



Note of the Northern District Annual District Meeting

Held Saturday 21 January 2023

at St Peter's South Croydon

The meeting commenced at 6:00 p.m.

1. Welcome & Thank you
The District Master Pam Donovan welcomed everybody to the meeting. A list of attendees is at annex 1. Pam thanked the Church for the Choral Evensong and the Bell Ringers from both St Peter's and Croydon Minster for the delicious tea they had laid on.

A call was made for items for AOB two items were put forward:
 - a. St John's Waterloo
 - b. Christmas Caption Competition

2. Apologies for absence - See Annex 2 for apologies for absence

3. Remembering members that have passed
The District Master asked for names for any persons to be remembered - three names were given:
Eric Godfrey (Addington),
Anne Tuppen and Peter Tuppen (Putney)

4. Welcome of New Members
We have 19 new members:
Addington - Dawn Symes; Jenny George & Philip Healy
Barnes - James Stevenson & Katherine Malvern
Battersea - Asher Kaboth & Louis Bene
Benhilton - Helen Wright
Clapham Common HT - James Ansell & Martin Carr
Kingston -
Chris Turner; Heather Wilson & Roshan Jathanna
Mitcham - James Moore
Richmond - Johanna Kitson & Richard Reger
Rotherhithe – Bogumila & Piers Myers
Wimbledon - Mark Underwood

5. Record of the ADM of 15 January 2022
With no comments having been received prior to the meeting and nothing being raised during the meeting the record was accepted as written
6. Matters arising
Nothing not on the agenda
7. Correspondence
Attention was drawn to correspondence from Michael Uphill – this would be addressed under Agenda item 17

The reports referred to in items 8 -12 below were circulated prior to the meeting and can be found in Annex 3

8. Northern District Report
Concerns had been raised that the Master's "8s Great" initiative was being held on the same day as the 12 bell practice so none of the 12 bell ringers would normally be available. The Master explained that this was deliberate. The aim was to lift people from 6 bell to simple 8 bell ringing – plain hunt and up to Grandsire Triples. The aim is minimal external helpers and for those having moved up to 8 bell ringing being the helpers for the new 6 bell ringers moving to 8 bell. The Master was grateful to those that had provided support and to those coming to learn.

Comment was made that travel and work patterns can get in the way of attendance of both helpers and learners
9. Treasurer's Report – Northern District Finances
Accepted without comment
10. Belfry Repair Fund Report
The report was noted as it will be discussed at the Association AGM in March and comments can be raised there.

Association President Bob Cooles gave an update on ongoing work
 - installation of new bells at Roehampton.
 - A new ring for Richmond – 2024?
 - All Saints Wandsworth – had declined funding but a recent legacy left for that purpose and some enthusiastic persons, coupled with a road accident involving the church building now needing renovation which would include the bell tower, has brought possibilities forward.

11. Training Committee Report
The report was noted as it will be discussed at the Association AGM in March and comments can be raised there.
12. Communication Report
The report was noted as it will be discussed at the Association AGM in March and comments can be raised there.
13. Peal Report – Oral report given by Shirley McGill
First peals for:
Dominic Johnson; Wendy Archibald; Piers Myers;
Julius Olu-Jones and Patrick Hughes
8 peals for Surrey in 8 different towers. Range from doubles to major.
14. Bookstall report
The book stall has been open at the ADM today. A full report will be given at the AGM in March
15. Forthcoming Events for 2023
Every 3rd Saturday there will be a District Practice catering from rounds up. There were also 12 bell open and advanced practices, monthly surprise major and the 8's Great practice.

The Posters circulated by Ann Beirne to Tower Contacts with the Association event information.

New this year some pop-up practices focusing on a specific method.
Next Mortlake 1 February 8:00 to 9:15 Stedman triples.

The Association AGM will be held on 13 May at Barnes.

The Young Ringers – The Surrey Strikers – the group meet socially, have fun and ring things that they normally can't in their home towers. They have a core of 5 to 6 members but could do with a few more regulars. Currently working to take the Team to the National Youth event in York in July.

A reminder that the Southern District have regular practices; these can be found on the Association calendar and Northern District members are welcome to attend.

The ¼ Peal Week this year will be held 21 – 28 May
16. Note of the Nomination Meeting of 19 November 2022
Accepted without comment.

