by the Rev. W. Wigram. The warm thanks of the Association are due to the Clergy and Church Wardens of each of the Parishes visited, for the facilities of all kinds which have been so readily afforded them.

The points to which the attention of the Association is directed are the following:—

- 1.—The necessity of keeping a regular record of the qualification of each Candidate proposed under Rule 4.
- 2.—The necessity of making some arrangements for (a) the accurate return to the Secretary of the particulars of each peal rung; and (b) of the name and address of any Ringer elected in the Belfry for a peal; also (c) for a contribution towards the expense of entering a peal, from the Band whose performance is thus recorded.
- 3.—The Quarterly Meetings have now been established on a regular system; in which the two Railway Companies have given very valuable assistance. And these gatherings will be greatly facilitated if Members will always travel from the same stations; and will endeavour to combine two Bands or more in the same train.
- 4.—The General Secretary requests that he may receive from each Local Secretary, for entry in the Peal Book, a photograph of the Church of the Parish, with particulars as to the bells; their number, dates, inscriptions, especially if in black letter; the weight of the tenors; with any other facts of interest.

The Hertford County Association of Change Ringers.

BALANCE SHEET for the Year 29th October, 1884, to 29th October, 1885.

MONEY RECEIVED.

	£	s.	d.
By Subscriptions from—			
The Hertford Band	1	1	0
S. Alban's Cathedral Band	0	14	0
" S. Peter's Band	0	3	0
" S. Stephen's Band	0	2	0
The Baldock Band	0	10	0
The Hitchin Band	0	10	0
The Sawbridgeworth Band	0	11	0
The Bishop Stortford Band	0	14	0
The Benington Band	0	11	0
Honorary Members	0	10	0
Total	£5	6	0

MONEY PAID.

	£	s.	d.
Stephen Austin & Sons—Printing 250 copies of Rules	0	15	0
Ditto—Printing 10 Receipt Books for Members' Subscriptions	0	12	6
Peal Book and Binding	1	15	0
Nunn Brothers—Tin Box, etc.	0	17	6
Stationery, Stamps, etc.	0	8	0
Knight—Printing 100 Dinner Tickets	0	2	6
Balance in hand	£4	10	6
Total	£5	6	0

Resolved, at the Annual General Meeting, 1885, "That the account now presented to the Association be passed."

List of Members.

General Secretary & Treasurer—REV. W. WIGRAM, The Rectory, S. Andrew's, Hertford.

Honorary Members—REV. H. A. LIPSCOMB, Sawbridgeworth.
REV. F. E. COGGIN, Welwyn.

THE HERTFORD BAND.

S. Andrew's - - - EIGHT BELLS.

All Saints' - - - TEN BELLS.

Alps, W. A.	Elsemore, M.	Phillips, H.
Baker, A.	George, F.	Randall, W. L.
Baker, H.	Gathard, T.	Ringrose, T.
Crawley, J. G.	Goodchild, W.	Staples, J.*
Crawley, F. G.	Jauncey, J.	Tyler, W. A.
Cull, J.	Knight, S.	Wigram, W.

THE S. ALBAN'S BANDS.

The Cathedral - - - EIGHT BELLS.

S. Peter's - - - TEN BELLS.

S. Stephen's - - - SIX BELLS.

<i>The Cathedral.</i>		<i>S. Peter's.</i>
Battle, W.	Hills, N. N.	Debenham, E. P.*
Buckingham, W. H. L.	Hulks, E. A.	Lewis, H.
Cartmel, G. W.	Kent, R. T.	Waller, C.
Chandler, F. B.	Mitchell, J. E.	
Fowler, R. A.	Norman, T.	<i>S. Stephen's.</i>
Freeman, T. W.	Stephens, H.	Godman, A.
Grant, F.	Waddington, H. L.*	Godman, A., jun.

* Secretary.

THE BALDOCK BAND.

S. Mary the Virgin - EIGHT BELLS.

Bridwell, W.	Jackson, Richard	Roslyn, G. W.
Cawdell, J.	Jackson, Robert*	Smith, J.
Gentle, G.	Phillips, G.	Webb, T.

THE SAWBRIDGEWORTH BAND.

S. Mary - - EIGHT BELLS.

Brown, A.	Saben, H.	Tarling, F.
Camp, G.	Saben, T.	Tarling, J.
Camp, W.	Springham, P.	Tarling, N.
Rochester, G.*	Sworder, F.	

THE HITCHIN BAND.

S. Mary - - EIGHT BELLS.

Allen, W.*	Furr, F.	Kitchener, W.
Buckingham, H.	French, W.	Randall, J.
Foster, J.	Hare, J.	Squires, A.
	Hare, S.	

