

**THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS
ST ALBANS DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY NOMINATIONS MEETING HELD AT
HARPENDEN on SATURDAY 20th DECEMBER 1997.**

It was the members wish that Liz Drummond-Tyler took the chair.

1. Apologies For Absence

Apologies were received from: John Ford; Christopher Bradley; Nina Bradley and John Freeman.

2. Minutes of The meeting of 18th October 1997

The minutes of the previous quarterly meeting were read and signed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes that were not covered by the agenda.

4. Election of New Members

There were no new members to be elected.

5. Report of The General Committee Meeting on 25th October 1997

Gerald Penney informed members that the following items had been discussed. Training Course was now to be held on 20/21 June. This Tower Management Course is to be organised specifically for the County enabling modules to be selected that the members attending especially wanted.

The County Treasurer had reported that all bills had been paid and the Association was solvent.

Restoration fund had some £7000 available for grants.

1998 AGM will be at All Saints Church Hertford.

The Peal Secretary reported that the number of peals rung to date was slightly down on last year.

The Librarian reported that borrowing was low but steady.

The Kimpton Cup was to be held at Kimpton next year.

The Coburn Trophy was to be held in the Watford District next year and that the Ridgeman Trophy was to be held on the 16th May 1998.

The future format of the peal book was discussed. When the present book is full it was felt that transferring to a computer printed solution would be advantageous. This would enable the possibility of binding the peals every five years and having an additional copy that could be passed round for people to inspect whilst the bound copy was kept as a record.

The General Committee had discussed the process of belfry elections and agreed to put it to the next Annual General Meeting that the process should be simplified by the ratifications taking place once a year at the AGM.

The next meeting is on the 31st January 1998 and if anybody had any matters to raise they should forward them to Gerald Penney.

6. Report on The 1997 Quarter Peal Week

John Nicholson said that the response this year had been disappointing with Hatfield ringing the only quarter. The District Committee had discussed the matter and thought a more proactive approach for next year should be considered by the 1998 Committee.

7. Report on The Learners' Outing 1997

Gerald Penny said it had been an enjoyable and constructive day. It was good to see people progressing and gaining in confidence as the day wore on. The towers were pleasant to ring ~~at~~ and the lunch venue was excellent.

He thanked Mary Lanyon and Fran Shaw for organising the day and said that Mary had done extremely well as this was the first outing she had organised. The Members endorsed his sentiments.

8. Report on The District Barn Dance.

Ben Duke said that it had been a very enjoyable and successful social occasion and thanked all those involved in its organisation. The numbers were down on last year but this allowed more room on the dance floor. 63 tickets were sold and he congratulated Mike Foster for managing to raise £80 on the raffle. Ben also thanked Fran Shaw for providing the food and Rosemary Duke for providing the tea, coffee and biscuits.

John Nicholson said that after deductions for food, the tickets raised £191.50 and the raffle made £80, giving a total of £271.50. The Band required £230 and the hall £30. Rosemary Duke kindly donated the tea and coffee, leaving a profit of £11.50.

Ben Duke took the opportunity to advise members that the next surprise practice would be on 22nd January at St Peter St Albans. The change of venue from St Michael's had proved popular when tried earlier in the year.

9. Nominations For Officers 1998

Geoff Dodds took the opportunity to bring to the member's attention the decline in numbers attending district Meetings. Gerald Penney said this needed to be discussed at the ADM and Liz Drummond – Tyler said it should be a priority for members to attend the meetings.

John Nicholson had intended to raise the subject under AOB and said he hoped the members had read his article in the Newsletter about it. He then provided a resume of the article which described the low turn out at the November meeting. He also provided details of the numbers attending meeting during the previous six months.

After Liz Drummond – Tyler had reminded members of the current post holders, the following nominations were made

Ringling Master	Ben Duke	Proposed by Charles Pocock
General Committee Rep	Gerald Penney	Geoff Dodds
Secretary/Treasurer	John Nicholson	Gerald Penney
Deputy General Committee Rep	Ben Duke	Gerald Penney
Committee Members	Fran Shaw	Rosemary Duke
	Philippa Munday	Gerald Penney
	Mike Foster	Ben Duke
	Geoff Fordham	Geoff Dodds
	Joan Badger	Janet Coates
	Janet Coates	Joan Badger

10. Notice from the Trustees of The Debenham Bell Fund

Charles Pocock reminded members that the Debenham Bell Fund AGM would take place either during or after the ADM at Hatfield. The Fund was quite healthy and members would be required to vote on a proposed grant to Kimpton for work on the tower.

The work at Ridge had started and Joan Badger described the difficulties of reporting on the project due to the terms and conditions of the Millennium Fund grant. The vestry was gutted and Whitechapel had started work on the frame. The bells were to leave Ridge in early January on a specially decorated lorry and it was hoped that their progress through the village would be captured on video.

11. Any other Business

Geoff Dodds said that Alan Frost had had a hip replacement operation and a leg thrombosis had resulted in an embolism in his chest. The members wished him a speedy recovery.

Shane Saunders reminded the members that they would need to nominate a County Bell Fund Trustee at the ADM.

12. Date and place of next meeting

The Secretary said the next District Meeting was the ADM on the 17th January 1998 at Hatfield.

13. Vote Of Thanks

Liz Drummond – Tyler proposed a vote of thanks to the Harpenden ringers for the use of the bells and their excellent tea and to the Rector and organist for the service. The Harpenden ringers were also thanked for the £50 donation to the Debenham Bell Fund from the money collected for tea. Geoff Dodds thanked Liz for conducting the meeting. The members heartily endorsed the proposals.

The meeting closed at 7:30 and ringing continued until 8:30 p.m.

AF Alldred
18/4/98.