

The first District Handbell Workshop was held during the afternoon at St Michael with both method ringing and tune ringing groups. A short service was held before a splendid tea, served by the St Michael's ringers. The Association President, G. Fielding, took the chair.

Apologies for Absence were received from Miss T. Crowder, L. Coburn, Mrs M.A. Coburn and J. Drummond-Tyler.

The Minutes were read and signed as correct.

Matters arising. The secretary pointed out that Miss C. Nicholson had actually been elected as a Full member in May 1988.

G. Dodds reported that Kings Walden was in a joint parish with Lilles and Opley in the Northern District and the ringers at all three Towers were assisting each other. Hitchin may also give some help in training.

Election of New member

The ^{helping} elections of the following non-resident life members were ratified:

Andrew B. Mills of Leicester proposed T. Lock seconded WRET Goes prior to a peal of Lincolnshire Surprise Royal at Hatfield on Saturday 25th February. Michael and Jamie Baley of Saxmundham, Suffolk, Owen P. Claxton of Ipswich and Adrian Knights of Ipswich, proposed Mrs S. Patterson, seconded A. Patterson prior to a peal of Shedman Cinqles on 4th March.

Updates to the District Programme cards.

The secretary announced the following updates to the 1989 programme

- April 15th - The evening ringing would be at St Peter's from 6-30 to 8pm
- May 20th - The evening ringing would be at Kings Walden from 7 to 8-30 pm
- July 15th - St Peter's had been confirmed, although the secretary was trying to get Sandridge for the afternoon
- August 19th - Lemsford had been confirmed for the evening ringing
- September 16th - Welwyn had been confirmed

December 2nd - Welwyn had been confirmed

Requests for 1/4 peal attempts

The secretary stated that instead of a 1/4 peal weekend, the committee had decided that they would arrange quarters requested by District members at any time in the year. This would form an agenda item at each Business meeting. No one at the meeting requested that a 1/4 peal be arranged for them.

Nominations for Two Central Council Reps.

The secretary reported that nominations were requested for two Central Council reps for the period 1990 to 1992 inclusive for the Annual General Meeting at the end of April. None were forthcoming from the meeting.

Date and Place of next meetings.

The next learners' practice would be at Sandridge on 1st April. The next Surprise practice would be on 5th April at Kempston from 7-45 to 9-15 pm. The next District meeting would be on 15th April with afternoon ringing at Radlett from 3-30 to 5 pm followed by service, tea and meeting with evening ringing at St Peters from 6-30 to 8 pm. A prompt finish was required as there was a concert starting at 8 pm.

Any Other Business

D. Badger pointed out that there was an error on the newsletter that he had just distributed. The Coburn Trophy was on 20th May rather than the 29th.

E. Pocock congratulated D. Badger on striking newsletter - it had a very professional look.

G. Fielding proposed a vote of thanks to the vicar for the short but good service and to the St Michaels ringers for the excellent tea and for allowing us to hold the workshop and to ring the bells during the evening.

G. Penney thought it was a pity that there had not been more than the 20+ people present at the handbell workshop, although they had all tackled a number of new things. He wondered whether three workshops a year would be enough as frequent practice was essential if one was to progress. He suggested that there be a set of handbells available at all District Meetings for people to practice whilst they were waiting to ring the tower bells. The committee agreed to discuss this at their next meeting. G. Fielding said that he had been very impressed by the workshop.

P. Cox reminded the meeting that towers could reply at any time to the Woolford Cup invitation, they did not have to wait until 3rd June. He needed to know the number of entrants well before the day so that he could fix the start time.

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

Evening mixis was held in the tower until 8 pm.

R. A. ...