



## KCACR ROCHESTER DISTRICT QUARTERLY MEETING

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2006  
Eastchurch

### MINUTES

The meeting at Eastchurch, which was held in the church, was preceded by open ringing and tea. It was attended by 48 ringers & friends representing 14 towers within the district, and visitors from West Malling and Essex.

1. All were welcomed to the meeting by Sonya, who invited Sue Symons to take the chair.
2. Apologies were received from Margaret Funnell, Florence Hamp, Nicola Fry and Gareth Lawson.
3. Minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted as correct - except for the last three lines, which should have referred to "personnel, bells and tea at Newington", not High Halstow.
4. Matters arising - none.
5. Election of new members - Barbara Randall (Rainham) proposed by Di Wraight and seconded by Tim Wraight - all in favour.
6. Subscriptions and info for handbook - Sonya asked for information sheets to be returned and subs to be paid by 01/01/06, and reminded the meeting that anyone who had not paid subs would not be covered by KCACR insurance when ringing in towers other than their home towers.
7. Fundraising for BRF - Thanks were expressed to all who have supported the raffle. This would be an annual event.
8. District Rep Report - The KCACR AGM will be held at Benenden on Monday 17 April. A discussion followed regarding the restructuring of the County. A proposal had been made to reduce the number of Districts from six to four. Tim Wraight spoke strongly against this, as did Roger Pocock. A further discussion led to a proposal to create more Districts (12 in favour), fewer Districts (0 in favour), with 14 in favour of staying the same. It was agreed that the district secretary send a letter to the county secretary saying that no one was in favour of reducing the number of Districts from the present level, and that a representative had not come forward at this meeting to meet with other districts to discuss.
9. Ringing Masters' Report - This was produced by Gareth Lawson and Steve Haynes. It was circulated & presented by Steve.
10. Sales and Marketing - Sue reported that about £80 worth of stock had been sold since restocking. All items now available through the website.
11. District Outing - Steve spoke about the District Outing. Roger Pocock was critical of the proposal to go to Essex (again). Steve to discuss with Gareth and any change will be notified to all towers via the website.
12. Rules for Ringing Competitions - Sonya reported that the committee were looking at the rules, as the change was created to accommodate the 'knock

out competition', which is no longer. Any proposed changes will be presented at the Annual District Meeting in October. Any comments or suggestions are welcome.

13. Structure of Future Meetings – This was only briefly discussed, as this meeting in itself was lengthy. Basically, the timing had changed (not that anyone had noticed and there was no comment from the floor).
14. County 8-bell Competition - Steve Haynes has organised a band along with practice sessions to prepare for the competition on the 25<sup>th</sup> Feb. The method is Superlative Surprise Major.
15. Correspondence - None.
16. Forthcoming Events – These were as stated in the handbook and further events/amendments would be displayed on the website.
17. Any Other Business: -
  - Roger Pocock asked for congratulations to be passed to Gareth Lawson on the website - all agreed.
  - The bells of St Margaret, Rochester will be coming back from Whitechapel on 6 February. Volunteers are wanted to help with the work of rehangng, also experienced ringers wanted to ring for tuning purposes, and when the bells are ringing, to help with training a new band of St Margaret's ringers. Names to Sonya.
18. Sonya thanked all those present for coming to test out the newly rehung bells at Eastchurch, and for the band of helpers serving tea. Eastchurch have benefited greatly from the KCACR Bell Restoration Fund (BRF) and their practical assistance under the direction of Brian Butcher; other towers in the district have been or will be in receipt of their support. The Grand Draw for the Bell Restoration Fund was drawn after the meeting and first prize of £100 went to Richard Bushell (Tunstall), who happened to be standing next to the box as his winning ticket was pulled out! Coincidentally Richard has also been involved in the building work of the Tower Project at Eastchurch constructing the new arched doorway into the ringing gallery. There were ten prizes in all and a total of £430 was raised. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets or donated prizes. Thank you Sonya for organising the Grand Draw and we look forward to next years draw in November!

Ringng continued until 8.00pm under the direction of Steve, one of the ringing masters. All agreed the bells were excellent; the ease of ringng was particularly welcome and combined with the improved quality of sound was all the more pleasurable. Obviously there was finishing off to be done with the building work, however, the new gallery and meeting room has changed the look of the tower for the better (though it was noted the lighting was insufficient and hoped it would be corrected prior to further ringng).