

# EACR NORTHERN DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES

## Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at Halstead

### 1. WELCOME

The Master Peter Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. APOLOGIES for ABSENCE

There were 11 apologies for absence with 30 members present.

### 3. MINUTES of the LAST MEETING

These were read and accepted as a true account.

Proposed by Terry Earle and seconded by Peter Wood.

### 4. MATTERS ARISING

Alistair reported that 37 members had attended the Child Protection training at Gt Maplestead. The event was considered most successful. This was reiterated by Peter Smith (Master). Alistair wondered if further training was appropriate. Peter felt that this was something that we couldn't have too much of and suggested that at least one member from every tower should attend.

We still do not have a Public Relations officer; Peter advised that this position was not an onerous one. Someone was needed to pass information on as necessary and to keep bell ringing in the forefront of people's minds. No-one came forward for this role.

### 5. NOMINATIONS for MEMBERSHIP

From **Stisted**: Gina Fryer, Terry Stock, Glynis Young (all senior)

proposed by Wendy Earle and seconded by Lawrence Carter, carried unanimously.

From **Stisted**: Gina Welham and Emily Jones (juniors)

proposed by Wendy Earle and seconded by Lawrence Carter, carried unanimously.

From **Gosfield**: David Patmore

proposed by Lawrence Carter, seconded by Jo Carter, carried unanimously.

### 6. REPORT of THE ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

This was read by Valerie Darkins (Secretary) see copy included with the minutes.

Terry was not happy that the motion proposing that Yvonne Towler be put forward as a Life Vice President did not receive support from the committee. It had been suggested at the meeting that the proposal had not been correctly submitted, this was subsequently not deemed to be the case, and therefore the outcome was unfair.

Alistair voiced concerns regarding the suggestion that individual districts take on responsibilities associated with the catering and entertainment at the Essex Ringing Course. The course is run by the association as a stand-alone entity and suggested that this should be discussed at the AGM.

With respect to ringing in individual towers Alistair pointed out that the Churchwardens and the Incumbent have the responsibility for the tower and therefore in the first instance concerns regarding Child Protection should be made to them.

Members expressed a number of concerns relating to child protection and membership of the association. It was pointed out that the rules need to cover a wide range of offences as not all offences could be directed at children, adults could also be abused and funds could be misappropriated. Peter pointed out this would be a topic for

discussion at the AGM, once Colin Chapman gave his presentation on the suggested membership rule changes. It was pointed out that subsequent rule changes would not come into effect until 1st January 2012. There is a need for rules relating to membership to be in place by October 2010. Members felt that every tower in the district should be informed by the EACR as to what would happen in October. Peter suggested that we could send a letter to the Master and Secretary expressing our views and concerns and ask what the timescale on changing the rules will be. This was proposed by Maurice Downs, seconded by Terry Earle, carried nem con.

## 7. RINGING ACHIEVEMENTS

As reported in the Ringing World up to 5<sup>th</sup> March 2010

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Peal of St Nicholas College Bob Minor for

	Kate Champness	Felsted
	Vicki LeFevre	Felsted
	Ian Hamilton	Wethersfield
	David Learmonth	Felsted
	Alistair Donaldson	Gestingthorpe and as Conductor
Vicki LeFevre	Felsted	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Peal Rutland Surprise Major
		1 <sup>st</sup> QP St Clements College Bob Minor as Conductor
Debbie Hill	Braintree	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Peal Cambridge Surprise Major
Maryann Villar	Witham	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Peal Plain Bob Doubles
Peter Wood	Gt Bardfield	200 <sup>th</sup> Peal
Peter Smith	Braintree	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Peal Norwich Surprise Minor

## 8. FUTURE EVENTS

There was a plea for towers to try to encourage ringers to take part in the Striking competition to be held at Gosfield. It was suggested that it might be difficult to put bands together as people could be involved in ringing for weddings therefore the time was amended to 6:00pm.

Alistair asked if members were happy with his ideas for the Beyond Bob Minor practice. Members were happy with this. However there was a problem with one of the dates as it clashed with the date set for the barbecue. It was agreed to try to rearrange the barbecue.

Alistair further asked if the district wanted to include the Surprise Major practices which he organises with North West District to be included on our programme of events.

There was discussion on this which resulted in an amendment being proposed by Maurice Downs and seconded by Peter Wood to include this on the district programme but under the umbrella of EACR events.

There were 5 votes for, 1 against with the remaining members abstaining (24).

## 9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Maurice reported that Tom Monk of Witham has celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday; a peal had been rung to mark this, with one of the band ringing their first peal.

St George's Day ringing, a number of Bishops and the Central Council are supporting a move to celebrate St George's Day with ringing; anyone interested in organising something for their tower should contact Tracey Southgate with relevant details by 14<sup>th</sup> April 2010 on [tesouthgate@btinternet.com](mailto:tesouthgate@btinternet.com) or alternatively this could be given to Peter. It was reported that, subject to a faculty, Taylor's would be removing the bells at Kelvedon in August. The bells would be replaced and ringable in October. Funds had been promised for this. Peter Hayward has designed the frame.

### ***What does the association do for me?***

Peter turned this around and asked Tower captains to return to their towers and ask ringers what they wanted the Association to do for **them**. This information to be passed back to Peter for consideration.

Alistair said that he had been asked to take handbells and the mini ring to the WOW 100 Guiding Centenary at the Tendring showground on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2010. In total he needed 8-10 people to help. So far he has received 3 offers of assistance. The event is from 9:00 to 5:00 pm with an hour for lunch. Anybody wishing to help should contact Alistair on [alistair@donaldsonfamily.org.uk](mailto:alistair@donaldsonfamily.org.uk) and say if they are CRB checked. Terry Earle stated that recently at Stisted, a workman had gained access to the belfry without consultation whilst the bells were up. Fortunately the workman did not suffer an accident but it was imperative that good communication was established between Vicars, Wardens and ringers so that if entry to the tower is required ringers would be informed.

### 10. VOTES OF THANKS

- ❖ Given to Ian Messenger for opening Colne Engaine Tower.
- ❖ Rev John Blore for arranging and conducting the service.
- ❖ Halstead Ringers for the use of their bells.
- ❖ Peter Wood for playing the organ.
- ❖ Ladies and gentlemen of Halstead for a lovely tea.