

DISTRICT MEETING AT THE ABBEY ON SATURDAY 21st NOVEMBER 1987

A Quarter peal was rung on the abbey bells during the afternoon followed by handbell ringing in the crypt. Members then sat down for tea and the Business Meeting which was chaired by the Association President, J. McCutcheon.

Apologies for Absence were received from J and Mrs J. Badger.

The Minutes were read and signed as correct.

Matters Arising

There had been four quarter peals rung during the 1/4 peal weekend in October and details of these would be published in the next District newsletter.

The next Ringing Masters Seminar would take place at St Peter's on 27th November in the tower. A. Patterson would be chairing it again and he asked attendees to provide topics they would like to discuss. The seminar would concentrate on the practical aspects of teaching learners and G. Penney suggested that two learners be present to act as guinea pigs. He volunteered to provide them. Miss T. Crowder asked for detailed notes to be taken so that they could be distributed to those unable to attend.

Election of New Members.

The helpful election of Peter J. Sawyer of Reading prior to a peal at Dunstable, who had been proposed by R. Crocker and seconded by Miss R. Scott was ratified.

Lloyd Vivian of St Peter's was proposed by H.V. Frost and seconded by G. Dodds as a probationary member and Julie Harding also of St Peter's was proposed as transferring from probationary to full membership by H.V. Frost seconded by G. Dodds. Both were duly elected.

Report on District Social

Mrs A. Saunders reported that 98 people had attended the Social the previous weekend and the profit of £200 had been sent to the County Bell Restoration Fund. Everybody appeared to have enjoyed the Barn Dance, which had been ably called by D. Marshall. Mrs F. Drummond-Tyler proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs A. Saunders for her organisation of an excellent evening and G. Penney added a vote of thanks to all her helpers.

Learner Striking Contest Practice

P. Cox reported that he had had replies from 6 towers and so far had 17 names. The idea was that there would be two sessions of 1 hr each and that attendees would be allocated to one or other session. There were six towers available to be used for these practices, which were taking place on 5th December. He asked that towers reply even if nobody was attending. The purpose of the practice was to improve striking and only call changes would be rung.

100 Club

Mrs F. Drummond-Tyler reported that the rules of the 100 Club had been altered, primarily to enable the Association to run the club rather than the Bell Restoration Fund. This was because Charities were not allowed to run Games of Chance from which they hoped to benefit. As a result, a new 100 Club would be set up for 1988 and all existing members would have to reapply if they wished to remain members. The Secretary used the meeting to become members of his worthwhile Club and stressed the urgency to fill in forms immediately. The rule whereby if members had not paid their subscription by the first draw their share would be deemed void would be strictly applied. There was also a new rule whereby if there were not at least 50 paid up members of the Club at the time of the first draw then the Club would not run for that year. ~~As the profits~~

County Ringing Course

The Secretary outlined the ~~details~~ report that had been prepared proposing the structure of a one day course next year. She would be sending copies to all towers and welcomed comments at the December and January meetings so that she could report back to the County Committee at the end of January. It was hoped to have finalised the date and place of the course by the County AGM.

Date and Place of Next Meeting

The next District Meeting would be at Harpenden on Saturday 19th December. Afternoon ringing would be from 3-30 to 5 pm followed by a Carol Service, Evening ringing would be from 6-30 to 8 pm.

Any Other Business

Mrs A. Saunders reported on the recent County Committee Meeting. This would be fully covered in the District Newsletter but the main points were a ~~an~~ request from Ely Diocesan Association to see whether we were interested in helping to set up an Inter Association W bell Striking Competition, an 18% increase in peals so far over the last year, and the dates of County Events for next year. These were 23rd April for the AGM to be held at Little Gaddesden, the 8 bell Striking Competition on 21st May in the Bishops Stortford District and the Kempton Cup on 24th September in the St Albans District.

H.V. Frost said that he was getting Church Bells of Hertfordshire photo-copied. He would be sending the relevant sections to each tower, asking them to update it. G. Dodds added that Alan Frost and Dick Paine had collected details of towers about 10 years ago.

G. Pennes informed the meeting that Mrs S. Edmondson had recently undergone a minor operation but was very cheerful and was going home the next day. It was agreed to send a get well message from the District.

Miss T. Crowder commented on the difficulty of catering for teas when the number attending often bore no resemblance to the names sent in beforehand. It was agreed to enforce a No Name no Tea rule.

J. McCutcheon proposed a vote of thanks for tea to Mrs J. Penney and her band of helpers and to the Abbey organ and authorities for allowing us the use of their bells.

There being no other business the meeting was declared closed.

The 100 Club Draw then took place, with J. McCutcheon drawing out the winning number - 74 - which was owned by Mrs F. Drummond-Tyler.

Evening Ringers took place at the Abbey from 6-30 to 8-30 pm. The Bell Fund Collection raised £10, thanks to the ^{tea} profit from the Abbey band.

MA
19/12/87.