

DISTRICT MEETING AT ST MICHAEL'S, ST ALBANS ON SATURDAY 19th MARCH 1988

Ringing took place on the 8 bells of St Michaels from 3.30, but was cut short just before the service, by the breachage of the tenor clapper. The St Michaels ringers had prepared a hot tea and this was followed by the business meeting chaired by S. Saunders.

Apologies for Absence were received from Mrs S Spreadbury and K and Mrs S Edmondson.

The Minutes were read and signed as correct. There were no matters arising.

Election of New Members

The bell ring elections of Alan Trebble of Huddersfield, Michael Henshaw of Hull and Deborah Thorley of Woodbridge, proposed by J. Southey seconded J Mayne prior to a peal at Aldenham on 19th March 1988 were duly ratified.

Report on Learners' Striking Contest

P. Cox reported that 18 learners forming 4 bands had entered. There had been practice sessions of 10 minutes each before the draw had taken place and five minutes for the contest itself. K. Lucas and his father had judged it extremely well giving lots of constructive and useful comments. Mrs S. Newman had brought her handbells along and was thanked for the hard work she had done throughout the morning keeping the learners occupied whilst not involved with the tower bell ring. He went on to thank all those who had helped to make the contest possible. It had been a worthwhile exercise and everyone involved had got something out of it. It would be worth repeating but not on an annual basis. G. Dodds added that he thought the standard of organisation had been very high. S. Saunders proposed a vote of thanks to P. Cox.

Future Events.

Mrs S. Patterson said that the date for the Instruction seminar had had to be changed and it would now be on Friday 6th May at St Peter's from 7-30 to 9-30. The subject matter would be Plain Hunting - how to teach it. Anybody interested in teaching and recent learners would be welcome.

Mrs S. Patterson said that monthly Surprise practice would be held on the first Wednesday of each month at Kimpton from 7-30 to 9pm starting on May 4th. There would be no particular method specified to start with but it was hoped to set targets and objectives as the practice progressed. C. Pocock asked whether the day could be varied so as to accommodate towns which practiced on Wednesdays. Mrs S. Patterson said she would consider it as the practice progressed but was keen to get the concept of monthly District Surprise practice firmly established.

Mrs R. Lucas was organising the Woolford Cup and it would be held at Sandridge on 16th May starting at 6pm. She would be sending out entry forms soon.

Miss N. Pownall stated that there would be an outing to the White Chapel Bell Foundry on 11th June. The Foundry visit would be from 9-30 to 11-30 and 4 or 5 towns would be organised for the afternoon. The Foundry visit would be limited to 25 and a charge of £2 would be levied. Details of the AGM to be held in the western District on 23rd April were given. S. Saunders reminded the meeting that the proposed rule changes would be debated.

Date and Place of next meeting

The next District Meeting would be on Saturday 16th ~~May~~^{April} with afternoon singing at Hatfield from 3-30 to 5-30 pm, followed by service, tea and meeting. Evening singing would be at Sandridge from 7 to 8-30 pm.

Any Other Business

P. Cox stated that there was to be a pearl attempt and a regatta service at Welwyn on Sunday 17th April to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Dedication.

of Welwyn bells. He would appreciate some support from the District for the service, which would be preceded by tea.

J. J. Ford proposed that due to the lack of a tenor clapper, the Ringing Master be permitted to suspend evening ringing at her own discretion and this was agreed.

It was stated that there would be no ringing during Holy week at Rissenden and Barnet.

Miss T. Crowder proposed a vote of thanks to the lay readers and organist for the service at the St Michael's Ringers for the use of the bells and providing such a delicious tea.

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

The Voluntary Bell Fund collection raised £11-70, £8 of it being the profit from the tea.

Evening ringing continued until 8pm on the front 6 of St Michael's

AR Patterson 16/4/58.