



**Note
of the
Northern District
Nomination Meeting
held as an
on line Zoom meeting
on
Saturday 18 November 2021**

**The Surrey Association
Note of the Northern District Nomination Meeting
held as an on line Zoom meeting
on Saturday 18 November 2021**

The meeting commenced at 17:40 with the District Master (Pam Donovan) welcoming the attendees

Attendees: Pam Donovan; Andrew Fisher; Richard Harris; Jackie Harrison; Monica Trow; Paul Flavell; Kate Flavell; Wendy Archibald; Linda Georgiades; Russell King; Caroline Prescott; Trisha Hawkins; Malcolm McAlister; David Whitehead; Andrew King; Shona Joyce; Lawrence Davies; Martin Crick (18 District Members)

and

Ian Griffiths (SD- Association Training Officer) and Noel Gibbin (SD- Association Master)

Apologies for absence: Received from: Andy Coles; Jo Drew; Kev Mitchell; Paula Greenwood; Malcolm & Jane Marsters; Deborah & Tony Bishop; Michael Uphill; Jason Hughes; Father David Pennells

Record of the last ADM held 16 January 2021 on Zoom

This is contained in the note of the meeting which also contains the record of the EDM held on 8 May 2021. The document under consideration being as posted on the Association website and dated 12 July 2021. With no comments having been received prior to meeting and none raised at the meeting these were accepted as a correct record of the ADM (Jan 2021) and EDM (May 2021)

Questions on District Master's Update (See Annex for Update)

There were no questions. The Master raised a request for suggestions/offers of Towers for District Practices. Barnes was offered but not for a few months.

Thames Ditton was suggested as it has a ground floor ring

Questions on Belfry Repair Fund Update (see annex for BRF Update)

There were no questions for Malcolm McAlister. Malcolm asked if anyone knew how to set up a donation link. It was suggested he talk to

Chris Baldwin. Trisha Hawkins suggested Paypal it was noted there would be no or minimal charge for the BRF as it is a charity.

Presentation from and questions to the Training Officer

Ian Griffiths presented on the courses running in the near future which are being well supported; all courses are being promoted on the Association website Training page and will also be put on the Association calendar

The aim for the future is to use a single location for the more basic training with 3 consecutive weekends to follow up to reinforce the training session. So there will be no training days of the old format as these were found to be ineffective with people doing the training but not having the opportunity to use the learning.

There were some general discussion with agreement that more needed to be done to move people on from six bells to eight

MemberMojo Update & importance of registration

Martin Crick presented. He noted those in attendance were signed up. He informed us there was currently a final big push being carried out to get everybody registered as all Association fees will be collected by MemberMOJO wherever possible. The Association are looking to reduce the burden on Towers by encouraging payment by individuals directly and not through towers. He reported that to date about 130 were still to sign up

Finance Update (See Annex for Update)

The update was noted. There were some interest as to how the funds held by the District were to be used. This will be topic for consideration by the District Committee at its future meetings.

Future Events

The District Master outlined her thoughts for future District activity. A focus on moving people on to ringing on 8 once they were comfortable with 6 bell. Looking to move forward to plain hunt on 7 and looking to provide opportunities to cover a method (8 bell). It was noted that the survey carried out with registration on MemberMOJO have lots of Association members on 6 bells a group of members on Surprise major but very few on plain 8 bell methods. The Master considers a big barrier is lack of opportunity during Tower Practices due to the number of attendees gaining confidence on 6 bells. The Master proposes to address this by providing opportunities for 8 bell ringing. In reply to questions from the floor it will be verified people can ring 6 bell and are ready for 8 bell ringing. The proposed practice sessions will need support from those able to ring on 8. The Master is considering a monthly regular practice. The Master emphasised she is looking for these practices to be for fun with an expectation that the ringing may frequently all go wrong.

The Master stated that presently there was no full programme of District activities as we are still waiting for COVID 19 to stabilise.

Caroline Prescott gave some information on the Young Ringers (under 18). There is a core group of 5; but she noted there are 26 young ringers registered with the Surrey Association; she is working to get them more involved. She is currently working on a February outing in London this may be a joint activity with Guildford Young Ringers. A question from the floor on providing assistance to young ringers in getting to and from practices. Caroline was clear that it was the responsibility of parents to get the young ringers to and from a practice; some with parental consent travel on their own. There would be safeguarding issues for the Association to arrange transport.