THE BISHOP'S STORTFORD BAND.

S. Michael - - TEN BELLS.

Brand, G.	Martin, G.	Tabor, R.
Doughty, H. N.	Newlan, T.	Tucker, A.
Champness, H.	Prior, H., jun.	Tucker, H. J.*
Ellis, T.	Rickett, W.	Tucker, W. H.
Martin, C.	Sampford, J.	

THE BENINGTON BAND.

S. Peter - - EIGHT BELLS.

Proctor, L.	Kitchener, J.	Shambrook, C.
Proctor, G. V.*	Kitchener, J.	Hobbs, W.
Page, T.	Chapman, L.	Warner, J.
Page, G.	Warner, N.	

* Secretary.

REPORT.

Read at the Annual Meeting at St. Albans, on Easter Monday, April 22nd, 1889.

In presenting my first report as Secretary of this Association before the members, I feel I have cause to congratulate them upon the record. There are now 81 enrolled ringing members (besides three others whose provisional elections will be brought forward at this meeting for confirmation); comprising 65 resident and 16 non-resident. The resident members represent eight districts, and as regards the non-residents, it is worthy of mention that the Association includes in its ranks the following:—The Revs. F. E. Robinson, C. D. P. Davies, G. F. Coleridge and H. A. Cockey, and Messrs. A. Percival Heywood, J. W. Taylor, junr., J. W. Washbrook, C. F. Winny and G. T. McLaughlin.

During the ten months which have elapsed since I was elected to my office, there have been 28 peals rung by the Association, *viz.*, 18 on tower bells and 10 on handbells, all the latter being accomplished at St. Albans. Taking the tower peals first, there has been one of Superlative Surprise Major rung at Braughing on November 15th, composed and conducted by Mr. Washbrook; one peal of Cambridge Surprise Major, rung at Benington on November 13th; one of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, rung at Baldock on November 14th, both under the same conductorship; one peal of Stedman Caters, rung at Hertford on November 12th, conducted by the Rev. F. E. Robinson; three peals of Stedman Triples, the first at Hitchin on November 14th, and the second at St. Albans on November 16th, both conducted by Mr. Washbrook, the third being at St. Giles-in-the-Fields, London, on December 15th, conducted by Mr. J. C. Mitchell; two peals of Grandsire Caters, both rung at St. Albans, the first on August 6th, conducted by Mr. Buckingham, and the other on September 29th, conducted by Mr. Cartmel; and one peal of Bob Triples, rung at St. Albans on October 27th, conducted by Mr. Buckingham. The remaining eight peals were of Grandsire Triples; of these two were rung at Hertford, three at St. Albans, two at Hatfield and one at Hunsdon, the Secretary being the conductor in three instances, Mr. Baker twice, and Messrs. Buckingham, Cartmel and Ellsmore one each. Passing on to the handbell peals, I find that a peal of Bob Royal was rung on February 16th, composed and conducted by Mr. Buckingham; three peals of Bob Major on the 6th October and the 11th and 28th February, the first two being conducted by Mr. Buckingham, the composer, and the last by Mr. Cartmel; three of Bob Triples on the 18th August, 18th January, and 12th March, all conducted by Mr. Buckingham; one peal of Grandsire Caters on the 6th August, conducted by Mr. Cartmel; and two peals of Grandsire Triples on the 14th and 28th December, conducted by Messrs. J. C. Mitchell and Cartmel respectively. Summarised, Mr. Buckingham conducted 10 peals, Mr. Washbrook and Mr. Cartmel five each, the Secretary three, Mr. Baker and Mr. J. C. Mitchell two each, and Mr. Ellsmore one. The busiest week was that from November 11th to 17th, the occasion of the visit to Hertford of the Revs. F. E. Robinson, G. F. Coleridge and H. A. Cockey, and Messrs. A. Percival Heywood, J. W. Taylor, junr., and Washbrook, when six peals were rung in five days; while the day on which most peals were accomplished was August 6th, when one peal was rung at Hertford and two at St. Albans, one being on handbells.

There have been district meetings held at Hatfield on June 16th, at Baldock on October 13th; and at Hertford on February 23rd, which were fairly well attended. In accordance with a resolution passed at the Hatfield meeting, I, in conjunction with my brother officers, went through and revised the then existing rules, which alterations were adopted by the members at the next district meeting.

I have to bring before you the balance sheet for the period that I have acted as Secretary, which shows a balance in hand of £4 2s. 6d. against £4 1s. in the last account, so that the income has just covered the expenditure.

