

MINUTES OF THE SURREY ASSOCIATION OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS SOUTHERN DISTRICT
ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING
HELD ON SATURDAY, 23RD FEBRUARY 2019
AT REDHILL ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

The meeting commenced at 6.10pm.

The District Master, Paul Beeken, welcomed everyone and thanked Reverend Stephen Srikantha for taking the service, Caroline Lamont for playing the piano and all the local ringers for providing the tea.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Noel Gibbin (Caterham St John), Sheena and Martin Boyce (Buckland), Ed and Val Muller (Bletchingley), Anthony Vere Hodge (Leigh), Robin Grant (Horley), David and Sarah Gilmore (Reigate), Matt Cousins (Merstham), Margaret Shelley (Godstone), Carol Riddington (unattached), Ingrid Rolland (Outwood), Vicky Williams (Nutfield), Chris Baldwin and Malcolm McAlister.

2. Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held on Saturday 17th February 2018

The minutes had been circulated online and copies were available to read at the meeting. The minutes were agreed by a show of hands and signed by Paul Beeken as correct.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Master's Report

There were 50 new ringers for the Armistice event and Paul is very pleased that they were all still ringing.

There were 12 bands involved in the friendly striking competitions. He was very impressed by the friendliness and enthusiasm and the teas laid on after the events.

Paul commented on the benefit of the 6 regular focussed practices where ringers are given more time at the end of a rope to encourage them to take their next steps.

Ian Griffiths at Oxted was mentioned as being very helpful with the use of computers to aid training sessions.

Paul mentioned that there is no band at Horley so no ringing practices. Hence this would be a good place to hold a course on Plain Hunt and encouraged others to join.

Thanks were given to Sue Dixon for organising focused practices at Capel for Plain Bob Minor and Little Bob. Paul hopes to extend these to the east of the district to give others an opportunity to join in.

The Grandsire Doubles and Triples practices previously held at Ranmore were starting again on Wednesday 27th.

Thanks were given to Noel Gibbin for organising practices of Surprise Major at Bletchingley. Nutfield hold practices on second Fridays to help people learn to conduct.

With regard to the District practices on the 4th Saturdays of the month Paul asked everyone for their thoughts on the timing, location and ideas on format for these practices.

5. Secretary's Financial Report

We have still made increased profits this year despite increased spending on tower donations due to the newsletter going online and therefore eliminating printing costs. The question is where to allocate the money? Eg; Contributions to rope funds or the BRF? Membership remains fairly consistent from year to year, the increased membership from Ringing Remembers only now beginning to filter through.

Paul proposed to adopt the accounts as correct. Katherine O'Carroll seconded this. All were in favour.

6. Election of New Members

The following applications for membership had been received;

Christine Bentley, (Walton-on-Thames)

Andy King, (Walton-on-Thames)

Vanessa Read, (Walton-on-Thames)

Madalona O'Donoghue, Junior, (Caterham St.Mary)

Penny Brown, (Caterham St.Mary)

Andy Colman, (Caterham St.John)

Graham Hunt, Senior, (Ockley)

Jo Laws, (Ockley)

Rev. John Humphrys, Senior, (Reigate)

Paul proposed the election of the new members. John Young seconded this. All were in favour.

7. Election of 2019/2020 District Committee

The following nominations had been made:-

District Master: Paul Beeken (Dorking and Ranmore)

District Secretary: Sue Dixon (Ockley)

Assistant District Secretary: Margaret Zandona (Ockley)

Committee Members: Alan Cooke (Caterham St. John)

Matt Cousins (Merstham)

One vacancy – there were no volunteers for this position.

All voted in favour of electing all those nominated.

8. Belfry Repair Fund Report

BRF Secretary Malcolm McAllister was unable to attend and Paul read out the report he had prepared.

The BRF continues to accumulate funds at a steady rate, fed principally by the generous donations of individuals and towers/PCCs, the Numbers Club and the annual services for Brockham Bonfire performed by ringer volunteers.

