

Saturday May 12th 1968

Owing to a crack in the tower, ringing was slightly curtailed & did not commence until 3.30 pm. The service at 4.30 pm was conducted by the Rector of Wheathampstead, Rev. G.T. Roe, & was followed by tea prepared by local ringers in the village hall. The Rector, who had to leave early, was thanked by the Secretary for the use of the bells & for taking the service. The Rev H.C.C. Melville of Bedford was elected to the chair for the business meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs J. Dooks & Messrs Clouston & Dobsonham.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, agreed & signed as a correct record. Arising out of this, Mr G. Conway stated that the St. Stephen's surprise practice had been very poorly supported.

Election of new members. The bellry election prior to a peal at Tottenham of Graham W. Elms of Woreham Dorset, & Roger W. Powell of London as N.R.C.M. was ratified.

Social Events. The Secretary stated that Guests for the dinner were now arranged, but the final definite price was as yet not agreed. The Barbecue/Social would now take place at St. Michael's Rectory field.

The Secretary also stated that he had been again unsuccessful in arranging an ATV visit, but had been given hints by ATV as to when next to write. It was agreed that a further attempt for a visit in

late October / early November be left in the Secretary's hands.
Mr Penney thanked the Secretary for his efforts in this field.

Following Practices. The following were announced.

Special Practices: Essendon, June 4th, 7.30p

Kington, July 5th - to be confirmed.

Surprise Practice: St. Albans Cathedral, May 21st, 7.30p.

The D.R.M. stated that Cambridge & Yorkshire Maxims would both be attempted if possible.

District Peal Programme. The D.R.M. repeated his comments of the Essendon meeting, & asked again for names of aspiring peal rings. He also stated that only 12 names, including several of competent rings, had so far been received.

Date & Place of Next meeting. This was arranged for June 15th at Welwyn. The Secretary stated that the local café was now closed, but the local scout hut would be available if members chose to provide their own food. Mrs Coburn said she would be willing to cater on this occasion, & several other ladies volunteered to help. Arrangements were left to Mrs Coburn for this.

A.O.B

The Secretary read a letter received from Peter Cole, son of the late H.W. Cole, thanking the Association for sending flowers to his father's funeral.

G. Dodds asked for guidance on how to vote at the G.C. meeting with respect to the motion to be brought forward. A discussion followed, with particular reference to the Methods Committee. He also outlined the ^{district} Committee suggestion that at 6 bell meetings, when attendance was heavy, a band should be sent off to a prearranged nearby tower to attempt a quarter

Hardy preventing people from leaving to sit about all afternoon with very little ringing.

The Secretary reported that he had just banked £14.10.0 in the C.C. fund, bringing the total to roughly £53.10.0. He also reported that a profit from the tea of £1.13.6d ~~was~~ had been donated for the V.B.F.

Mrs Hardy stated that she was making decorative paper flowers for sale in aid of the C.C. fund, & would be pleased to receive any orders.

Miss Slough thanked on behalf of Whitehampstead rings all those who had participated in the sponsored walk.

F.W. Ellis offered apologies in advance for Whitehampstead rings at the welcome meeting, owing to wedding.

G. Penney stated that so far nearly 50 peals had been rung for the Association, which looked very hopeful.

A Vote of thanks for the tea was proposed from the chair, & heartily endorsed by the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed. Further ringing until 8.00 pm took place, & despite the loss of the treble stay & the long draught of rope, some good ringing was achieved.

H. V. Frost. 15/6/68

CHAIRMAN