17. Election of Northern District officers and committee members.

The Master thanked all who have participated in District events, the Committee and special mention for Russell King who will not be standing for re-election.

At this point the current District committee stood down and the Association President conducted the election of the new District Committee. The following were duly

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

Jackie Harrison, John Coatsworth, Wendy Archibald

The new Master Pam Donovan took the Chair of the meeting

18. Nominations for Association General Officers

The following were duly proposed and seconded

- e. Master Paul Flavell
- f. Secretary Ann Beirne
- g. Assistant Secretary Kate Flavell
- h. BRF Secretary and Treasurer Malcolm McAlister
- i. Training Officer No Proposal
- j. Communications Officer Jackie Harrison
- k. Independent Examiner Gavin Collins

19. Date and venue of next year's ADM

20 January 2024 – Venue to be confirmed

20. Numbers Club draw

Ticket 182 Jeremy Cheesman £25

Ticket 121 Sue Dixon £25

21. AOB

- St John's Waterloo – A new tower contact is needed as Trisha Shannon will be moving out of the District soon.
- Caption Competition
 - 1st Prize Gavin Collins - Kingston
 - 2nd Prize Kate Corny – Kingston
 - Runner up – highly commended - Julie Beel – Buckland

22. Close of meeting - Meeting closed at 19:02

Annex 1

Surrey Association Northern District Annual District Meeting Saturday 21 January 2023 Attendance Record	
Name (PRINT)	Tower
Paul Flavell	Kingston Upon Thames
Kate Flavell	Kingston Upon Thames
Jackie Harrison	Richmond
Chris Ridley	Kingston Upon Thames
Paula Greenwood	Putney
Jeremy Cheesman	Benhillton
Sheila Cheesman	Benhillton
Andrew King	Mitcham
Russell King	Beddington
Lawrence Davies	Wimbledon
Robert Cooles	Battersea
Charlotte Kirwan	Battersea
David Hodge	Croydon Minster
Loretto Puckley	Unattached
Alec Gray	Camberwell
Thomas AS	Richmond
Fraser Storie	Croydon Minster & Addington
Phil Ridley	Wandsworth
Caroline Prescott	Battersea
Stephen Perry	S Croydon
Samuel MacMahon	S Croydon
Diane Reynolds	Unattached Southern District
David Whitehead	Addington
Hilary Jacques	Croydon Minster
Simon Bensberg	Croydon Minster
Shona Joyce	Croydon Minster
Shirley McGill	Croydon Minster

Annex 2

Surrey Association
Northern District Annual District Meeting
Saturday 21 January 2023
Apologies

Name	Name
Wendy Archibald	Ann Beirne
Tony & Deborah Bishop	Martin Crick
Jane Marsters	Kev Mitchell
Trisha Shannon	Linda Georgiades
Mike Bangham	Fr David Pennells
Michael Morton	

Annex 3



Northern District Officer Reports for Annual District Meeting 21 January 2023

Contents

- a. District Master Report**
- b. District Finance Report**
- c. Belfrey Repair Fund Report**
- d. Training Officer Report**
- e. Communications Report**

Last Updated 17 January 2023

Northern District Ringing Master's report

District ringing got off to a slow start in 2022 when the January Saturday practice had to be cancelled because of concerns about the omicron Covid variant. Our first Saturday practice was held in February at Putney, and after that we have held an event on the 3rd Saturday of every month except September, when the planned practice at Beddington was cancelled following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I am pleased to report that the Saturday practices have all been well attended and the nine practices for which records were kept were attended by ringers from a total of 27 different towers. We joined the Middlesex Association North and East District for a very enjoyable outing in the Docklands area in March and held a successful 12 bell practice at Kingston in August.

The monthly all-comers 12 bell practices at Croydon and the monthly surprise major practices have taken place regularly during the year and I would like to thank Shirley McGill and Paul Flavell for arranging and running these.

A new initiative this year was the monthly 8's Great! practice at Merton. This is a practice for competent six-bell ringers who want to progress to ringing triples. During the year ringers from 8 different towers have come to practise plain hunt on 7 or Grandsire triples. People who came to these practices had a range of previous experience, from no experience at all on 8, through already being able to ring plain hunt on 7, to people who could already ring the treble to triples or a plain course of Grandsire triples inside. I am pleased to report that everyone who has been able to come regularly has made appreciable progress, and two of our "learners" have mastered touches of Grandsire triples during the year and been promoted to "helper" status. This means that we now have space for one or two new participants so if you are interested in this practice please do get in contact with me. I would particularly like to thank all the helpers for making these practices possible.

