

ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING AT HATFIELD ON SATURDAY 17th JANUARY 1987

Ringing took place at Hatfield from 3.30 to 5pm with almost 30 ringers present. This was followed by a tea of Soup and Hot Dogs. The County Secretary, P. Saunders, chaired the meeting having been proposed by G. Penney and seconded by Mrs M.A. Coburn.

Apologies for Absence were received from J. Beardwell, R. Edmondson, Mr and Mrs Carter, K. Lewis, R. Clouston, Miss A. Castle, Mr, Mrs and J. Spreadbury, and H. V. Frost.

Loss of member by Death

The meeting stood in memory of F. Jacklin from Harpenden.

The Minutes of the last Annual District Meeting were read and signed as correct. There were no matters arising.

Election of new Members

The following new members were elected:-

From Sandridge the following full members were proposed by G. Dodds and seconded by Mrs S. Patterson

Jonathan P. Humbert

Christopher Standen

Adrian Ules

Helen Ules

From Harpenden the following probationary members were proposed by Mrs M.A. Coburn seconded C. Peacock

Rev'd Neil Collings

Leonard Tilbrook

From Kimpton the following members were proposed by Mrs S. Newman seconded by K. Newman

Clare Pollington full member

George Harding full member

Mrs Dora Scott - probationary to full membership

From Welwyn the following probationary members were proposed by P. Cox seconded P. Montgomery

Mike Harding

Hilary Harding

From St Peter's no following probationary member was proposed by H. V. Frost and seconded Miss J. Johnson
Julie Harding

The ratification of Neil A. Purie as NRM proposed prior to a seal at Kington
by R. J. Gocher and seconded by K. Newman.

In answer to a question by G. Penney enquiring how many of the members
just elected were present it was stated that there were none. G. Penney
said that at the last ADM it had been hoped that new members would be
encouraged to attend at least the meeting at which they were elected.

Secretary's Report.

The secretary's report was read and A. Patterson proposed and C. Pocock
seconded that it be approved. This was carried.

Statement of accounts.

The accounts were presented to the meeting. The secretary reported that
they had been audited by the District Auditor.

G. Humphries proposed and Mrs S. Patterson seconded that the Association
Account be accepted and this was carried.

C. Pocock proposed and G. Humphries seconded that the Voluntary Bell
Fund account be accepted and this was carried.

Miss T. Gowder proposed and Mrs E. Pocock seconded that the District account
be accepted and this was carried.

Election of Officers and Committee

Binging Master Mrs S. Patterson was proposed by Miss T. Gowder and seconded by G. Penney.
Miss T. Gowder thanked Mrs S. Patterson for the excellent way in which she had carried out
her job during the last year. There being no other nominations Mrs S. Patterson was duly elected

District Secretary Mrs E. J. Drummond-Tyler was proposed by G. Humphries and seconded
by Mrs M. A. Coburn. G. Humphries thanked the secretary for her excellent work during the
last year. There being no other nomination Mrs E. J. Drummond-Tyler was duly elected.

Association Committee Representative Mrs A. Saunders was proposed by Mrs E. J. Drummond-
Tyler and seconded by G. Humphries. As there were no other nominations she was duly elected.

Committee Members S. Saunders was proposed by A. Patterson and seconded by Mrs M.A. Coburn. G. Humphreys was proposed by Miss T. Gowder and seconded by D. Drummond-Tyler. P. Cox was proposed by Mrs S. Patterson and seconded by Mrs E. S. Drummond-Tyler. All three were elected.

Deputy Association Committee Rep. Mrs S. Patterson was proposed by Miss T. Gowder seconded G. Penney and duly elected.

Voluntary Ball Fund Trustees. Mrs M.A. Coburn and C. Pocock were proposed by K. Newman and seconded by A. Patterson and duly elected.

District Peal Book writer D. Drummond-Tyler was proposed by C. Pocock and seconded by G. Humphreys and duly elected. D. Drummond-Tyler gave a breakdown of the number of District Peals rung during the last 10 years and indicated that the Peal book was available for inspection.

