

FINAL - Unconfirmed



Northern District
Annual District Meeting

Note of the On-Line Zoom Meeting

Held

Saturday 15th January 2022

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Annual District Meeting - Note of the meeting

1. **Welcome** The District Master, Pam Donovan, Chaired the meeting and welcomed the attendees who were:
Wendy Archibald; John Coatsworth; Bob Cooles; Lawrence Davies; Andrew Fisher; Kate Flavell; Noel Gibbon; Paula Greenwood; Richard Harris; Jackie Harrison; Siona Joyce; Andrew King; Russell King; Nick MacMahon; Shirly McGill; Caroline Prescott
2. Apologies for absence received from:
Jo Drew; Trisha Hawkins; Charlotte Kirwan; Kevin Mitchell; Michael Rogerson; David Whitehead
3. Remembrance - deaths and those suffering
Recently notified to the Association Anne Tuppen who rang at Putney. In reply to the request for others that should be remembered - Dan Dawson Taylor who rang at Beddington
4. Welcome of New Members to the Northern District of the Association:
Beverley Blanning; Graham Booth; Hilary Browning; Maggi Chick; Kate Corney; Edward Gosden; Patrick Hughes; Bogumila Myers; Piers Myers; Clem Richards; Louis Wild
5. Minutes of the Nomination Meeting of 20 November 2021
As no comments had been received and none from the floor the minutes were accepted with no corrections.
6. Matters arising – Nothing not already on the agenda
7. Northern District Master's Report – the District Master's report had been circulated prior to the meeting there were no questions raised from the floor.
8. Treasurer's Report – Northern District Finances
Noted: The Treasurer's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. In answer to questions from the floor the Association were looking for for payment of Annual subscription via MemberMOJO. A concern was raised that the payment system was not working, however it was reported that though there had been a problem earlier this month that

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has now been resolved so if anybody did try and were unable to pay then please try again

9. Belfry Repair Fund Report - A BRF report from Malcolm McAlistair had been circulated prior to the meeting there were no questions raised from the floor.
10. Training Committee Report
A report from Ian Griffiths had been circulated prior to the meeting there were no questions raised from the floor. A number of events were highlighted; full information on them and other future events are available on the Association calendar – a link to this can be found on the Association website. In general training places go quickly but there is a need for helpers which are not so forth-coming.
11. Communication Report
A report from Jackie Harrison had been circulated prior to the meeting there were no questions raised from the floor. Members were reminded that the next newsletter will probably appear around Easter so items please.
12. Peal Report
Shirley McGill reported that there had been two Peals for the Association in 2021.

One at Wimbledon to commemorate the 60th year of ringing of Alan Ackbridge and Michael Uphill and the second by people associated with Michael Moreton for his 90th birthday though he didn't ring the band comprised people that he had rung with at St Peter's Croydon.

The Association Master Noel Gibbon that the Association Peal Day had been extended to the 18 -20 February. Anybody who wants to be included should let Noel know.

The District Master noted that Jackie Harrison had recently rung her first peal.
13. Programme for 2022
There will be plenty of opportunities for peals and quarters this year. The Queens Jubilee will be a focus. The Association master is looking

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to arrange a ¼ peal month encouraging a quarter to be rung in every ringable tower.

The monthly Saturday practices will continue. - Putney on February 19th, Mini outing in Docklands joint with the London & Middlesex on March 19th

There are also regular surprise practices Streatham on 21st January and Epsom Common on the 18th February.

The Young ringers program is also very active. Typically 4 to 5 of the 26 young ringers in the association regularly attend. As well as regular meetings there are also some special events such as a joint outing with Berks/Bucks Young ringers.

Ringers were encouraged to attend the first 12 bell practice held monthly at Croydon Minster. It is a relaxed practice with no great expectations there are some that are comfortable doing rounds

There are also Advanced 12 bell practices. Also training for Grandsire Triples. The Master is keen that those requiring specific training should let her know – it may be possible to organise other focused training where there is sufficient interest.

And a reminder for the Association Quiz at Banstead on the 13th April and also for the Association AGM on 14th May

14. Election of Northern District officers and committee members
Association Master Noel Gibbon chaired this item of the agenda. Paul Flavell had been nominated as a Committee Member but has since withdrawn. With no further nominations having been received by the deadline of 18 December, the only nominations are those from the November Nomination meeting being:

- a) Master - Pam Donovan
- b) Secretary – Richard Harris
- c) Treasurer – David Whitehead
- d) Committee Members (3)

Wendy Archibald; Jackie Harrison; Russell King

As only one person has been nominated for each per post no vote was needed and all were duly appointed.

