

ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING AT ST PETERS ST ALBANS ON SAT 20th JANUARY 1990

Ringings took place on the 10 bells of St Peter's with many ringers present. A service of evensong was held after this followed by a splendid tea. S A Saunders chaired the ADM, having been proposed by Mrs M A Coburn.

Apologies for Absence. The Association President, Dick Prime, sent his apologies as he was attending another District's ADM. Other apologies were received from D Dalton, Mrs E Pocock and D Drummond-Tyler.

All present stood in silence in memory of H Nobbs, a major at Hatfield for many years, who had died in December.

The Minutes were read. Mrs M A Coburn proposed and P J Cox seconded that they be accepted as correct and this was agreed.

Matters Arising

Mrs S Newman reported that Kings Walden were now able to ring Plain Bob Doubles, and had a regular practice night.

The date for the Coburn Trophy had now been fixed as the Saturday following the Lake Spring Bank Holiday in May.

Election of new members.

The following new members were elected:-

From Harpenden the transfer from probationary to full membership of L. Tilbrook, proposed Mrs M A Coburn, seconded Mrs S. Edmondson

From Welwyn the transfer from probationary to full membership of Mrs J. Coates, proposed P. J. Cox, seconded G. Begun

From Hartfield Mark Shearn as Full Member and Mr Dawn Nicholson as Probationary member both proposed Mrs A Saunders seconded Mrs G Drummond-Tyler.

From the Abbey Deryck Hannaford proposed as Full Member by G Penny seconded G. Dodds.

From Essendon Jeremy Gissen as Full Member proposed J J Ford seconded Mrs A Saunders.

From Roodlett, to be elected as from 1989, Stuart Barrell and Revd Malcolm

Lesiter both as Full members, proposed Mrs E Drummond-Tyler, seconded Mrs J Bagher. The ratification as a Non Resident Life Member of Mrs Jane M Weber from Durban S. Africa, prior to a pen, proposed T. Lock seconded J. Hagne.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary's Report was read. J J Ford proposed and C. Pocock seconded that it be accepted and this was carried.

Statement of Accounts.

The accounts were presented to the meeting. Mrs S. Edmondson stated that they had been audited, but because she had only been ^{Mem} a few days before she had been unable to sign the printed version of the accounts. She proposed that the properly audited and certified accounts be presented at the next meeting. There were however no problems with the accounts.

C. Pocock proposed and Mrs M A Coburn seconded that the Association Account be accepted and this was carried.

B. Taylor proposed and C Pocock seconded that the District Bell Fund Account be accepted and this was carried.

Mrs M A Coburn proposed and P. J. Cox seconded that the District Account be accepted and this was carried.

Mrs E Drummond-Tyler proposed that the cash in hand, £179-06 in the District account be transferred to the Voluntary Bell Fund and this was carried.

Election of Officers

There was no nomination for the post of Ringing Master. However, after all the other officers had been elected Mrs S Patterson rose to her feet and stated that she had learnt a lot from the District over the last 17 years and she would be sorry to see it collapse because nobody was willing to take on the task of Ringing Master. She would be prepared to stand if the District were willing to have her. The meeting was extremely grateful to Mrs S Patterson who was duly elected as Ringing Master.

District Secretary Mrs E Drummond-Tyler was proposed by Mrs M A Coburn, who

Thanked her for all the work she had done during the year, and seconded by G. Penney. There being no other nomination she was duly elected.

Committee Member C Pocock was proposed by G Penney, seconded by Mrs E Drummond-Tyler

S Saunders was proposed by P Cox seconded by G. Dodds

P Cox was proposed by Mrs E Drummond-Tyler seconded G. Bejnon

D Badger was proposed by G Dodds seconded by Mrs E Drummond-Tyler

G Bejnon was proposed by G Dodds seconded by P Cox

J. Spreadbury was proposed by G Penney seconded by C Pocock.

Miss C Nicholson was proposed by Mrs E Drummond-Tyler seconded by K. Lucas

All were elected.

Association Committee Rep P Cox was proposed by G Penney, seconded by Mrs E Lucas

and duly elected

Deputy Association Committee Rep C Pocock was proposed by P Cox seconded by

Mrs E Drummond-Tyler and duly elected.

