

Ringing got off to a good start on these light bells under the direction of the D.R.M. At 4.30 members adjourned to the nearby Church Room for the business meeting, for which our President, Mr. Ayre, took the chair. The Secretary welcomed Mr. Ayre to the district, & also welcomed a number of people who were attending their first meeting.

Opening the meeting the President asked members to stand in memory of Canon Douglas Harper, late Rector of St. Michael's, St. Albans. Mr Kirk followed with a brief tribute to Canon Harper.

Apologies for absence were received from P.T. Dale & Miss J. Fellows.

The minutes of the last meeting were read, agreed & signed as correct. Arising, Mr. Penney congratulated the D.R.M. on the excellent arrangements for the outing. It was also pointed out that entries in the handbell section of the St. Albans Music Festival would probably be still received, even at this ^{late} date.

Election of New Members. The following N.R.L.M. bellfry elections were ratified

Roger. I. Kendrick,	Barrow-on-Soar,	Leics
Martin T. Howard,	Wootton,	Beds
George W. Massey,	Frome,	Som.
David G. Massey,	Frome,	Som
Norman Harding	King Lynn,	Norfolk.

Mrs Hilda G. Massey was elected N.R.L.M proposed by R. Hardy, seconded G. Penney. Election carried.

Ringling Course 1970. The proposed timetable of events was given, and names of those interested asked for.

District Dinner. The Secretary said he had tickets available. A question from M. Davill asking if District Members would receive priority for tickets over others was answered in the affirmative. In view of difficulties with booking hotels, the meeting was asked if a Dinner is required in 1970. A proposition by A. Wilby, seconded by J. Ewer that a Dinner be held in 1970 was carried.

Forthcoming Practices. The D.R.M. regretted that the St. Michael's Surprise practice had had to be cancelled. No Surprise Practice had been fixed for ~~Oct~~ November, but the D.R.M. said he would circulate members about this. A discussion on which evenings are most suitable showed a small majority to be in favour of Friday instead of Thursday.

The Secretary stated that an Assisted Practice scheme would commence on Nov. 26th at Sandridge. Mrs Talbot-Ponsbury thanked the district for help so far received at Radlett.

Mr. Penny said that Kimpton, who have only recently had an Assisted Practice scheme, are now not ringing & asked anyone who could help to do so.

Date & Place of Next Meeting. Barnet on Nov. 15th, being a full meeting. The D.R.M. said he intended to devote the afternoon ringing to people wishing to call a touch, & asked all interested to look up a suitable touch of Grand sire, Stedman or Plain bob, and to contact one of the experienced ringers if in difficulty. In answer to a question by Mrs Dadds, the meeting was assured that plenty of rounds would also be rung.

Mrs Coburn said that Harpenden bells would be ~~back~~ or rededicated at Evesong on Nov. 16th.

The Secretary said it had been proposed a memorial be erected to Canon Harpur, possibly in the form of a peal board commemorating a peal rung on ~~the~~ 16th Oct. to his memory. Mr. Kirk said his feeling was that the band concerned should pay for this; a sentiment with ~~which~~ which a number of others agreed. It was proposed by A. Carter, seconded T.C. Holland that a tactful investigation be carried out as to where any donations might be sent before money is collected. An amendment proposed by K. Davill, seconded by A. Wilby suggested that a collection be taken & the money held until the investigation is complete. The amendment was defeated & the original proposal carried.

The Secretary said he would like to see better attendance at meeting services & pointed out that indifference to the service was hardly fair or courteous to the local incumbent who had not only allowed us to ring but had also put himself to the trouble of taking a service on a Saturday afternoon. The President endorsed this.

A collection was taken for the V. B. F. & realized £2.2.9

A vote of thanks was proposed by K. Davill to the ladies for the tea to come, to the local ringers & to Canon Walsh, Rector of Welwyn, for the use of the bells & the service to be held later.

The meeting was then closed, & a buffet tea, prepared by Mrs Coburn & her helpers, was served. A brief service at 6.00 conducted by Canon ~~Harpur~~ Walsh was

followed by singing until 7:30. A number of late arriving
singers were nearly disappointed because of the early finish.

B.E. Butler

CHAIRMAN.

15th Nov.
1969.

V.B.F: Profit from tea received £1.3.0