

Annual District Meeting, 1942.

The Annual District Meeting for 1942 took place at St. Peters, St Albans, on November 21st.

The tower was open for lashed-bell practice during the afternoon but few availed themselves of the opportunity, and only Bob Minor, Stedman Doubles, and rounds on 6 were rung. At 4.30 P.M. a short but very helpful service was held, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev A.M. Fergusson. Tea, which was very kindly arranged by Mrs Fergusson then took place in St. Peters Institute round a nice fire.

The chair for the business meeting was taken by Mr W. Ayre and proceedings commenced with the reading and confirming of the minutes of the meeting held on May 16th 1942 which had in fact served as the Annual meeting for 1941, there having been insufficient members present at the meetings held on Jan 17th 1942 to allow for the election of district officers.

There were no new members proposed for election, so the next item was to decide the place of the next meeting. It was finally decided, on the proposition of Mrs Fergusson seconded by Mr A. Lawrence that it be held in St. Albans, if possible at St. Michaels, it being left to the secretary to make the best arrangements.

The Secretary's Report was next read. It was of necessity brief as the only tower bell ringing during the year had been on the previous Sunday when the ban had been suspended from 9 A.M. until Noon to allow the bells to sound forth in thanksgiving for the recent victories in the Middle East. Other items mentioned in the report were district meetings held, and the state of subscriptions. The report was adopted on the proposal of Mr Sayers seconded by Mrs Fergusson.

The election of officers for 1943 then took place, and Mrs Fergusson proposed that Mr R. W. Davill be re-elected secretary. This was seconded by Mr Sayers and carried.

Mr E. Nash then proposed that the existing committee, namely Messrs A. Day, A. Lawrence, H. J. Hazell & Mrs Fergusson be ^{re-} elected en bloc, and this was agreed.

Under the heading of any other business, the secretary read a letter he had recently received from the secretary of the Cathedral band. The letter was in reply to an invitation to that meeting to discuss the difference of opinion between the Cathedral Band and the association about which the district knew ~~was~~ nothing direct. The letter stated that the Cathedral Society had had a

most unsatisfactory reply to a resolution which they had sent to the General Committee, and as the result of this had decided to withdraw from the Association. They further claimed that their resolution had not fully been ^{recorded} reported in the reports published of either in the local Press, Ringing World or Association Report. They stated also that their final letter of resignation had been ignored.

The matter was put to the meeting for discussion, and Mr. Bartmel explained the situation from his point of view. He considered that the motion had been given ~~un~~ unbiassed attention at the Committee Meeting, but had not been agreed to, as it was unpracticable in that it would bar from office some of the most deserving people in the association and therefore could serve no useful purpose. As to its treatment at the Annual Meeting, it was brought up there, but as nobody was present from the Cathedral band to support it, it was bound to fail. Mr. Bartmel added that the Cathedral Society was represented when the rules were drawn up in 1936, and had agreed to them. Further, on the final letter of resignation referred to, no such letter had been received by himself.

or, so far as he knew, any other official of the Association. The feeling of the meeting was that for some reason unknown, the Cathedral band wanted to leave the Association and were looking for an excuse. Had they turned up in force at that meeting they could have ruled the meeting. It was hoped, however, that a suggested meeting between Mr Lovatmel and Mr Goodenough in the presence of the Dean would effect a solution to the trouble whatever it was.

It was agreed that as no letter of resignation had been received, ~~that~~ the secretary be asked to write to Mr Goodenough pointing out that the band were still regarded as members and that their subscriptions for the year were therefore due.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Vicar, Rev A. M. Ferguson for the use of the church and hall, and for conducting the service, to Mrs Ferguson for providing the most acceptable tea, and to Mrs Thomas for playing the piano at the service.

Mr Lawrence said that due to a mistake, 3 members of the Hatfield band had been reported as killed in action. Actually two of these had been reported missing, and the hope was expressed that news would soon be received that

they were safe.

After the business meeting, further use was made of handbells, this time Mr Taylors peal being used. Methods rung included Groundsire Gates, Kent + Plain Bob Major, Groundsire + Oldman Triples.

Summary of Year 1942.

District Meetings, 5. Hatfield, N. Mysons + 3 at St Peter's St Albans

New Members, 7 (Probationary) of St Peter's band, St Albans.

Subscriptions. These have come in well from Honorary Members, but very irregularly from Ringing Members, even allowing for the number in the forces. A large number have not been paid since 1939.

Special Ringing. On Sunday Nov 15th the ban on tower bells was suspended from 9 A.M. to Noon. Ringing at the various towers in the district was as follows.

TOWER.	BELLS RUNG.	METHODS RUNG.
Essendon	5.	ball change (scratch band).
Harpenden	8.	Groundsire Triples.