Voluntary Bell Fund Trustees

G Penney proposer and K Newman seconded that Mrs M A Coburn and C Pocock be re-elected. There being no other nominations this was carried.

Real Book Worker

Mrs J Badger proposed and Mrs S Newman seconded that J. Drummond-Tyler be re-elected. There being no other nomination this was carried.

Hon Auditor

Mrs M A Coburn proposed Mrs S Edmondson and thanked her for carrying out her work in such a short time this year. The proposition was seconded by C Pocock and, there being no other nomination, this was carried.

S Saunders proposed a vote of thanks for all those who had served on last year's committee, particularly those who had stood down.

Discussion on Results from District Survey of District Activities

G. Penney congratulated the committee on the excellent report and thanked them for all their efforts. He wondered whether the committee proposed carrying out their recommendation ^{for District Meetings} immediately. The secretary reported that this was the case. There was some discussion on the merits or otherwise of having afternoon meetings only for some months and several people commented on the lack of time that they had had to consider it. It was thought that the December Meeting could be an additional 5th full meeting as it had always been well attended. G Penney stated that something had to be done to the current District Meeting format to make it more acceptable to members. J J Ford proposed and C Pocock seconded that the District Committee's recommendations in the Survey Report be accepted for this year, subject to changes by the committee as necessary, and this was accepted.

Mrs C Wright commented that she had expected a less advanced practice, more of a bell handling practice, from the Learners' Practice and wondered whether the name was appropriate. P Cox suggested that Tower Masters be reminded as to the aims of these practices so that they only recommended it to those of their rings who would benefit from it. B. Taylor suggested that a description of the aims of the Learners' Practice be put on the meeting card. There was some discussion on the value of Handbell Workshops. They had been enjoyed by those who had attended them, but several members thought they had not been frequent enough to really progress. It was thought that handbell workshops could only really show members how to get started. It was then up to individual members to set together and progress from there. It was agreed that it should be left to the committee to decide when and where to have future workshops.

The meeting agreed to continue the District Social on an annual basis and Mrs S. Newman suggested that it be held on 24th November.

1980 Association AGM.

Mrs F Drummond-Taylor proposed that G Penney be the District's nominee

for Association President. This was seconded by G Dodds and duly carried. G Penney thanked the District for putting his name forward. The secretary stated that Hatfield Girls School had been booked for the Tea and Business Meeting and the service would be held at Hatfield. Other arrangements had still to be made.

Requests for Grants from the Voluntary Bell Fund.

The Trustees had received requests for grants from Essendon and Harpenden. Essendon had raised £23,000 so far but were still looking for £16,000. Harpenden had managed to raise most of the amount required. The Bell Fund Trustee recommended that £300 be given to Essendon and this was seconded by G. Penney. The secretary stated that as both Trustees were members of the Harpenden band, the District Committee had considered Harpenden's request and recommended that £200 be donated. She also added that the committee had suggested that a major fund raising activity take place during the year to replenish the Bell Fund, and if enough money was raised perhaps the District would like to consider adding to the grant to Essendon at a later stage as it was a small village. St. Peter's had intimated that they would be asking for a grant in the near future and the Abbey also expected to undergo major refurbishment in the next few years, so the District would need to think about major fund raising activities if it wanted to support these ventures.

Mrs S Spreadbury proposed and Miss D Rotham seconded that £400 be given to Essendon and this was carried.

Mr S Newman proposed and A Spreadbury seconded that £200 be given to Harpenden and this was carried.

BS Ford and B Taylor both expressed their thanks to the District for the generous grants to Essendon and Harpenden respectively.

Date and Place of next Annual District Meeting

Mrs A Saunders invited the District to come to Hatfield on 19th January 1991 and this was accepted.

Date and place of next District Meetings.

The next District meeting would be on 17th February at St Michaels with afternoon ringing only from 3-30 to 5-30 pm.

The next Leamers' practice would be on 3rd February at St Hyms from 10 am till noon.

The next Surprise practice would be at Kimpton on 7th February from 7-45 to 9-15 pm.

Any Other Business

Mr C Wright said that it was nice to see so many people turn up.

P. Cox proposed a vote of thanks to the St Peters ringers for such a splendid treat, to the vicar for taking the service and allowing us the use of the bells and to the organist for playing.

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

The 100 club drew for January has not place.

J. Penney
19-1-91