As regards the progress of change-ringing in the county, I think that the peal book is not a bad index; but at the same time the bands at St. Peter's St. Albans, and Hatfield, are especially marked as coming into prominence, and I think that useful work is being done both at Sawbridgeworth and Baldock; but I should be failing in my duty in not mentioning the band at Benington, which maintains its high position in the ringing world, the Hertford College Youths, and also the Cathedral Society, St. Albans; and I see in the ringing newspapers accounts of good performances at Bishop's Stortford, under the conductorship of Mr. Tucker. It would be very desirable that change-ringing should be taken up more than it is on the western side of the county, as, with the exception of Oxhey, it is practically unknown. I know it is easier to point out a blot than to remedy it; and one of the difficulties in the way seems to be the want of a central line of railway to connect the two sides; as the absence of such communication prevents access, or at all events makes it difficult, to districts which might ultimately repay a visit. If sufficient support should be forthcoming to the Association, I think that an allowance might be made under certain conditions towards travelling expenses when incurred for the purpose of instructing young bands desirous to learn the art, even if the question of a paid instructor could not be entertained.

Turning to the performances of individual members, time will not admit of my going into the merits of non-resident members, even if I could do adequate justice to the subject, and I trust therefore that they will pardon the omission. I must however refer to the peal of Double Norwich Major containing 10,080 changes rung at Appleton, Berks, on the 28th January, 1888, in which Mr. E. Holifield rang the 2nd; the 12,041 of Stedman Caters, the 13,265 of Grandsire Caters, and the 15,041 of Stedman Caters, accomplished on the 5th March, 11th April, and 31st December last year, in all of which Mr. Baker took part and Mr. Holifield as well in the first two. The Rev. F. E. Robinson rang in all the four peals, besides Mr. Washbrook, who composed and conducted them. I would also mention the two handbell peals of Grandsire Triples rung non-conducted, by Messrs. Buckingham and J. C. Mitchell, with Messrs. Winny and McLaughlin, and the peal of Stedman Triples on handbells by the same four; and I have a word of praise to say about Mr. Rowe, of Hatfield, who as a young hand has already conducted two peals. I think it may be considered almost a unique performance for any ringer to be conductor to his first peal, and that feat he has accomplished.

E. P. DEBENHAM.

BALANCE SHEET,

To the 22nd APRIL, 1889.

Receipts.		Expenditure.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance in hand 16th June, 1888	4 1 0	Expenses of District Meetings	1 19 0
Subscriptions from Ringing Members ..	4 12 0	Printing	1 1 6
Honorary Member	0 10 0	Entry of 28 Peals in Peal Book	1 8 0
One Subscription paid in advance	0 1 0	Stationery, Stamps, etc... .. .	0 13 0
		Balance in hand	4 2 6
Total	£9 4 0	Total	£9 4 0

Examined and found correct.

RALPH A. FOWLER, Auditor.

THE
Hertford County Association
OF
CHANGE RINGERS.

R U L E S.

1885.

THE
Hertford County Association of Change Ringers.

R U L E S.

1.—That the Society be called "The Hertford County Association of Change Ringers;" and that its objects be, the promotion of Scientific Change-Ringing, of Belfry Reform, and the mutual co-operation of all local Bands in the County of Herts.

2.—That the Society consist of Honorary Members, of Ringing Members, and of Life Members.

3.—That each Honorary Member shall subscribe not less than 5s. annually, and each Ringing Member not less than 1s. annually; but that either may become a Life Member by paying a sum equal to ten annual contributions, which sum may be paid in not exceeding two amounts within any twelve months.

4.—That no one shall be eligible for election as a Ringing Member unless he can ring either Six Score on Six Bells, or one Five Bell Peal, to the satisfaction of the Committee. Persons learning to ring may be admitted as Probationers of the Association, subject to the same rules as to election and payment as the Ringing Members. Probationers shall have no power to vote, or take part in the Business Meetings of

the Association. Distinguished Ringers residing out of the County may join the Association on the same terms as the Ringing Members.

5.—Honorary Members may be admitted at any time by the Secretary. Ringing Members shall be admitted by the Committee at any of their meetings. All votes shall be taken by ballot, and a majority of black balls shall exclude. A duly qualified Ringer may be elected in the Tower, if required to take part in a peal, provided that not less than six votes be recorded in his favour ; such election to be confirmed at the next meeting of the Committee.

6.—That the Committee consist of one Member with the Conductor of each Local Band in union with the Association. Three to form a quorum for the transaction of business.

7.—That it be in the power of the Committee to decline union with any Band, subject to an appeal to a General Meeting of the Association. That the Committee fix the time and place of the Annual General Meeting, at which there shall always be a special service in one of the Churches ; also they shall arrange the Quarterly and District Meetings. The Secretary shall provide when requested for the opening of new Rings by Members of the Association.