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15. Nominations for Association General Officers – the following were duly proposed and seconded:
 - a) Master Paul Flavell
 - b) Secretary Anne Berne
 - c) Assistant Secretary Kate Flavell
 - d) BRF Secretary and Treasurer Malcolm MacAilister
 - e) Training Officer Ian Griffiths
 - f) Communications Officer Jackie Harrison
 - g) Independent Examiner Gavin Collins

16. Date and venue of next year's ADM
The next ADM will be held on Saturday 21 January 2023. The District will be looking for a tower to volunteer to host

17. Numbers Club draw
The draw was made remotely during the AGM in front of independent witnesses the winners being:
First Monthly Prize of £25
Simon Fraser of Rotherhithe with number 31
Second Monthly Prize of £25
Libby Powell of Nutfield with number 198

18. AOB
Beddington works completed just before Christmas. Looking to rebuild ringer confidence Lost a number members down to 7 with one out injured Hope to start practices in February
Guildford 25 June hosting national 12 bell – looking for helpers (non-ringing)

19. Close of meeting

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Annual District Meeting 15 January 2022

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District Master

Following the lifting of anti-Covid restrictions in July 2021 the Northern District Saturday practices resumed in August. Four Saturday meetings were held, at Mitcham, Merton, East Molesey and Richmond, but the December meeting at Battersea was postponed because of concerns about the omicron Covid variant. Another Saturday meeting is due be held at Banstead on the morning of the ADM but at the time of writing it is not clear whether or not this will be able to go ahead. My aim is to continue with these monthly practices in 2022. I appreciate that not everyone is in a position to join District events at present, but the Saturday practices have been well attended and enjoyed by those who were able to come.

I am very happy to report that other District and Association practices have also resumed. The Northern District surprise major practices on the third Friday have re-started, and so have the all-comers 12 bell practices at Croydon on the first Tuesday of the month. A new District initiative launching this month is a regular practice for ringers who are competent on 6 bells and wish to start or develop their ringing on 8. The first of these "8's Great!" practices will be held at St John's Merton on Thursday 27th January (Covid permitting) and is already fully booked. If you are interested in attending in the future please do let me know.

All District practices are advertised on the Events calendar on the Association website.

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

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 would like to thank the District committee, the Association Master Noel Gibbin and all the other members who organise ringing events and practices in the Northern District area. I would also like to thank all the ringers who turn up for Sunday service ringing and local practice nights and keep ringing going at the grass-roots level. Without you we wouldn't have a District or an Association.

It's great to see ringing re-started. I wish you all a Happy New Year's ringing.

Pam Donovan

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Treasurers Report January 2022

Finances:

Unable to create final figures for 2021 due to lack of data. This will be produced as soon as possible.

We began 2021 with £6064.26 made up of current account £3874.92 and £2189.34 in the COIF account.

Total subs collected during the year £1113 less the levy awarded to the main Surrey account.

We have had no expenses during the year.

Note: 2022 subs via preferred payment method MemberMojo

Membership:

Current membership figures are

Paying members	236
Life members	61
New/rejoined members	11 see list
Lapsed members	approx. 25

David Whitehead

District Treasurer

New Members

Clem Richards; Maggi Chick; Beverly Blanning; Louis Wild; Patrick Hughes; Graeme Booth; Hilary Browning; Edward Gosden; Kate Corney; Bogumila Myers; Piers Myers

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BELFRY REPAIR FUND ANNUAL REPORT

The past year has seen some revival of demands on the resources of the Belfry Repair Fund, with the planned works on Croydon Minster coming to fruition and some urgent repairs being made later in the year at St Peter & St Paul, Lingfield. Hence, while overall income was steady year-on-year, total funds ended down for the right reasons.

Donations from towers bounced back to an extent as ringers reconvened. However, a retained preference for computerised meetings no doubt contributed to the drop in cash collections. The Numbers Club continued to grow, reaching 195 numbers by the end of the year and increasing its contribution to the BRF by 5%. Thanks are due to Kate Wills for donating the funds to buy a top-up of balls for the extra numbers. Sadly, Brockham Bonfire was a part of the entertainment sector that did not emerge from the lockdown last year. However, the Association Quiz, held in early May, was a new entrant and a very welcome source of funds, contributing £224. Kate Wills was also active in the purchase of clothing – encouraging others to place their orders, from which the BRF made a modest turn. A small but generous core of regular donors persist and are to be warmly thanked. Finally, an update on interest earned in the deposit account realised a surprisingly healthy amount – overwhelmingly from rates in place before March 2020.

