

**MINUTES OF THE SURREY ASSOCIATION OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS SOUTHERN DISTRICT
AUTUMN BUSINESS MEETING
HELD ON SATURDAY, 23rd NOVEMBER 2019
AT MERSTHAM**

The meeting commenced at 5.55pm with a minute's silence for those who have died in the past year:

John Saysell,	Coulsdon
Michael Wallace	Lingfield

The District Master, Paul Beeken, welcomed everyone and thanked Ben for taking the service and the pianist for playing the piano.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from: Martin Boyce (Buckland), Sheena Boyce (Buckland), Suki Edge-Partington (Redhill), Andrew Hamilton (Reigate), Katherine O'Connell (Godstone), Kate Wills (Bletchingley), Patrick Wills (Bletchingley), Hilary Brooks (Walton-on-Thames), Barbara Taylor (Kingswood), Anthony Vere Hodge (Leigh), Libby Powell (Nutfield) and Jenny Heyworth (Epsom).

2. Minutes of the Autumn Business Meeting held at Caterham St.John on 24th November 2018

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

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Notice of New Members

The following new members were noted;
Amanda Doyle, (Esher)
Sam Hodgson, (Epsom)

5. Forthcoming Events

28th December – Winter Outing organised by Matt
25th January – Joint practice with Leatherhead District at Ranmore (8)

6. Committee Updates

Belfry Repair Fund Committee.

The Collection Bell was passed around at this point and donations collected amounted to £58.10 (counted after the meeting)

Noel reminded those present that the fund contributes a third to a half of the work that is needed at any tower. Association volunteers help with car parking duties at Brockham bonfire every year to raise money towards the fund, expected to be around £500. Godstone and Croydon St. John's have requested funds for work at their towers. Bletchingley have had 2 dumb bells installed. These are used for a half hour before their normal Wednesday practice. £4,000 from the Libby LeBihan fund paid for this.

7. 2020 programme of events will be published after Christmas.

8. Nominations for 2020/2021 District Committee

The current officers; Paul Beeken (District Master), Sue Dixon (Secretary) and Margaret Zandona (Assistant Secretary) have all agreed to remain in post. Matt Cousins and Alan Cooke are general committee members, leaving 1 vacancy on the committee.

Noel reminded all that the members of the General, Northern and Southern District committees are the people who keep the organisation going. He urged those present to consider joining the committee, including new members, as there is no requirement to be an expert ringer or a longstanding member.

9. Any Other Business

Paul Beeken presented the Richard Wallis trophy to Hugh Frayling (Betchworth) and David Sayce (Buckland) joint winners of the Friendly Striking Competition with a combined band. He affirmed that this is a really excellent activity and helps people to develop their ringing skills and get used to ringing at other towers.

Anthony Vere Hodge has been impressed by the way the competition has brought people together and helped them to develop their ringing. Refreshments after the event encourage social interaction and create a very pleasant social occasion.

Noel Gibbin mentioned the development committee and confirmed that the rule changes agreed at the AGM had been carried out and were now operational. The next task is to consider how records are managed. This will include an online membership system whereby people can apply, register and pay online, better ways of communicating with members and the need to comply with the new GDPR.

The AGM for 2020 has been moved to the 3rd weekend in May – 16/5/20 – at Oxted. This is because the 75th anniversary of VE day falls on the 8/5/20. He felt that a quarter peal in every tower would be a good way to commemorate this especially since coincidentally, quarter peal week was from the 8th to the 17th May.

Robin Grant (Horley) mentioned the London Regional Festival on the 11/12/20. Ringing will be from 1800-1900 at St. Martin in the Fields (12). Ringers can turn up at the central door on the West Front and knock to be let in.

Paul Beeken concluded by thanking Merstham for providing an excellent tea. He gave a summary of what is available to help people develop confidence with their ringing in the Focussed practices which include;

Oxted twice a month.

Ranmore – 3rd Wednesday - Grandsire.

No Fixed location - 3rd Thursday – Bob Doubles, Minor and Little Bob

Ranmore - 4th Wednesday – Introduction to plain hunt. (Robin mentioned that he would like to start a regular practice at Horley on a Wednesday).

Paul emphasised the need to check with him before attending practice sessions to ensure there are enough bells/helpers for that practice.

Finally he also asked people to think about offering their tower for additional focussed practices and to consider helping those who are learning.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.25pm and was followed by more ringing.