District Hon. Auditor Mrs S. Edmondson was proposed by Mrs M.A. Coburn and seconded by Mrs E. Pocock and duly elected. Mrs M.A. Coburn proposed a vote of thanks to the auditor for her work at a particularly busy time of the year.

S. Saunders proposed a vote of thanks to last year's officers and in particular Mrs S. Edmondson who had not sought reelection to the committee.

Programme for 1987

The Secretary presented the programmes for both District meetings and learners practices for 1987 to the meeting stressing that these were provisional and subject to change until confirmation from towers had been ^{obtained} sought. The meeting requested that if possible only one tower should be visited per District meeting, although this should not apply if the tower was a 6-bell tower. Mrs M.A. Coburn asked for more services. G. Penney suggested that towers not visited for District meetings should be included in the learners practices programme or the peal programme.

Suggestions for District events for 1987 include:-
Agones evening on Maundy Thursday, the Woolford Cup, a Pub Walk,
two 1/2 peal weekends - one to encourage members to attempt methods they
would not otherwise ring and the other to encourage all towers to ring a 1/4
a Leamers Striking Competition and a social on the same lines as last
year.

The secretary stated that the District was hosting the 8 bell striking
Competition in May at St Michaels.

Request from Harpenden for a grant from the Voluntary Bell Fund.

The secretary read a letter from the Harpenden tower secretary asking
for a grant from the District Bell Fund towards the cost of fitting new
bearings to five of their bells which had been estimated at £544 + VAT.
She added that the District committee had, in liaison of the trustees who
both came from Harpenden, met to discuss this request and had
recommended that £100 be donated. This recommendation was
proposed by G. Penney, seconded G. Humphreys and carried. The
Harpenden ringers expressed their thanks.

Discussion of the proposed changes to the Association Rules.

Four changes to the Association Rules had been recommended in principle
by the County Committee and these were discussed by the meeting.
The meeting was in favour of allowing probationary members to pay
a reduced subscription.

The meeting was against allowing no more than 2 participants in an
Association peal to be non-resident members.

The meeting was in favour of allowing the General Committee to fill Casual
Vacancies amongst CC Reps.

The meeting was in favour of the rule stating that the peal fee should be
levied with the aim of generating income to cover the cost of writing the Peal Book.

Date and Place of Next ADM

The next Annual District Meeting would be on Saturday 16th January 1988 at
St Peter, or Kington if St Peter were unavailable.

Date and Place of next District Meeting

The next District Meeting would be at St Peters with ringing from 3-30 to 5pm and 6-30 to 8pm, subject to Confirmation, on Saturday 21st February. The next Leavers practice would be at St. Marys on Saturday 7th February from 10 till noon.

Any Other Business

The Secretary announced the winners of the recent 100 Club Drums. J. Saunders stated that last year's 100 Club members were being requested to subscribe again for the coming year and that new members would be welcomed.

Miss A. Saunders asked the meeting for their views on two General Committee's suggestions:-

The first was that there should be a rest piece for the County & bell Centre and that Districts should not feel obliged to enter two teams. The meeting were against having a rest piece and felt that Districts should not be restricted to entering just one team.

The second was whether the County should organise a ringing course. The meeting declared an interest in either the County or District organising course to include General Bell Maintenance, Conducting, Ringing Menkers Course, Bellringing Theory for leavers, & How to teach leavers. G. Dodds said that the Central Council Education Committee had circulated information. G. Penney said that the St Albans Music Festival had a handbell section which had attracted only 2 entries over the last 2 years. More teams would be welcomed. The Festival was held in November and the minimum standard was 250 changes of Bob Major.

A vote of thanks to the ringers of Hatfield for providing such a splendid warming tea on a cold day and to the rectors of Hatfield for reuse of the bells was proposed.

The Voluntary Bell Fund Collection raised £4.70

There being no other business, the meeting was declared closed.

Ringers adjourned to the Red Lion, Hatfield

Chalot-Porah