Proposals for future applications for funding have been aired in locations from Betchworth to Egham to Roehampton. At the time of writing, however, no formal applications have been presented. Croydon Minster may have required some further remedial work, for which a promise of assistance is in place.

The fund ends the year at just over £18,600 having begun it at around £21,000. Of this, more than £15,000 is held on deposit and slightly more than £3,000 in the Barclays current account.

The committee, comprising Malcolm McAlister, Gail Terry, Russell King, Kate Wills, Noel Gibbin and Sid Bensberg, have been active in discussions of projects and awards as well as in the running of the Numbers Club and the compilation of clothing orders.

Donations were received during the year from the towers of St John's, Caterham, and Reigate; and the PCCs of Beddington, Oxted and St John's, Egham.

Malcolm McAlister

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Training Report.

Following a quiet start to the year I am pleased to report the Training Group has been able to offer courses for the end of 2021 and has put a programme together until the middle of 2022. As the end of 2021 approaches the 2022 programme is starting, due to the resurgence of Covid, to look a bit less likely however we remain hopeful.

The 2021 Training Programme ended with an ART module 1 (bell handling) refresher course in December which was very well attended by 9 Association Members and 3 others (from Middlesex, Kent and Sussex). The previous events in November of Plain Hunt/Plain Bob doubles were equally successful and followed the Returning to Ringing theme.

The 2022 programme will continue with the idea of helping Association Members help others and “Returning To Ring” activities. The Training Group recognises that many towers are not able to ring to their full potential, particularly towers with 8 or more bells actually ringing on fewer bells. The courses in the early part of 2022 will focus on encouraging basic skills and take place in towers with well-ventilated areas. There will be courses on Plain Hunt on 5, Grandsire and Plain Bob doubles, Plain Hunt on 7 and Ringing Up and Down in Peal. There will also be an ART Bell handling course (Module 1) and ART Change Ringing update course (for those that have attended a Module 2F (foundation) course and want to know the additional elements covered in the Module 2C (Change Ringing) course.

The Training Group is supporting the Districts with holding regular basic practice sessions which are far more beneficial than ‘one off’ Training Days which have now been discontinued. These courses focus on basic level ringing and listening skills. They are currently running in the Southern District and it is intended to run similar events in the Northern District.

Training Events are scheduled to be held on the first Saturday in the month although with Bank Holidays there will be a few gaps during the year e.g. June due to the Jubilee Holiday. Events are listed on the Association Website events calendar and booking to attend is on the Training Group section of the Association website.

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The Training Group will be pleased to hear from Members of Training Events which they would like us to arrange. Please let either a Training Group Member or a District Officer know so we can include what is wanted in future programmes. Unless we are told what is wanted, we will provide what we think is needed!

My thanks go to the whole Training Group and in particular to Trisha Hawkins, Paul Beeken, Paul Flavell and Noel Gibbin for all the work they have done.

Ian Griffiths.

December 2021.

DRAFT

Communication Report

I recently offered to stand as Communications Officer and, although I have not yet been elected, I have been helping with some of the communications activities notably the Surrey Association newsletter.

I hope that everyone has seen the newsletter that was published just before Christmas . The plan is to publish the newsletter quarterly as we used to before the pandemic. The next one should be out just before Easter so please send any news and photos to communications@surreybellringers.org before the end of March

Chris Baldwin, who has been our communications officer for many years is continuing to look after the website and Alan Cooke manages the Facebook page

Please do make sure you use these resources as they contain a wealth of information about Surrey Association Events, training materials, personal achievements etc. If you are organising events, please remember to post the details on the website events page.

One of the major activities over the last year or so has been the introduction of MemberMojo. A comprehensive report from the development group who worked on this system was included in the winter newsletter so I won't repeat it all here. However, the key points are that we now have an online membership system which has allowed us to streamline communications and improve the collection of annual fees as well as enabling compliance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation.

We currently have about 460 members registered on MemberMojo. This means that there are quite a few of you who have not yet registered so please do so to make sure that you don't miss any important communications. You can also use MemberMojo to communicate to the wider association for example, if you are looking for ringers to help with weddings etc.

If you have any feedback about how we can improve communication, please let me know at communications@surreybellringers.org

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