

**Minutes of Southern District - District Meeting at North Ockendon
Saturday, 17th March, 2007**

Welcome. The Master welcomed all present and invited everyone to sign the Roll Book – (34 members were present).

The Master thanked the Vicar, Revd. Malcolm Millard for taking the Service, Robert Petheram for playing the organ and the North Ockendon Ringers for the use of the bells and for an excellent tea. Thanks were also extended to the Service touch band, (Alex Underwood, Holly Mifsud, Rowena Marshall, Ron Brown, Judy Rolf and Roger Dorking).

Apologies for Absence were received from Judith McCaul, Anne Banton, Raymond Jones, Georgina Dearing, Beth Johnson, Mike Hallett, Roger Hobson, Penny and David Sloman.

Minutes of previous meeting, the ADM, held at Rochford on 20th January 2007 had been published and circulated in the February District Newsletter. Subject to the inclusion of Judith McCaul's name being added to the Apologies for Absence, they were signed by the Master as a true record.

Matters Arising. Following a request, the District Outing on 16th June will be to Cambridgeshire. Full details will be available at the District Striking Competition on 19th May.

.Correspondence. None.

Executive Committee Report (3rd February 2006.) Lyn Benson gave a report of the matters discussed at the recent meeting (copy attached to these Minutes).

Election of New Members.

<u>Ringing Members:</u>	<u>Tower</u>	<u>Proposed by</u>	<u>Seconded by</u>
Richard Moorey	N. Ockendon	Andrew Beech	Brian Beech
Lauren Spooner (<i>Junior</i>)	“	“	“

Both were elected unanimously.

Barbara Ince-Jones (Hutton) had now stopped ringing but wished to transfer her membership status to that of a *Friend*.

District Programme for 2007.

1. Steve Hunter announced that the District Training Day on 21st April will be held at Downham in the morning for doubles and minor methods (including Plain Bob, Stedman and Double Oxford) and at Rayleigh in the afternoon for triples and major methods. At present only 2 people had put their names forward. He would approach people to act as helpers.

2. The Master asked the meeting if they would like more District Practices worked into the programme, perhaps specialising on particular methods. A few years ago the District held regular practices for Minor methods and the Master wondered if this might be re-introduced together with some district 8-bell practices. However, no interest was shown to support any extra practices.

Peter Sloman felt that ringing particular methods could be improved by ringing Quarter Peals with a strong support band. He intended introducing such a system through the Prittlewell Saturday School with specific ringing at Eastwood.

Julie Hunter advised that there was a special 8 bell practice at Rayleigh on the first Tuesday of each month and invited members to attend.

Any Other Business.

1. Chris Bailey mentioned the sponsored Teddy Bear Parachute Jump on 9th June in aid of the Bell Restoration Appeal at St. Thomas', Brentwood.
2. The Secretary advised that only a few towers had yet to pay their subscriptions which were due on 1st January.
3. The Master reminded the meeting that any 'copy' for the next Newsletter (April edition) should be sent to Beth Johnson (South Weald) as soon as possible.
4. The Master noted, and was surprised, that only one tower (North Ockendon) had rung something special in aid of the Children's Society Appeal.
5. Lyn Benson's (Committee Representative) email address is Traceybenson31@aol.com
6. The Master reminded the meeting that anyone able to help at the Essex Ringing Course (12th to 14th April) should contact Yvonne Towler (01621 817212).
7. The Master commented that over recent years the numbers of people actually 'phoning to confirm their attendance for teas (or apologies) at District Meetings had dropped. Today for example the attendance is 34 members but only 16 names had been advised. As well as being impolite, such a situation causes problems for those doing the catering and he urged everyone to ensure that they 'book' their place. Details for whom to contact are always advised in the Ringing World, or if in doubt contact the Secretary.
8. Lawrence Harris enquired if any ringing took place at redundant churches or churches where bells exist but have no resident band. Stephen Nash stated that all ringable towers were visited by bands from time to time.
9. The Master reminded the meeting that:
 - the next District event will be the Training Day on 21st April at Downham and Rayleigh.
 - the Striking Competition will be at Navestock on 19th May.
10. In response to an enquiry from Stephen Nash, the Master confirmed that Judges had been arranged for the Association Striking Finals on 7th July and that they were from outside the County.
11. Further to the information about ringing during the Olympic Games in 2012, Wade Vandenburg asked if anything special would be arranged. It was felt that towers in the London area, including those at the western end of our District might have visitors during the period of the Games.

Finally.

The Service Collection raised £41.59

The profit from Teas, kindly donated by the North Ockendon Ringers, was £57.50

The profit from the Raffle was £47.00

Further ringing was available up to 8.00pm

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 6.50pm.

Signed as a true record: (Master)

Date: