

Essex Association – Northern District

Report of The Executive Committee Meeting, 7 February 2009

Much of the nearly part of this meeting has to do with the various reports needed for submission to the Charities Commission and other legal matters. These include a formal Trustees Report and the Annual Accounts, including details of membership. These will be published in our Annual Report, which this year will have a **red** cover – a detail which always awaited with excitement, and usually one of the last parts of the meeting!

Membership is slowly increasing, and this is including junior members. We were reminded that anyone reaching the age of 65 will need to continue to pay a subscription from this January – those already over 65 can continue as they were, by making a donation as they felt fit. This follows the rule change at the last AGM in May 2008.

In order to qualify for Association Insurance subscriptions for the current year must be paid by AGM in May.

Grant Application Procedure. A small working party is to be set up to give guidance on making applications. The idea is to have a contact in each district. Notes will be produced as to what should be in the application, and a reminder that it is usual for more than one quotation to be obtained and include with the paperwork.

Annual General Meeting – Chelmsford, Monday May 4th. General ringing 9.15 – 10.15, followed by a Service Touch by an invited band representing the whole association. Service is at 10.30, followed by the meeting. The Preacher at the Service will be the Archdeacon of Colchester. Afternoon ringing is in the Southeast District, with tea probably at Terling.

Annual Dinner. This will again be at The County Hotel in Chelmsford. After discussion it is generally felt that this social occasion should continue, as it the opportunity to say thank you to any life members etc who have been elected during the year. The meal last year was a big improvement over recent years. It is also a good opportunity to meet with members and friends from other parts of the Association. **Reports**

Hon . Tech. Adrian reported that the lifting tackle has not been used for some time, and with the current state of H&S felt that it was not worth keeping, and certainly not having it tested. He recommended that it be sold as scrap, and if the need arises in future, to hire the necessary lifting tackle. This was approved.

Each district made a report about recent activities, and future plans.

Grant Applications

Terling. Various maintenance tasks need doing at a cost of nearly £6000 – a grant of £750 was approved.

Prittlewell. The existing ring of ten will be recast, and fitted into a new frame – cost about £135000. A grant of £13000, which includes the balance of the Tovell bequest, will be made; one of the new bells may be inscribed accordingly.

Other. We were told of the possibility of a new light ring o 8 going in at South Ockendon, Aveley (A RC Church); apparently this has an interesting tower!

Additional rope guides are to added to the front 6 at Walthamstow St Mary.

Education

Training Day – November - location to be decided.

Annual Course. Brian Meads is hoping to have someone shadow it this year with a view to taking over the arrangements next year.

Child Protection. When applying for CRB check, please put as position *Bellringing Instructor*, and as Employer *Diocese of Chelmsford*. We are then covered anywhere in the Diocese. Details of all those who have CRB checks should be sent to Steve Nash, who is the Association Child Protection Officer. There is a number which he needs.

From 12 October new legislation comes into force which reduces the need to get new checks for additional organisations etc.

Communication with members. It is hoped that most of the routine messages that need to be sent out can be done in future by electronic means, and members may be asked to supply email addresses if they wish to use this method (not compulsory!). It is hoped that this will reduce the Secretary's expenses in particular.

It could be that most reports could be submitted in advance to reduce time in the Committee meeting, and perhaps give some time to talk about *ringing*. That would be a *result*.

Maurice Downs.