The established regular District practices will be continuing in 2023 and I am planning to hold some additional one-off practices focussing on particular methods. All practices are advertised on the Association events calendar, so please do check the website for details. Ann Beirne, our Association Secretary, compiles a list of the practices and events arranged by both Districts, the Association and the Training Group in the form of an A4 poster, which she sends to all tower contacts, so if you have difficulty accessing the website please do look out for this poster in your tower and speak to your tower contact and find out what's going on.

I've always enjoyed visiting other towers, and being the District Master has given me an excellent excuse for gate-crashing other people's practices! During 2022 I have visited practices at 14 towers in the Northern District and had a wonderful welcome and a very good time at all to them. On these visits I've seen for myself how depleted many of our bands are following the pandemic. I've also seen that many bands are currently teaching learners or have novice ringers making progress with call changes and plain hunt and so I'm confident that we will work through this difficult period and build up our numbers again. I've also seen that many towers are blessed with regular visitors who are a great support to the practices. Please, please do visit your neighbouring towers. You don't need to be an advanced method ringer to be a big help – there are towers out there who are unable to ring call changes on 6 without outside support and currently more than half the 33 towers in the Northern District cannot ring bob doubles without visitors. Even if you only visit occasionally your contribution will be appreciated.

I hope that the Northern District can help local bands by providing opportunities for ringers from different towers to come together and ring things which at present they can't ring in their own towers. The "Ring for the King" recruitment drive has now been launched and if this is successful our towers will gain new ringers – and for the next year or so we will all be ringing lots of rounds and call changes! One of my aims as your District Ringing Master is to provide more advanced ringing at District level for existing ringers, so that they can sustain their interest in ringing even if their own local practice currently can't offer them many development opportunities.

We've had a good year in 2022, coming more or less from a standing start. I'd like to thank the District committee members and Paul Flavell, our Association Master, for their support, and I'd particularly like to thank all members of the Northern District, the Southern District and neighbouring associations who have come to our events this year. I hope you've all enjoyed yourselves as much as I have.

Best wishes to everyone for a happy and successful year's ringing in 2023.

Pam Donovan
Northern District Ringing Master

5th January 2023

ND Assistant Secretary / Treasurer's Report 2022

2022 was the year that our membership database really kicked in and has generally been welcomed by members. Throughout the year the database has been increasingly populated and there are now only 8 members not signed up.

A downside to MemberMojo is that some members have not paid their subs over the last couple of years despite regular reminders. As a result we have expired 54 members at the end of 2022.

During 2022 we have welcomed 19 new members.

Membership is currently:

Life members	60
Full	187
Students	16

Attached (next page) is a very rough draft of the year end accounts. This is likely to change when figures are forwarded from the general accounts and will appear in the annual report.

David Whitehead

New Members

Addington - Dawn Symes; Jenny George & Philip Healy
Barnes - James Stevenson & Katherine Malvern
Battersea - Asher Kaboth & Louis Bene
Benhillton - Helen Wright
Clapham Common HT - James Ansell & Martin Carr
Kingston -
Chris Turner; Heather Wilson & Roshan Jathanna
Mitcham - James Moore
Richmond - Johanna Kitson & Richard Reger
Rotherhithe – Bogumila & Piers Myers
Wimbledon - Mark Underwood

Surrey Association of Church Bell Ringers Northern District
Income and Expenditure Account
For the year ended 31st December 2022

2022

Income

Subscriptions: Previous year		
Current year	£903.00	
	£903.00	
Subtract Levy (Previous year)		
Subtract Levy (Current year)	£541.80	
	£361.20	£361.20
Net subscriptions		
Donation		£12.00
Interest		£0.00
Total Income		£373.20

Expenditure

Administration/postage		£31.50
Cost of District Meetings		£41.50

Total Expenditure		£73.00
Surplus for the year		£300.20

BALANCE SHEET @ 31st December 2020

ASSETS

Deposit at COIF		£2,189.59
Cash in hand and at bank account 00524280		£4,265.32
Levy due from a/c 46508662		£356.20

Total Assets		£6,811.11
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LIABILITIES

Amounts received in advance		£0.00
Levy due to General Fund		£0.00
Accrued expenses		£0.00

Total Liabilities		£0.00
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Net Assets		£6,811.11
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Represented by

Accumulated Fund Balance at 1st January		£6,510.91
Surplus for the year		£300.20

Fund at 31st December 2021		£6,811.11
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BELFRY REPAIR FUND ANNUAL REPORT

At the end of the first full year since the lock-down, the fund stands fractionally above its level at the close of 2020, at £21.5k. Receipts have been slightly higher than in the previous two years, but are not back to the preceding levels. Meanwhile, although one possible grant application has been discussed extensively and two others have been mooted, there have been no disbursements.

Clothing purchases were ordered on behalf of ten ringers this year, up from five in 2021 thanks to Kate Wills. Cash collections at meetings rebounded after inevitably low levels in the previous two years. Numbers Club membership grew slightly further and contributed 46% of all BRF receipts; apologies to the handful of good-hearted players who were accidentally bounced into doubling their subscriptions! A doughty team of ringers manned a car-park for Brockham Bonfire, as in pre-lockdown days, earning a very useful contribution to the fund, despite complications arising from the preceding deluges of rain. The Association Quiz again made a very welcome contribution.

The committee, comprising Malcolm McAlister, Gail Terry, Russell King, Kate Wills, Noel Gibbin, Sid Bensberg and Paul Flavell, 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 All Saints, Kingston; and the PCCs of Beddington, Oxted and St John's, Egham. Mention should also be made of our donors with regular standing orders, who have long been the bed-rock of the fund.

Malcolm McAlister

TRAINING REPORT

for

Association District Meetings

The past three years have been difficult due to Covid lockdowns and restrictions and the Training Group has tried to provide suitable events to cater for the conditions prevailing at the time. As the situation changed, the Training Group recognised the need to reintroduce ringing and provide help to Members to help others. Training events were provided to help this; in particular the provision of ART events to help Members help new ringers and basic sessions run in appropriate settings. Whilst this remains a high priority, the Group is moving forward with a more widespread programme.

The events run have generally been well attended. As is often the case, getting helpers to support the course leaders can be a problem and I encourage those Members that are able to help to do so. It is frequently the same few Members that run and support events so I am keen to extend the pool of supporters. Please help if you can.

The Training Programme for 2023 has been prepared and is now available on the Association Website under the Training Tab where Members can book a place to attend. <https://training.surreybellringers.org.uk/> This programme includes courses provided by both Surrey Association and other external organisations.

The Programme is moving forward from Covid related sessions and incorporates a few events not previously run by the Association. It includes two sessions involving simulators, Listening Skills and Getting the Best from Simulators, also sessions on steeple keeping and a mini seminar on Tower Management training. There is the ever popular Up and Down in Peal and other regular events. The programme also includes other “External to the Association” weekend training courses which are open to all to apply to attend.

The Training Group is supported by the Two Districts who run regular practice sessions. Look out for these District practices which are usually open to ALL Association Members irrespective of which District organises them.

If any Member has a training request they should contact either a member of the Training Group or a District Committee Member who will forward the request.

Ian Griffiths.

Association Training Officer.

Communications Report

The quarterly newsletter has been re-established in the last year. Thanks to all members who have contributed articles and news items. The snippets of tower news as well as the longer articles have been appreciated by readers so please do not hesitate to send your news to communications@surreybellringers.org.

This year, the newsletter will be published in March, June, September, and December with the deadline for submission the end of the previous month. Please send your contributions for the next newsletter by the end of February.

Chris Baldwin is continuing to look after the website and Alan Cooke the Facebook page. The home page of the website now features the "Ring for the King Logo" which we hope will be used by Towers on their own church websites to promote recruitment.

In 2022 the Association Facebook reflected bell ringing finally emerging from the restrictions of Covid. The re-appearance of training, practice and outing events led to many meetings, some for the first time.

However, the Facebook year was dominated by posts on the ringing for and in remembrance of our late Queen. A final parting that stood memorial to all the final partings, including those from the bell ringing community.

Please make sure that you continue to use the web site and Facebook 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. Also, don't forget that you can 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

Jackie