8.—That all subscriptions be payable in advance ; that they become due on the first day of January in each year ; that the Secretary of each Local Band collect the subscriptions of the several members thereof, and transmit them

to the Treasurer of the Association. That each member whose subscription is two full years in arrear be liable to expulsion at the first meeting of the Association in the third year, and that no one whose subscription is unpaid for the current year be allowed to vote at any meeting.

9.—Notices of motions to be brought forward at any Meeting shall be sent to the Secretary one week at least before that meeting, and shall be placed by him in a conspicuous place early on the day of the meeting for the information of members.

10.—No Peal of less than 5,000 changes on seven or eight bells, or 5,000 in seven different methods on six bells, shall be entered in the Peal Book. The expense of such entry shall be borne by the Society.

11.—Bye-Laws may be made after due notice to all members at a special meeting summoned for the purpose ; such Bye-Laws shall regulate all matters relating to the affairs of the Society for which no provision is made in these Rules ; but they shall be re-considered at the General Meeting next ensuing.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS.

RULES

To be submitted for the approval of the Members at the District Meeting to be held at BALDOCK, on SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13TH, 1888.

1.—That this Association be called “THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS,” and that its objects be:—

- I. Belfry reform, and
- II. The promotion of Change Ringing and of social intercourse amongst Change Ringers within and around the County by means of the various Annual and District Meetings.

2.—That the Association shall consist of Honorary and Ringing Members. That Hon. Members shall subscribe not less than five shillings annually, and Ringing Members not less than one shilling annually. That these Subscriptions become due on Easter Monday in each year, and be payable in advance. Either Honorary or Ringing Members may at any time become Life Members on payment of a sum equal to 10 years' subscriptions.

3.—That no one shall be eligible for election as a Ringing Member unless he can ring at least 120 changes in one of the Standard Methods, or cover with the tenor for 500 changes. The proposer of any candidate for election must be in a position to vouch for one or the other of these qualifications. That every Candidate be duly proposed and seconded at an Annual or District Meeting, and elected by a majority of the Members then present by a show of hands. Ringers residing out of the County may join the Association on the same terms as those specified in this and the preceding rule. A duly qualified ringer may be provisionally elected in the tower if required to take part in a peal, if not less than six votes be recorded in his favour, subject to such election being confirmed at the next Meeting.

4.—That the government of the Association be vested in a President, Secretary, and Auditor, *ex-officio*, and one representative from each local band, eight or more Members of which belong thereto. These Officers shall constitute a Committee of Management, of whom five shall form a quorum. That it shall be the duty of the Conductor or Secretary of each band to inform the Secretary of the Association, in writing, of the name and address of the person deputed to act on the Committee, and until notice shall be given to the contrary, such person chosen shall be deemed to be a Member thereof, subject nevertheless to the limitations contained in Rule 6.

5.—That three District Meetings be held in the year, on a Saturday, in the months of February, June, and October. That the Annual Meeting be held on Easter Monday, on which occasion there shall be a special Service in one of the Churches. That at the Annual Meeting the Members shall elect the President, Secretary, and Auditor for the ensuing 12 months.

6.—That it be the duty of the Conductor or Secretary of each local band to collect the subscriptions of the several Members thereof, and transmit them on the day of the Annual Meeting, or within one calendar month thereafter, to the Secretary of the Association; and in the event of any band having a representative on the Committee being in arrear in the payment of such subscriptions after the time above specified, such representative shall cease to act until at least the qualifying number of subscriptions have been paid. Any Member being more than 12 months in arrear with his subscription shall be deemed to have resigned from the Association as from the commencement of the preceding year; and no one whose current subscription is unpaid shall be allowed to speak and vote at any Meeting.

7.—In cases of important motions intended to be brought forward at any Meeting, notice thereof shall, if possible, be given at the preceding one, but where this is impracticable it must be sent to the Secretary in sufficient time to enable him to give the Members due intimation of the same.

8.—That notice of the various District and Annual Meetings be inserted by the Secretary at least two weeks previously in *The Bell News*, or such other paper or papers as the Members shall from time to time determine, and such notice shall be considered sufficient without the necessity of further intimation of such Meetings being sent by circular to the local bands and unattached Members.

9.—No peal of less than 5,000 changes on seven bells and upwards, or 5,000 in seven different methods on six bells, shall be entered in the Peal Book. The particulars of each peal shall be supplied to the Secretary by the Conductor, who shall be responsible for the payment of the subscriptions of any persons elected in the tower upon the occasion.

Approved,

LEONARD PROCTOR, *President.*

E. P. DEBENHAM, *Hon. Secretary.*

R. A. FOWLER, *Auditor.*