Four disbursements have been made in the past year, with a follow-up also in prospect. The current balance of the fund is £16,540.07.

There were 2 draws for the Numbers Club with Alison McCormick (Godstone) winning the first and Phyllis Palfreeman (Buckland) winning the second.

There was a collection among the members for the BRF and a total of £44.09 was collected.

9. Training Report

Paul Flavell the Training Officer read his report and commented particularly on the excellent course with Roger Booth who is an expert on simulators and Abel.

The current training programme for the first half of 2019 is planned as follows:

9th March Northern Training Day

6th April Stedman Triples Merstham

This is fully subscribed with 4 students but Paul would be pleased to hear from helpers for this morning session.

4th May ART Workshop on Conducting (ND)

1st June Beyond Plain Bob (ND and SD)

There are 20 accredited ART trainers in the Association and over 90 people have been registered on the Learning the Ropes programme.

The Ringing Remembers initiative was a huge success with over 2,700 people signing up worldwide (50 in the Surrey Association).

Paul is stepping down as Training Officer at the AGM. Martin Crick has agreed to be nominated as the next Training Officer and Ian Griffiths as his Deputy.

Paul Beeken thanked Paul Flavell for his work as the Training Officer and appreciated the willingness shown by the training team which has been very valuable.

10. Communications Officer's Report

Chris Baldwin was unable to attend and his report was read out by Paul. The full report is available on the website.

This year we have had to respond to the new GDPR Regulations regarding the use and retention of personal information.

One of our priorities for communication is to significantly improve engagement with our membership and this has included an ongoing process in changing the membership process.

During the year we have reviewed and restructured much information on our website and enhanced both our data protection and safeguarding pages. There has also been a major upgrade of the system used to provide the tower directory site.

The Surrey Association has had a Facebook page since November 2011 and follower numbers have continued to grow steadily.

The main publicity campaign during the year has been in support of the CCCBR Ringing Remembers initiative which attracted national publicity.

Effective from the Spring 2018 edition it was decided to stop printing the Association newsletter and publish online only. Feedback for this has been very positive.

Our district email groups continue to serve as the mainstay of our communication and at the end of 2018 the SD group had 218 members and the ND group 203 members. There are no plans to change from the Yahoo group as the Guildford Guild have done.

11. Nominations for 2019/2020 General Officers

General Master	Noel Gibbin
General Secretary	No nominations
Assistant Gen Secretary	Milica Reardon
Training Officer	Martin Crick

BRF Secretary
Communications Officer

Malcolm McAlister
Chris Baldwin

12. Any Other Business

Richard Wallis stated that proposed changes to membership rules had been covered by Chris Baldwin's report and also been distributed online. No questions were raised from the floor.

2019/2020 Programme Southern District

April 27 th	Godstone(8)	Allcomers District Practice 10am-12pm
May 25 th	Betchworth(8)	Allcomers District Practice 10am-12pm
June 22 nd	Summer Outing	
July 27 th	Ashtead(8)	Allcomers District Practice 10am-12pm
August 17 th	Kingston(12)	Allcomers District Practice 10am-12pm
September 28 th	Epsom(8) and Ewell(8)	Learners Introductory 8 Bell Outing
October 26 th	Bletchingley(10)	Allcomers District Practice 10am-12pm
November 23 rd	Merstham(8)	Autumn Business Meeting 3pm-8pm
December 28 th	Winter Outing	
2020		
January 25 th	Ranmore(8)	Allcomers District Practice 10am-12pm
February 22 nd	Reigate(10)tbc	Annual District Meeting 3pm-8pm
March 28 th	Quarter Peal Day	
April 25 th	TBA	Allcomers District Practice

Focussed Practices

Learning to ring	Alternate Thursdays	Oxted
Plain Hunt	3 rd Wednesdays	Horley
Plain Bob Doubles & Minor	3 rd Thursdays	Varies
Grandsire Doubles & Triples	4 th Wednesdays	Ranmore
Conducting	2 nd Fridays	Nutfield
Surprise Major	2 nd Saturdays	Bletchingley

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.50pm.