Paul Flavell reported on the recent good Surprise Major practice which was well attended

Nominations for 2022 District Committee

Election of District officers and committee members the following were duly nominated and seconded:

- Master Pam Donovan
- Secretary Richard Harris
- Treasurer David Whitehead
- Committee Members (3)
 - Russell King
 - Wendy Archibald
 - Paul Flavell
 - Jackie Harrison

Anybody else wishing to stand must be Nominated (and Seconded) in writing to the District Secretary within 28 days of this meeting – that is the 18 December 2021

Nominations for General Officers

Attendees were reminded that at the Annual District Meeting the District would need to make nominations for the Association Committee. Nominations will be required for the following posts:

- Master
- Secretary
- Assistant Secretary
- BRF Secretary and Treasurer
- Training Officer
- Communications Officer
- Independent Examiner

AOB

200 Club Draw

(Drawn by Russell King's mother who is not an Association member)

Monthly prize £25 Simon Fraser of Rotherhithe

Quarterly prize £109.23 Amanda Adams of Richmond

Annual District Meeting (ADM)

ADM meeting date 15 January 2022 – time to be confirmed but expect around late afternoon/early evening. The meeting will be on Zoom.

The following observations were made:

South Croydon It was noted that a Bell Maintenance visit had been requested.

The next **ART Course** promoted through the Association and organised via Ian Griffiths was now fully subscribed

Beddington It was reported the tower was not yet back to ringing. The works are complete but there may be a need for a maintenance visit to check over the bells before they can be put back into service

Ringling Recovery: The Association Master (Noel Gibbin) reminded people that return to ringing after COVID 19 may bring difficulties some towers will be cautious with visitors so please contact a Tower before visiting. In answer to a question as to whether membership had been adversely affected Noel said this was under review by the Association Committee.

The Master reminded attendees that if a Tower needed help to restart ringing the District will do its best to help; the Tower should contact the Master in the first instance.

It was reported that grants for **banners promoting bell ringing** were available. Caroline Prescott had the District promotional boards and banners which were available for any Tower.

District Ringing Master's Report

I took over the post of District Ringing Master at the Association AGM in May earlier this year. At that time anti-Covid restrictions were still in place which prevented more than six ringers meeting together so it was not possible to run any District ringing events.

Since the anti-Covid restrictions were lifted in July there have been three District ringing meetings on the customary third Saturday of the month, at Mitcham, Merton and East Molesey. All three meetings have been very well attended and it was lovely to meet people in person after such a long time and to enjoy some good ringing.

A fourth meeting will be held at Richmond on the morning of the Nomination Meeting. My aim is to continue with these monthly practices but at the moment we are only booking one or two ahead because it's still uncertain whether further anti-Covid restrictions will be imposed this winter. Currently we have firm bookings for practices at Battersea in December and Putney in February 2022. There will also be general ringing on the morning of the ADM in January but I don't have a tower booked for this yet. The ADM will be held on zoom.

At District practices we are implementing anti-Covid procedures specified in the risk assessment of the particular tower we are visiting. I will continue to send an email via Membermojo shortly before each practice to let everyone know what is required at each tower.

The District Committee hope to start putting together a longer-term programme with a greater variety of events in the New Year, when we hope the position regarding restrictions will be clearer. All District practices are advertised on the Events calendar on the Association website.

Most local bands in the District have lost ringers during the pandemic. Other ringers intend to return to ringing but are not yet in a position to do so. This means that most bands are short of ringers for Sunday service ringing and practices. I know that many District members are already busy helping out other bands. Please do continue to do this, and if you happen to have a free evening do consider visiting another tower's practice – but please remember to check beforehand whether the practice is accepting visitors.

I look forward to seeing you at District events in the near future.

Pam Donovan
15 November 2021

Northern District Finance Update

Northern District Finance and Membership at 1/11/21

Our bank balance is unchanged from the end of 2020 at £6064.26 (Cash at bank £3874.92 and COIF at £2189.34). This does not take into account subs paid for this year. We have had no outgoings during the year.

Our membership is remaining fairly static. At the end of 2020 we had 309 paying and life members. So far this year we have 218 paid up members plus 63 life members, this includes 9 new or returning ringers. There are a number of members yet to pay their subs.

David Whitehead
ND Treasurer

Belfry Repair Fund Update

October 2021

The income of the Belfry Repair Fund has shown some signs of resilience in 2021, with some recovery to tower donations off-setting a decline to zero in cash collections. The Association quiz in May was a very useful contributor. The numbers in the Numbers Club are still increasing slowly, with income yielded automatically keeping pace. Kate Wills' clothing order has helped, although the yield there is probably less proportional to the effort.

A healthy payment has been made to Croydon Minster for works completed and a minor additional payment has yet to be claimed by them for supplementary works (within the amount approved last year). Four other grant requests have been mooted so far this year but, so far, only one has got as far as submission of a request form, which is a requirement for consideration.

The total fund is currently just over £19k.

If you would like to apply for a grant, the application form can be found at <https://www.surreybellringers.org.uk/belfry-repair/>

and, once completed, should be mailed to brfsectreas@surreybellringers.org.uk.

If you would like to make a donation to the BRF, online payments should be made to

Sort code:	20-24-61
Account:	40848727
Account Name:	Surrey Association of Church Bell Ringers

Malcolm McAlister