

The Surrey Association
Note of the Northern District Annual District Meeting
held at Holy Trinity Wandsworth
on Saturday 18 January 2020

The meeting commenced at 15:40 with the District Master (Caroline Prescott) giving a big thank you to the Holy Trinity band for the fantastic hospitality and the making available of the Church facilities.

Apologies for absence: Received from Linda Georgiades, Tony and Deborah Bishop, Jeff Cousins, Malcolm McAllister, Gavin Bennett, Jane Marsters, Paula Greenwood.

Minutes of the Nomination Meeting held 16 November 2019 at Merton; These had been circulated prior to the meeting and were available on the Association website. No queries or comments had been received. Kate Flavell proposed they be accepted as a true record; seconded by Paul Flavell.

Correspondence: Jim Cook in Memoriam – Michael Uphill responded to a recent notice of Jim's passing. Michael recalled that Jim rang at Beddington for 20 – 30 years before moving to Bath; that he was a very kind and welcoming person. Michael also reminisced that Jim's brother Bill had been the librarian to the Central Council and the College Youths and had died at a young 59. Bob Cooles remembered Jim well as he had also been a regular ringer at Battersea and had been a great help to the band.

Northern District Masters Report: The Master noted the Ringing World article as to the demise of Regions and disagreed; she reported that the District was working well; members were supporting and helping each other. During the last year outings had proved very popular – of particular note being that arranged by two younger members, Fraser and Thomas. Also proving popular were the regular monthly District Practices held on the 3rd Saturday of each month; also the focussed practices such as those organised by Russell King.

Treasure's Report: A full report will be placed on the Association website. But the financial situation was summarised as an annual surplus over income of £680 and a balance of over £5,000. Annual subscriptions are now down from £8 to £5 and are now due.

Confirmed New Members: Though election no longer takes place during an ADM there were several requests for new members to be noted.

Alec Gray, Colin Birt and Eleanor Woodman

Question From the Floor: Sheila Cheeseman asked why the Association were asking for details of all steeple keepers. The Association Master stated that the Association were looking to set up a Steeple Keeper Community.

BRF: There was no representative from the BRF but an aural report had been provided reminding members that funds were available for belfry work and Towers are encouraged to apply. The main project currently being new bearings for Croydon Minster. Consideration for work at Richmond is still under consideration.

Training: The Training Officer reported that various courses had been run and seemed popular. The Training Day in November had been only partially successful; popular with learners but a shortage of helpers. Courses coming up are “Calling Changes”. Training Day is the 7th March currently there are 20 students signed up but only 6 helpers – more helpers desperately needed to allow Training Day to take place.

The training plan for the year will be put together week commencing 20th January. Any specific training needed please ask; but aim is to provide training that cannot be provided in a normal practice.

The Association Training Officer will not be standing for re-election due to personal reasons.

Communication Report: Noted a new Training Webpage was launched in 2019 with particular thanks to Martin Crick and Trisha Hawkins for making it happen.

Noted big events are now looking to have bell ringing – the next big event will be VE Day remembrance on 8th May. This will also be the start of ¼ Peal Week where the Association Master is looking to have ¼ rang in every Association tower.

The Communications Officer noted that communications with members was not as good as would be liked and work is being done to improve it. This was a trigger for a number of suggestions to be made from the floor; these were noted by the Communications Officer who agreed with the main thrust that there needed to be choice that met the needs of members; also he stated that money was not the problem.

Safeguarding: Concerns raised that not all parents were able to access the online consent form. Also clarity sought as to how often the consent form needed to be filled in. Advice given was that only occasionally for a regular tower practice but every time for an event such as a training event.

Bookstall: Reported it was continuing to function; promotion that the stall was at the ADM and members were encouraged to look at it later.

Forth Coming Events: The 3rd Saturday of the Month District Practices will continue. The future of the Friday Surprise practices is under consideration; they had been poorly supported but support has recently increased. Shirley and Caroline are looking to continue with the monthly 12 bell practice.

Election of Northern District Members: No new nominations had been received since the Nomination Meeting; however Wendy Archibald was duly proposed and seconded for the vacant Committee Member Post. There being no other nominations the Northern District Committee was elected as follows:

Master	Vacant
Secretary	Richard Harris
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer	David Whitehead
Committee Members	Paul Flavell Russell King Wendy Archibald

Nominations for Association General Officers:

Association Master	Noel Gibbin	proposed by Martin Crick
Secretary	Ann Beirne	proposed by Paul Flavell
Assistant Secretary	Kate Flavell	proposed by Caroline Prescott
Training Officer	No Nomination	
BRF	Malcolm McAllister	proposed by Jeremy Cheeseman
Communications	Chris Baldwin	proposed by Caroline Prescott
Independent Examiner		Need to confirm prepared to remain

Central Council Representatives:

The Association may have 4 representatives; Jeremy Cheeseman does not wish to continue. Kate and Paul Flavell are existing representatives and both prepared to continue. They were proposed by Pam Donovan. The other current representative, Richard Wallis is from the Southern District his proposal was left for the Southern District ADM along with the other representative post.

Next ADM: 16th January 2021 – Venue to be Confirmed – Battersea was proposed.

The Numbers Club draw was made: Two prizes of £25

- No. 65 Tina Davies, Charlwood
- No. 68 Caroline Stockmann, Barnes

Dates for the diary:

21 March Walworth/Camberwell Afternoon or Evening TBC
18 April TBD
16 May – no District activity Association AGM
15 August Kingston 7:00 – 9:00

Noted that the Association are organising a quiz night – details to be circulated nearer the time.

Young ringers' practices continue; Battersea on the 19th February and 1st afternoon

of each month at Caterham.

AOB

The Association Master took the opportunity to thank all on the District Committees; in particular Caroline Prescott you had completed an unrivalled four years as District Master.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 16:40. With ringing at All Saints from 17:00 to 17:30